



National Pg 3
Tanzania, Zambia to revamp TAZARA

National Pg 4
Dar man held over heroin in Iringa

National Pg 6
Trust to boost Z'bar livestock sector

SMART MONEY
low new technology will disrupt oil and gas industry



VP sees faster growth for the next quarter century

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ATCL signals new start for Lake Zone exporters

By Correspondent Vitus Audax, Mwanza

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) has assured Lake Victoria Zone exporters of reliable services in airlifting their produce to foreign countries, ranging from farm produce to fish fillets along with meat products.

Ladislau Matindi (pictured), the ATCL director general, made this affirmation to air transport stakeholders and various other public institutions, saying the airline will depend on the availability of cargo from the lake Zone area.

Following the government's purchase of a cargo plane, Boeing 767-300F that will be operational soon, the airline expects to airlift produce abundantly being produced in the area, he said.

The plane was purchased to make sure local producers face fewer problems in airlifting perishable products to foreign markets, near and far.

"The targeted beneficiaries are Tanzanians including residents of this zone,

Recently the gov't announced that it had bought a Boeing 767-300F cargo plane capable of holding 54 tonnes of cargo at a time

as among other things, fish products are still in high demand in foreign countries. This plane will solve the air transport challenge for producers," he emphasised.

The door was now wide open for greater investments in horticulture, along with processing livestock and fishing products, as market demand remains high, he said.

Adam Malima, the regional commissioner, called on public servants to render assistance when cargo transport needs arise, by removing obstacles in accessing various productive opportunities.

Operations of the cargo plane will attain considerable achievements if producers will respond just like they responded for passenger air transport, "as no plane lands at Mwanza with empty seats," he said.

Cargo transporters in the zone said the coming of the plane will solve long term transport challenges regarding fish products, which had first to be transported to Dar es Salaam in refrigerated trucks.

John Chobo, a freight stakeholder, said operating refrigerated trucks to move fish and meat for more than 20 hours on the road lowered products' quality, causing losses in commerce.

Recently the government announced that it had bought a Boeing 767-300F cargo plane capable of holding 54 tonnes of cargo at a time.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango brandishes a booklet on preparations for Tanzania's Development Vision 2050 shortly after launching it in Dodoma city yesterday, with Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (to his left) among those who attended the event. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Polepole moves to Cuba in mini-shuffle of envoys

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has made changes at three diplomatic missions, shifting High Commissioner Humphrey Polepole in Malawi to take over as ambassador to Cuba.

Zuhura Yunus, the director of presidential communications said in a statement yesterday that the diplomatic mission won't have a substantive envoy with the departure of the high commissioner.

He was appointed to the office early last

The new appointees will be sworn in shortly

year, and had just completed a year in office, and is now moving to a country with a militant background which he experienced in his days as a young scholar and activist.

He was nominated as a legislator by former president Dr John Magufuli while being head of department at the CCM secretariat, as secretary for ideology and publicity.

He earlier served at district commissioner for Ubungu in Dar es Salaam Region for five months and DC

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CDC Africa certifies laboratory as regional centre of excellence

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Centre for Disease Control (CDC)-Africa has certified Tanzania's National Public Health Laboratory as an East African regional centre of excellence for biosafety and biosecurity.

Umyy Mwalimu (pictured), the Health minister, made this announcement yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the national public health laboratory regional centre, noting that it is tasked



with training of experts along with detecting and responding to disease outbreaks.

The centre of excellence for biosafety and biosecurity has been facilitated by the purchasing of modern equipment into the laboratory for disease eruptions, with equipment used to detect the recent Marburg outbreak in Kagera region, she stated.

This certification was well deserved

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TANZANIA has great prospects for prosperity in the next quarter century with stable economic growth despite local and global turbulence, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango has declared.

Officiating at the launch of the programme to start preparations of the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (TDV 2050), he said there are indications of stable economic growth, based on achievements realized during TDV 2025.

Tanzania's economic growth stood at 5.2 percent in the first, second and third quarters of 2022, compared to the average for most states in the sub-Saharan zone, standing at 3.8 percent.

The country has reached an economic and social turning point with average economic growth of 6.6 percent in the past two decades from 2000 to 2019, he stated.

This is what made the World Bank declare Tanzania to have attained low middle income country status in 2020, he said, noting that growth stemmed from infrastructure and energy, transport and communication, along with key social services like education, health and water in addition to strong leadership.

Strong economic growth and resilience is capital to transform Tanzania to prosperity in the next 25 years, he asserted, pointing at notable successes in education,

...a lot of developments have been realized in the ongoing vision, thus the need to start preparations for the other that will take the country ahead in the next 25 years

health, water, infrastructure, minerals and agriculture, along with an improved business environment and investment flows.

Increased average life expectancy from an average of 51 years in 2000 to 67 years last year as a notable achievement, he stated, lauding the work put into TDV2025 for its healthy guidance towards notable economic strides.

Despite great achievements, the country still faces challenges that slowed TDV 2025, like income poverty and malnutrition, as 26.4 percent of Tanzanians live below the one dollar poverty line, with 31.3 percent of the population living in the rural areas and falling below the poverty line.

Regions such as Kagera, Kigoma, Singida, Tabora and Dodoma have high levels of poverty with poor infrastructure, he said, tasking the steering committee to ensure the TDV2050 focuses on strengthening gains realised with TDV2025.

The country needs to use inadequately developed opportunities especially in agriculture as this could make Tanzania the regional food basket, he said, underlining that the team should focus on improving forest and mineral produce, plus making the country a transport and logistics hub.

Dr Natu Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary, said a lot of developments have been realized in the ongoing vision, thus the need to start preparations for the other that will take the country ahead in the next 25 years.



CDC Africa certifies laboratory as regional centre of excellence

FROM PAGE 1

based on the way it helped the government handle disease outbreaks, she said, noting that there was no further need for CDC institutions elsewhere to pursue further experimentation on the Marburg scare as IT was clear local institutions could handle the task adequately.

Global institutions traced the laboratory facility for further tests, showing that the country is trusted as having the capacity to receive samples, analyse viruses and set out the necessary particulars, she said.

Despite expertise in detecting and responding to outbreaks, openness and timely take up of the challenge of the Marburg outbreak also contributed to being credited for excellence, the minister noted.

This response and restricting movement to halt the virus enabled the country to gain an opportunity to host US Vice President Kamala Harris, she further affirmed.

“Today’s inauguration is part of a CDC Africa initiative on capacity building for public health laboratory facilities on biosafety and biosecurity,” she said, specifying that it is something that the country has demonstrated it is prepared to respond to outbreaks.

That is the reason the US vice president didn’t hesitate to visit Tanzania,” having been assured of

the lack of threat on the ground by her country’s CDC.

Talkmore Maruta, acting director of programmes at the Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine affiliated with CDC-Africa said reports on seven cases and five deaths from an unknown disease in two villages were later confirmed as Marburg virus infection by the National Public Health Laboratory.

Transparency in sharing information in real time is a clear indication of the facility’s commitment to ensure community safety and public health security across the continent. ‘No one is safe, until everyone is safe,’ he remarked.

An application by Tanzania was evaluated in a process guided by the regional biosafety and biosecurity panel, TWG East Africa. A team of experts was dispatched to Tanzania in January to check if the proposed centre does indeed meet the stipulated requirements, upon which it was endorsed as a regional centre of excellence.

Dr Zabulon Yoti, the World Health Organisation (WHO) country representative said it is time health sector teams play hard as they look at existing gaps.

“No partner can do it alone. Be it in Uganda or Kagera Region,” he said, urging greater collaborating “as we look at ways to respond on matters concerning the health sector.”



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R, facing camera) chairs consultative talks in Dodoma city yesterday with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and members of the Parliamentary Leadership, Budget and Government committee on a range of budgetary issues. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Singida municipality households receive 420.3m/- in TASAF funds

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

A TOTAL of 5,396 households in Singida Municipality have benefited from Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) after they received a total of 420.3m/-.

The Municipality’s TASAF acting coordinator Yahaya Fotta, said at the weekend that the money was for the months of September and October 2022 window that was

paid in March 2023 and called on those targeted to spend the money well for their own economic wellbeing.

He said they should use the money they received in money generating projects especially during the farming season, as well in other projects including livestock keeping.

Some of TASAF funds beneficiaries complained over

the delay in getting the money for the months of September and October last year saying the delay has contributed to their failure in early cultivation of crops as they lacked money for buying seeds and other farm inputs.

Mzee Iddi Kiemi, resident of Singida Municipality advised the funds to be paid in time for early preparations for the farming seasons.

“I am already late this season but with the money I have received I will buy two tons of maize, and will also grow potatoes that will withstand the dry season,” he said.

Apart from these complaints, many beneficiaries of TASAF funds thanked the government for the payments that have helped some of them to buy food and meet school fees for their children.

Polepole moves to Cuba in mini-shuffle of envoys

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for Musoma in Mara Region for two months

In the mild shakeup of envoys, the appointed ambassador Lt. Gen (rtd) Yacoub Mohamed to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He was earlier

Tanzania’s ambassador to Turkey.

The office will now be headed by Ambassador Idd Bakari, also a former military officer, who was chief counsel in Dubai.

The new appointees will be sworn in shortly, the statement indicated.

S. Africa wants to move polluting electricity generation to Maputo

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa wants to put a Turkish Karpowership generator ship, that has been rejected in South Africa on environmental grounds, in Maputo bay instead.

A decade of state capture and corruption in the state electricity company Eskom has left South Africa desperately short of power and with rolling blackouts across the country. One plan was to use three Turkish Karpower ships - which are floating generators - anchored in the ports of Richards Bay, Ngqura (Coega), and Saldanha. This was finally rejected on environmental grounds by the South African Department of Forest, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 10 March. Karpowership also demanded some form of insurance or indemnity against South African state corruption, which was not forthcoming.

So it wants to put a 415 MW floating power plant in Maputo Bay, in a joint project with state electricity company EDM. There would be a 4 km transmission line to a Matola substation and electricity would mainly be exported to South Africa, though existing interconnections. The proposal was first reported by Zitar last year (11 Nov) and now Bloomberg (30 Mar). The power station would start producing in October using heavy fuel oil, but with a promise to convert to LNG (liquefied natural gas) in three years.

EDM confirmed to News24 in South Africa that it is in talks with Eskom. The Mphanda Nkuwa dam could have been built by now and be supplying 4,300MW to South Africa, but Eskom has for a decade refused to buy any more electricity from Mozambique - linked to massive corruption around the use of South African coal.

Karpower has had a 115MW floating plant in Nacala harbour since 2016, again in partnership with EDM. For two years, 2016-18 the electricity was for Zambia, then EDM signed a 10-year contract to take the electricity. Karpower

promised to convert the generator from heavy oil to LNG, but this apparently has not happened.

Coal, oil and LNG are physical fuels that are shipped on boats and trains. Electricity is “fungible” or interchangeable. Electricity from the power ship in Nacala was put into the EDM grid and an equivalent amount of electricity taken from the grid at the border 1000 km away and sent across to Zambia. Electricity generated on a ship in Maputo harbour and “sold” to South Africa would be treated in the same way.

But the European Union (EU) has approved a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) by which carbon-intensive imports into the EU such as aluminium, one of Mozambique’s main exports to Europe, pay a carbon tax. Suddenly the electrons need the colour green. The Mozal aluminium smelting plant in Matola has a contract to use green electricity from Cahora Bassa which has passed through South Africa, but this expires in 2026, and Mozal is desperately trying to renew the contract. This would allow the electrons from the Kapower ship would be painted green by the time they travelled the 10 km to Mozal. But South Africa wants the green electrons to reduce its own carbon footprint, which is very high because it uses massive amounts of coal to produce electricity. Negotiations continue. Mozal is now owned (64%) by Australian mining company South32.

And Mpanda Nkuwa has suddenly become important because it will produce green electrons.



So it wants to put a 415 MW floating power plant in Maputo Bay, in a joint project with state electricity company EDM



MAROONED: Residents of Suguti-Kusenyei village in Musoma Rural constituency on the Lake Victoria shoreline pictured yesterday standing helplessly on their section of the road running from Musoma municipality to Busekera in Majita after a downpour left their houses under flood waters. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Foundation calls upon media practitioners to combat NCDs

By Beatrice Philemon

MERCK Foundation has called upon media practitioners in the country to lead the role in creating public educating awareness on health-related issues including lifestyle to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Prof Frank Stangenberg Haverkamp, chairman of both the executive board of Merck KG and Merck Foundation Board of Trustees, made the remarks over the weekend at the media awards ceremony and Merck Foundation Tanzania alumni summit.

“We at Merck Foundation strongly believe in the critical role that media plays to create a culture shift and to address all social and

health issues in our communities, you are our champions, you can make a change, be the voice of the voiceless and educate people about health issues to promote healthy lifestyle,” he said.

Haverkamp is in Tanzania accompanied by Senator Dr Rasha Kelej, Merck Foundation chief executive officer and President of “More Than a Mother” campaign to present awards, congratulate the Media winners and discuss the critical role media plays in raising awareness and sensitizing communities about sensitive issues such as breaking the infertility stigma and empowering girls education.

He said out of the eight winners, four winners are for

the Merck Foundation Media Recognition Awards “More than a Mother” and four winners for the Merck Foundation Media Recognition Awards “diabetes and hypertension.

He named the winners as Michael Chilonwa from BBC Media, Geoffrey Michael Mchemba from East Africa TV, Christina Mwakangale from CGFM Radio- Adam Gabriel Hhando from CGFM.

Veronica Mrema - freelance journalist, Marco Maduhu from Nipashe newspaper, Vivian Pyuza from CGFM Radio- Adam Gabriel Hhando from CGFM.

Others include Mwanaisha Makumbuli- from Highlands FM and alumni Johannes Medard Tairo and Mashaka Mgeta.

Speaking at the ceremony

Christina Mwakangale said she was impressed to receive the awards that in turn will encourage her to educate the communities about health issues, “I am truly grateful for the recognition I have received for my work.”

“Merck Foundation has presented awards to her for outstanding contribution in creating awareness about early detection and prevention of diabetes and hypertension and promoting a healthy lifestyle,” she said.

Currently, Merck foundation is working closely with more than 20 African First Ladies to successfully building healthcare capacity breaking the infertility stigma and support girls’ education.



Professor Mwera Foundation director Hezbon Mwera (L), who is based in Mara Region, pictured in Dodoma city at the weekend handing over to Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule an honorary award he said the foundation was presenting to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in recognition of her contribution to the development of the education sector in the country. It was at a meeting of education stakeholders. Right is Dodoma regional administrative secretary Ally Gugu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Education, training policy draft now ready - Mkenda

By Guardian Reporter

DRAFT reviews for the education and training policy and on the curricula amendments had been finalised and will be submitted to stakeholders any time for them to see what has been recommended and provide additional final views.

Education and Technology Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda revealed at the weekend as he addressed a meeting called to endorse members of the House Education, Culture and Sports Committee of the draft reviews.

Prof Mkenda said the aim for the reviews and amendments is in line with the pledge made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan directing for reviews to the 2014 Education and Training Policy and amendments to the curricula in order to provide practical education while curricula amendments are essential to cater for the current and future needs.

He explained that in implementing the directives, the government formed two committees - the Policy and Curricula Amendments Committees that worked to collect views that were analysed by experts who finally came up with the drafts.

Prof. Mkenda added that the ministry will organise a three-day forum and will present the draft to stakeholders to go through the recommendations and will also have the chance to give their views before coming up to the final stage.

The chairman of the House Education, Culture and Sports Committee, Prof Kitila Mkumbo thanked the ministry for seeing the importance of endorsing the panel to enable members to give

their views.

He said the work accomplished thus far was monumental that needs to be commended as getting a new edition of the education policy will enable the

Members of Parliament to have the material to work with.

For his part, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology,

Prof Carolyn Nombo told committee members that the improvements will not end at the primary education level only, but will also reach higher education institutions.

Tanzania and Zambia for revamp of TAZARA

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA and Zambia are ready now to engage China in the process of refurbishment of the "freedom railway" (TAZARA) to recover its lost glory and remain a historical symbol.

Atupele Mwakibete, the Deputy Minister for Works and Transport said that yesterday at the Tomb-Sweeping ceremony at the Chinese expert's cemetery to commemorate 100 Tanzanian workers and 60 Chinese experts who lost their precious lives during the construction of TAZARA.

The event was attended by government officials, representatives of companies and the Chinese community living in Tanzania held on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam city.

Mwakibete said that despite huge investment made by the Chinese government in the construction of the TAZARA infrastructure, its operations are not satisfactory.

"We are committed to strengthening the Tanzania and China cooperation for the sustainability of TAZARA through diplomatic, political, and economic cooperation between Tanzania, China and Zambia to modernise TAZARA and thus remains as a historical symbol of our true friendship," he added.

He said was putting more efforts into the development of transportation infrastructure to continue to honour the lives of the Chinese and support that was extended to the realisation of TAZARA.

The Charge d' Affaires Ad Interim of the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania Suo Peng, said that the two Presidents Xi Jinping of China and Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania have jointly announced the elevation of China-Tanzania relationship to comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

He said the two sides reached important consensus on deepening

strategic mutual trust and strengthening practical cooperation in various fields.

The two presidents also witnessed the signing of 15 cooperation documents covering such fields as trade, investment and development cooperation.

Meanwhile, China, Tanzania and Zambia have reached a consensus on the revitalisation of the TAZARA railway, which aims to bring new life to the railway, and build it into a railroad of development and prosperity.

"China is ready to work with Tanzania to carry out the behest of the martyrs, inherit and carry forward the TAZARA spirit, continuously consolidate the China-Tanzania comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, make the new and greater contributions to the building of closer China-Africa community of shared future," he said.

According to him, TAZARA railway has made outstanding contributions to the national liberalisation and economic independence of southern African countries and set up a monument to China - Africa friendship.

TAZARA managing director, Bruno Chingwandu, said that TAZARA was a monument that carries both sentimental and economic value, yet the full economic potential remains to be realised as TAZARA needs more equipment to move the increased cargo within the Dar es Salaam corridor.

"As we remember the people that died for this monument, we should also think of taking concrete steps that would enhance the capacity to move more freight as envisaged by our ancestors, given the necessary support, with the right equipment and tools, this railway can be able to move more than five million tons every year, which is just 30 per cent of the potentially available volume of freight today," he said.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Programme Funding Manager

Contract	: Full time, permanent
Location	: Flexible – this role could be based in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda or the UK
Salary	: £37,000 to £42,000 per year depending on relevant skills and experience


As the Programme Funding Manager, you will manage the coordination and delivery of high value institutional funding proposals from identification through to submission. You will work closely with Farm Africa's country office teams, programmes and finance teams to design high quality projects and secure the funding to deliver them. You will analyse donor strategies and work with country office teams and senior staff to identify and nurture new funding opportunities.

We are looking for someone with significant experience of working in programme funding roles and a proven track record of effectively leading complex proposal development processes for large institutional donors. You will be well versed in the use of project design tools and have a deep understanding of the international donor landscape. You will be highly organised and proficient in remote project management, an exceptional writer, facilitator and project manager.

This is a fantastic opportunity to work closely with Farm Africa's country office and regional teams to drive transformational impact with rural communities in eastern Africa.

If you are interested in this role more information can be found in the job description. If you would like to apply please submit your CV and a cover letter that explains how your experience is relevant for the role to recruitment@farmafrika.org by 9:00 am BST / 11:00 am EAT on Monday 17th April 2023.

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



RFP No: TP/03/2023/ICB/CS/003

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR PROVISION OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGEMENT (CPM) AND CONTRACTOR SUPERVISION SERVICES FOR 18" AGO SUBSEA PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

04 April, 2023

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a hospitality storage facility for bulk fuel with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd has set aside funds to 18" AGO Subsea Pipeline Replacement Project.
3. TIPER invites, via International Competitive Bidding (ICB) experienced mechanical consultants for provision of Construction Project Management (CPM) and Contractor Supervision services for 18" AGO subsea pipeline replacement project.
4. Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz by sending an application letter and copies of certifications from the Engineering Registration Board (ERB) or a similar certification. from Monday to Friday at 08:00AM to 4:00PM between 4 April 2023 to 24 April, 2023.
5. Interested bidders are highly encouraged to visit the site at TIPER, Kigamboni, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on Tuesday, 11 April, 2023 at 0930 hours East Africa Time Zone where services will be provided with all information that may be necessary for preparing the proposal.
6. The Consultants are required to come with their own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the site visit. The minimum PPE requirement are steel toe safety boots, worker's helmet and cotton reflector vest / cotton over coat / cotton overall. Consultant who will not come with correct PPE's will not be allowed to conduct site visit.
7. Bidders must submit hardcopies of bids (one original and one copy) respectively, enclosed and sealed in a single plain envelope marked **Tender No: TP/03/2023/ICB/CS/003 for PROVISION OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGEMENT (CPM) AND CONTRACTOR SUPERVISION SERVICES FOR 18" AGO SUBSEA PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**. Softcopies MUST be submitted in a USB flash disk. All bid documents must be addressed and delivered to Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.
8. The deadline for submission of proposals will be 4.00 p.m. local time Tuesday, 25 April, 2023.
9. Bids opening will be conducted in the presence of the TIPER tender committee only, formed by the company. There shall be NO public opening of bids.
10. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of any circumstances.
11. TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),
P.O. BOX 2608, KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE DETECTION AND SURVEILLANCE (IDDS) PROJECT

Invitation for application of consultant work.

Title : Research Consultant, USAID IDDS Project
Location : Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Division : Programs and Innovations

Terms of Reference: Research Consultant

Study: Investigation of Causes of Stagnation and Impact of use of WHO Recommended Rapid Diagnostics on Bacteriologically Confirmed TB case Detection in Tanzania

Background:

PATH is a global non-profit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.

Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) is a five-year USAID-funded project with the following overall objectives: (1) Improve the detection of diseases of public health importance and identification of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in priority infectious diseases through an accessible, accurate, adaptable, timely, and integrated diagnostic network system; (2) Improve the quality of real-time surveillance systems for pathogens of greatest public health concern, including AMR and zoonotic diseases, and; (3) Generate evidence-based guidance and innovative solutions to strengthen in-country diagnostic networks and surveillance systems. In Tanzania, the IDDS project is also focusing on activities to strengthen the TB diagnostic network in line with national government policies.

Tanzania Ministry of Health through National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program (NTLP) with IDDS support, intends to conduct a study to investigate the causes of stagnation and the impact of use of WHO recommended rapid diagnostics on bacteriologically confirmed TB detection in Tanzania.

PATH is seeking a Research Consultant responsible for leading and facilitating data collection, analysis and reporting of all study activities aimed to investigate the causes of stagnation and the impact of the use of WHO recommended rapid diagnostics on bacteriologically confirmed TB detection in Tanzania. This position reports the Principal Investigator based at National TB and Leprosy Program based in Dodoma, Tanzania and to the IDDS Tanzania Project Director based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The position will require travel to research sites within Tanzania.

The Bacteriological Confirmed TB Cases (Bacc) TB study will be carried out in two phases:

Phase 1: Determine the underlying causes of stagnation in the detection of bacteriologically confirmed tuberculosis cases. Specifically, Phase 1 will assess the following:

- TB diagnostic algorithms, implementation uptake and associated factors
- Geographical coverage of WRD machines in Tanzania.
- Xpert/Truenat utilization and performance in Tanzania and associated factors.
- Outcome of TB diagnosis in Tanzania and associated factors.
- Impact of Covid-19 in TB case detection in Tanzania.

Phase 2: Assess the impact of the routine use of Xpert and other rapid molecular diagnostics on the reporting of bacteriologically confirmed tuberculosis cases in the country. Specifically, Phase 2 will assess the following:

- Xpert/Truenat utilization and performance in selected sites in Tanzania
- Outcome of TB testing in Tanzania

It is in line with this background that PATH intends to engage a Research Consultant to work with the MoH/NTLP in conducting the Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the study.

Scope of work of the consultant

Under the supervision of the Country Principal Investigator, and in close collaboration with the Country Research Team, the Consultant will perform the following tasks:

Phase I:

- Review the research protocol, develop, and submit the inception report (for phase I & II) including the methodology, activities, and timeline.
- Review and finalise the data collection tools.
- Perform desk review and collect relevant data/information.
- Conduct sites visits and collect relevant data/information.
- Supervise the development of data analysis plan and data analysis as per the approved Plan.
- Draft the study (phase I) report and secure the validation from stakeholders.
- Facilitate the report dissemination and validation meeting with key stakeholders.
- Prepare and submit a slide deck with key findings of the study.

Phase II:

- Conduct onsite data verification at the intervention sites of the study.
- Supervise the development of the data analysis plan and the data analysis as per approved plan.
- Draft the study (phase II) and secure the validation from stakeholders.
- Facilitate the report dissemination and validation meeting with key stakeholders.
- Prepare and submit a slide deck with key findings from the validated study report.

Key Deliverables

- Completed study questionnaires and databases (phase I and phase II)
- Approved data analysis plans (phase I and phase II)
- Site visits reports (Phase II)
- Validated study reports (phase I and phase II)
- Slides deck with key findings (phase I and phase II)
- Mission reports (phase I and phase II)

Level of efforts

Activity Phase 1	Level of Effort (days)
Phase I	20
Review the research protocol, develop, and submit an inception report including the methodology, activities timeline and data finalised collection tools	1
Perform desk review and collect relevant data/information	5
Conduct sites visits and collect relevant data/information	5
Supervise the development of data analysis plan and data analysis as per the approved plan	2
Draft the study (phase I) report and secure the validation from stakeholders	5
Facilitate the report dissemination and validation meeting with key stakeholders	1
Prepare and submit a slide deck with key findings of the study	1
Phase II	10
Onsite data verification visits at the intervention sites	5
Supervise the development of the data analysis plan and the data analysis as the approved plan	1
Draft the study report (phase II) and secure the validation from stakeholders	4
Facilitate the report dissemination and validation meeting with key stakeholders	1
Prepare and submit a slide deck with key findings from the validated study report	1

Travel expenses:

Travel expenses will be per PATH policy.

Interested candidates are required to send a cover letter and CV to Mary Emmanuel at memmanuel@path.org and copy to skullaya@path.org not later than **18th April 2023**.

Dar man allegedly found with heroin is held by Iringa police

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

POLICE in Iringa Region are holding a resident of Tabata Magengeni in Dar es Salaam Region, Mwasema Rashid (37) for allegedly possessing of 58 pellets of heroin.

Regional Police Commander, ACP Allan Bukumbi said that the suspect was arrested on March 17, 2023 in Mtandika village in Kilolo District.

He said that after questioning, it was discovered that the suspect flew from Dar es Salaam on March 17, 2023 to Mozambique and returned on March 30, 2023, by car through the Mbeya Region route.

Bukumbi explained that on March 31, 2023 the suspect was on his way

back to Dar es Salaam at around 23:00hrs in the night at Mtandika village, he started feeling bad and decided to go to the Mtandika Clinic where he explained to the doctor that he had a stomach ache.

On April 2, 2023, the situation got worse, when he decided to tell the truth that he had swallowed drug candies believed to be 'heroin'.

So far, the suspect has released 58 pellets through his private part under the supervision of doctors and police officers.

He is being hospitalised at Iringa regional referral hospital for more medical attention.

Commander Bukumbi said that when the investigation is completed, the suspect will appear in court.

In another development, the police force in Iringa region is detaining two suspects after they were caught with 324 pellets and dry leaves of cannabis.

RPC Bukumbi named the suspects as MacDonald Zuberonga (23), a resident of Semtema and Haruna Mbigili (24), a driver and a resident of Ipogolo, Iringa Municipality.

He said that the suspects will appear in court immediately after the investigation is completed.

The Iringa Regional Police Force is calling on the citizens to continue providing cooperation to the police force, including providing information on crimes and criminals to ensure that the situation in the region becomes safe.



Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba (C) pictured at the weekend receiving a gift from Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust business development manager Helman Bashiri (R) at the launch of the agency's 'greening' campaign dubbed 'Kijanisha Maisha'. With them is PASS Trust eastern and central cone manager Hadija Seif. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Villagers urged to respect Mpanga-Kipangare Forest Reserve boundaries in Njombe District

By Correspondent Elizabeth John, Njombe

THE Commissioner of Conservation for the southern highlands zone from the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Joas Makwati has called on residents of Mpanga Village, Luduga Ward in Wanging'ombe District, Njombe Region to respect the Mpanga-Kipangare Forest Reserve boundaries and avoid entering the reserve areas for any activities involving land use in violation of the laws.

He issued the directives during the start of the official exercise to erect boundaries at Mpanga village that borders with Mpanga-Kipangare Forest Reserve that was in line with the implementation of the directives from the eight-ministers sectoral committee charged to deal with boundaries conflicts.

"Mpanga-Kipangare Forest Reserve was established in 2003 and the main aim was for the protection

of water sources in the reserve area as all the water flowing to Ihefu Valley for instance originate from Mpanga-Kipangare Forest Reