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Immigration arrests 2,935 illegal migrants

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Agro-research bodies to hatch new technologies

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Efforts needed to promote breastfeeding



VP salutes NMB for 1.56trn/- farm sector loaning since 2017

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has shown a salutary example as in the past five years it has extended loans amounting to over 1.56trn/- to agro-sector activities, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango has declared.

He made this assertion in appreciating the bank's lending outreach initiatives when inauguration of the farming exhibition at the John Mwakangale ground in Mbeya on Monday, urging other banks to widen borrowing opportunities.

He pointed at farming, fishing and livestock keeping lending as vital to enable agro-based activities to thrive and support national development efforts.

Lenders should do more to support farming, livestock keeping and fisheries activities, he said, commending the banks for reducing lending charges to nine per cent.

There is room for further cuts in credit interest



Farmers can also benefit from crop insurance policies through the bancassurance service covering fire, storage and farm implements

rates to enable more people to seek loans, he stated, affirming that this will help to address the challenge of unemployment.

Stratton Chilongola, manager for the Southern Highlands zone, said the lending has remarkably impacted the agriculture value chain countrywide, enabling farmers, fishermen and livestock keepers to enhance their contribution to the gross domestic product and uplift their incomes.

The NMB agro-financing portfolio includes 300bn/- extended to finance the cultivation of key crops like coffee, tobacco, avocados, paddy, soya, maize and sesame seeds.

It has similarly set aside 20bn/- for building crop warehouses in numerous villages to help address the challenge of post-harvest losses, where a total of 6bn/- in loans has been disbursed for that purpose, he stated.

The bank has in the past four years enabled

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TAZARA and TAZAMA set for modernisation

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday expressed Tanzania's readiness to work closely with Zambia in promoting trade and investment through the revival and renovation of key post-independence transport infrastructure linking the two countries.

Hosting visiting Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema at the State House in Dar es Salaam, she said the two countries have agreed to revive the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) and the Tanzania Oil Pipeline (TAZAMA) to facilitate trade volume increases.

"Tanzania and Zambia are long time friends. We have agreed to further promote these relations which should now be translated into economic and trade relations to improve the lives of our people," the president stated.

On TAZARA, the president said the two countries have agreed to mobilize resources to revive the railway line to make it modern, lessening the pressure on roads in the two countries.

The two leaders similarly agreed to liaise to remove trade barriers by reviewing custom duties



We were together in the struggle for independence, since then we have worked together and our people have been one



President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomes her Zambian counterpart, Hakainde Hichilema, shortly after he jetted into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport for a one-day official visit to Tanzania. Photo: State House

and cross border levies on goods carried by small scale traders from both countries at respective border points.

Tanzania has extended an invitation to Zambia to join up in supplying processed meat for the beef market in Saudi Arabia with joint venture initiatives, she stated.

Joint efforts are needed to boost Zambia's use of the port of Dar es Salaam as it is closer, which would help reduce fuel prices in Zambia, she further stated.

The two countries have also agreed to work together in energy and mining, with a joint project for power generation whose work on this side of the border will be flagged off next January.

On agriculture, Tanzania expects to learn from Zambia for instance in regard to soy farming, while Tanzania purchases plenty of soy seeds from that country, she stated.

Regular meetings are also planned for the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation

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STAMICO to market coal-based 'charcoal'

By Francis Kajubi

The State Mining Corporation (STAMICO)



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is set to start supplying alternative charcoal sold at lower prices compared to wood charcoal, making it more friendly to environmental conservation.

Dr Venance Mwashe, the acting managing director, made this affirmation at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday as the parastatal was starting ten days of celebration to mark 50 years since it was created.

The coal-based product will be produced in excess of current levels of charcoal demand to meet domestic cooking needs or roadside roasting activities. Four production facilities

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'Defence college output must steer sixth-phase philosophy'

By Guardian Reporter

LEADERSHIP cadres attending courses at the National Defence College (NDC) must steer their responsibilities while at work in line with the philosophy of the six-phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan as it is clearly meant to serve the people.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa issued this appeal yesterday when opening the 13th edition of the leadership course at the NDC compound at Kunduchi on the northern reaches of the city of Dar es Salaam.



It has also ventured in regional outreach with leaders from 16 nations having attended various courses at different moments

A selected number of high level leadership cadres like ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and their deputies, regional commissioners, regional administrative secretaries and senior officials from defence and security organs periodically attend the course, as well as similar cadres from neighbouring countries.

The training is meant to boost top cadres' understanding of defence issues and strategies for defending wider national

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DELIGHTFUL MOMENT: Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa bids farewell yesterday to ministers and deputy ministers enrolled for a short course in leadership whose launch he had just at its venue – the National Defence College in Dar es Salaam. Photo: PMO

TAZARA and TAZAMA set for modernisation

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that met for the last time in 2016, she further noted.

In his remarks, President Hichilema said the two countries' relations stem from the heritage of the founding

fathers, Mwalimu Nyerere and Dr Kenneth Kaunda, within the wider context of southern African liberation struggles.

The importance of connecting the two nations arose from these

challenges, he stated, underlining the need to work together to carry forward the historical relations.

"We were together in the struggle for independence, since then we have worked together and our people have

been one," he declared.

During the press briefing, the two countries signed agreements on security and cultural cooperation signed by the respective ministers for foreign affairs.



National Bureau of Statistics staff pictured in Tanga city yesterday unloading materials and equipment for use in the national Population and Housing Census slated for the fourth week of this month. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Regional SMEs forum outlines priorities to promote growth of entrepreneurship

By Guardian Reporter

A Regional forum for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) has outlined priorities to promote the growth of entrepreneurship and deepen SMEs' role and contribution to East African Community (EAC) economic growth.

During a meeting convened by the East African Business Council (EABC) SMEs from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda called for EAC SMEs Platform to articulate proposals in EAC policy decision making.

"SMEs to fully take part in the review of the EAC SMEs Charter, Partner States to develop directorates in charge of SME development and government

policy interventions to be aligned to the different SMEs' segments and needs," the forum said.

The forum also agreed to allow SMEs to fully take part in the review of the EAC SMEs Charter, push governments to allocate procurement opportunities to SMEs, opening of borders and elimination of barriers to trade and developing the establishment of industrial parks for SMEs to improve value addition and industrialization.

In her remarks Mary Ngechu, EABC SMEs Goodwill Ambassador said "The Summit aims to deliberate on challenges and opportunities and chart out policy recommendations to support prioritization of the SME Agenda at the EAC region."

She elaborated that SMEs need to

be given the prominence they deserve as they make up over 90 percent of traders, contribute 60percent of employment and 29-percent to the GDP of the EAC region. Executive Director of the Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) Sheila Kawamara-Mishambi, said "Economic empowerment of women is important" She urged women cross border traders & SMEs to merge into cooperatives and tap into bigger markets opportunities with more ease.

CEO of EABC John Bosco Kalisa said "low update of digital tools, losses due to currency conversion, Non-Tariff Barriers, poor access to affordable finance, lack of awareness of trade procedures continue to hinder the

growth and contribution of SMEs to intra-EAC trade."

The East African SME Summit offered a platform for SMEs to share their views on the review of the EAC SME Charter. Among the challenges highlighted include inadequate Government departments' support, limited access to appropriate technology, lack of information on market access, and supply side constraints.

Through trading across borders, SMEs get exposed to quality standards, and superior technology enhancing their competitiveness. Global Value Chains (GVCs) and the digital economy provide another avenue through which SMEs can effectively participate in regional, continental (AfCFTA) and international trade.

'Defence college output must steer sixth-phase philosophy'

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interests of the nation in carrying out their duties, he said.

The government expects to see changes in regard to concept, advice and decision making they make as it ought to reflect the philosophy of the course, he stated.

It also expects that participant fully use the opportunity of enhancing their level of understanding of crosscutting issues in defence, security and governance strategies, he cautioned.

After the cadres graduate from the course, they will be expected to have changed their concepts, a different perception that should be imparted in the ministries and public institutions they lead, he said.

"You should talk with one language when dealing with various challenges facing our country. In so doing, you will to a great extent be assisting us in pushing our country's development, especially during this period when the government aims to boost the country's industrial economy," he specified.

Addressing the NDC command, he said they have to make sure the course is sustained so that more leaders attend it, underlining that defence and security organs as well as top executives from strategic offices need to attend the training.

They will enhance their

understanding and capacity to abide by national interests, observe patriotism and uphold work discipline in their day to day duties, he stated.

NDC Director Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Mhona said since the college was set up in 2012 it has furnished 10 long courses and 12 short courses.

It has also ventured in regional outreach with leaders from 16 nations having attended various courses at different moments, he said.

Ambassador Marten Lumbanga, the college chancellor, said the training given to leaders positively develops participants, making the country safer when they focus on the resilient management of the country's policies for national security.



They will enhance their understanding and capacity to abide by national interests, observe patriotism and uphold work discipline in their day to day duties

VP salutes NMB for 1.56trn/- farm sector loans since 2017

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farmers in various regions to open 644,034 bank accounts, providing financial literacy lessons and business education through the NMB Foundation to officials of 1,550 agricultural marketing co-operative societies (AMCOS).

NMB is participating in this year's exhibition to cement the beneficial relationship with farmers, breeders and other agricultural stakeholders, with a view to enabling these groups to leverage on financial opportunities available in the market, he said.

Exhibitors need to consolidate their commercial capital bases for the growth and development of the sector,

he stated.

The farmers' exhibition provides an opportunity for outreach efforts on money matters, like how to better manage one's finances and utilize available credit opportunities, he elaborated.

Showing value adding financial solutions like lending via mobile phones, an overdraft service where farmers can borrow up to 500,000/- without a recoverable asset guarantee, he told the gathering as the VP visited the bank's pavilion.

Farmers can also benefit from crop insurance policies through the bancassurance service covering fire, storage and farm implements, he added.

STAMICO to market coal-based 'charcoal'

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will be installed in the course of this financial year, he stated.

Code-named 'friendly briquettes' alternative charcoal is made from timber powder, maize and other husks along with a coal base will be launched next week in Dodoma.

STAMICO has since 2018 liaised with the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) to find the right formula for burning material softer than coal and largely eliminating cutting trees for charcoal making.

The effort stems from environment conservation drive and consideration for climate change threats due to deforestation, thus the need for a durable, cost-saving and environment friendly energy source, he explained.

Purchasing prices for final consumers will be set out at the launching, he stated, pointing out that by late 2020 pilot production had started at TIRDO, with upwards of two tonnes being produced per hour.

Four manufacturing plants are lined up for 2022/23, producing 20 tonnes per hour, where the project sites are listed as Kiwira in Mbeya region, Mwanza, Kibaha and Dodoma. Procurement arrangements of the machineries from China were proceeding, he elaborated.

Hundreds of agents will be picked across the country for supplying the preliminary raw materials to be mixed with specified amounts of coal power to make the new product.

Agents visiting exits from farms where maize husks are used as cattle feed in zero grazing units but the core is thrown away, saw mills where the dust is a usable raw material and

similar sources in cotton or other crop wastes will be needed, observers noted.

This supply of raw materials and taking the final product to consumers is likely to create numerous partial employment opportunities, with many of the current charcoal producers and dealers shifting to other occupations, like farming.

To mark its 50 years, the parastatal will conduct a campaign of planting 10,000 trees at Ipagala ward in Dodoma Urban district.

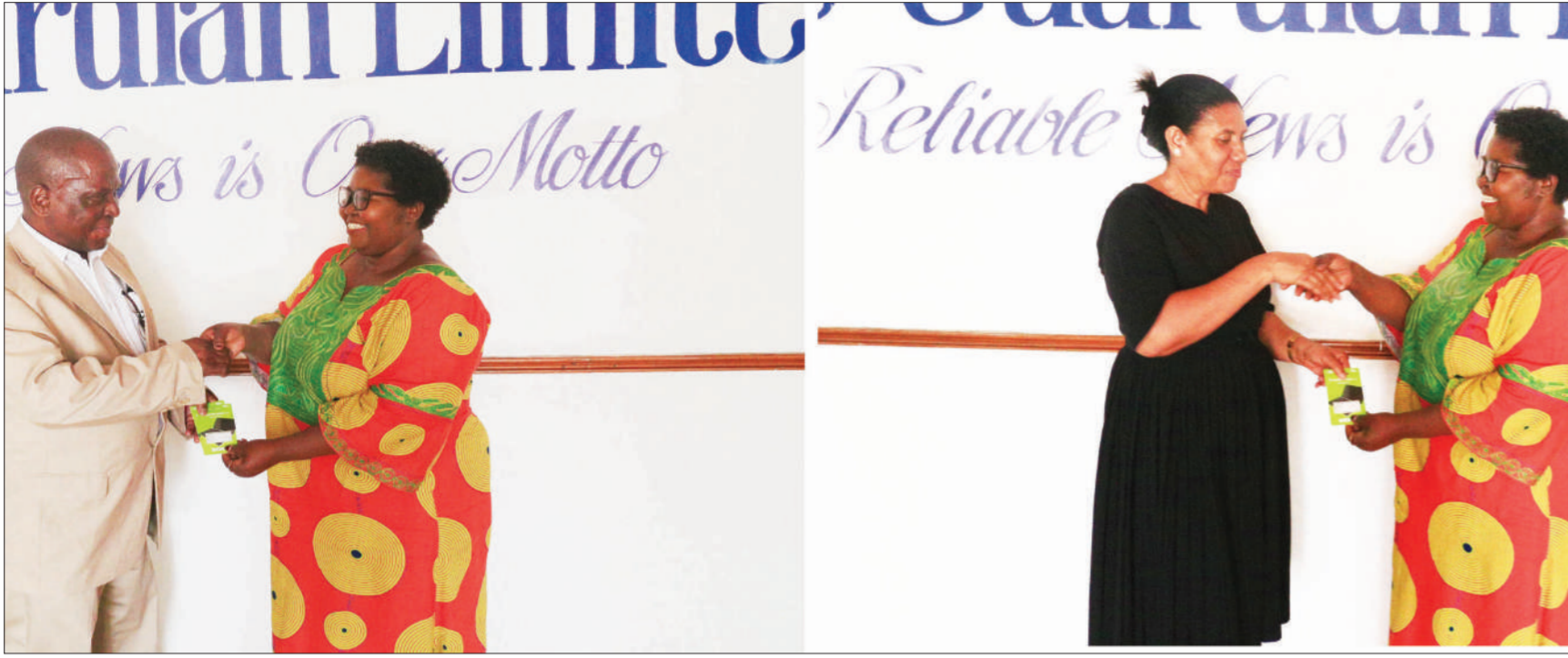
A national economic report for 2014 showed that forest clearing was rising at an alarming rate, with 46,942 hectares being deforested annually.

Recent data from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism indicates that initiatives like strict control of harvesting and trading of forest products had helped, while also touching a sharp increase in charcoal prices.

In 2020/21 special patrols nabbed 904 suspects hawking forest products, with 33,876 sacks of charcoal, 1,906 wood lots of 100 cubic meters, 4,699 building poles, plus logs of 909 cubic meters were seized for legal proceedings, he added.



A national economic report for 2014 showed that forest clearing was rising at an alarming rate, with 46,942 hectares being deforested annually



LEFT: Tanzania Editors' Forum executive committee member Angel Akilimali (R) pictured in The Guardian Limited newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to The Guardian managing editor Wallace Mauggo a USB flash drive containing media stakeholders' draft recommendations on amendments to The Media Services Act, 2016. RIGHT: Nipashe managing editor Beatrice Bandawe is presented with a similar device. Akilimali said it was all part of a plan by the Forum to ensure that as many media practitioners as possible contribute to the fine-tuning of the proposals, pending the finalisation of the process in progress. Photo: Guardian Photographer

NBC shines at Nanenane agricultural exhibitions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has shined at the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition held at the John Mwakangale Stadium in Mbeya region, with the bank's Agricultural Insurance product designed for farmers being one of the attractions among the participants of the exhibition.

Speaking at the exhibition launched yesterday by the Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango, NBC Bank's Head of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Lariba and Agriculture department Raymond Urassa said the bank's participation in the exhibition is a continuation of its efforts to continue to be closer to the stakeholders of the important sector.

"Through the exhibitions we get the opportunity to publicize our services related to the entire agricultural sector as well as receive feedback from the farmers," he said, noting that the bank's participation in the agricultural sector involves its major program that is aimed at nurturing the agricultural sector in the country known as 'NBC Shambani' which involves the entire chain of the agricultural sector starting from the farmers, the processors of agricultural products to the distributors.

"Furthermore, we also aim to ensure that we cooperate well with the government in fulfilling the very basic ambition of achieving the maximum growth of the agricultural sector in the country as well as improving the lives of the farmers in the country," he noted.

"Talking about some of the services provided by the bank specifically for farmers, Urassa mentioned the Agricultural Insurance product offered by the bank in collaboration with the Jubilee Insurance company aimed at protecting farmers, fishermen, and Livestock keepers in the country against losses when they experience various disasters that may affect their production.

"We are very close with the

agricultural sector and that's why further we always appreciate the contribution of farmers to the country's economy. Based on the same fact we considered it good to come up with the agricultural Insurance product for farmers and that in proving the effectiveness of the product, it is only recently we compensated the tobacco farmers in Tabora region whose crops were affected by the bad weather," he noted.

He added that the bank also empowers farmers by providing them with agricultural inputs for some crops including cotton, coffee, and tobacco, the aim being to increase productivity in the sector.

"Through NBC Shambani program, we have been cooperating with various stakeholders in providing various loans to farmers, including tractors loans and many other agricultural machines," he said while asking various agricultural stakeholders who attended the exhibition to visit the bank's pavilion to get detailed information about the service and products offered by the bank.



Furthermore, we also aim to ensure that we cooperate well with the government in fulfilling the very basic ambition of achieving the maximum growth of the agricultural sector in the country as well as improving the lives of the farmers in the country

2,935 illegal immigrants nabbed from Jan to June

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

IMMIGRATION Department in Kagera Region apprehended a total of 2,935 illegal migrants from various countries through special operations conducted between January and June this year.

The illegal migrants hailed from Rwanda, Kenya, Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Somalia, China, Burundi, Uganda and Zambia.

This was revealed yesterday by Kagera Region's Head of the immigration Department, Thomas Fussy in an interview with this paper in regard to challenges posed by illegal migrants in the region.

Fussy said out of the suspects, 2,735

were repatriated while 183 others were taken to court and 22 were given resident permits.

He added that for the period January to June this year, his office conducted crackdowns on illegal migrants to make sure residents of Kagera Region live securely.

Fussy also appealed to street, village

and ward officials in the region to verify information of residents coming to them to seek for letters of introduction as residents in their areas.

He added that the region borders with Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and that his office conducted operations to make sure documents issued by street, village and ward executives were really

in respect to valid residents of the areas.

He said his Department found the region to have a large number of foreign settlers and that they plan to start to issue them, electronically, with special resident permits for identification.

"The permits will be issued to those who entered the country since 1970s who came as visitors and lived continuously for more than 20 years, Fussy said.

According to him the migrants enter the country and then begin applying for NIDA and voters' IDs without following laid down procedures.

He said there are also illegal migrants who enter the country through unauthorized routes and start conducting various business activities including farming and livestock keeping and added that these come with many things including unacceptable habits that often cause social decay among the communities they find.



The permits will be issued to those who entered the country since 1970s who came as visitors and lived continuously for more than 20 years

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has hailed the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) for its strategic efforts in supervising peace and security in the Isles.

Dr Mwinyi said this yesterday at the Zanzibar State House when he met and held talks with the TPDF's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salum Haji Othman.

President Mwinyi said peace, defense and security in Zanzibar has continued to strengthen due to the presence of the government of national unity.

In the talks, the President said due to the well-coordinated system of the TPDF to ensure peace and security is maintained, the country continues to record a number of development achievements.

Dr Mwinyi assured the army leader that the Zanzibar government will continue working with them so as to record more achievements which include maintaining peace for sustainable development.

"There is a need to continue working closely

TPDF wins Dr Mwinyi's accolades on role in ensuring peace in Isles

with the National Defense College (NDC) and that we, the government, will ensure that we strengthen our cooperation with the college where every year graduates have been visiting Zanzibar as part of their studies," he asserted.

Lieutenant General Salum said he visited the State House to introduce himself to the Zanzibar government saying that he recognizes well the efforts of President Mwinyi in TPDF and bringing development in the Isles. "You have been very close to us as the army, advising us on several areas

since you were serving as the Minister for Defense and National Service, you have led this army for ten years, we appreciate your supervision," he said.

He said that the cooperation between the army and the government has greatly helped address the number of challenges including land conflicts and solutions to various problems.

Lieutenant General Salum said he had already commenced the new job with the first visit to Zanzibar to meet and hold talks with leaders and the army's officials.

Re-Advertised

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF Bubble Curtain

ETJ-BB-PR-EI-GEN-EF-0002-00.

BESIX Ballast Nedam Limited, the CONTRACTOR for the Engineering, procurement and Construction of the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:

Fabrication, Supply and Delivery of an optimized bubble curtain.
The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.

As part of EACOP project, the Crude oil will be loaded on vessels via a facility located in the near shore environment of the Indian Ocean. The Facility will be located 2 km offshore from the Marine Storage Terminal site located on the Chongoleini peninsula in front of Tanga Port in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES:
Bubble curtain recommended characteristics are:

- Length = 230 m,
- Distance from sound source = 15 m,
- Pipe out/in diameter = 40 mm / 36 mm,
- Air compressor = flow rate of 23 m³/min (1380 m³/h) and a minimum pressure of >7 bars
- Diameter of the holes in the bubble curtain hose must be 2 mm,
- Spacing of the holes in the bubble curtain must be 10 cm.

Defined to optimise the efficiency of the bubble curtain. Deviations are acceptable if justified by technical constraints and do not hamper bubble curtain efficiency (subject to BBJV

approval)

Material wise, it can be summarized as:

- 1 winch system* of 20 ft.,
- 1 x 230 bubble curtain hose,
- 1 spare winch system* of 20 ft,
- 1 x 230 m bubble curtain spare hose,
- 4 supply hoses of 40 m,
- 20 ft. container with spare parts,
- Compressors + 1 spare,
- With spooling device

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Possibility to deliver all requested materials before the end of the year '22 at Tanga port,
- An experience list with relevant history / track record showing minimum of five (5) years' experience in the fabrication of bubble curtains,
- Qualified workers and certified QA/QC;
- Company profile with prove of sufficient financial capabilities and sufficient and capable resources.
- CE marked,
- Company's Quality and HSE plans and certification: ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO 45001:2018), EN ISO 14732, EN ISO 90606-1, ISO 11484, EN ISO 90609-1, EN ISO 10893-8, 10893-11, or equivalent certificates;
- Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended.

Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to procurement@bnjv.com; thomas.depauw@bnjv.com (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before **16th of August 2022, 12 noon Tanzania Time.**

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES

BUGANDO

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Website: www.bugando.ac.tz

August 2, 2022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR TENDER NO. CUHAS/02/2022/2023

The Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences' Tender Board invites sealed bids from eligible bidders on providing and supplying to Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) - Bugando the following:

- Lot 1: Supply of Stationery
- Lot 2: Supply of Clinical/Laboratory coats
- Lot 3: Supply of Medical training equipments
- Lot 4: Supply of Laboratory supplies
- Lot 5: Supply of Electrical supplies
- Lot 6: Supply of Plumbing supplies
- Lot 7: Supply of Building materials - hardware
- Lot 8: Supply of ICT equipments and Installation facilities
- Lot 9: Repair, maintenance and Service for:
 - i. A/C
 - ii. Generator
 - iii. Vehicles
 - iv. Lift
 - v. Laboratory equipments
 - vi. ICT equipments

1. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "Tender for Lot ..."
2. Tender documents should be obtained from the Tender Committee's secretary office No. C309 - 3rd floor Administration Block; for a NON REFUNDABLE Fee of One Hundred Thousand Shillings (100,000/=) only
3. Payment should be made through CRDB bank account number 01J1054045501, CUHAS - BUGANDO and receipt shall be issued upon payment.
4. The interested bidder should submit two copies (Original and copy) of the tender document
5. All tenders must be addressed to the office of the Vice Chancellor - CUHAS P.O. BOX 1464, Mwanza, not later than 1st September, 2022 at 10:00am.
6. Late, Faxed or e-mailed bids will not be accepted.
7. All Tenders must be submitted to office No. C309, Administration Block - CUHAS
8. Tenders will be opened on 1st September, 2022 at 10:30am on the presence of bidders or their representatives at CUHAS Board Room.

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Jafo directs regional, district councils to ensure cleanliness in market areas

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER of State, Vice President Office (Union and Environment), Dr Selemán Jafo has called on regional and district councils to come up with strategies to ensure cleanliness of markets at their areas.

He made the statement after participating at the cleanliness activities at the Bonanza market here, an event organised by the environment ambassadors in Dodoma region.

He said this part of the campaign will involve placing dustbins in urban centers in all districts and regions across the nation.

"The objective of the 'my dustbin' campaign is to keep our urban centers clean. We don't want to see rubbish in our urban centers, including food waste, plastic bottles and banana peels," said the official.

He also stated instead of turning the markets into dumping grounds, the authorities will have to make sure that markets at their places remained clean. Jafo said experience showed that most of the markets in urban centers were an eyesore with heaps of unattended garbage.

He also ordered the Dodoma Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (DUWASA) to repair water system at the Bonanza market within 14 days.

He said, "The repair of the sewerage system in this market should be carried out immediately and the director of DUWASA should closely supervise the implementation of the directive."

Dr Jafo reiterated that environmental cleanliness is a responsibility of all people and the public should come together in effort to maintain hygiene.

On his part, head of environment department at Dodoma City Council, Dickson Kimaro said city authority has already put in place cleanliness strategies.

"Traders in all the markets in the city, including this one regularly participate in cleanliness activities as part of the effort to make the city clean," he said.

Emanuel Likuda, a representative of the regional environment ambassadors, said they have been engaging the communities around to participate in environment protection as well as cleanliness.

Markets in Dodoma have almost similar conditions characterized by poor infrastructure, poor waste management and traders putting food items on the ground.

The markets are overpopulated, have poor ventilation and clogged ditches among the prevalent challenges.

Infrastructure is in dire state, especially in rainy seasons. The sanitation system is also dissatisfying.



Ninael Mndeme (L), Bank of Africa's head of retail banking, briefs Mwanza Regional Police Commander Ramadhan Ng'anzi when she called on him in his office late last week leading a BoA delegation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Internet service provider inaugurates software for payroll, human resource

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA-based internet service provider-Habari Node Plc has invested \$434,700 (about 1bn/-) into launching two ambitious software products to offer solutions for payroll and human resource management meant for corporations in the East African region.

The rollout of the software projects are better days for corporations in the region as the products are streamlined for processing salary and easing compliance with statutory remittances, among other key human resource and accounting functions.

The software offers homegrown human resource management, payroll and accounting solutions that respond to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as well as agricultural and manufacturing sectors' needs.

Chief Executive Officer for Habari Node Erik Rowberg, confirmed that the low-cost software were ready for public consumption.

"It took us a good five years of thorough experiments, sheer hard work and considerable private funding to develop PayTan and AccTan," Rowberg said.

Habari Node conceived the idea of developing the home-grown software after having assessed needs of the East African region and the Tanzanian market, in particular, where many firms couldn't afford the high cost of acquiring, maintaining and supporting software from developed economies.

An accounting package, for instance, requires changes in respective tax laws, which compel the user to pay massive fees to the developer abroad to adjust.

"We saw the importance for designing the low-cost software suitable for developing countries like Tanzania to address local needs and to contribute towards building robust economies by providing jobs," Rowberg explained.

As you read the piece, PayTan, the Habari Node Software Division's flagship product, is already being adopted throughout Tanzania Mainland, Zanzibar and other East African countries, including Kenya and Uganda.

The Habari Node Plc Software Engineering Manager, Lotaanywaki Mollé, said the payroll module assists in salary processing; taking account of taxes, social security funds, health insurance funds, additional incomes, loans, overtime, commissions and more.

"With a click of a button you can process complicated payroll runs and generate reports submitted into bulk bank payment services," he said, explaining that the software supported major banks in the region.

PayTan helps a corporate to become compliant, as it generates statutory reports for submission to relevant authorities, including Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Skills Development Levy (SDL), Worker Compensation Fund (WCF)

and National Social Security Fund (NSSF) in Tanzania's case.

It carries out automatic updates for changes in taxes for cloud clients; notification of employees' contracts about to expire and it integrates with popular accounting packages such as QuickBooks, SunSystems, Tally and more.

"PayTan has multi-company and multi-currency support and is a single source of truth for various human resource department needs," Mollé explained.

It integrates with biometric devices to enable viewing of employee's time and attendance, manages the process of leave approval and notifications, enabling an employee to apply for leave accordingly and reducing the human resource administration burden.

The software also monitors and evaluates employees' performance, disciplinary actions and it updates bulk details of employees, including changes to their salary and national identification - NIDA.

An employee can view his payslips, payroll history and status of his social security and insurance contributions. He or she can also apply for a leave, a salary advance, and request for a sick sheet.

"A non-government organization can use it for paying employees per project or donor and an industry in agricultural or manufacturing sectors can use it for pay run for casual workers based on worked units or employees per shift," chipped in the Habari Node Plc General Manager, Runyeta Kabaza.

While the price of the PayTan software is affordable to small to medium sized businesses, said the company's business manager, Kilusu Mattasia, adding that the AccTan is an accounting and inventory system for enterprise companies.

AccTan comprises features ranging from accounts payable to accounts receivable, fixed asset register, cash book, bank reconciliation, financial statements, inventory and budgeting.

The system is equipped with unlimited user accounts and has a multi-company and multi-currency support. It integrates mobile money network operators with credit notifications from the operators.

AccTan also integrates short text messages (SMS), as it can send SMS to clients. And in the near future, AccTan will support credit notification from banks when payments are received from clients.



With a click of a button you can process complicated payroll runs and generate reports submitted into bulk bank payment services

VP: TOSCI should exercise stricter control on imported seeds quality

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Ministry of Agriculture has been called to supervise Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for it to reinforce laws in regard to the quality of imported seeds.

Vice President Philip Mpango issued the directive on Monday as he officially launched this year's

Nanene Agricultural Exhibition being held at the national level in John Mwakangale Exhibition grounds in Mbeya.

He said the institution was doing a good job in seeds quality control but there was the problem regarding violations of procedures, the situation that spur the importation of low quality seeds thereby causing farmers

to suffer loss.

Dr Mpango said some TOSCI officials have been conducting illegal trade within the institution by receiving money to allow low quality seeds imports.

"You are doing a good job, except for this problem, there are people doing big business in allowing in low quality seeds into the country, hence, minister

this institution should be closely looked into," he said.

He said TOSCI needs great trustfulness and patriotism to make sure seeds imported are of the highest quality.

He called upon TOSCO officials to adopt patriotism when implementing their responsibilities including avoiding corrupt practices.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (L) and Mpanda district commissioner Jamila Yusuph Kimaro (in headscarf) pictured yesterday inspecting items produced by entrepreneurs in Mpanda, Katavi Region, and displayed at their pavilion at the on-going Nane-Nane (Farmers' Week) exhibitions in Mbeya city. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Ndaki directs agro-research bodies to hatch new farming technologies

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries Mashimba Ndaki has directed agriculture research institutions to innovate technologies to help farmers and pastoralists add value to their products.

Speaking after touring the ongoing Nanene exhibitions in Mbeya the minister asked the Tanzania Wildlife

Research Institute (TAWIRI), Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute to work together in the process.

The minister called upon all municipal and district councils to put in place plans to help entrepreneurs to expand their businesses through the 0 percent loans issued as well as link them to financial institutions.

He said farmers together with pastoralists are facing challenges in their endeavors due to a lack of knowledge on how best to run their businesses and lack of capital.

The minister said when the institutions work together; they will facilitate value addition and also establish a strategy to open markets for their products.

"Am directing all institutions

involved in value addition to make them get profits compared to the case currently in which they use a lot of energy but their produce is minimal," he said.

The minister expressed his satisfaction with the innovations witnessed during the exhibitions, especially on packaging where they lack proper packaging materials which can attract customers.

One of the entrepreneurs toured by the minister said one of the main challenges facing the entrepreneurs includes lack of capital which hinders them the ability to compete in markets.

Minister merges two water supply and sanitation authorities in Karatu

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

WATER Minister Jumaa Aweso has merged two water supply and sanitation authorities in Karatu District.

The two authorities - Karatu Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (KARUWASA) and Karatu Villages Water and Sanitation Authority (KAVIWASU) have been merged into one authority that will supply water service to the people in the area.

Aweso also directed that water should now be charged at 1,300/- per unit instead of 3,500/- the former water authorities were charging.

Speaking here yesterday, the Minister said President Samia Suluhu

Hassan has endorsed 4.5bn/- towards a huge water project in the district.

He directed relative authorities to start floating tenders to interested contractors.

He said President Samia made the decision after listening to various views from the people and various water stakeholders, adding that in the past there was a conflict of interest since KAVIWASU used to charge 3,000 to 3,500/- per unit of water while KARUWASA was charging 1,750/- per unit for domestic consumers.

However, Aweso said one single water supply authority is for the people's interest including better service for the supply of safe and clean

water as well as making sure water infrastructures including pipe laying is done speedily in the area.

He further said there won't be any worker who will be dismissed after the merger of the two water authorities as still 6 million litres of water will be available from one water authority enough for the residents of the area.

Meanwhile, Karatu District Commissioner, Dadi Kolimba thanked the minister for his instructions in regard to the water charges.

Karatu Member of Parliament, Daniel Awackli also praised the merger of the two water bodies saying the decision will ensure the development of the people in the area.



NMB Bank Plc head of agribusiness Isaac Masusu (R) makes a remark in Mbeya city on Monday during a financial literacy presentation the bank organised for Lumbaki SACCO leaders. The event ran in tandem with the on-going Nane Nane (Farmers' Week) fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

VP wants entrepreneurs to teach graduates ways to access capital

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called upon Mbeya City Director Triphonia Kisiga to allow entrepreneurs to go to colleges to provide entrepreneurship education to youth on how they can access capital in order to mobilise them to start businesses instead of waiting for employment.

Dr Mpango made the remarks on Monday this week when he visited various pavilions at the ongoing Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition being held at national level in Mbeya.

He said entrepreneurs have been doing a great job in the sector hence it would be better for the city council to have in place a procedure of allowing them to teach other youth to have the basics of the business.

"There are so many youth who only think of being employed while in fact there is employment in entrepreneurship," he said.

He praised the pavilion for a poultry

keeping group that displayed livestock keeping of various birds including chicken and ducks facilitated by the investment made.

He said such entrepreneurship by youth graduated from colleges is a good example for other youth who, after finishing college simply wait to be employed.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe said the government has shown its readiness to invest in the agriculture sector and stressed farmers cannot develop without respecting the sector.

He said: "Without investing money in the sector we could not reach where we are now," and lauded CRDB and NMB banks for their understanding in providing low interest loans to various groups in the sector.

He said after the Nanenane exhibition, the Vice President will witness the signing of irrigation projects worth 400bn/- including the launching of schemes that provide subsidies on fertilisers.

Bashe also said there was still a huge

problem regarding overweight bags for packing farmers' crops popularly known as "lumbesa" and some local councils have turned the practice as their source of revenue.

He called on the vice president to admonish RCs, DCs and councils' directors in regard to the "lumbesa" issue.

"My ministry has addressed them in writing concerning the issue, but we still see its persistence," Bashe said, and added that once they implement the directive, traders using the overweight bags will disappear.

In the same vein, Mbeya Zone NMB Bank Manager, Straton Chilongola said in the past five years the bank issued 1,2trn/- in loans towards the farming sector.

He added that as a bank they have implemented President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives for the issuance of low interest loans to farmers.

Also, CRDB bank praised the government for its cooperation extended to various banks and stressed that CRDB Bank will continue extending its cooperation to the farming sector and added in the last five years the bank provided 2trn/- as loans to the sector.

Finest Future, ExamNet team up to link Tanzanian students with higher education chances in Finland

By Beatrice Philemon

FINLAND based company- Finest Future has entered into a long-term partnership with ExamNET Tanzania aimed to link Tanzanians with higher education opportunities and thus produce enough experts to work in various sectors of the two countries.

The company's chairman and co-founder, Peter Vesterbacka who is in Tanzania for a working tour said yesterday that he has decided to enter into the partnership to ensure that they jointly produce enough experts to cater needs in Finland which is currently facing an acute workforce shortage and thus eyeing experts from other foreign countries.

Vesterbacka is in Tanzania to meet with Tanzanian innovators, parents, colleges and other people and have a face-to-face discussion with them to see how parents can send their children to study in Finland.

"In a bid to address this shortage, right now we invite more students from various countries especially high school students and those from vocational training colleges to join vocational training courses in Finland to cater for this crisis that we have in

Finland," he said.

He said Finland needs 13,000 experts of various professions per year but the number is still low to cater the deficiency.

"Currently Finland's education system is the best in the world, that's why Finland is now looking for students from Tanzania to transform the education system and obtain experts specialized in different sectors in both countries," he noted.

He added: "The company has been able to launch the High School Programme to help spread this high quality education to students from different countries across the world including Tanzania as well as introduce a special programme to teach Finnish language for half a year."

He said students who will get the opportunity will enjoy tuition free studying in Finland and this year.

"We have started it in Tanzania working with ExamNET Tanzania to find students willing to study in Finland and we are looking to do it across Africa, USA, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Malaysia, Thailand and Iran," he said.

According to him, they need to produce talented people who will get good jobs in both countries and have

the best education system for the future.

He said Finland education stands out in comparison with any modern educational systems in other developed countries and marks its name with 1 percent of world-ranking universities and the top spot as the world's happiest nation.

Hence, students in Finland are guaranteed to have free access to the world-class education standard and enjoy their happiest life in the world.

"Finland is a small country and we don't have rich resources but we want to invest more in people so that we can have highly qualified experts specialized in different sectors we have and even assist other countries to hire experts from us that in turn will promote good relationships between different countries across the world," he said.

ExamNET Tanzania Founder and chief executive officer Moses Mbaga said that students willing to study in Finland, the first criteria will be required to study Finnish Language while in Tanzania and the company will assist them to obtain teachers who will teach them or learn online for six months.



REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FINANCE AND PLANNING

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE (ISP-DRM-NRG)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI NO: ISP-DRM-NRG/ZNZ/AfDB/QCBS/01/2022

1. **Consultancy Services for Legislative drafting of Zanzibar Mining Law and its Regulations** (ISPG/DRMNRG/ZNZ/AfDB/QCBS/01/2021)
2. **Consultancy Services for the Development of Zanzibar Mining Policy and Strategy** (ISPG/DRMNRG/ZNZ/AfDB/QCBS/02/2021)
3. **Consultancy Services for the Draft Bill of Zanzibar Petroleum Income Taxation and Additional Profit Tax** (ISPG/DRMNRG/ZNZ/AfDB/QCBS/03/2021)
4. **Consultancy Services for the Review of the Draft Bill for Petroleum Revenue Management Act and Development of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Code Guidelines for Oil and Gas Revenue** (ISPG/DRMNRG/ZNZ/AfDB/LCS/04/2021)

Financing Agreement reference: 2100150037346
Project ID No.: P-TZ-KFO-006

Date: 03th August, 2022

1. This Request for Expression of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project which was published in the UN Development Business (UNDB online); dated 30th November 2017 and on the African Development Bank Group's Internet Website;
2. The Government of United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Support Project for Domestic Resource Mobilization and Natural Resource Governance (ISP-DRM-NRG), The President's Office Finance and Planning- Zanzibar, an implementing agency of the Client, intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this loan to eligible payments under the following contracts for which this Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) is issued:
 - i. Consultancy Services for the Development of Zanzibar Mining Policy and Strategy**
The key objective is to develop a coherent mining policy and strategy to optimally harness Zanzibar's mineral resources for socio-economic development based on Zanzibar's unique context. The duration for the implementation of this assignment Six (6) months
 - ii. Consultancy Services for Legislative drafting of Zanzibar Mining Law and its Regulations**
The objective of the assignment is to provide consultancy service for legislative drafting of Zanzibar mining law and its regulations that fit the Mining sector for Zanzibar's unique context. The duration for the implementation of this assignment Six (6) months
 - iii. Consultancy Services for the Review of the Draft Bill for Petroleum Revenue Management Act and Development of Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Code guidelines for Oil and Gas Revenue.**
The objective of this assignment is to review the Draft Bill of Petroleum Revenue Management Act and develop the GFS code guidelines for Oil and Gas revenues. The duration for the implementation of this assignment is Five (5) months
 - iv. Consultancy Services for the Draft Bill of Zanzibar Petroleum Income Taxation and Additional Profit Tax**
The objective of this assignment is to provide legislative drafting of Zanzibar Petroleum Income Taxation Act and Additional Profit Tax Act. The duration for the implementation of this assignment is Five (5) Months.
3. The objective of the assignment includes services but not limited to the following:
 4. The President's Office Finance and Planning-Zanzibar now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.
5. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations, October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.
6. Interested consultants are allowed to select only **one assignment** mentioned above and may obtain further information at the address below during office hours between 9:00 and 15:00 hours from Monday to Friday except on Public Holidays.
7. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by hand or courier by **16th August, 2022 at 10:00 hours** and mentioned on the envelope, Expression of Interest Number and Name of the assignment selected, as mentioned above.

Aboud H. Mwinyi
/PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FINANCE AND PLANNING
P.O.BOX 1154,
VUGA STREET
ZANZIBAR

Community development deputy minister stresses need to further promote exclusive breastfeeding

By Getrude Mbago

MWANAIDI Khamis, Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups has suggested the need for more coordinated efforts to educate and promote the importance of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF).

Mwanaidi made the suggestion on Monday when speaking during the official launching of the World Breastfeeding Week which is held at national level in Ikungi District, Singida Region.

The deputy minister said 43 percent of children are not exclusively breastfed in their first six months after birth.

"Reports show that only 57 percent of infants are exclusively breastfed in the first six months, others are breastfed but not at an advised timeframe," she said.

She however said that despite the challenge, 97 percent of infants get breast milk with 92 percent being breastfed in a period from one year and above and 43 percent of children are those who are breastfed for a period of two years after birth.

"The government will continue working closely with stakeholders to increase investments and commitments to promote exclusive breastfeeding so as to, among other challenges, tackle malnutrition," she said.

"Things are however improving as 90 percent of infants are breastfed within one hour after birth compared to 54 percent of 2018, issuance of Vitamin A to children from the age of six-59 months has also improved from 64 percent in 2018 to 97 percent," she added.

Research shows that exclusive breastfeeding is the best way to keep infants safe from various diseases in the early development and lifetime; breast milk has high immune globulins that help an infant to be safe from infections as they contain antibodies.

She noted that breastfeeding also reduces deaths due to respiratory tract infections and diarrhea, which are two of the main causes of death for children in Tanzania.

She also urged mothers to stop giving their babies artificial milk (formula feeding) as these are not safe for infants.

"This needs coordinated efforts to educate the public on the effects of formula feeding, parents should be educated on this intensively when they attend clinics," she said.

Ikungi District Commissioner Jerry Muro wanted executive directors and health service providers to continue educating the public on breast milk as well as fight early pregnancies.

"Adolescence pregnancies is one of the challenges thwarting exclusive breastfeeding as the young mothers have poor knowledge on the importance of breastfeeding and others are busy at work and thus failing to breastfeed their children," he said.

He urged employers to promote a conducive environment for breastfeeding mothers for them to continue breastfeeding at the workplace or give them ample time to go back home to breastfeed their children.

Breastfeeding all babies for the first two years would save the lives of more than 820,000 children under age 5 annually.

According to UNICEF, globally, 77 million newborns-or 1 in 2-are not put to the breast within an hour of birth, depriving them of the essential nutrients, antibodies and skin-to-skin contact with their mother that protect them from disease and death.



The government will continue working closely with stakeholders to increase investments and commitments to promote exclusive breastfeeding so as to, among other challenges, tackle malnutrition

VP to Industry ministry: Make Tanzanian businesspeople see no need to move across border

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has instructed the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to make sure it gets the solution in regard to Tanzanian businesspeople moving to Zambia and Malawi, including putting in place friendly environment to stop the tendency.

Dr Mpango made the remarks on Monday during opening of the 19th Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition being held at the national level at John Mwakangale Exhibition grounds in Mbeya.

He said during his visits, and those by the prime minister, existing complaints in border areas include unfavourable environment that spur businessmen to move to neighbouring countries including Malawi and Zambia, the situation that denies the country of its rightful revenue.

"I direct the Industry and Trade ministry as well as other ministries to sit together and discuss the matter to find a solution thereon because I should get a response in a short time," said the vice president.

Meanwhile, Dr Mpango said challenges facing the farming sector including farm inputs are caused by the Ukraine-Russia war, hence the government has set aside 551bn/- for the farming sector, bigger than the one for FY 021/22 that was only 224bn/-.

He said in the fishing sector, the government allocated 52bn/- while in the preceding year it was 47bn/-, and added that the aim of the government is to boost the two sectors for farmers and fishermen to conduct profitable activities.

He added that there has been a tendency where extension officers in suits glue themselves in their office chairs instead of going to villages.

"The government has given them

motorcycles but still they don't go out of their offices," he added.

He said this year the government will make sure it eradicates challenges facing farmers by setting aside 150bn/- as subsidies as well as to enable an investor to produce fertiliser at Minjingu, while the seeds research department has been provided with 41.1bn/-.

In addition, Dr Mpango said due to the effects of climate change this farming season, with some regions with little rains while others experienced floods, he called upon farmers not to sell all their crops.

In that regard, he said the government has provided 119bn/- to NFRA to buy food crops as a security measure against famine.

In regard to livestock keepers, he called upon herders to protect the environment by selling away some of their livestock so that the money they get help them meet their other needs including buying food.

Earlier, the Minister for agriculture Hussein Bashe, said the government has opened trade barriers to enable farmers and businessmen to sell their cereal crops wherever they want.



I direct the Industry and Trade ministry as well as other ministries to sit together and discuss the matter to find a solution thereon because I should get a response in a short time



Environment 'ambassador' Nestory Mushi holds a copy of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's official portrait at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro only days ago in the company of other mountaineers. The climb was meant to support efforts to promote tourist attractions in Tanzania through The Royal Tour documentary. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mining firm spends 100m/- to put up fence at health centre in Geita region

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has spent 100m/- to build a fence at the Kasamwa Health Centre in Geita Region so as to reinforce security at the area.

The centre was facing security challenges especially during night time where wild animals including hyenas were attacking people, posing a huge threat to patients and health workers.

Simon Shayo, AngloGold Ashanti's Vice President (Sustainability) Tanzania and Ghana said: "The funds used in this initiative are part of the GGML's efforts to improve health services in Geita Region."

He said the improvement of the fence in the health centre is important as it will also help improve the health environment for the people around the GGML mine.

"Goal number 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) insists on creating a better environment for the

health and well-being of our society by the year 2030. Our company GGML would like to see improved health services in Kasamwa Health Center, including reducing infant mortality and mothers who give birth," he said.

Medical officer in-charge at the centre, Dr Thomas Mafuru thanked GGML for financing the construction of the fence at the health facility as it will prevent wild animals at night and it will make it easier for the guards to protect resources at the health centre.

"Since we started the Kasamwa Health Centre in Geita town council in 2007, we've been cooperating well with the GGML company who have also been helping us with various equipment including beds and mattresses," said Dr Mafuru.

Kasamwa Ward resident, Susana Balele praised the fence as it will help them to have peace at night when they bring patients to the health centre.

"I am very grateful for the

construction of this fence around the entire health centre, this will help improve service delivery to people in a more comfortable environment," she said.

"With the health centre, we no longer travel long distances to Geita town to seek for health services," Susana said.

GGML has been a beacon of investment in the community since its inception in 2000 where the main priorities have been health projects, education, water, roads, income development projects and many other social projects to ensure the host community gets a better life.

Earlier this year, GGML emerged as the overall winner in the companies that perform well in the mining sector in Tanzania for the year 2020/2021 after winning awards in the aspects of corporate social responsibility, environment, safety, best payer of income (tax) and development of the natives.

Govt bans purchase of crops through lumbesa

By Guardian Correspondents, Mbeya

THE government has banned the purchase of farmers' crops by using unofficial measurements such as over packed sacks known as 'lumbesa', explaining that such size exploit farmers.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango made the remarks on Monday when speaking at the official opening of the ongoing farmers' exhibitions at John Mwakangale grounds in Mbeya region.

He said that from now on all crops should be measured on a scale, asking regional and district commissioners to supervise the use of such measurements.

He also noted that even livestock should be sold using scales and so he ordered scales to be sent to all crop auctions so that they can be used to sell farmers' crops.

"From now on no lumbesa are allowed, and all the crops will be bought using scales, I order the RCs and DCs to manage this, we do not want to hear anywhere that this business is going on," Dr Mpango said.

He said fines for over-packed sacks should not be a source of continued use of such inappropriate measurements on the purchase of farmers' produce.

Dr Mpango also instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to assess the food situation in the country to avoid the occurrence of a food shortage, noting that state of crop production in some regions is not good.

He also asked Tanzanians to make sure they take care of food reserves instead of selling everything and later they started struggling to buy at high prices.

He also instructed the Agricultural Research Institute in the country (TARI) to research crops that thrive in various areas of the country to get rid of conventional farming that states that some crops thrive in some regions and others do not.

The VP said the government is continuing with various strategies to strengthen the agricultural sector, including ensuring the availability of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.

He said the government has restored the fertilizer bulk procurement system (FBPS) to ensure that it is purchased in bulk and lower the price that all farmers will be able to buy.

He directed the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) to design technologies that will help preserve perishable crops in the field.

He said that there has been a problem of farmers' crops spoiling while in the field and after being harvested before being sold, a situation that causes farmers to suffer losses, so the presence of this technology will help farmers to maintain and preserve their crops while waiting for a reliable market.



Abeda Rashid Abdalla (R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, pictured in Zanzibar at the weekend with entrepreneurs attending training in the production of soap and various other items. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



A hawker hunts for customers for his toys, as caught yesterday along a street in Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni municipality. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Innovator invites youths to learn making of agricultural machines

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

NJOMBE-based innovator John Fute has called on youth with interest in innovation to visit his centre so as to learn how to make irrigation pumps and other spare parts that are used in productive agriculture.

Fute made the call here yesterday when receiving spare parts engraving machines, metal cutting and steel reinforcement worth 25m/- from the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

The young entrepreneur who generates electricity from his mini-hydropower commended various stakeholders for extending their support to improve infrastructures at the area.

The innovator said that many young men have been thinking of fast-paying jobs such as motorcycle taxis but there are many opportunities in the science and technology area which they can grab and benefit from.

He said that among the opportunities available are the production of special equipment for tea and avocado harvesting, which in turn the machines

can bring great revolution and increase income.

"I welcome all youth who are interested in innovation to come to my garage and learn various technologies and become innovators. I invite designers to come and work with me because there are a number of opportunities that are yet to be exploited fully in the technological changes" Fute said.

Costech research coordinator Emmanuel Girmwa said the commission's task is to develop various talents in the country while also supporting them to grow and produce positive outcomes.

Girmwa said that apart from purchasing the machines to improve the garage, they have also provided 1.5m/- to support small operating costs including the purchase of protective equipment.

According to him, the garage owned by Fute can serve more than a hundred young people at once.

Kelvin Kimaro, one of the training beneficiaries at the garage thanked the government for the machines' support as the move will make their work easier.

Ministry of Agriculture forms commission to revisit farmers' loan issuance systems

By Guardian Correspondents, Mbeya

THE Ministry of Agriculture has formed a special commission to monitor loan issuance systems for farmers in various banks so as to revise and improve them.

Minister Hussein Bashe said this yesterday when inaugurating this year's Nanenane farmer's exhibitions, which are held at national level in Mbeya.

He said the commission will be made public recently and will be tasked with the special duty and given references to work on so as to ensure that the opinions to be found are used to

conduct the changes.

"We are working to ensure that we prohibit farmers from working with banks that do not recognize the agricultural sector by issuing loans to participate in the sector's value chain," he said.

He called upon responsible authorities to prevent the traders who have been stealing from farmers by buying crops using excess volume packages 'lumbesa' and supervise them to use accurate measurement.

"Majority of our farmers are not benefiting from the sector due to unfaithful traders who steal from

them. There is a habit of traders to buy farmers' produce using informal measurements thus ending up hurting farmers with the councils enjoying as they collect levies," he said.

He claimed that some councils have set "lumbesa" as their area to get income by arresting traders who have exceeded the measurements and posing fine to them and forgetting to help farmers who are the one hurt the most.

He called for the top leaders to help address this by issuing strong directives as the ministry has tried its best but councils are not acting on this.

DAWASA embarks on renovation of water pipe from Mapinga to Kerege

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ENGINEERS of the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) are currently working tirelessly to renovate the 54-inches water pipe from Mapinga-Kerege in Coast Region so as to strengthen supply of clean and safe water to people.

Eng Tyson Mkindi, DAWASA production and distribution manager said this yesterday that the renovation is part of the authority's strategy to ensure that it reduces water loss to 23 percent in 2025.

Eng Mkindi said engineers are

working day and night to make sure there are no more water leakages, saying that the exercise wasn't interrupting water availability to the citizens.

"We expect the work to be completed soon, our technicians are doing their best to ensure that the work is complete by early next week, one of the DAWASA priorities is to avoid water leakages and ensure all people enjoy clean water services for sustainable development," he said.

Eng Mkindi insisted that apart from the ongoing renovation, water services to Mapinga and nearby citizens is as

normal and assured that there is no area which will be affected by the current exercise.

Mapinga street chairman Benjamin Nko, said people were happy with the ongoing DAWASA's initiatives to address water loss problem which was one of the reasons for them to face water shortages.

"I commend DAWASA for this initiative because water leakages is one of the major challenges thwarting smooth availability of water in our area and some of the citizens, but for this efforts we are sure that, we will no longer face the challenge," he said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

FARMERS have been urged to invest more in sugarcane farming so as to cater the demand as the result of the ongoing mega expansion project of the Kilombero Sugar Company worth 571bn/-.

The project will see construction of a new K-4 factory by 2024 which is expected to process 1.5 million tonnes of sugarcane per year from the current 666,000 tonnes.

Speaking at the company's pavilion at the ongoing Nane Nane exhibitions in Morogoro, agricultural officer of the company said in the investment, the government will issue 25 percent of the cost with the investor covering the 75 percent.

He said it is high time for farmers to expand their fields and prepare new farms so as to benefit from the opportunity and increase their income while also contributing to the country's development.

"Earlier with K1 and K2 factories we were processing up to 600,000 tonnes of sugarcane, so as our expansion project is continuing on

Plea made to farmers to increase investment in sugarcane farming

schedule, the upcoming K4 factory will take the country one step closer to sugar sufficiency," he said.

He said: "Our goal is to support the government's efforts in ensuring self-sufficiency in sugar through local factories. Apart from strategies for internal efficiency, we are working with various stakeholders to provide growers with education on best farming practices and other technical and financial support to improve their yield per acre," he said.

He further explained: "The new factory will be sourcing sugarcane from growers, so farmers should tap this huge opportunity. Our current operations and expansion project will continue to touch the lives of communities in Morogoro and beyond."

Farmers on their side, called upon the government to think on the possibility of setting an indicative price of sugarcane sold to factories so as for

the farmers to benefit from the activity.

Bakari Mkangamo said setting an indicative price will help the farmers to earn fairly but also expand their farms to increase production. He urged Kilombero residents to chip in and start investing in sugarcane farming as despite some challenges, the area pays if farmers are serious enough.

He further asked farmers to use modern drone technology in spraying pesticides and fertilizers so as to avoid contamination of the pesticides which have negative impacts to them.

Edward Kasubi, a sugarcane farmer from Mkulazi also hinted on the note calling Tanzanians to invest in the productive sector so as to address various challenges including income.

Kasubi who also doubles as chairman of Magole Sugarcane- Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) said sugarcane farming can pay a farmer a profit of 2.5m/- in an acre within two months.



Alfred Chengula (2nd-L), director of agricultural and livestock machinery production company Imara Technology, briefs Kiteo district commissioner Mbaraka Batenga (2nd-R) yesterday at the firm's pavilion at the on-going Nane Nane (Farmers' Week) exhibitions being held at northern zone level in Arusha city. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



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It was good for the president to explain appointments, brushing out speculation

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has time and again showcased her communication abilities, chose to tell some pointed truths at a general and even personal level after swearing in top regional administrators at the city State House early in the week. While nothing in her remarks was exceptional, there was still a certain amount of innovation that is non-habitual, reminding appointed officers to correct their past errors and strive to do better. There were moments where she was concerned with rivalry and turf politics, who has power over what in local projects.

The president talked about being efficient and delivering, having the wish to ease burdens that the people carry on a day to day basis, not using time partying and jockeying. One pointed issue was overseeing revenue collection at district level and control of the use of funds, to see to it that local governments organize the use of development funds from the central government. When infighting prevails on project location it happens that at the end of the year the money returned, unused.

Part of the problem is the perennial political 'thanksgiving' inclination, where each project helps this or that official in his work, to gain marks either at the local level or with upper levels of the government. While the creation of new administrative areas is meant to ease access to an array of services, like administrative and care services like health and education, long trail of 'bad blood' setting off parts of a region or a district on one another at times leads to their separation. It can't always be done but when the other criteria are basically being met, it is an easier way

out. So as the president intimated, much of the tussling has to do with personality traits - and that is why she was particular in reminding military personnel to shed their uniforms when sitting at their civilian desks. The president laid emphasis on the leadership rules to be followed, but given the urgency with which localities view the need for this or that service, tugs of war between MPs, district commissioners and councilors on location of development projects will persist. But when there is a specific reminder on the president concerning that limitation, improvements are likely; those in upper levels of authority in the region know what to do, quickly.

There was also a note on institutionalization of human resource use from the military or security forces generally to upper administrative posts especially with regional secretariats, as the president made mention of some high ranking officers being recalled to the military. It is not difficult to see the logic of the matter, as armies in Africa need workable links with civilian administration to prevent their starting to seek own solutions to public contentions. But without the kind of history of fusion between the army as ruling party cadres since 1964 it would hardly work.

The remarks put paid to speculation about arranging teams for the next general elections, as all remarks were about efficiency and trust, realizing popular expectations. If there was another underlying issue putting them together, it would come out. That is unavoidable as it would otherwise not make political sense to appoint people for a specific task and then shy away even from hinting at that task.

Food, fertiliser sufficiency vital as global supply chain recovers

AFOREIGN firm investing in fertilizer, Yara (T) has signaled that it is this year projecting to enhance its fertilizer output from 350,000 tonnes to 500,000 tonnes annually following a \$30m (69.96bn/-) farm-input making plant in Dar es Salaam. It was unclear how much that takes the country close to self-sufficiency as the input increase could as well be targeted at markets of nearby countries, as fertilizer is a hot commodity in the world market at present. Still the step is quite reassuring.

There is all the same an additional reason why much of the increased output will be directed at the local agro-sector consumer base, that with the 150bn/- fertilizer subsidy the government set aside in the fiscal plan for this year, the fertilizer regulatory body, TFRA is confident that fertilizer prices will be more affordable. Thus unless this step was duplicated in budgetary measures across the region, chances that the country retains plenty of its fertilizer output are significant. It is an illustration of synchrony with the private sector, not by dictating their prices as this ends up making the business environment hostile, continual imports dependence.

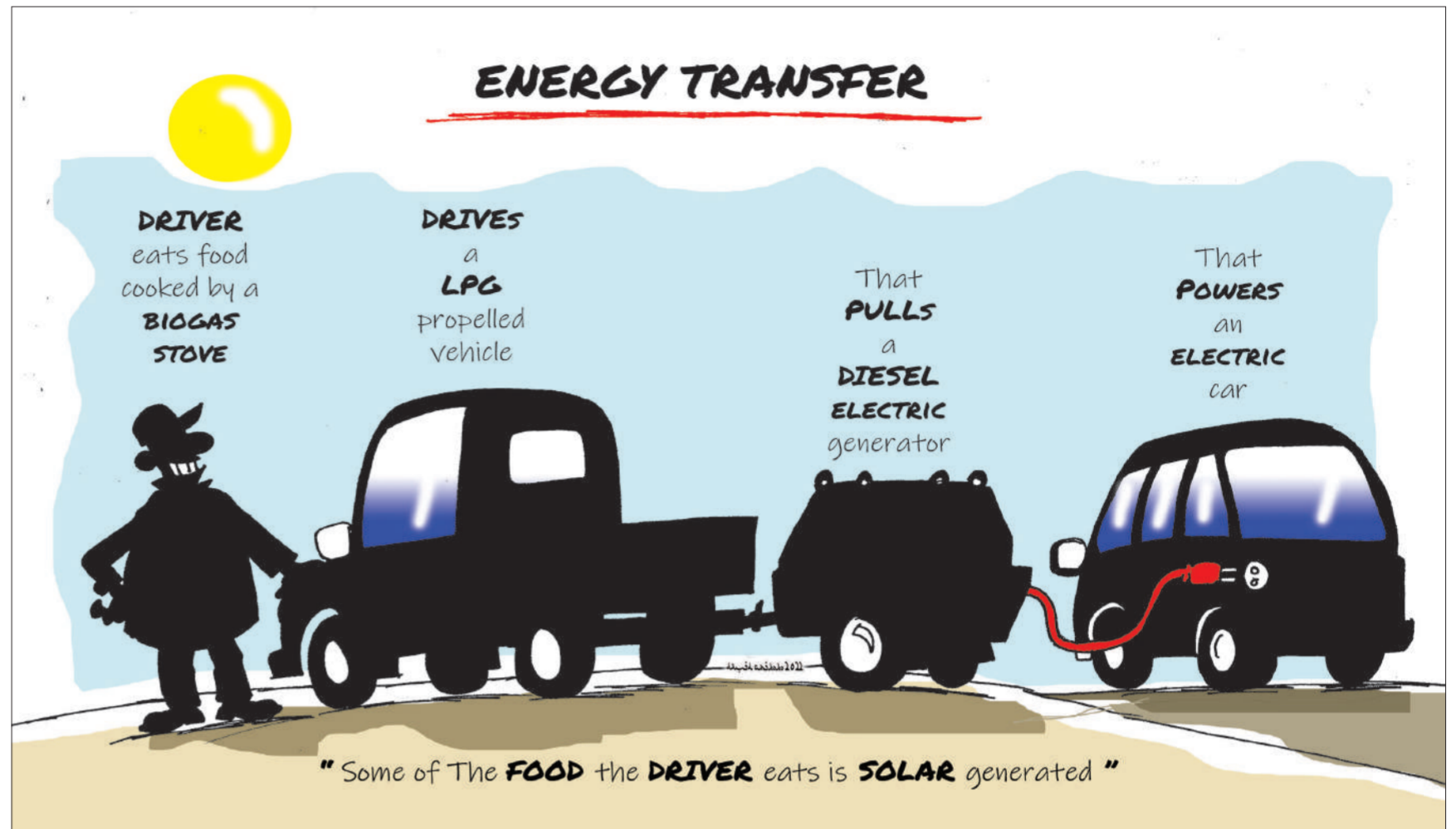
At the same time, global economic reporting was affirming that market futures for grain were starting to decline following a Turkey-brokered accord to start exporting grain and other produce from the port of Odessa. The part of the world painfully waiting for this supply was the Middle East, and this will have an overall price calming impact. Still the lesson has been learned, that excessive dependence

on imports for basic needs like grain, sugar, edible oil, etc is uniquely unpalatable.

At the start of Famers' Day exhibition, the company talked of having invited 31 key agro-dealers to set targets for the new farming season taking off this month in various parts of the country. The firm needs to set out the kind of support the farmers can obtain from the fertilizer supplier, as it has deployed farm officers to set out clearly how farmers need to use the firm's fertilizer to reap better from their farms. Agro-sector modernization also attracts educated youths to venture into it.

While the setting up of demonstration farms across the country for farmers to learn new methods and technologies, the really big idea is expanded irrigation that the president has been working around the clock to persuade global lenders to put money into it. With ready supplies of water limited to zone farming similar to zero grazing in animal husbandry is possible, and that is perhaps the only way youths can be attracted durably to the sector. Using the hoe after a diploma is unworkable.

While we can't shout these accolades up to the sky as yet, it is evident that we are solving agro-sector challenges from at least two points, one being fertilizer (to which is tied climate smart seeds, etc) and then water. It would appear that the latter problem is more engaging, not to say intractable but the sixth phase government has taken it up as a strategic goal and is putting public finances and joint venture funding into it. There is no reason for this effort to fail to deliver, perhaps before the usually cited deliverance target of 2030 for strategic challenges.



By Ntombifuthi Tshabalala, Antony Chapoto and Simon Roberts

AFRICAN countries face great challenges in adapting to climate change to meet growing demand for food. The current drought in East Africa is the latest manifestation of changing weather patterns.

But countries such as Zambia, where there is good land and water, have major opportunities to meet food demand by growing agriculture exports and processing their produce. Zambian farmers can earn substantial returns from increased production. Their production can also alleviate the pressures in countries such as Kenya.

To realise these opportunities, Zambian products have to reach export markets at good prices. For this, Zambia needs competitive cross-border markets and efficient transport and logistics services. However, regional grain and oilseeds trade is not working for producers in Zambia or for buyers in East Africa, with huge variances in agricultural commodity prices in Kenya and in Zambia.

Our reality check on the workings of cross-border markets points to regional integration being the key to unlocking massive potential for Zambia to anchor sustainable agricultural growth in Africa. But effective regional integration remains a dream, undermining Zambia's potential.

How are markets really working for Zambia?

Zambian agriculture has been a growth story with expanding net exports in important products such as soybeans. However, this performance is very short of where it should be. Zambia should be the grain basket for the whole region. Malawi has shown what is possible in soybeans. It almost doubled production in 2019/2020, to 421,000 tonnes, more than Zambia in that year.

A major issue is how cross-border markets are working, or not working. Zambian suppliers report having substantial volumes of soybeans which can meet the huge regional demand.

Market prices for maize in Nairobi climbed to over US\$500/Mt in June 2022, reaching similar levels in Kampala, Uganda (Figure 1). In early July, prices were reported to have climbed well above US\$750/Mt in Kenya. Meanwhile prices in Zambia were around US\$220/Mt or 3,700 kwacha/Mt.

Though lower than Kenya's, Zambian maize prices are still substantially higher than last year's. This is in line with global trends. With higher input costs, farmers need higher output prices to incentivise production.

The gap between prices in Zambia and those in Nairobi and Kampala is

Zambia can meet growing food demand: Now how to fix what's standing in its way



close to US\$300/Mt. This is double what would be explained by the efficient cost of transporting maize from Zambia to these countries. Efficient transport costs take account of reasonable trucking, logistics and border costs.

Even with the higher fuel costs, grain should cost around US\$150/Mt to be transported from Lusaka to Kampala and Nairobi. Of course, quoted transport rates may be much higher, but this reflects the many problems in cross-border transport which need to be addressed.

The situation is even more extreme in soybeans, which are a much higher value commodity. Zambia's bumper soybean harvest in 2022 was being sold at prices around US\$550/Mt in June, with prices even being quoted as low as US\$439/Mt at the end of the month. Prices in East Africa were well over US\$1,000/Mt, some US\$500-700/Mt above those in Zambia. This is three to four times the transport costs.

In other words, producers in Zambia should be getting more for their crops and buyers in East Africa should be paying less, alleviating the food price spikes there.

How can this be and what is to be done?

A combination of factors is undermining the growth of Zambia.

First, reliable market information is required to link buyers and suppliers, and to enable markets to work. In the absence of information, it's risky to export. This lack of information affects small and medium sized farmers and businesses. Large-scale traders who have operations across the region have an advantage over smaller businesses and farmers because they have private information.

Second, the market players require clear trade policy signals to take

advantage of export opportunities. Any hesitation or mixed signals tend to undermine the ability to make deals with confidence. It is therefore important for Zambia's new government not to impose ad hoc trade restrictions, for example, as the previous government did in August 2021 to restrict maize exports. Such restrictions, imposed and lifted from month to month, mean deals cannot be made with the confidence that they can be fulfilled.

Third, the market opportunities in East Africa require urgent regional co-operation to improve transport corridors on the ground rather than in rhetoric.

Malawian soybean suppliers have shown the value. Small suppliers have already been using the African Market Observatory data on East African prices in 2022 to negotiate better prices for their exports. This increased realised prices by around \$200/Mt more than they would otherwise have accepted.

Zambian farmers could reap similar benefits too. This would support a big push in production, enabling Zambian farmers to invest in improved agricultural systems. This is even more essential as next year is likely to be another La Niña weather pattern which sees good rains in Zambia and poor rains in parts of East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

The ongoing effects of climate change mean more investment is required to make agriculture resilient. This involves investments in water management, irrigation, storage facilities, advice and information systems.

The vulnerability of the whole of Southern and East Africa as a climate "hotspot" means urgent and coordinated regional action is required.

But Zambia doesn't have to wait for this action.

It can lead in championing sustainable agricultural growth in the knowledge that this is essential for resilient food supplies across the region. This requires good policies with a longer-term vision. The country needs, without any reservations, to fully back regional integration and competitive regional markets. Excessive margins cannot be captured by connected so-called "middlemen".

Greater certainty for businesses needs to be accompanied by enforcement of clear rules for company power. Regional competition enforcement by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission of Zambia together with the COMESA Competition Commission is a key part of fair and competitive markets which work for all.

Investment is required in critical infrastructure such as storage for smaller market participants to use on fair terms. Finance can be mobilised, such as that being made available by the African Development Bank.

It is essential to support regional research networks, such as those led by the Indaba Agricultural Policy Institute and the African Market Observatory of the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development and partners.

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CHANGSHA

African diplomats expect closer economic relations with China

TWENTY-NINE diplomats from 15 African countries visited the pilot zone for the In-Depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation Program in central China's Hunan Province from July 27 to 29. They expressed confidence in China's economy and said they expected closer economic and trade ties between their country and China.

Despite recurring COVID-19 outbreaks and the complex and volatile international situation, the diplomats said China's economy is resilient and the Chinese market is full of opportunities.

They expressed hope to strengthen cooperation with China in sectors such as agriculture, the digital economy and health care.

According to the Tanzanian ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki, China's 1.4-billion-strong consumer market has plenty of opportunities for all African countries.

"China-Africa trade and economic cooperation has been increasing in the last 20 years," said Kairuki, who is convinced that there will be more opportunities for Tanzania to export products to China, especially high value-added products.

Tanzania is particularly looking to seize opportunities for its agricultural goods in the Chinese market, facilitated by the pilot zone for in-depth China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, he said.

"The pilot zone combines the advantages of quality African agricultural products with the processing and distribution strengths of our Chinese partners, helping our products to be able to increase in value according to the needs of the Chinese market," Kairuki said.

The pilot zone is an important initiative under the "Nine Programs" that were established at the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in November last year.



African diplomats visit Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co., Ltd. in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, July 29, 2022. (Xinhua)

New models and paths for China-Africa trade, investment and financial cooperation are being cultivated to serve the transformation and upgrading of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation.

During their three-day visit to the pilot zone, the African ambassadors paid visits to the core area of the pilot zone as well as key enterprises.

According to Hassane Rabehi, Algerian ambassador to China, the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and the China-Africa In-depth Economic

and Trade Cooperation Programme pilot zone offer new opportunities for cooperation with Africa that can create additional sources of income and employment, diversify commercial products and increase exports of African goods to China.

"These concrete objectives confirm the sincerity of the Chinese leadership to strengthen capacity building in African countries, accelerate market access to China for African products, expand import categories and improve supporting facilities for exchanged com-

modities between China and Africa," Rabehi said, affirming that for both sides, these actions are commensurate with the noble objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China has been South Africa's largest trading partner for 13 consecutive years.

Last year, the trade volume between the two countries increased to 54.35 billion U.S. dollars, up 50.7 percent. South Africa is also one of the largest investment destinations for Chinese enterprises in Africa.

"That's what you call a community with a shared future for mankind," he added.

According to the General Administration of Customs, trade between China and Africa reached an all-time high of 254.3 billion U.S. dollars in 2021, up 35.3 percent year on year, of which Africa exported 105.9 billion dollars of goods to China, up 43.7 percent.

From April 28 to May 12, the online African Products Shopping Festival was held successfully, attracting 23 African countries. Through livestreaming and e-commerce platforms, Chinese consumers can easily shop for African goods such as coffee from Ethiopia, black tea from Kenya and wine from South Africa.

Teshome Toga Chanaka, Ethiopian ambassador to China, said the focus of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation is on agriculture, because it is the foundation of most African economies.

Noting that the digital economy will be an important frontier in the future, the Ethiopian ambassador said there is great potential for China to cooperate with African countries in the field of the digital economy.

Xinhua

By the end of last year, China's total investment in South Africa exceeded 25 billion U.S. dollars.

"We are very impressed about the development of China since the reform and opening-up, because we have seen that China is growing in strength," said South African ambassador to China Siyabonga C. Cwele, adding that China-Africa economic and trade cooperation has brought opportunities and development to developing countries.

Bilateral trade and investment have brought practical benefits to people not only in China but also in other developing countries, by creating jobs and better lives, Cwele said.



Mbelwa Kairuki Tanzania's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China

Ethiopia embarks on e-mobility transition amid rising fuel prices, quest for green dev't

ADDIS ABABA

A STRIKING phrase written in Amharic, Ethiopia's working language, is visible on each side of cars displayed inside a showroom located on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. The phrase reads "An Electric Vehicle" -- a rare sight in a country where electric mobility is in its infancy.

The showroom, which exclusively displays a wide range of electric vehicles for potential Ethiopian buyers, belongs to Green Tech Africa, an East African-based renewable energy company that works in partnership with major Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers as part of its aspirations to promote electric mobility in Ethiopia and beyond across the African continent.

As the Ethiopian government recently engaged in an ambitious effort to fast-track the transition into electric mobility in the face of the global fuel uncertainties, the company has recently partnered with the Ethiopian Ministry of Transport in a series of events that envisaged creating public awareness of e-mobility. One such initiative is a one-month-long free electric vehicle transportation campaign for Addis Ababa residents.

The phenomenon has caught the attention of many on the streets of Addis Ababa, most of whom are experiencing their first-ever battery electric vehicle excursion.

Kidem Tesfaye, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Green Tech Africa, said that a growing number of Ethiopians are lately interested in electric cars.

The Ethiopian government, pre-occupied with the mammoth cost of fuel that was further exacerbated by the current global fuel price hikes, is recently promoting electric vehicles as a viable solution.

The East African country spends an estimated annual average of 4 billion U.S. dollars for the purchase



of fuel, according to government figures. For comparison, Ethiopia's overall export revenue during the Ethiopian 2021/2022 fiscal year that ended earlier this month was 4.12 billion U.S. dollars.

Experts argued that Ethiopia, which spends a major part of its forex earnings on fossil fuels, should tap into the global climate change agenda as its priority to reduce emissions.

"As a water tower of Northeast

Africa, Ethiopia is potentially endowed with plenty of hydroelectric potential.

Hence, it makes sense that we look to electric cars as a future machine of mobility," Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, told Xinhua in a recent interview. "Carmakers are looking at alternative fuel sources, with the aim to reduce harmful exhaust emissions while still de-

veloping the kind of all-round performance and range capabilities," Costantinos said, as he advised Ethiopia to follow suit.

The Ethiopian government, as part of its 10-Years Perspective Development Plan that runs from 2021 to 2030, plans to import 4,800 electric buses and 148,000 electric automobiles. Tesfaye argued that cognizant of the current global shift toward electric vehicles, the East African country should aspire

even higher.

Many argue that Ethiopia's transportation system has been a key source of carbon dioxide emissions with the influx of cheap used cars that are imported into the country, where brand new cars are a rare sight and electric vehicles are nearly unheard of until very recently.

Tesfaye emphasized that Green Tech Africa, working in collaboration with its Chinese partners, envisaged changing the situation

by introducing Chinese-made electric vehicles that are convenient to the local demand.

The company currently is importing the cars from Chinese car manufacturer Dongfeng Motor Corporation and has plans to establish a car assembly factory in the near future toward realizing its ultimate goal of becoming the manufacturing hub of electrical vehicles in Africa.

"Within the next ten years, we see Green Tech Africa (becoming) the manufacturing hub of electrical vehicles and having at least 60 percent of the electric vehicle components manufactured locally," Tesfaye said.

By Emmanuel Owusu-Sekyere and Marie-Noelle Nwoko

Kenyan election: Will democracy triumph?

KENYA'S upcoming election is a big one with even bigger consequences. The country is plagued by a system of governance, policy, foreign relations and an elite mindset seemingly misaligned to deal with the core problems of poverty, corruption, lack of diversification and mounting debt. The winners in this election will have a long road ahead to mend a country reeling with public debt of more than 65% of GDP and a real risk of debt distress.

Driving in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, is not for the faint-hearted. For those unfamiliar with the experience, drivers weave in and out of lanes with an unsettling amount of bravado and recklessness. And, somewhere between admiration of dexterity and sheer panic, you may catch a good conversation. Like we did with Samuel, an Uber driver.

His sentiments towards the upcoming elections were short but telling: "This is Kenya. Elections come and go and always leave us in the same shit. So this one, too, will pass." Then, with a sly grin, he shifted the conversation to a more fascinating matter: why Boda bodas (motorcycle taxi drivers) are allegedly the biggest homewreckers and marriage breakers.

Kenya's economy has been one of the fastest-growing in East Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, economic growth averaged 5.7% in 2019, the third-highest in sub-Saharan Africa, boosted by a stable macroeconomic environment, upbeat investor confidence and a robust services sector.

Yet, according to a recent Afrobarometer poll, less than half of Kenyans said their country was headed in the right direction, and some 65% described the country's economic situation as "fairly bad" or "very bad", a 10-percentage point increase from 2016.

Evidently, there is concern among the 22 million voters planning to show up at the polls across its 47 counties to elect a new president, Senate, woman's representative, members of the National Assembly, governors, and members of the County Assembly next Tuesday, 9 August.

A long road ahead

It's a big election with even bigger consequences. In spite of its impressive economic performance, Kenya is plagued by a system of governance, policy and foreign relations and an elite mindset seemingly misaligned to deal with the core problems of poverty, corruption, lack of diversification and mounting debt. Winners have a long road ahead to mend a country reeling with public debt of more than 65% of GDP and a real risk of debt distress.

Nearly half of the country's 50 million people live below the poverty line. It doesn't help that slowing global demand for Kenya's exports worsened the trade deficit to 5.2% of GDP in 2021. Moreover, as the International Labour Organization estimates, in 2021, total youth unemployment was 13.8% – one percentage point below the sub-Saharan average, but six percentage points more than it was in 2016. With nine



Supporters of the Kenya Kwanza Coalition at a political rally attended by the coalition's presidential candidate and Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto (unseen) at Kangari town, Kigumo in Muranga, Kenya, 27 July 2022. Kenyan politicians continue with political rallies as the country heads to its General Elections on 9 August 2022. File photo

million young people expected to enter the labour force by 2025, there is a dire need for an end to business (and politics) as usual and a pivot to a job-creating and growth-inducing economy.

The four contenders for the upcoming presidential elections are the deputy president, William Ruto; the veteran politician Raila Odinga; and two lawyers, David Mwaure Waihiga and George Wajackoyah. Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission says these four candidates, from an initial list of more than 40, have met the constitutional and statutory requirements for the presidential elections.

The election is expected to be the most tightly contested in Kenya's recent history, with political tensions rising after Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta shifted his support from Ruto to former prime minister Odinga.

The dangers of violence and human rights breaches remain high even though a lot has changed since the 2007 elections, which led to the deaths of more than 1,100 people and the displacement of more than 600,000. Subsequent elections in 2013 and 2017 were relatively less violent, although still tainted by some human rights violations. Kenyans are thus cognisant of the potential for pre- and post-election violence, despite decades of institutional reforms, a new Consti-

tution and relatively decreased societal tensions. However, Kenya has come a long way, and as a result, there is a general sense of optimism that Kenya's next transition will take place in a free, just and peaceful manner.

What is unique about this year's election?

Many things. One is that this time around, there is no clear incumbent or opposition.

The outgoing president, Kenyatta, has endorsed veteran opposition leader Odinga instead of his deputy president and current presidential aspirant, Ruto – a member of the ruling Jubilee Party. This has blurred the boundaries between a clear opposition and incumbent, making it difficult for an already confused and fed-up electorate to make clear choices.

Albeit not a new occurrence, this unusual political alignment has helped deflate traditional political tensions as the United Democratic Alliance and its broader Kenya Kwanza

alliance, and the Orange Democratic Movement and its Azimio La Umoja coalition have diverse tribal backgrounds.

Odinga's Azimio La Umoja-One Kenya Coalition consists of his Orange Democratic Movement and 25 other political parties, while Ruto's Kenya Kwanza and United Democratic Alliance includes 11 political parties.

Besides the party coalitions, the vice-presidential choices of the two leading candidates are both from the largest ethnic group, Kikuyu, making another play for a major constituency and key determinant of the Kenyan election. These are all tactics aimed at minimising the potential or possibility of post-election conflict along ethnic lines.

But like a game of whack-a-mole, new tensions have emerged. Ruto now finds himself in a difficult position, campaigning on a new footing – building his support base, narrative and ideology of simply continuing his original party's work on critical policy issues.

The Jubilee Party that supported Kenyatta and his deputy is now split down the middle, with some supporting the endorsement of Odinga and the others, Ruto, in reaction to Kenyatta's apparent "betrayal".

Second, a key feature of this year's election is a much higher voter uncertainty level than in previous ones, even among young people (only 38% of registered voters are under the age of 35). Voter apathy is much higher than in previous elections, and a much lower voter turnout is expected. Despite many promising narratives such as the "hustler nation versus the dynasties" by Ruto's camp and an ambitious 10-point election manifesto by Odinga, many believe nothing will change, irrespective of who wins the elections. It doesn't help that no practical steps have been outlined to achieve the electoral promises.

Third, widespread concerns about the credibility of the Kenyan elections largely stem from criticism of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and its electronic voting system of choice – the Kenyan Integrated Election Management System.

The two leading presidential candidates laid grievances against the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and its preparedness to oversee free, fair and credible elections on 9 August. Ruto questioned the expulsion of 800,000 votes in his stronghold regions from the voter register, and Odinga, besides blaming the IEBC for stealing his votes in the three previous elections, raised 10 concerns that the IEBC needs to address comprehensively before the elections.

These include security in the printing of the ballot boxes, testing the election technology before the polls to make sure it works properly, the migration of data from polling centres to the tallying centre, an audit of the registered voters and when the final report is expected.

The IEBC's readiness is further complicated by its association with Smartmatic, an election technology firm based in Panama. Its representatives were arrested at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for having election material for a few polling stations.

Although the IEBC chairman has defended the staff of Smartmatic and the materials in their possession, Kenya's Anti-Terrorism Police Unit appears unconvinced, as do some Kenyans.

The stain that follows the IEBC and its sitting chairman, Wafala Chebukati, is a Supreme Court ruling that it "failed, neglected or refused to conduct the presidential election in a manner consistent with the dictates of the Constitution".

However, the IEBC has assured Kenyans of a credible election, and its vice-chairperson, Juliana Cherera, has said Kenyans should expect nothing short of free, fair, peaceful and credible elections from the electoral body.

But Kenya's election is about more than election day. Among the essential problems that Kenyans want their government to address is unemployment, ranked third in 2019 (29%), behind health (36%) and corruption (34%), doubling from 17% in 2011), while management of the economy came in seventh. More significant issues thus lie around who can support the optimism of Kenya's young people (50% of whom are optimistic about economic conditions in the next year) and revive that of its elders, fewer (40%) of whom are confident about economic conditions.

The upcoming Kenyan elections tick the democratic process box. The big questions, however, lie in whether the candidates will rise above politics as usual to reform the country and get it on track to produce jobs, or continue down the path that is fast deteriorating the trust and confidence of its electorate and risks spiralling into economic disaster.

DM



Kenya's Azimio la Umoja (Declaration of Unity) political coalition presidential candidate and Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga (centre), and his running-mate, Martha Karua (second left), join local artists during their performance at a political rally in Kirigiti Stadium, Kiambu, Kenya, 01 August 2022. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Daniel Irungu)

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUVAYO 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

JK to lead EAC election observation mission in Kenya's General Election

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete is set to lead the delegation of the East African Community (EAC) Election Observation Mission, which is to observe the upcoming general elections in Kenya

Kikwete announced the mission comprises 52 observers drawn from key governance and independent institutions and civil society organizations across the EAC Partner States except Kenya. The mission began its task on August 1st and is set to depart on August 12th.

"We are here to assess the level of preparedness of the key electoral stakeholders for this election. We are also looking at the level of compliance of the electoral processes and management to the international, regional and national established laws, principles and practices," he said.

Kikwete further said that the EAC Observer Mission will assess the adherence to the democratic principles of the EAC as enshrined in the Treaty.

He said: "We are committed to offer objective recommendations for continuous improvement for the conduct of this general election."

The mission will build on the outcomes of the Joint African Union/EAC/IGAD/COMESA pre-election assessment conducted over the last one month.

Kikwete said that the mission will interact with a number of key stakeholders in pursuit of peaceful elections. Among these will be IEBC, political parties, candidates, the judiciary, security organs, media and civil society.

The EAC will then announce the findings of the mission through an Interim Statement on 11th August, 2022.

EAC Principal Political Affairs Officer, David Onen said that EAC's mandate to observe elections in Partner States, is governed by the Treaty and the EAC Principles for the Observation and Evaluation of Elections.

"As a region, we have a conviction that regional observation is critical to enhancing the credibility of the elections, reinforcing the work of domestic observer groups and enhancing public confidence in the entire electoral process," he said.

Onen reaffirmed EAC's commitment to strengthen governance and enhance the culture of democracy as a funda-



mental principle of the Community. "The Treaty under Article 6 (d) requires the Partner States to uphold

"good governance including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, so-

cial justice, equal opportunities, gender equality as well as the recognition, promotion, and protection of human

and people's rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's rights," said Onen.

Stakeholders urge Tanzanians to promote nutrition-sensitive farming to school girls

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIANS have been urged to promote nutrition sensitive farming and develop healthy eating habits to school children with a gender eye.

The call was made by stakeholders at a meeting to promote nutrition sensitive farming to school children in Tanzania organized jointly by the Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), the government, European Union (EU) funded AGRI-CONNECT and Tanzania Girl Guides Association (TGGA)

The school nutrition promotion that uses school girl tailored agricultural and food nutrition materials, entertainments, drama, educative materials on nutrition sensitive farming expected to reach more than 17,000 school girl children and will cover large part of the country including the Southern highlands regions in Tanzania.

They said parents, education practitioners and the community should focus on promoting nutrition sensitive farming and health to prepare school young girls to be future good guardians and champion of nutrition right from home to the community.

FAO's food security and nutrition specialist Stella

Kimambo said promoting nutrition issues for girl child does not isolate boy child, all should be treated equally only that the campaign takes into consideration the challenges girl child goes through her life.

"We can change nutritional issues on the table through nutrition sensitive farming. Capacitating young girls right from the farm is to build a nutritious and sustainable future community," she emphasized.

Tanzania country representative for RIKOLTO Tanzania Kain Mvanda said Tanzanians should promote nutrition to the children since they are young so that when they grow up, they should be good parents and champions of nutrition.

"We are promoting this especially for girls so that they can understand nutrition and practice to build better future generation," he said.

A representative of the Ministry of agriculture Margaret Natai said promoting nutrition will address many issues affecting children and particularly girl child including stunting which is currently at 32 percent.

Tanzania girl guides Association (TGGA) programme coordinator, Valentina Gonza called on Tanzanians to promote



FAO food security and nutrition specialist Stella Kimambo (R) speaks at a meeting to promote nutrition-sensitive farming among school children in Tanzania held recently in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

nutrition by preparing girls to be good champions right from the farm to the table.

She said this will improve educational outcomes of children, as well as being socially progressive to change mindset of the community she lives.

"As TGGA we are promoting empowerment and advancement of girls and young

women both socially and economically in terms of nutrition since they still young," she said.

She said the general public should raise awareness and inculcate a sense of self-reliant, responsible and commitment to nutrition issues.

Mjimwema school students Rahma Shabani and Hafsa Mkama urged parents, the

government and other stakeholders to continue raising awareness on nutrition and capacitating young girls to understand the role of nutrition so as to grow up healthy.

In many communities girls don't get enough nutritious food and in most cases, they are denied opportunity to speak up their mind.

A couple of month ago, the Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Government of Tanzania through the European Union (EU) funded AGRI-CONNECT flagship program, launched a national nutrition campaign to develop healthy eating habits in Tanzania based on locally available foods.

'African leaders championing sexuality education at international Aids conference'

MONTREAL, Canada

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Frontline AIDS hosted the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022), where African leaders championed sexuality education and challenged misinformation to work toward an AIDS-free generation.

At the meeting, the young advocates, representatives from African governments and CSOs made the case on why Comprehensive

Sexuality Education should remain a priority for HIV prevention efforts and health and wellbeing for young people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Every week, 4900 girls and women aged 15-24 in Sub-Saharan Africa acquire HIV. Each one of these infections could be prevented if young people had accurate information about how HIV is transmitted, alongside the services they need to make safe and empowered choices" stated Patricia Machawira, Regional Advisor and manager of the programme

Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future for UNESCO.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education is empowering young people around the world to build agency, develop skills, knowledge and attitudes required for preventing HIV, reducing early and unintended pregnancies, and eliminating gender-based violence. It is empowering young people to make informed and safe decisions about their bodies and their lives.

Nyasha, a young advocate called for governments to endorse the ESA commitment.

"We can no longer wait, waiting means governments accept that young girls continue to acquire HIV," Nyasha said.

Botswana ministry of health representative and South Africa ministry of education representative shared their experience championing CSE as a way to enhance the health and wellbeing of young people and positioned themselves as leaders of the CSE while encouraging other countries to endorse the Eastern and Southern Africa commitment.

The session comes almost a year

after the Eastern and Southern Africa ministerial commitment was renewed in December 2021 to continue to advance education and health for the well-being of adolescents and young people.

The ESA commitment is a strategic platform that brings together Ministries of Education, Health, Gender and Youth to strengthen Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV prevention efforts. It is convened by SADC and EAC Secretariats with support from UNESCO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, WHO and MIET Africa.

"In sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls and young women are three times as likely to acquire HIV as adolescent boys and young men" declared Caroline Ngonze from UNAIDS 'Education Plus' initiative. Child marriage, as well as gender-based violence, also remain unacceptably high. 40% of girls and 30% of boys in Eastern and Southern Africa agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife.

It is a fact that every child will one day have life-changing decisions to make about their well-

being, relationships, families, and life goals. Yet, many grow up not having even the basic knowledge and skills to make these decisions carefully. Comprehensive Sexuality Education aims to equip children and young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity; develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others; understand and protect their rights throughout their lives.

BULAWAYO

Slow food, accelerating biodiversity in the field and on the people's plates

EDWARD Mukiibi was forced to do agriculture at school as punishment for misbehaviour.

Instead of hating the punishment, he loved it, especially when he realised farming was the future of good food, health and wealth.

Mukiibi is a farmer and social entrepreneur from Uganda on a mission to prove that sustainable farming is the foundation of all fortune and a solution to overcoming hunger, unemployment, and biodiversity loss. He is an advocate for food production based on using local resources, knowledge and traditions to promote diverse farming systems.

Mukiibi is a member of Slow Food International, a global movement advocating for local food production and traditional cooking.

In July 2022, Mukiibi (36) was named as the new President of Slow Food International at its 8th International Congress in Pollenzo, Italy.

"I feel good and happy about this appointment and also happy on behalf of Slow Food, which is a strong international food movement that has become more established not only in the founding continent of Europe but across the world, which is why it was now possible for the network for finding more able and enthusiastic leaders like me," Mukiibi told IPS during an online interview.



Edward Mukiibi first worked the fields as punishment. Now he is a firm believer that the slow food movement can save the planet. He was recently named as the President of Slow Food International.

Founded in 1986 by Carlo Petrini, Slow Food International works to cultivate a worldwide network of local communities and activists who defend cultural and biological diversity. They promote food education and the transfer of traditional knowledge and skills.

but brand it as their own production. We also need to ensure justice for smallholder farmers, justice for indigenous people and justice for the environment.

Slow Food is also a movement of actors and activists. We are a movement that involves everyone who thinks we need to urgently slow down climate change and the destruction food production is bringing to this planet. We need to slow down on policies that are against environmental equilibrium.

IPS: Is clean, good and fair food achievable, and are slow fooders meeting this goal?

Historically there have been a lot of ruthless, careless food production activities and cruel ways of production to the environment and to the people who are going to eat the food. A good, clean, and fair food system exists and is achievable. With all the challenges we are seeing, the conflicts, climate crisis and food insecurity created by the global food system can be reversed if everyone understands the concept of slow food, whose goal is to solve global challenges using local actions and activities done by the local communities.

We have many examples. So many communities in 160 countries are taking positive actions to regenerate the planet ... It is not too late to regenerate the planet and rethink how food is produced, how food is handled and how food is consumed.

IPS: Climate change is impacting our food production. How do you see the Slow Food movement addressing this?

EM: Slow Food is promoting regenerative approaches to food production, including promoting agri-ecology, building traditional farming systems based on agroforestry, and preserving and protecting local food biodiversity and fragile ecosystems.

We are not only talking about climate change by going out to conferences. We are taking action through the thousands of communities taking practical work to promote agroecology, permaculture and traditional farming systems. In Africa, we count 3 500 agro-ecological gardens that have been created and managed in schools.

IPS: You mention Slow food in biodiversity protection. How and why?

EM: We have the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity because we are concerned about the rate at which we are losing biodiversity not only in the field but also biodiversity on our plates which makes our nutrition and diets dependent on a few highly controlled products.

We are working with cooks to bring back biodiversity on the plate. It is not enough to talk. We have to bring back what we are losing on the table and open the discussion from the dinner table about the wealth we are losing.

Slow Food has worked to create community value chains in different communities to protect food products at the risk of extinction. It means sharing knowledge about these products and that the community sits together to devise ways to protect and promote these food products.

IPS

Convinced of the untapped potential of farming and the need to make agriculture attractive for the youth, Mukiibi founded the Developing Innovations in School Cultivation (DISC). The project works with students and communities to cultivate a positive attitude in young people towards agriculture and locally produced food.

Citing that 70 percent of the population in Africa is below the age of 40, Mukiibi said Africa has a large young generation that can be involved in agriculture. Mukiibi deplored the practice in schools where farming was used as a punishment in the same manner prisons have young offenders working on large-scale farms to provide labour as part of corporal punishment.

"This prevents many young people from loving agriculture and food production," said Mukiibi. "I am a victim of this kind of practice. When I was in school, I always wanted to change this by working with schools in a participatory way and introducing children to farming in a more interest-oriented manner."

Mukiibi has also championed the development of Slow Food Gardens, a global project that has created thousands of green spaces to preserve African food biodiversity and help communities access nutritious food. Mukiibi has created gardens in more than 1000 schools in Uganda.

"Slow Food gives you a 360-degree view of food systems because it covers everything that transforms the way we grow, eat, market, process and save food," said Mukiibi, explaining that slow food is a movement and philosophy about clean, good and fair food.

Interview excerpts:

IPS: What is slow food? Is it the opposite of fast food?

Edward Mukiibi: The concept of slow food carries more of a responsibility than just literal meaning and the direct opposite of fast food. It carries more sense when combined with our philosophy of good, clean, and fair food for everyone. The concept means being responsible in everything we do when it comes to food, agriculture, and the planet. In being responsible for your food choices, you need to eat food and produce food that is good for the environment and good for the culture and the traditions of the people that safeguard it.

Another aspect of slow food is fairness. We need to ensure fairness when it comes to transactions. Openness and transparency when it comes to negotiations and working deals between the producers and consumers but also a declaration of information and the true identity of the producers of the food we eat. Sometimes people are not fair, especially big food chains, when they sell food produced by small-scale producers

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 335 00--

WORD-FIT

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

SOLUTIONS

S U G A R C A N E S
O G O I M
M A L L A D A P I
E D O D G E I
M A I D E N E
N D S
O D D S A C R E S
E E H S
C L I M A T E S
R A C E S
Y E N D U R E T

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4
5 6 7
8
9 10
11
12
13 14 15 16
17 18
19
20

CLUES: Across

1 Deepest lake in East Africa to encounter
5 monetary unit of Nigeria
7 an evil spirit
10 a pigsty
11 partial darkness
13 device for giving light
15 the lawn around someone's house
17 the act of causing to exist
19 a metal coin equal to one penny of a dollar
20 the opposite of sinister

Down:

1 minutes, hours, days etc call for, demand
3 Monetary unit of China
4 unarmed combat using the hands and feet to deliver and block blows
6 behave in a particular way
7 Oslo is the Capital city
9 building where dramatic performances are presented
12 abet, aid
14 a flat dish
16 at a higher level
17 Ruling party in Tanzania
18 the final part of something

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Instagram Facebook Twitter Radio One

WFP introduces project set to boost cotton farmers' incomes

By Francis Kajubi

THE World Food Programme (WFP) has launched an agricultural-driven project targeting to increase the income of cotton small holder farmers in Mwanza region, in a bid to improve their food and nutritional security.

The 'Beyond Cotton Project' is a 20 month project to be implemented in Mwanza region is placed under the observation of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG), while WFP is acting as coordinating body.

Speaking during the launch last week in Mwanza, the WFP deputy country director Brian Bogart (pic-

tured) said the project is targeting to benefit 8,400 farmers in the cotton value chain, whereby 50 percent will be youth, 30 percent women and 20 percent will be men.

With a total budget of \$930,118 (2.17billion/-), the project covers Magu, Misungwi and Kwimba districts.

To achieve these objectives, Bogart said, the project is structured around four main pillars namely strengthen the cotton and combined food crop production, in collaboration with other cotton projects.

Other pillars are improve value addition to cotton, its by-products and combined food crop production; strengthen the commercialization of cotton and associated food crops; and contribute to food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers and local consumers.



The project expected outcomes includes validated model for production, value addition and commercialization of cotton and its by-products, Cotton and associated food crops in multiple cropping systems improved, nutrition secu-

ity promoted and commercialization strategies of associated food crops for creating healthy eating habits disseminated, he said.

The project addresses issues of production and value addition to cotton

by-products, the improvement of inter-cropping systems for cotton with a view to improving the nutrition of traditional crops and the food and nutritional security of the individuals involved.

Further, the project will help to im-

prove incomes, widen the market for agricultural and industrial products, provide raw material for emerging industries, especially textiles, edible oil milling, and alternative use of cotton by-products with a key focus on improving food security for producers/consumers.

Through the project, a number of technologies will be introduced, includes installation of briquettes making machine for processing cotton stalks into alternative charcoal, introduction of handloom for value addition of lint into handmade cloth and introduction of simple weeding tools.

Other technologies are installation of two mini-ginneries; facilitate research activities on multiple cropping of cotton and associated crops, variety development, and seed treatments; and capacity building on community food and nutrition security.

Under the Agricultural Sector Development Program Phase II (ASDP II), the government addresses a subsistence crop on which about 40 percent of the national population depends, directly or indirectly, including cotton growers, ginners, traders, input suppliers, researchers, processors, service providers, and textile sellers in the value chain.

Gold price hits four-week high as Pelosi's Taiwan trip stirs tensions

WASHINGTON

GOLD rose to the highest level since early July as investors braced for a stormy period in US-China relations with House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi heading for Taiwan.

The precious metal often benefits from bouts of geopolitical turbulence, and the Pelosi trip only adds to tailwinds that have helped gold rebound from a 15-month low. A re-

versal in the dollar's rally and growing fears about the global economy have also aided bullion prices.

Pelosi is expected to arrive later Tuesday in Taiwan, which China views as its territory. She would be the most

senior US politician to visit the island in a quarter of a century, and Beijing has warned of consequences including military action if the trip goes ahead.

"Dollar weakness is aiding gold's move higher with some support seen

from the rising US-China tensions," said Gnanasekar Thiagarajan, director at Commtrendz Risk Management Services. "However, gold is flashing overbought on at least one technical indicator and may face profit-taking pressure

after rising to multi-week highs."

Spot gold rose as much as 0.5% to \$1,780.53 an ounce before trading at \$1,773.65 by 6:19 a.m in London. Palladium and silver dropped, while platinum was little changed.

Tanzania's Exports Price Index up by 6.1 pct in Q1, 2022

By Guardian Reporter

THE increase of world commodities prices pushed up Tanzania's Export Prices Index by 6.1 percent during the quarter ending March this year compared with the quarter ended in March last year, which indicates that farmers and miners earned good deals.

"The improved earnings were due to an increase in world market prices of gold, coffee, tea and manufactured tobacco," says National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Trade Price Index.

The increase of gold price was due to ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, considering Russia is among the world top gold producers, while the increase of prices of coffee, tea and tobacco were due to the increase of global inflation, robust demands and effect of weather, which affected top crops' producers such as tea in Kenya.

The Export Price Index (XPI) for the quarter ending March, 2022 published by NBS the index reached 115.1 during the first quarter of this year from 108.5 recorded in March 2021.



The rise in tea prices in the world market has been due to robust demand and some weather-related production shortfalls in East Africa, especially in Kenya, the world's largest tea exporter. PHOTO/FILE

Available data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania computation shows gold exports during the year ending March \$2.6bn/- while the value of exported coffee, tea and tobacco, which categorized as traditional exports amounted \$697 million.

Gold exports accounted for 38.9 percent of goods exports, according to BoT.

The overall export price index during the first quarter of 2022 also increased by

1.3 percent to 115.1 compared to 113.6 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2021.

During the first quarter of 2022, the index for "coffee, tea, mate and spices", contributed 4.3 percent of the total weight of exported commodities, increased by 2.7 percent to 119.3 from 116.1 recorded in the previous quarter ending in December last year.

The performance was largely explained by the increase in prices of tea in the

world market, attributed by robust demand and some weather-related production shortfalls in East Africa, especially in Kenya, the world's largest tea exporter.

Likewise, when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021, the coffee, tea, mate and spices index increased by 13.7 percent.

The exports price index for tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, accounting for 5.9 percent of the total

weight increased by 2.1 percent to 104.5 from 102.4 recorded in the previous quarter.

The increase was mainly explained by the rising prices of tobacco in the world market. Likewise, when compared to a similar quarter of 2020, the index increased slightly by 0.2 percent.

During the first quarter of 2022, the export price index for "Cotton", which accounts for 1.0 percent of the total weight, rose by 1.7 percent to 122.9 compared to 120.8 in the fourth quarter of 2021.

The increase in index was explained by higher cotton prices in the world market due to supply chain disruption coupled with greater demand. Similarly, when compared with the same quarter in the previous year, the index increased by 14.0 percent.

Natural/cultured pearls, precious stones and metals, coin, which accounts for 28.9 percent of the total weight of exported commodities, increased by 4.2 percent to 143.2 in the first quarter of 2022 from 137.5 in the fourth quarter of 2021.

The increase was attributed to higher inflation rates in the world and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, as Russia is the second largest gold producer in the world.

Similarly, when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2021 the index increased by 3.9 percent.

The index for "Fish and crustacean, mollusk and other aquatic invertebrates" which accounts for 6.2 percent of the total weight, increased marginally by 0.1 percent to 111.8 in the first quarter of 2022 from 111.7 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2021.

The index for edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, which contributed 11.4 percent of the total weight of the exported commodities increased slightly by 0.1 percent to 111.3 in the first quarter of 2022 from 111.2 registered in the previous quarter.

Pan African Energy sponsors 4th Tanzania Energy Congress

By Guardian Reporter

PAN African Energy Tanzania (PAET) has announced that it is the proud sponsor of the 4th Tanzania edition of the Tanzania Energy Congress (TEC) to be held tomorrow and Thursday in Dar es Salaam under the patronage of Energy minister January Makamba (pictured).

This year, the event's theme is "The Next Phase in Tanzania's Energy Sector: Promoting Investment Growth".

PAET is one of two platinum sponsors for this year's event and, apart from being an exhibitor, the company will also moderate a Ministerial panel and give an educational presentation on managing mature reservoirs.

Speaking about the event, PAET Managing Director, Andrew Hanna said, "We are extremely excited about the congress and the focus it will bring to the industry here in Tanzania. It is an excellent opportunity to spend time with regulators and the government, to exchange views on the energy sector and what is required to ensure stability and continued production going forward, to meet the growing gas demand in what is a highly successful industrial economy."

Orca Energy Group, PAET's parent company, continues to invest in its Songo Songo operations to keep pace with Tanzania's growth in power generation and industrial expansion.

In the last two years, the company has invested more than \$70 million in increasing and sustaining gas supply, including \$42.5 million on the first stage inlet compression project at the Songas-owned gas processing plant that it operates, and a further \$31.6 million working over three onshore gas wells.

The company has also recently committed \$20 million

to execute a 3D seismic survey in late-2022 across some 200km² of the Songo Songo field, to better image the emerging complexities for the Songo Songo main field and future exploration and development of prospective resources.

PAET will be well represented at the Congress by senior managers across its almost entirely Tanzanian workforce, while Orca will also be represented by the Company's CEO, Jay Lyons, its CFO, Lisa Mitchell, and two Non-executive Directors, including Dr Frannie Léautier and Linda Beal.

Dr Léautier will be moderating the "Global Ministerial Session: Improving Africa's Economy Through Energy Sector Market Development Expansion". This conversation is expected to cover the continent's energy outlook as well as Tanzania's potential as a major energy supplier in the current global scenario.

PAET's resident Reservoir Engineer, Revocatus Kasheshi, will also be making a special educational presentation on managing mature reservoirs, using experience from the past 18-years of production from Songo Songo.

The company will also have an exhibition booth for the duration of the congress to give visitors a chance to acquaint themselves with PAET operations as the first established gas producer in the country, and its contributions to the national economy - both directly and indirectly.

The event is expected to be graced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and many other local and international dignitaries as they discuss issues related to local capacity building, sustainable growth and clean energy transition among others.



Costly oil, fertiliser, cereal push imports price index by 10pct

By Guardian Reporter

THE rising prices of petroleum products, fertilisers, cereals, articles of iron and steel pushed up the Tanzania Imports Price Index (MPI) by 10 percent during the period ending March this year, compared with March last year.

This indicates that households, farmers and welders and iron and steel products manufacturers paid more to travel, buying food, fertilisers and raw materials during the first quarter of this year ending March this year compared with similar quarter of last year.

The Trade Price Indices (TPI) for the first quarter of this year published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has shown that the overall Import Price Index for the first quarter of 2022 closed at 112.1 from 101.9 reported in Q1, 2021.

When compared with the last quarter of last year ending December, the index was up by 2 percent due to increased prices of imported commodities.

The NBS data shows during the first quarter of 2022, import price index for "Mineral fuels, oils and product of their distillation" which contributes 21.7 percent to the total weight of the imported commodities, increased by 9.4 percent to 113.3 from 103.6 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2021.

The performance was explained by the increase in prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the world market, following the Russian invasion in Ukraine that has created a global supply shortage of crude oil.

Similarly, when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2020, the index increased by 35.5 percent.

Bank of Tanzania (BOT) reported in April this year that the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene increased by 37.3 percent, 27.2 percent and 15.4 percent, respectively in March, 2022, relative to the corresponding period in 2021.

Bot said the geo-political war in Ukraine continued to elevate oil prices



In comparison with the corresponding quarter in the preceding year, the fertilizer imports price index increased by 36.9 percent PHOTO/FILE

in the world market, hence creating direct spillover effects in domestic prices.

The NBS report shows the index for "fertilisers" which ac-

counts for 1.8 percent of the total weight of the imported commodities, rose by 3.7 percent to 146.7 in the first quarter of 2022 from 141.4 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2021.

This outcome was a result of rising demand and input costs coupled with global supply shortage. In comparison with the corresponding quarter in the preceding year, the index increased by 36.9 percent.

In the first quarter of 2022, the index for "Iron and steel", accounting for 5.3 percent of the total weight, increased by 1.0 percent to 105.9 from 104.8 recorded in the fourth quarter of 2021.

The performance was attributed to the increase in prices of steel coils. Likewise, the index increased by 25.9 percent when compared to the similar quarter of 2021.

During the first quarter of 2022, the index for "Articles of iron and steel" increased by 9.0 percent to 121.0 from 110.0 recorded in the previous quarter.

The increase was largely attributed to the increase in the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders, bolt and steel structures. When compared to the same quarter of 2021, the index rose by 12.2 percent

The report shows the import price index for "Cereals", which accounts for 4.1 percent of the total weight increased marginally by 0.2 percent to 122.9 from 122.7 recorded in the previous quarter.

Similarly, when compared to the same quarter in the previous year, the index increased by 3.3 percent.

UBA announces new group managing director and executive board

LAGOS, Nigeria

UNITED Bank for Africa Plc has announced the appointment of Oliver Alawuba as Group Managing Director, overseeing the entire group's banking operations across its twenty African countries' network and globally in the UK, USA, France, and the United Arab Emirates.

Oliver Alawuba joined UBA in 1997 and has held a series of senior positions, including as the CEO of UBA Ghana, the CEO of UBA, Africa and most recently, as Group Deputy Managing Director.

UBA Group Chairman, Tony Elumelu stated: "I am very pleased to announce Oliver Alawuba as the new Group Managing Director of the UBA Group. Oliver has extensive experience in Nigeria and our African network and is well equipped to advance our pan-African and global strategy."

"I have no doubt that Oliver will build on the legacy of Kennedy Uzoka, who has exemplified transformational leadership by championing a customer-first philosophy; launching our twentieth operation in Africa, UBA Mali; acquiring a wholesale banking licence for UBA UK in the United Kingdom; and opening our fourth global operation, UBA Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates."

Oliver Alawuba expressed his commitment to his new role as Group Managing Director saying: "I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this great institution and would like to thank the UBA Group Chairman and the members of the Board of Directors for the confidence they have put in me to deliver the mandate."

Alawuba takes on his new position from August 1, 2022, subject to approval by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Equally appointed is Muyiwa Akinyemi, as Deputy Managing Director. Muyiwa joined UBA in 1998, as a Senior Banking Officer in UBA's Energy Bank, and has served the Group in Nigeria and our broader Africa network for twenty-four years.

Other executive appointments are Sola Yomi-Ajayi, Executive Director, Treasury and International Banking. Sola has been with the Group since 2004 and has considerable international experience, culminating in her appointment as CEO of UBA America.

Ugochukwu Nwagodoh, Executive Director, Finance and Risk Manage-



L-R: New Executive Director, North Bank, Emem Usoro; Group Chairman Tony Elumelu; New Group Managing Director/CEO, Oliver Alawuba; and New Deputy Managing Director, Muyiwa Akinyemi, during the corporate event to announce the appointments of new GMD and executive directors for UBA Group, held at the Tony Elumelu Amphitheatre at UBA House in Lagos on Monday.

ment. Ugo joined the Group from PwC in October 2004. He has since held a series of significant roles in the areas of performance management, compliance, financial control and reporting.

Alex Alozie, Executive Director and Group Chief Operating Officer, who joined the Group in 2019 and has driven the Group's digital transformation and operational efficiencies. Emem Usoro, Executive Director, North Bank. Emem joined the Group in 2011 and has served in a series of senior regional appointments across Nigeria, covering the retail, corporate and public sectors.

The Board also announced the retirement of executive directors, who have completed their tenor, many of whom will continue to serve the broader Group upon regulatory approval of a holding company structure. Those executive directors are Kennedy Uzoka, Uche Ike, Chukwuma Nweke, Ibrahim Puri, and Chiugo Ndubisi

A further announcement was made on the retirement of a Non-Executive Director, Ambassador Joe C. Keshi, OON, who served as Vice Chairman of the board. This takes effect from August 1, 2022 after a completion of his tenure of twelve years.

Yara digital solutions boot its outreach to farmers, dealers

By Francis Kajubi

YARA Tanzania Limited has reached thousands of farmers and agro dealers during the farming season 2021/22 ending July this year through its digital solutions YaraConnect and Farm care.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during a special meeting with YARA agro dealers, fertilizer suppliers in particular, YARA digital solutions manager Deodath Mtei, said dual applications enable farmers to access farm inputs including fertilizers at either low prices or through low interest loans.

Mtei said that so far almost 50,176 farmers have been connected to YaraConnect of which 510 farmers have accessed farm inputs through loans issued by Yara.

He said the target is to reach 80,000 farmers countrywide by the end 2022/23

farming season next July.

"Through YaraConnect farmers have an opportunity to access full packages of farm inputs that includes seeds, fertilizer and paste sides. As of June this year almost 4,400 tons of fertilizer has been sold out to agro dealers through YaraConnect," said Mtei.

Speaking of Farm care digital solution, Mtei said that the service, which is offered through a mobile phone application, enables farmers to receive diverse information related to agriculture such as climate condition details and alerts.

"As of July this year almost 23,000 downloads of Farm care application have been made exceeding the target of 20,000 downloads during the 2021/22 farming season;

However, the solution was intended to engage an estimate of 8,000 farmers but

it has so far engaged 11,000 farmers both directly and indirectly," said Mtei.

YARA Managing Director Winstone Odhiambo, said the two digital platforms have offered beyond expectations by being even useful to consumers.

According to him, YaraConnect, an application that offers a reward-based loyalty program and expert farming knowledge for retailers selling Yara products, had during the last farming season registered over 50,000 users.

"The reason behind Yara's investment in digital solutions especially mobile phone applications is due to the fact that as the world population increases by 2.9 percent as smart phone users increases by 6 percent. In this case, Yara finds a potential market for its products through digital solutions," said Odhiambo.



YARA Tanzania target is to reach 80,000 farmers countrywide by the end 2022/23 farming season next July. PHOTO/FILE

World factory outlook darkens with weakening Europe, Asia

LONDON

EUROPEAN factory activity plunged and Asian manufacturing output continued to weaken in July amid lingering supply-chain complications and a slowing global economy.

Purchasing managers' indexes for the euro area's four largest members all indicated contrac-

tion, with shrinking confirmed for the region as a whole after an initial estimate on July 22. In Asia, it was China, South Korea and Taiwan that took the biggest hit.

The reports reflect the darkening outlook for the world economy that forced the International Monetary Fund to last week lower its global growth forecast for this

year and next, warning an outright recession may be just around the corner.

The euro area's prospects in particular look increasingly dire, despite a bumper second-quarter expansion of 0.7%. Record-breaking inflation and the heightened likelihood of a Russian energy cutoff are threatening to inflict a

slump in the 19-member currency bloc.

"Euro-zone manufacturing is sinking into an increasingly steep downturn, adding to the region's recession risks," said Chris Williamson, an economist at S&P Global. "New orders are already falling at a pace which, excluding pandemic lockdown months, is

the sharpest since the debt crisis in 2012, with worse likely to come."

In Asia, data showed China's factory activity unexpectedly contracted in July, reversing earlier economic momentum as sporadic Covid-19 outbreaks weigh on the recovery.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers index fell to 49

from 50.2 in June. That compares with the 50.3 median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

Currencies weakened against the US dollar after the news out of Asia, led by the South Korean won and the Philippine peso. The Taiwan dollar fell to the key psychological level of 30

per the greenback for the first time in more than two years.

"Manufacturing companies in Taiwan painted an increasingly gloomy picture of conditions at the start of the third quarter," Annabel Fiddes, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said in a release.

Gates-backed think-tank seeks \$50 billion for Africa debt plan

PARIS

A Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-backed think tank is seeking \$50 billion in backing to help African nations with distressed debt to re-enter capital markets and to protect against future defaults.

The amount is the "median estimate" of what's needed, said Daniel Cohen, chairman of the Paris-based Finance For Development Lab, which was launched last month.

The money would be used to "enhance" the quality of debt by providing guarantees, and may also be employed to help African commodity exporters and importers hedge against price fluctuations, said Cohen, who is also president of the Paris School of Economics.

Some African nations, which rushed into capital markets as global interest rates fell to record lows, are on the verge of default because of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Zambia has already reneged on its debt. Investors, anticipating a wave of restructurings, are demanding a high risk premium from the most vulnerable countries, pricing them out of the market.

The sovereign dollar bonds of African nations, on average, trade at 1,007 basis points above US Treasury yields, fulfilling a widely accepted definition of debt distress. Zambia's debt hovers at 3,699 basis points, Ethiopia's at 3,489 points and Ghana's at 1,989 basis points.

"Is this a failed experiment, something that lasted as long as cheap money was the name of the game post sub-prime?" Cohen said. "Is the game over and we never see, and I don't want to name a country, but we never see them back in the market?"

The lab, which develops proposals and would want an established institution to house the facility, includes representatives



The sovereign dollar bonds of African nations, on average, trade at 1,007 basis points above US Treasury yields, fulfilling a widely accepted definition of debt distress

on its steering committee from the United Nations Economic Committee for Africa and think tanks from Santiago and Accra to New Delhi. World Trade Organization Director-

General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala attended its launch.

The Gates Foundation provided \$2.6 million in September 2021 to kick-start the pro-

ject.

"Last year, we had conversations with passionate thinkers affiliated with the Paris School of Economics, who brought new ideas

and energy to the financing debate -- from franco-phone Africa to the Paris Club to the private sector," the foundation said in a response to questions.

"We jointly thought about a new organization with a vision to create an engaged community of think tanks and research centers that could help provide new, yet practical and evidence-based proposals. Ideas to meet the financing challenges of today."

Cohen said he's begun talking to politicians, including those in France, about contributing to the fund. Contributions could come in the form of International Monetary Fund special drawing rights, he said.

The lab is proposing offering rolling interest-payment guarantees and a debt-restructuring and facilitation facility to provide cash "sweeteners" to creditors to cut the length and cost of restructuring negotiations, it said in a document.

Such a mechanism is necessary to help countries re-enter the market, Cohen said.

"Either they are locked out of the market or they can re-enter, provided they are enhanced by some form of guarantee," he said. "This kind of mechanism would be needed to restore access to the market. There will be a lot of restructuring in the years to come. Some cash could have a big leverage."

The alternative is that countries locked out of capital markets will need to depend on grants and multilateral development banks for their financing needs, he said.

The lab is also proposing a protection against commodity fluctuations by guaranteeing margin call payments triggered by rising prices.

"Tell us how much money is on the table and we will tell you how many people we can get under the protection of this umbrella," Cohen said.

The lab also plans develop links with Chinese academics as many African countries are indebted to China, he said.

"We are thinking of a parallel group of Chinese scholars thinking of the role of China, the main creditor to Africa," he said.

Managers face new EU rules aimed at protecting investors

A new set of EU rules which were expected into force yesterday will put fresh pressure on asset managers as they seek to steer everyday retail investors around the complexities of sustainable investing.

The changes are the result of an amendment to the revised Markets in Financial Instruments Directive, or MiFID. It requires investment managers and financial advisers to understand and act on the "sustainability preferences" of retail clients. These investors, in turn, can hold asset managers to account if their ESG funds don't meet expectations -- by not being as green as they might initially appear, for example.

In practice, many are still concerned about the lack of granular data on environmental, social and governance issues; the challenge of defining what makes for a sustainable investment; and uncertainty about how the new rules will be enforced by individual countries. Europe's financial industry, which lobbied for the amendment to be delayed, warned it will cause "huge confusion" and "great legal uncertainty."

"It's going to be difficult to explain to clients who aren't savvy on EU regulation what this all means in practical terms," said Ben Maconick, a managing associate at the law firm Linklaters.

Under the new rules, sustainability is defined by piggybacking other parts of EU legislation such as the green taxonomy and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. Investment firms are already struggling to apply EU metrics and assess the sustainability of certain investments.

Financial firms are "in a really hard situation because they have the obligation to ask these questions and only suggest investments that are aligned with the client requirements," said Matthias Breier, ESG product manager at FE fundinfo. "But they just do not have the required data on sustainability at the moment."

Further confusion stems from how national regulators in the bloc will enforce the rules. The International Capital Markets Association, a financial trade association, is among those calling on authorities to not prioritize supervisory action for at least a year.

France's market regulator AMF has said the new requirements will not apply to French investment advisers until 2023. The Dutch watchdog, AFM, told Bloomberg there may be "a lack of clarity" regarding appropriate products that match the ESG preferences of clients.

A key hurdle is the lack of comparable data. Funds with similar holdings have reported wildly different minimum allocations to sustainable investments, mainly because regulator guidance can be interpreted in different ways, according to a recent analysis by Morningstar Inc.

What's more, around a third of the market is yet to submit any data on sustainability, according to FE fundinfo. Funds are filling out industry templates with almost 600 different fields.

"An adviser's work will be hamstrung by the mere fact that many funds haven't reported the required information yet or have reported zero exposure to sustainable investments," said Hortense Bioy, global director of sustainable research at Morningstar.

The new MiFID requirement comes at a time when the ESG investing movement is facing criticism from multiple sides. Republicans have characterized it as a tool of the "woke" left. Meanwhile, some whistleblowers have suggested that ESG -- as practiced by the mainstream -- is more marketing than action.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE		CAPITAL		
TUESDAY 2 Aug	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Aya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Rgofi Maalum 13:40 Shikabamba 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shikabamba 14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 14:40 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Brela 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 21:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Abu Yako 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Rgofi Maalum 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 14:30 DWTW rpt: Kesho leo 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DU Show) 17:30 Kisimom 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Uchumi wetu 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	News Capchat rpt Al Jazeera
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WORLD

Al Qaeda leader killed in US drone strike in downtown Kabul

KABUL/WASHINGTON

THE United States killed al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a "precision" strike in the center of Kabul, the Afghanistan capital, President Joe Biden said, the biggest blow to the militant group since its founder Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011.

Zawahiri, an Egyptian surgeon who had a \$25 million bounty on his head, helped coordinate the Sept 11, 2001, attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

US officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Zawahiri was killed when he came out on the balcony of his safe house in Kabul at 6:18 am (0148 GMT) on Sunday morning and was hit by Hellfire missiles from a US drone.

"Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more," Biden, who is recovering from COVID-19, said in remarks from the White House. "No matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out."

He said he had authorized the precision strike in downtown Kabul and that no civilians were killed.

Three spokespeople in the Taliban administration in Kabul declined comment on Zawahiri's death.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that a strike took place and strongly condemned it, calling it a violation of "international principles."

A spokesperson for the interior ministry said a house was hit by a rocket in Sherpoor, a leafy, upscale residential neighborhood in the center of the city.

"There were no casualties as the house was empty," Abdul Nafi Takor, the spokesperson, said.

Taliban authorities threw a securi-

ty dragnet around the house in Sherpoor yesterday and journalists were not allowed nearby.

A woman who lives in the neighbourhood and spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity said she and her family of nine moved to the safe room of their house when she heard an explosion at the weekend. When she later went to the rooftop, she saw no commotion or chaos and assumed it was a rocket or bomb attack - which is not uncommon in Kabul.

A senior Taliban official told Reuters that Zawahiri was previously in Helmand province and had moved to Kabul after the Taliban took over the country in August last year.

"Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more," Biden, who is recovering from COVID-19, said in remarks from the White House. "No matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out."

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"There were no casualties as the house was empty," Abdul Nafi Takor, the spokesperson, said.

Taliban authorities threw a security dragnet around the house in Sherpoor on Tuesday and journalists were not allowed nearby.



A still image from a video released by Al-Qaeda's media arm as-Sahab and obtained on Sept 11, 2012 courtesy of the Site Intelligence Group shows al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a video, speaking from an undisclosed location on the eleventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. AFP

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A senior Taliban official told Reuters that Zawahiri was previously in Helmand province and had moved to Kabul after the Taliban took over the country in August last year.

US intelligence determined with "high confidence" through multiple intelligence streams that the man killed was Zawahiri, one senior administration official told reporters.

"Zawahiri continued to pose an active threat to US persons, interests and national security," the official said on a conference call. "His death deals a significant blow to al Qaeda and will degrade the group's ability to operate."

Providing sanctuary

Zawahiri succeeded bin Laden as al Qaeda leader after years as its main organizer and strategist, but his lack of charisma and competition from rival militants Islamic State hobbled his ability to inspire devastating attacks on the West.

There were rumors of Zawahiri's death several times in recent years, and he was long reported to have been in poor health.

The drone attack is the first known US strike inside Afghanistan since US troops and diplomats left the country in August 2021. The move may bolster the credibility of Washington's assurances that the United States can still address threats from Afghanistan without a military presence in the country.

His death also raises questions about whether Zawahiri received sanctuary from the Taliban following their takeover of Kabul in August 2021. The official said senior Taliban officials were aware of his presence in the city and said the United States expected the Taliban to abide by an agreement not to allow al Qaeda fighters to re-establish themselves in the country.

"The Taliban will have to answer for al-Zawahiri's presence in Kabul, after assuring the world they

would not give safe haven to al-Qaeda terrorists," Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the Taliban had "grossly violated" the Doha Agreement between the two sides by hosting and sheltering Zawahiri.

Former president Barack Obama joined lawmakers in praising the operation.

"It's possible to root out terrorism without being at war in Afghanistan," Obama said in a Twitter message. "And I hope it provides a small measure of peace to the 9/11 families and everyone else who has suffered at the hands of al Qaeda."

Republican US Senator Marco Rubio said: "The world is safer without him in it and this strike demonstrates our ongoing commitment to hunt down all terrorists responsible for 9/11 and those who continue to pose a threat to US interests."

Until the US announcement, Zawahiri had been rumored variously to be in Pakistan's tribal area or inside Afghanistan.

A video released in April in which he praised an Indian Muslim woman for defying a ban on wearing an Islamic head scarf dispelled rumours that he had died.

Wife, family in same house

The senior US official said finding Zawahiri was the result of persistent counterterrorism work. The United States found out this year that Zawahiri's wife, daughter and her children had relocated to a safe house in Kabul, then identified that Zawahiri was there as well, the official said.

"Once Zawahiri arrived at the location, we are not aware of him ever leaving the safe house," the official said. He was identified multiple times on the balcony, where he was ultimately struck. He continued to produce videos from the house and some may be released after his death, the official said.

In the last few weeks, Biden convened officials to scrutinize the intelligence. He was updated throughout May and June and was briefed on July 1 on a proposed operation by intelligence leaders. On July 25 he received an updated report and authorized the strike once an opportunity was available, the administration official said.

With other senior al Qaeda members, Zawahiri is believed to have plotted the Oct 12, 2000, attack on the USS Cole naval vessel in Yemen which killed 17 US sailors and injured more than 30 others, the Rewards for Justice website said.

He was indicted in the United States for his role in the August 7, 1998, bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people and wounded more than 5,000 others.

Both bin Laden and Zawahiri eluded capture when US-led forces toppled Afghanistan's Taliban government in late 2001 following the Sept 11 attacks on the United States.

Agencies

Russia will get over it, if US opts for severing diplomatic ties, Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is prepared for any developments in terms of relations with the United States and if Washington opts to sever diplomatic ties, Moscow will get over it, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday, commenting on the US Senate's calls for declaring Russia a state sponsor of terrorism.

"American lawmakers, including, by the way, flying House of Representatives speaker [Nancy] Pelosi, seem to have finally given up after trying, in the anti-Russian heat, the entire available sanction arsenal, which has proved to be inefficient, and have plunged into developing such powerful, to their mind, weapon as declaring Moscow a sponsor of terrorism.

They should know: we are prepared for any development of the situation. And if Washington opts to halt any contacts with Moscow, we will well get over it," she said.

According to Zakharova, such a step is highly likely to be followed by the severance of diplomatic relations, which will be "a point of no-return with all the consequences that may come with it."

She also noted that the United States is unable to crack down on regimes it brands as terrorist.

On July 27, the US Senate passed a resolution calling on the Department of State to recognize Russia a state sponsor of terrorism, motivating it by the developments in Chechnya, Georgia, Syria, and Ukraine. Earlier, Kiev asked Washington to do the same.

On July 28, a group of congressmen with both parties announced plans to refer a similar document to the consideration of the House of Representatives. **Agencies**

Floods hit eastern Uganda, leaving 24 people dead

KAMPALA

HEAVY rains in eastern Uganda over the weekend caused flooding, leaving 24 people dead and more than 1,000 others affected, a relief agency said here Monday.

The death toll rose to 24 after more bodies were retrieved from River Nabyonga Monday morning, said Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), a relief agency. The death toll was 10 Sunday after the floods hit Mbale and Kapchorwa districts.

The disaster happened two days after the country's meteorological department warned about the northern, eastern and midwestern parts receiving enhanced rainfall in the month of August.

Irene Nakasiita, the URCS spokesperson, told reporters that more than 1,000 people had been affected by the floods which started Saturday night.

Esther Anyakun, minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, in a statement said the rains have caused havoc that is beyond individual and community capacity.

"We ask the general public to leave all the potential waterways both in hills and valleys, landslide-prone areas, we don't want to lose more lives," the minister said. "We request families that are in safe zones to host affected families - those in dangerous areas as more rainy days could cause disastrous effects."

Assessment teams have already reached the affected areas and would soon report the impact of the floods on communities, according to URCS and the government. "The assessment team is still on the ground, there are places which are still inaccessible, once they are able to access them, the situation may change," said Nakasiita.

She said relief aid is already on its way to the affected communities. Leaders from the affected regions on Monday urged the government to compensate residents affected by flooding instead of relocating them, according to a tweet quoting legislators from the affected region.

The leaders also want temporary evacuation camps set up to curb other impending floods and landslides. Government figures show that in 2021, more than 1 million people were affected by floods. Mountainous eastern Uganda occasionally experiences landslides during the rainy season but the worst incident was recorded in 2010 when several landslides killed some 300 people and left thousands homeless.

In 2018, some 35 people were killed by landslides in the same region. Government efforts to resettle affected people to other safer places have not succeeded as they return due to the fertile volcanic soils.

Environmentalists blame the rampant landslides and floods on the felling of trees as people look for land to cultivate.

Xinhua



We ask the general public to leave all the potential waterways both in hills and valleys, landslide-prone areas, we don't want to lose more lives

'Some US politicians 'openly play with fire' regarding Taiwan issue'

BEIJING

SOME of the US politicians are openly 'playing with fire' in regard to the Taiwan issue, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday during his official tour across the countries of Central Asia.

"The United States' violation of its obligations regarding the Taiwan issue is shameful and it can only bring closer the US reputation towards its downfall," the Chinese Foreign Ministry quoted Wang Yi as saying in a statement.

"Some politicians in the United States care about their personal interests only and they openly play with fire regarding the Taiwan issue," the Chinese minister added.

The escalation of the situation in the Taiwan Strait occurred in the wake of a potential visit by Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi to the island.

The Taiwanese media reported earlier, citing an unnamed military

observer, that two operational aircraft carriers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy had been deployed to the sea and may head for the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwanese newspaper Zhongguo Shibao reported that the aircraft carriers Liaoning and Shandong recently departed from the ports of Qingdao and Sanya.

Pelosi's visit may come as the first trip by a US official of this rank to the island in the past 25 years. Beijing has repeatedly warned Washington that the visit to the island, should it take place, will not be left without consequences and China will resort to tough measures.

Washington believes that in the light of Pelosi's potential trip to Taiwan, Beijing may take steps leading to a crisis, including measures to launch missiles or conduct military maneuvers. As reported from Taipei, the Taiwanese armed forces were put on heightened alert.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Development of rural express industry gives a boost to rural vitalisation

CONSUMPTION potential of rural China is being constantly released thanks to the rapid development of the express industry.

The increasingly developed rural express network is leading to smoother logistics in China's countryside, extending online shopping services to more and more rural consumers and making the rural market a new growth pole of the express industry.

As of 2021, express service outlets have been established in over 80 percent of China's villages.

According to recent statistics re-

leased by the State Post Bureau, China's express delivery companies handled 51.22 billion parcels in the first six months this year, up 3.7 percent year on year. During the same period, their business revenue increased by 2.9 percent to 498.22 billion yuan (\$73.62 billion).

In particular, the share of business volume in central China saw an uplift of 1.1 percentage points, and the figure stood at 0.3 percentage points in the western region.

Rural e-commerce is thriving thanks to expanding express services in rural

areas. The prosperous farm produce market and released potential in central China have become a major force driving the growth of the express industry.

The expanding express network brings convenience to rural residents and stimulates consumption potential in rural areas.

In the past, many villagers had to go to townships to send and receive parcels. According to a three-year action plan to extend express delivery to villages released in 2020, express delivery will be available in all qualifying administrative villages by 2022.

Express services have expanded the space of rural development. Relying on the express network, rural e-commerce now enjoys a more solid foundation. More and more agricultural products are entering the urban market, which on one hand meets the demand for individualized consumption, and on the other hand expands the source of income for farmers.

In 2021, 37 billion parcels were collected from and shipped to rural areas across China, facilitating rural-urban commodity exchanges totaling 1.85 trillion yuan.

The rural express network, apart from introducing more products to rural areas, is also taking agricultural products to the outside world, thus increasing the income for farmers.

With smoother rural logistics, a new batch of rural industries with local characteristics are emerging, forming a number of influential local brands. They have injected new impetus and energy into the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

Besides, the development of the rural express industry has created new jobs and new entrepreneurial opportunities.

Many couriers working in cities have returned to their hometowns in the countryside to run express delivery spots, which brings new job opportunities to local communities. The emergence of livestream commerce and short video marketing is also building a platform of entrepreneurship for Chinese villagers.

It is believed that as the rural express network further expands, more and more villages will be incorporated into the modern logistics network and embrace new opportunities. A China with smoother logistics is taking shape. **People's Daily**

Pelosi's expected visit to Taiwan spurs protest

SAN FRANCISCO

PEACE activists and community members on Monday protested US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's expected visit to Taiwan, demanding that she cancel the trip and focus on issues facing ordinary Americans.

The rally, organized by a few groups, included members of Pivot to Peace, ANSWER Coalition, CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace and leaders of the Chinese community. People from different walks of life participated, holding signs proclaiming that "China is one", "US hands off Taiwan", and chanting, "China is not our enemy."

"China is not an existential threat. What is an existential threat is racism and American policy that drives us to war. ... The Cold War tactics and agenda by leaders, particularly Pelosi, is unwarranted," said Julie Tang, co-founder of Pivot to Peace and a retired Superior Court judge in San Francisco, at the rally outside Pelosi's local district office.

"Let's together join up and urge her to come home and deal with our local issues, homelessness, monkeypox and all those issues that are killing our people," Tang said.

In past decades, US-China relations have had ups and downs, said David Ewing, San Francisco chapter president of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association, but Pelosi's planned trip is "one of the more dangerous moments".

"China has always sought peace and friendship with the American people," he said, but he said the actions of the US in the last year or two – the challenges to Chinese territories in the Pacific and now more direct interven-

tion in Taiwan, are "very reckless".

Pelosi is expected to visit Taiwan on Tuesday and stay overnight, according to media reports, though the island is not currently on her public itinerary.

The California Democrat had previously planned to lead a US congressional delegation to Taiwan in April but canceled the trip after she tested positive for the coronavirus.

She would be the highest-level US official to go to Taiwan since 1997, when then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich made a visit.

"There is no basis for Speaker Pelosi, the third person in succession to the presidency, to travel to Taiwan in disregard of the commitments made by our government," said the protesters in a statement.

In the three joint communiques issued by the United States and China in 1972, 1975 and 1982, the US acknowledged that there is only one China, and that Taiwan is a part of China. That one-China policy was echoed by the protesters Monday.

"Speaker Pelosi and other political leaders and office holders should be directing their attention to solving the problems facing our country, not to provoking tension and possible confrontation with China," they said.

"The people of this country are hurting," Cynthia Papermaster, CODEPINK's chapter coordinator in the San Francisco Bay Area, told China Daily at the rally.

"I have an electric car but my colleague who came over today said it cost her \$100 at the gas pump. That's just one symptom of the problems, but people are living on the street; children are going hungry every night; veterans need support; the climate is burning all



Activists from Pivot to Peace, ANSWER Coalition, CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace and leaders of the Chinese community in San Francisco hold a demonstration in front of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office at the San Francisco Federal Building on Monday.

over the US," she said.

"All of those resources and her attention should be focused on us here at home, and then whatever resources we have to help other people as well. We're all one world, aren't we?" said Papermaster. "Pelosi really needs to open her heart and feel what we're saying."

Bob Spies, a web developer in the Bay Area, started a petition calling on Pelosi to cancel the Taiwan trip. The petition has received more than 1,300 signatures in five days. "It's continuing to gain more," said Spies. He will deliver the petition to Pelosi's office when it reaches 2,000.

"We need her back here working on the problems we have in this country because we certainly have enough of them. And we

don't need her over there trying to inflame tensions and potentially get us into a nuclear conflict," Spies told China Daily.

Pelosi's possible visit to Taiwan has resulted in stern warnings from Beijing and mounting concerns in Washington.

China's Defense Ministry has warned of serious consequences of a visit. The Chinese military will "absolutely not sit idle" if Pelosi visits Taiwan, it said.

"By disregarding the advice of many experts and forging ahead with her plan to visit Taiwan, Nancy Pelosi has imperiled regional and even global peace. History will judge her very harshly. And we will all pay the price for her shortsightedness," Stephen Roddy, professor of East Asian Studies at the University of San Francisco told China Daily.

Maybe the publicity of a visit by Pelosi to Taiwan will help her Democratic Party in the midterm elections in November, said George Koo, a retired international business advisor in Silicon Valley, but as the speaker of the House of Representatives, her actions represent the official position of the country.

"If you step over the red line China has laid down, it can't back down and not react. We don't know what its response would be, but it would be dangerous – potentially explosive, in fact," said Koo.

Sanctions against Russia do not reflect realities of global politics and economy – Putin

MOSCOW

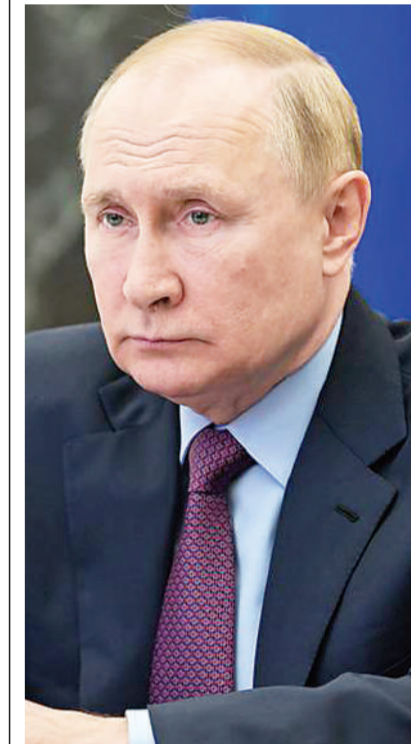
ANTI-RUSSIAN sanctions do not reflect the realities of global politics and the economy, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday at a meeting with representatives of the metal industry.

"I have already said that these decisions were made by Western countries for the sake of political interests – the current, opportunistic ones that do not reflect the realities either in global politics or the global economy," he said.

Putin added that western politicians who imposed sanctions against Russia simply "threw away" the principles of the WTO. "[Western] politicians are not interested in ordinary citizens' diminishing well-being and quality of life, particularly in Europe.

Not to mention such things as adherence to the principles of the World Trade Organization – they were simply thrown away," Putin said.

In general, Russian metal companies continue to face restrictions on foreign markets, Putin added.



BRICS contributes significantly to solution of global challenges and threats – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MEMBER states of the BRICS association (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) contribute significantly to the search of collective responses to multiple present-day challenges and threats and play an important role in the formation of the positive and future-oriented global agenda, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday.

In his video message addressed to participants of the 2nd BRICS International Youth Camp, Lavrov noted that the association preserves at its core "the general devotion to values of an equal dialogue and cooperation, mutual attraction of unique cultures and authentic civilizations" represented by various regions around the globe.

"Our association is an example of a true multilateral and

multipolar diplomacy, which meets the realities of the 21st century," the top Russian diplomat continued. "Its member states play an important role in the formation of a positive and future-oriented global agenda."

"They [BRICS member states] contribute significantly to the search of collective responses to numerous present-day challenges and threats using a solid base of generally accepted norms of the interna-



national law," he noted.

According to the minister, the Russian side pays a particular attention to the significance of youth contacts within the framework of the BRICS member states' cooperation.

"The development of cultural, educational and sports contacts are designed to strengthen further the atmosphere of friendship and trust between the peoples of the 'Five,'" Lavrov said.

"We traditionally pay a particular attention to contacts at the youth level. The interaction in this direction is an obvious proof of the stamina of the BRICS concept and its deep attraction," the minister stated.

"Leaders of the association's member states confirmed at the recent summit meeting their support of the priority development of the youth exchanges," Lavrov added.

Agencies

My dream is to travel all over China - DRC ambassador

"I want to go to Shanghai for a week to visit the business and financial sector there. I also want to go to Guangzhou, where many DRC people do business. I also want to go to the major agricultural provinces to learn about China's advanced agricultural technology. China is a big producer of cars, so I also want to visit the major car-making provinces. My dream is to travel all over China." Balumuene Nkuna F., the DRC Ambassador to China (pictured) recently gave a long list of wishes in an interview with People's Daily Overseas. He said that it is an important task for him as an ambassador to deeply understand China's development and bring China's experience back to the DRC.



Infrastructure development in China is astonishing. The efforts of the Chinese people are admirable and they deserve to be a role model for other countries and regions," Balumuene said.

Balumuene is very optimistic about China's economic prospects. He said that strong productivity is an important manifestation of China's strong economic resilience. China boasts its products of various categories and grades and sells them all over the world. China's economy plays a critical role in the world economy. At present, China is an important engine for the world economic recovery.

Balumuene believes that it is the right choice for China to insist on coordinating epidemic prevention and control with economic development. "According to China's epidemic prevention regulations, I take nucleic acid tests on time." Balumuene said that "the dynamic zero-COVID approach" is responsible to the people and the effect is obvious to all. It can eliminate the negative impact of the epidemic on economic and social development to the maximum extent within a short period of time, rather than leaving the development affected by the epidemic. Recently, China's manufacturing enterprises have accelerated the pace of resuming work and production, which is a positive signal for revitalizing the world economy.

Looking Forward to Deepening Cooperation with China
China's steady development has

benefited a wide variety of African countries, including the DRC. Balumuene feels deeply about this: "The DRC has great expectations for promoting its own development by deepening cooperation with China."

In the streets of Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, one can see landmark buildings of China-DRC cooperation from time to time. Among them, the China-DRC Friendship Hospital, built with aid from China, is one of the most representative medical facilities in the city. "The hospital is located in a large, densely populated neighborhood and provides lots of health services to the DRC people," he said. "Over the years, China has made concrete and great contribution to the development of the cause of medical work and healthcare in the DRC. From the fight against Ebola to the fight against COVID-19, China has provided support and aid to the DRC, winning the praise of all its people."

The DRC, renowned as a "geological miracle", is rich in mineral resources. Led by China's massive investment, abundant resources have been transformed into advantages for development. According to a report released by Congo Challenge, a DRC think tank, China-DRC mining cooperation has played a key role in developing the its economy, creating jobs and improving people's livelihood.

Balumuene said that China is the biggest investor in the DRC's mining sector and that cooperation between the two countries in the sector is essential to unleashing the DRC's development potential. Talking about some Western media attacks on mining cooperation between the two countries, Balumuene said: "Certain western countries once occupied the African continent for long periods of time,

but see what the African people have been left with. And now they smear Africa-China cooperation – out of jealousy and on no basis of facts. There is no need to waste time on this. Instead we should work together and move forward hand in hand."

Balumuene believes that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a great opportunity for the DRC and China to expand areas of cooperation. He said that the DRC is the second largest country in Africa, and its forest resources, area of arable land and water resources rank first-tier in the world. The Congo River is the world's second biggest river, second only to the Amazon River in terms of discharge.

"The DRC has the potential to become the 'locomotive' of economic development on the African continent and this goal will be achieved to a large extent through cooperation with China," he said. Balumuene said that the DRC attaches great importance to the implementation of projects under BRI and hopes that they will bring benefits to the DRC people. China's actions have shown that it is helping Africa achieve industrialization and economic and social development. Africa needs to find its way to prosperity through cooperation with China.

"China's Infrastructure is World-Class"

Balumuene sees experiences of development as well as opportunities from China. "China's path has inspired many developing countries and the case of China's development is attractive to us," he said. "My mission in China is to see and learn more from China's experiences of development in order to benefit our DRC people," Balumuene said.

People's Daily

Japan's planned record wage hike opens path to sustained growth

TOKYO

JAPAN'S average minimum wage is set to rise at a record pace this year, the government said yesterday, a positive development for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's efforts to cushion households from global commodity inflation.

The health ministry formally approved a recommendation by its sub-committee that the average minimum wage for the current fiscal year ending in March 2023 be raised by 31 yen, or a record 3.3%, from the current level to 961 yen (\$7.30) per hour, two ministry officials told Reuters.

Kishida is counting on the hike to drive his flagship policy of distributing wealth to broader segments of the population to put Japan's economy on a sustainable recovery path.

The sub-committee's recommendation, which is made each year and serves as the nationwide standard for minimum wages, was approved as it was made by the wider committee comprising management and labor union representatives as well as academics.

The decision on minimum wages followed annual spring negotiations, which saw big firms offer to raise wages by over 2% to compensate employees for cost-push inflation.

Minimum wages are set by the government unlike the spring wage negotiations, in which salaries are directly set between corporate management and labor unions.

"Given the underlying inflation of over 2% and Japan's growth potential of around 1%, the pace of minimum wage hikes is reasonable, reflecting the premier's commitment to higher wages," said Yoshimasa Maruyama, chief market economist at SMBC Nikko Securities.

"What's important is to drive wages higher in a sustainable manner, rather than making it a one-off move," he said.

The government set a goal to raise the median average minimum wage to 1,000 yen or higher "at the earliest date possible."

Japan's average wages have barely risen since 2000 despite a tight job market as subdued inflation gave companies, many of whom are wary of increasing fixed costs, an excuse to hold off pay hikes.

But that is changing as rising import costs, driven by supply constraints and the war in Ukraine, push up inflation by forcing more firms to raise the prices of goods.

Japan's core consumer prices rose 2.2% in June from a year earlier, a much slower pace than in many Western economies but remaining above the central bank's target for a third straight month.

Agencies



A man walks with a portable fan in Tokyo's Shinjuku district on June 30, 2022. AFP

SPORT



Mtibwa Sugar forward, Kelvin Sabato (R), races past Prisons FC's midfielder, Dotto Shaban, as the squads faced off in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League tie played in Dar es Salaam in November 2021. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

Gospelsport: Who helps whom when sports lift religious radios

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

MEDIA industry students and researchers would by now have started noticing that radio channels which earlier were given to blaring local new generation music, known as 'Bongo Flava', have graduated from that scenario into something different.

They have developed more solid, predictable programs stuffed with pundits of all sorts, who have over the past decade cultivated loyal audiences.

This is not the case for all radios as there are always newcomers seeking to anchor their feet, etc.

One such group is religious radios, where Gospel radios are a specific group, usually espousing activities and preaching of this or that apostolic figure, while there are also institutional radios reflecting either one or other of the main churches.

The latter have stable and predictable programs as they are more resourceful in the extent of experts following that line of Gospel presentation, etc.

But they are also compelled to engage in what can be said to be commercials, to make ends meet.

Some commercials are not quite visibly so in appearance, but since the programs are ill-fitting for instance with a keen religious channel, they can be considered commercial.

A public agency may opt to use such a platform to air a proactive, regular public education program, for instance, the never-ending subject of road safety regulations.

New drivers are being carted into the industry each year, and even those who may have been exposed to such programs earlier may urgently need reminders. A reckless youthful motorcycle could be learning a thing or two.

Outside a clearly defined input with potential for institutional transfer of resources, there is an avenue of lining up programs that attract the attention of youths, for instance, sports discussions, and especially soccer.

Judging from the sponsorship funds circulating, the price of recruiting players from foreign clubs who are likely to improve play in a specific club - especially those lined up for international competitions - the preference for exposed foreign coaches, soccer is a multi-billion shilling industry at the moment. The betting just adds to already piled-up numbers.

Having scores of youths tuning into the program to figure out where this or that club side stands in terms of strength at a departmental level - how good is the side's goalkeeping likely to be, the defense lineup, etc, is vital for betting.

The latter has an array of choices like win or lose, and specific results, which all have some pecuniary implications. Vibrant knowledge of the game and teams is likely to help.

Given the intensity with which the

betting is followed, people earn decent amounts of money in so doing, as sponsors of the betting are to an extent tied with those who sponsor clubs.

They share in what technically is 'speculative capital,' where money is invested into popular guesswork games tinged with a certain level of expertise on what is involved.

It is a form of investment that strictly speaking revolves around market whims, and scenarios, not actual pricing of commodities, etc.

Apostolic radios are the least speculative of enterprises, like mainstream religious stations, but there is a fusion between their specific lines of concern and sport in general.

Admittedly the speculative part is strictly individual, such that even in sports programs it comes up as a commercial rather than content, but there is a scatter of sports betting success stories.

One such pundit kept winning the bets such that the betting company hired him to draw up the puzzles, not solve them.

In that sense apostolic radios seek to boost the catchment zone by facilitating fairly extensive sports discussion, taken up as if in relays from morning to evening, each radio having two hours discussion periods.

They are interspersed with adverts either of the sporting sort, routine commercials for instance concerning getting students for secondary schools, etc.

A predominant commercial for apostolic radios is then the standard announcement for either regular service or the next mass convocation for a specific purpose, while generally revolving around the theme of miracle healing.

Why this standard format is being applied is unlikely to be the mere difficulty of finding sufficient pundits for differentiated programs throughout the day.

That would in the first pose substantial problems of resource outlays, and it may also be self-defeating, as those other themes may not be of much interest to the ministry that organizes the radio.

Outside the preaching of the specific ministry, only fairly neutral programs costing little amounts of money are relevant, so long as they have the potential to attract large audiences among the youth, soccer being foremost.

That may in that context raise questions about the 'sport gospel' radio channels that are replete with sports and especially soccer, announcements of convocations or regular services, and the relaying of past events.

Increasingly all the same there are innovative youth-focused programs revolving around life themes, what can be classified as 'miscellany' in the sense of amazing events reported on social media, historical material of a surprising character, etc.

It rhymes with preaching and is unlikely to be too costly, some invitees could just be youths adepts of the ministry.

SPORTS

How Taifa Stars got the better of Somalia

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

A sea of Tanzanians are most likely walking on air following the Taifa Stars' 2-1 triumph against Somalia in their CHAN qualifiers' second leg last Saturday.

The victory meant that the Stars brushed aside Somalia 3-1 on aggregate to comfortably move into the next round of CHAN qualifiers, which is a tournament explicitly reserved for home-based players on the continent.

Having claimed Somalia's scalp, the Taifa Stars will venture forth confidently in the CHAN qualifiers as they seek to successfully qualify for the competition.

Nevertheless, the Taifa Stars must proceed with caution as it is an ill-concealed secret that Somalia has wallowed in the doldrums of continental football for a long time now.

Indeed, it is an absolute certainty that the Taifa Stars' imminent opponents in these qualifiers will pose a more forbidding threat to their qualifying prospects than Somalia could.

Still, the most important takeaway from our opening CHAN qualifiers is that our boys delivered the goods, which is a relief to know.

Let us sink our teeth now into the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, which got underway late last week during a bona fide corker of an opening ceremony.

Pleasingly, there is some upliftingly positive news to report on the medal's front as our very own Alphonse Simbu brilliantly claimed the silver medal in the grueling men's marathon event last weekend.

Unsurprisingly, the impressive accomplishment has had numberless Tanzanians undoubtedly beaming from ear to ear.



Tanzania's senior national football side 'Taifa Stars' forward Anuary Jabir (R) dribbles past Somalia's defender when the squads met in a 2022 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) Qualifiers tie in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

One hopes then that Simbu's breathtaking heroics in the men's marathon can inspire his compatriots on Team Tanzania to pull out all the stops in a bid to increase our medals tally.

Whichever way the cookie crumbles, though, the fact that we have already won a medal so soon after the start of the Commonwealth Games is unmistakably a good omen for our campaign at the sporting extravaganza in Birmingham.

Returning to the 'beautiful game', the fact that our national U-17 women's football team nicknamed the 'Serengeti Girls' remarkably qualified for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup earlier this year was universally viewed as a historic milestone in our country's football development.

Indeed, it would be difficult to overemphasize the fact that the 'Serengeti Girls' sublime accomplishment came totally out of the blue for many a football fan on the local scene.

Recently, the draw for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was held with the 'Serengeti Girls' being drawn in Group D, which is a dangerously tricky

group. Indeed, this group features women's football behemoths of Japan and Canada, as well as France and Tanzania.

It should be noted here that Canada has a long history of playing women's football while Japan has even once won the whole shebang at the FIFA senior Women's World Cup.

It should also not be forgotten that France has invested enormously in women's football as can be seen in the many trophies that the Gallic club Olympique Lyon has won on the hotly contested European women's football stage.

Thus, it is evident that the 'Serengeti Girls' have their work cut out for them and that no victories will be handed to them on a silver platter.

Bearing this in mind, then, one hopes that the 'Serengeti Girls' can diligently and comprehensively prepare for their debut on girls' football's most prestigious stage.



Simba SC Chairman of the Board of Directors Salim Abdallah (C), the side's Chairman Murtaza Mangungu (L), M-Bet Tanzania Company's Country Director Fernando Perez (2nd L), the firm's Marketing Manager Allen Mushi (2nd R), and Simba SC's CEO Barbara Gonzalez hold the side's jersey that bears the M-Bet Tanzania Company's logo after the two parties had sealed a contract worth 26bn/- in which the firm will sponsor the club for five years. The contract signing ceremony took place in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Kibaha clubs set for soccer bonanza

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FOURTEEN soccer sides from the 28 wards of Kibaha Town and Rural in the Coast Region are expected to compete in a bonanza, known as Coastal Census Soccer Bonanza, to motivate people to prepare to be counted in the census.

Speaking to journalists in Kibaha last weekend, Director of Linda Media Solution (LIMS) Khadija Khalili, said the bonanza will be held on August 14.

According to Khadija, the event has already garnered the blessings of the Regional Sports Officer, Grace Bureta.

"The top three sides will be presented with

prizes that will be announced later as we are currently preparing for the showdown," Khadija said. Khadija added that before the competition, there will be entertainment to be staged by several musicians, serving as motivation to help the organizers achieve the goal of encouraging people to prepare to be counted.

The official said there will be matches that will bring together various teams within the Kibaha District.

She called on football stakeholders to come forward to support the bonanza, as the census is important for development.

Khadija explained that the Regional Sports Officer has congratulated the organizers for

bringing the idea of hosting the bonanza to encourage people to prepare to be counted in the census, noting that it is good and productive for the nation. "Linda Media Solution in collaboration with football associations in the Coast Region has organized this football bonanza," she disclosed.

"It will be held at the Bwawani venue located at Maili Moja in Kibaha District in Coast Region," she said.

Khadija said it is the responsibility of every Tanzanian to see to it the census that is expected to be held on August 23 this year is a success and called on various stakeholders to volunteer to support them.

Prem chief: Abramovich era at Chelsea 'difficult'

LONDON

PREMIER League chief executive Richard Masters said it would be "difficult" to claim the Roman Abramovich era at Chelsea was good for the brand of England's top division following this summer's takeover at Stamford Bridge, which saw the Russian oligarch sell the club to a group led by LA Dodgers co-owner Todd Boehly.

Following Abramovich's arrival as Chelsea owner in 2003, the London club enjoyed unprecedented success, including five Premier League wins and two Champions League titles, and signed some of the world's leading players due to the financial transformation overseen by the billionaire.

But following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, the UK government sanctioned Abramovich and froze his assets, including Chelsea, due to his connections to Russian president Vladimir Putin. And though Masters declined to say that Abramovich would fail to pass the Premier League's owners' and directors' test had it been in place when he bought Chelsea 19 years ago, he said that only the club's fans would suggest that the Abramovich era was good for the league.

"It's difficult to say now, with hindsight, that it's all been good, given what has transpired over the last six-and-a-half months," Masters said in a media briefing at the Premier League London headquarters. "I think if you ask Chelsea fans, they would give you a different answer."

"I think the situation we ended with has given the sport some challenges we've got to meet. Ultimately, there wasn't an owners' and directors' test when Abramovich took ownership of Chelsea, so I suppose the answer to the question is, had there been that in place what would have happened and what safeguards we need to build in for the future?"

"[There is] a rolling test, yes. Prevention is better than cure, isn't it? There wasn't then, there is now, it's going to change and part of that actually is probably going to be the strengthening of the annual test."

The Boehly consortium completed its £4.25 billion takeover of Chelsea on May 30 – 24 hours before the UK government's May 31 deadline for the club to be sold.

And while there was widespread scepticism that the government would close Chelsea down had Abramovich failed to dispose of the club by the May 31 deadline, Masters said that there were real concerns that a deal may not have happened before the cut-off date.

Barca to register signings after €100m injection

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Joan Laporta said the club have sold 24.5% of Barca Studios to Socios.com for €100 million to help register new signings.

Barca have spent over €150m on Raphinha, Robert Lewandowski and Jules Kounde this summer, while Andreas Christensen and Franck Kessie have both arrived on free transfers.

Following Laporta's quotes, the club released a statement on Monday which read: "FC Barcelona announces the sale of 24.5% of Barça Studios to the company Socios.com for €100m to accelerate the club's audiovisual, blockchain, NFT and Web3 strategy."

"The sale has been made in accordance with the authorisation of the general assembly of FC Barcelona members held last Oct. 23."

However, due to strict spending caps in LaLiga, the Blaugrana have so far been unable to register the new arrivals with the Spanish league.

Having already sold 25% of their domestic television rights to investment fund Sixth Street for around €600m, Barca hope the deal with Socios.com will further ease their financial problems.

"We're doing our homework to be able to register players," Laporta said after announcing the agreement Monday at the presentation of Kounde, a €55m signing from Sevilla.

"We have done these financial operations to save the club and to sign new players. I hope we don't have to do anymore."

"It is a controlled risk. If we have to recover the plan of [selling further club assets], we will weigh it up, but we believe we can register the new signings with this deal."

Barca Studios is a subsidiary of the Catalan club that produces in-house and external television content, along with other productions.

Laporta said Socios.com can also help with expansion into the metaverse and with non-fungible tokens. Barca last week sold their first NFT for over \$600,000 at an auction in New York.

"You're in unique circumstances, nothing like this has happened before," Masters said. "There was obviously a genuine concern the sale wouldn't take place in the timeframe that was available."

"That didn't happen thankfully. A lot of people worked extremely hard on it at the club's end, the government's end and Premier League's end to make sure things were running as smoothly as possible. All I can say is we're very pleased that it happened, obviously."

Meanwhile, Chelsea are ready to battle Manchester City for Brighton defender Marc Cucurella, sources have told ESPN. City have so far proved unwilling to match Brighton's £50 million valuation for the 24-year-old, who handed in a transfer request last week amid concerns his transfer fee is too high.

However, Brighton have stood firm and the lack of progress in talks with City has given Chelsea optimism a deal could be reached.

Chelsea are scouring Europe for defensive reinforcements having missed out on several targets as they seek to replace Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen, who left on free transfers for Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively.

Chelsea were keen on Matthijs de Ligt and Jules Kounde but both centre-backs opted for moved elsewhere.

They failed to reach an agreement with City to re-sign Nathan Ake and are now pursuing alternatives having already landed Kalidou Koulibaly from Napoli.

Cucurella is thought to be open to a move to Chelsea with head coach Thomas Tuchel viewing the Spain left-back as a possible left-sided centre-back.

Inter Milan's Denzel Dumfries is a target on the opposite flank, although the Serie A club are reluctant to let players leave.

Sources have told ESPN that Chelsea seriously explored signing another right-sided defender in a similar mould, Djed Spence, prior to his move from Middlesbrough to Tottenham – even suggesting at one stage they would theoretically match the £19m Spurs eventually paid – before Chelsea decided not to follow through with a formal offer.

Instead, they are pursuing a deal for Dumfries – thought to be valued by Inter at between €30m-€40m – while also enquiring about Leicester City's Wesley Fofana.

Sources claim Leicester have tried to warn off potential suitors by valuing Fofana in the region of €80m.

(Agencies)

Lewandowski gone, but Bayern Munich looks even stronger



FILE - Bayern Munich players pose for a team photo during the team presentation for the upcoming German Bundesliga soccer season at the Allianz Arena stadium in Munich, Germany, on July 16, 2022. (AP Photo)

BERLIN

EVEN with Robert Lewandowski leaving, Bayern Munich is getting stronger.

The 10-time defending champions have not only signed two outstanding forwards to replace the Barcelona-bound Lewandowski, they have also embellished the squad with a host of other youngsters.

Senegal forward Sadio Mané has arrived from Liverpool to help make up for Lewandowski's 35 goals in 34 Bundesliga games last season, while Bayern also agreed to pay up to nearly \$30 million to Rennes for French teenager Mathys Tel last week. The 17-year-old Tel didn't score a goal in nine appearances for Rennes, but such is his promise that Bayern moved to sign him before any other rivals pounced.

Bayern also signed Netherlands defender Matthijs de Ligt to shore up a back line that looked fallible on some occasions last season.

Bayern missed the cool-headed authority of David Alaba, who left for Real Madrid last year, and signed the 22-year-old De Ligt for his organizational qualities.

De Ligt was Ajax captain, the Dutch team's youngest, before he joined Italian club Juventus in 2019. It hasn't taken him long to assume a leadership role at Bayern, where he has already been directing his teammates in pre-season training.

Bayern also added 24-year-old Morocco right back Noussair Mazraoui and 20-year-old Netherlands midfielder Ryan Gravenberch – both from Ajax – to give coach Julian Nagelsmann even more options in an enviable squad.

Bayern has won the last 10 Bundesliga titles and has quickly snuffed out any rivals' hope that its dominance was waning after failing to convince Lewandowski to stay and add to his 344 goals in 375 competitive games for the club.

"Bayern Munich is the No. 1 top

favorite," Borussia Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke said even before Bayern signed Tel. "They're losing an outstanding player in Lewandowski, but are getting two more outstanding players in Mané and de Ligt."

Speaking to news agency DPA, Watzke said there was little hope of a shift in power between the two rivals.

"What Bayern have done so far in transfers has to be earned," Watzke said. "But that's nothing new. It won't flip the financial might of the Bundesliga but consolidate it further."

Dortmund, which finished seven points behind Bayern in second place last season, also lost its top-scorer when Erling Haaland departed for Manchester City.

But Haaland's replacement, Sébastien Haller, was diagnosed with a testicular tumor shortly after his signing from Ajax, and Dortmund said last week that the Ivory Coast forward will be out for at least two months.

Dortmund also signed Germany forward Karim Adeyemi from Salzburg – though he's not a natural replacement for Haaland – and Germany defenders Nico Schlottbeck and Niklas Süle. Edin Terzi has returned as coach to take over from successor Marco Rose, and it remains to be seen if he can mold a sustained challenge to Bayern.

Bayer Leverkusen finished third last season and has had a relatively quiet offseason with Czech Republic forward Adam Hložek's arrival from Sparta Prague the biggest transfer so far.

Leverkusen midfielder Robert Andrich knows who the title favorite is.

"We don't need to waste any big words on the title race," Andrich said. "Of course we always want to stand up to them, but we're definitely not going to stand up and say that we're going to be champions."

The Bundesliga season starts Friday with Bayern visiting Eintracht Frankfurt. Dortmund then hosts Leverkusen on Saturday.

AP

Let's not write off Haaland after one glorified friendly

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IF Erling Haaland has more games like Saturday's 3-1 Community Shield loss to Liverpool, where he missed two clear chances, you can expect the knee-jerk reactions to flood in like spam after leaving your email on a dubious website:

"This ain't the Bundesliga; this is next level."

"Pep Guardiola's Manchester City work best without a recognized striker."

"There's too much pressure on the biggest stage in the football world."

So let's get out in front of this before things get a little silly. And, yes, they may well get really silly, really quick.

For starters, it's obviously one game. Ninety-nine minutes in a glorified friendly – not even at Wembley, but at the King Power Stadium.

Sample size, anyone? Do you need a reminder that last season's big centre-forward signing, Romelu Lukaku, scored four goals in his first four appearances for Chelsea and then didn't score again until December? And you do know how things turned out for him at Stamford Bridge, yes?

August football is just that. August football (July in this case, but the point stands.) After three league games last season, Nuno Espírito Santo was perfect and top of the league, while Mikel Arteta was last with zero points and goal difference of minus nine. Guess who ended up a whisker away from the Champions League places and with a big fat transfer budget this summer and who was fired on Halloween and is now summering in Saudi Arabia?

You may also want to consider that Haaland was playing against what was the stingiest defence in the Premier League last season, led by a guy named Virgil van Dijk, and he won't be facing them every week. And, yes, grizzled cliché merchants will tell you that he was acquired to win big games against top opponents. But that's the sort of throwaway comment most of us outgrow when we realized you get



the same number of points for beating Fulham as you do for beating Liverpool.

As for his performance, he only got on the end of three chances, but they were good chances. As in high-quality chances, as evidenced by his cumulative xG of 1.09, which was more than Liverpool's entire team managed in the first 83 minutes, until Mohamed Salah's penalty.

For the first, Haaland road-graded Andy Robertson. To his credit, Robertson did what he could to put him off, but the man-child is simply bigger and stronger and still got his shot away.

For the second, he probably should have gone with his right foot or his head. Thank you, Captain Hindsight. But he probably still expected to score.

And for the third, he found himself wide open a few steps from a prone Adrian and somehow man-

aged to rocket the ball off the crossbar.

You generally worry when people don't get on the end of the chances. That wasn't his problem on Saturday. In fact, while the fine print disclaimer always applies ("past performance non necessarily indicative of future results") this is a guy who has consistently far outperformed expected goals, season after season. The 105 goals he has tallied since 2019 have come on an xG of just 81.56. Very simply put – for those who haven't yet wrapped their head around what xG (expected goals) are – had the average footballer taken exactly the same types of shots in exactly the same situations as Haaland over the past three years, you would have expected them to score 81½ goals, which is 23½ fewer than Haaland. Players occasionally outperform xG for a season or two; very few do it three years in a row unless they're pretty exceptional. Which he is.

But maybe the most telling moments came on those occasions when he didn't come near the ball. A couple of times his arcing run into deep wasn't immediately found by Kevin De Bruyne, or his burst into the six-yard box was missed by a wide teammate who opted for a cutback, the bread-and-butter move of the Guardiola era.

Blame Haaland for making the wrong run or making it at the wrong

time? Blame his teammates for going on autopilot rather than picking up on his movement? Neither. Just accept the fact that chemistry is built over time and that it's hard to disengage the autopilot that brought City so much success. He reaffirmed what we already know: that his movement and ability to find space is exceptional. All that's required is for his teammates to tweak Guardiola's AI game plan to account for the fact that there's a big, fast, strong centre-forward leading the line, not a recycled No. 10 type who drops off and wanders wide.

That's the other reason to have faith: Guardiola. He knew who he was signing, he knows the weapon that Haaland can be. And it's not just the goals and the movement, it's the areas in which he can still improve, like heading, and those that are untapped, like passing and creating. Yes, the last time Pep had a giant Nordic striker dropped into his team, it spoiled the chemistry and it didn't work out. That was at Barcelona in 2009-10 and they had to make do with winning LaLiga and coming within a goal of the Champions League final (poor dears). But Haaland isn't Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and Pep 13 years ago isn't Pep today. He has learned a thing or two since, as evidenced by the fact that when he had a dominant centre-forward like Robert Lewandowski at Bayern Munich, he won titles and broke records.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Lewandowski gone, but Bayern Munich looks even stronger

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Nabi urges Yanga players to work hard

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's head coach Nasreddine Nabi has asked the outfit's players to work hard in training to ensure their places in the first team.

The NBC Premier League winners started the pre-season camp to shape up for the 2022/23 season, with five new foreign players joining the rest of the squad in the battle for a position in the first team.

The Tunisian tactician revealed all players should fight to secure a position in the first team next season.

He disclosed he will in the 2022/23 season start all over in having the first team's performers, as there is no player with a permanent position in the club.

"It is everyone's responsibility to give his all in training, hard work will give the footballers position in the first team," the gaffer noted.

The coach pointed out: "There is no player with a permanent number at Yanga, it's like we have started anew now, anyone who convinces me in training will be given chance to enter the first team."

"I see that everyone is working hard since we started our preparations for the next season," the tactician stated.

"I am confident that I will have strong players who will be ready to fight at any time next season. I'm happy to see the players fight so hard."

The foreign players registered by Yanga this season are Lazarus Kambole (Zambia), Bernard Morrison (Ghana), Gael Bigirimana (Burundi), Joyce Lomalisa (DR Congo), and Stephen Aziz Ki (Burkina Faso).

The players released by the squad are Deus Kaseke, Paul Godfrey, Yasin Mustapha (Tanzania), and Chico Ushindi (DR Congo).

In another development, Yanga Congolese forward Fiston Mayele has calmed the outfit's fanatics that were worried by the rumours he was set to part ways with the side.

Mayele was linked with joining a section of clubs including South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs, Raja Casablanca of Morocco, and Al Hilal of Sudan, it was alleged the clubs set aside a huge amount of cash to prize the player away from his outfit.

After arriving in Dar es Salaam at the beginning of this week after a short vacation in his home country, DR Congo, the attacker started training with his colleagues in pre-season preparations at Avic Town in Kigamboni whilst seeming happy all the time.

Mayele disclosed to reporters he will turn out for Yanga, with the leaders as well insisting he will not leave due to the existing contract between him and the side.

The forward pointed out he will continue to be part of Yanga next season, as he still has a one-year contract left.

He disclosed that Yanga fanatics should believe his details and he promised them he will work hard and excel.

The attacker noted: "First of all, I thank God for my safe return, we have already started preparations for the next season here at our camp, I know it is a difficult period, but I have no doubt about that because I expect a lot from my team."

"It is true that Kaizer Chiefs and other African clubs sought my services. Clubs in South Africa, Morocco, and Sudan had the biggest offer," the performer revealed.

"I'm still a Yanga player, I still have a two-year contract, I have finished one year, I want to speak the truth here, I did not come to Yanga on loan, I have a completely valid contract."



SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas (R), and Singida Big Stars FC's Director of Operations, Marketing and Finance, Muhibu Kanu, showcase copies of a sponsorship contract the parties entered in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The firm has offered four-year sponsorship to the club. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Caravans clobbers Azania Bank Stars in 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tourney opener

By Guardian Reporter

ALLIANCE Caravans Club has opened its pursuit of the 2022 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup showdown's top honour impressively, notching two wins in the side's opening two fixtures which took place July 30-31.

The domestic cricket big gun had in the opening tie, beat Novum Strikers by 50 runs, and thereafter overcame Azania Bank Stars by 125 runs on the following day.

Top-order batsmen once again proved their worth when Alliance Caravans Club took the crease on the second day and the cricketers' performance was instrumental in the side's victory.

Alliance Caravans Club scored 184/4 in the scheduled 20 overs when the squad went in to bat first, with ferocious batting by opener Nasibu Kelvin boosting the club tremendously.

The experienced opener that had opened the innings with the equally experienced performer, Nandakishan Pottachira, made his way back with 65 runs that consisted of eight boundaries and a six.

Kevin saw to it Alliance Caravans reaches a triple-digit total, amassing 131 runs with two wickets taken after 15 overs, once the performer made his way back.

The hard hitter was bowled by Azania Bank Stars' bowler Humayun Taj, a situation which to some extent slowed the batting unit's tempo.

Pottachira also made his presence at the crease count with solid batting, ending with 27 runs whilst cracking four boundaries.

There were as well two-digit scores notched by other top-order cricketers, as Jitin Pratap Singh who was slotted in at number three scored 30 runs, blasting two boundaries and two sixes.

Newly recruited cricketer Amal Rajeevan kept on showcasing impressive showing, having scored 33 runs not out, cracking two boundaries and two sixes.

Although he had a short stint at the crease, Akhil Anil chipped in with his 12 runs, blasting two boundaries in the spell.

One of the key performers Kassim Nassoro returned with five runs not out and cleared the boundary once, forging a not-out partnership with Rajeevan.

Sarfraz Tare, Mudasser Mukadam, Taj, and Wahid Hussain took a



Alliance Caravans Cricket Club's all-rounder, Nasibu Kelvin (R), receives the Player of the Match prize from a cricket official once the club locked horns with Azania Bank Stars in the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup tournament match which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

wicket each during Azania Bank Stars' turn with the ball.

Needing 185 runs to come out victorious turned out to be a daunting task, when Azania Bank Stars took the crease, they notched 59/10 in 16.3 overs to concede the loss.

They failed to showcase convincing displays with the bat, as wickets fell in quick succession.

Azania Bank Stars were dealt a blow early on in the chase, losing their two key performers in openers, skipper Muzamil Hussain and Taj.

Veteran cricketer Hussain was dismissed for duck, and Taj made his way back having ended two runs short of a two-digit score.

They experienced more blows given Sajjad Ali (seven runs) and Sultan Qureshi (four runs) could hardly make their presence at the crease count.

Sarfraz Tare attempted to stop the skid given the cricketer recorded 19 runs consisting of two boundaries.

The top-order cricketer eventually turned out to be the only performer with a double-digit figure given the rest could hardly chip in.

Low-order batsman Talha Sayed was four runs short of a two-digit figure in a vain attempt to keep Azania Bank Stars in the game.

Nassoro led Alliance Caravans' bowling onslaught having notched three wickets and giving away seven runs in four overs.

The spinner was ably assisted by crick-

eters, Manoj Kumar, Adersh Dileep, and youthful all-rounder Johnson Nyambo as the trio ended with two wickets each.

Alliance Caravans were also dominant in their opening clash that pitted the squad against Novum Strikers.

The encounter witnessed Alliance Caravans start to bat, notching 141/9 in 20 overs, with Singh starring at the crease given the cricketer ended as the player with most runs, posting 67 runs.

Novum Strikers found the going tough in the chase, they scored 91/10 in 19.5 overs. Amin Solanki had a notable contribution to the fruitless chase, ending with 16 runs.

Meanwhile, Caravans Cricket Club, the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup organizer, has revealed that the Leaders Club venue is yet to play host to the ongoing showpiece given its grass wicket is not in good condition.

"We regret to inform you that the pitch will take another week to be ready as we have not been getting adequate sunlight," the side noted in a piece of information issued recently.

The outfit revealed: "We have worked very hard on this ground and want to ensure that when matches resume, the ground is in the best possible condition."

"As a result, we regret to announce that games which were set to take place at Leaders Club venue will not resume this week, this weekend's fixtures will be held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club ground," the information noted.

SportPesa seals sponsorship contract with Singida Big Stars FC

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's leading sports betting firm, SportPesa, on Tuesday, announced a sponsorship deal with Premier League club Singida Big Stars FC to become the club's main sponsor.

SportPesa Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas, reiterated the firm's mission of elevating and supporting football in Tanzania.

Abbas was accompanied by Singida Big Stars FC's Director of Operations, Marketing, and Finance, Muhibu Kanu, in the contract signing ceremony which took place at the firm's offices at Oysterbay.

The SportPesa official noted: "If you remember very well when we started our operations in 2017, we made our statement very clear that we want to steer the football industry by supporting local clubs with different packages."

The official stated: "I have immense pleasure to announce to you a four-year contract engagement that takes us through the 2026 season."

"It's relatively normal to say we are happy to sign again with Singida Big Stars FC whom we had signed five years ago on one year."

"This shows our commitment towards achieving the stated goals by improving the well-being of the clubs, that ply their trade in the Mainland Tanzania's Premier League," Tarimba revealed.

Speaking during the occasion, Singida Big Stars FC Director of Operations, Marketing, and Finance, Kanu thanked SportPesa for the effort and sacrifice made in uplifting Tanzania's football by offering contracts that relieve football clubs with the financial burden.

"We all know the role played by you in the development of our football... I take this opportunity to commend you and SportPesa in general for supporting our football clubs regardless of our status," Kanu pointed out.

Kanu and his Singida Big Stars FC colleagues promised SportPesa that they will imperatively comply with terms that are binding them to foster a good relationship for the mutual benefits of the two parties.

The official revealed: "I would like to thank SportPesa and the media for being with us... you have always done a commendable job and we are looking forward to a prosperous 2022/23 season."

Flexibles by David Chikoko



5 EATV JUMATANO

LEO USIKU SAA 3:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mpera Mpera
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Movie
22:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

EATV SAA 1
UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM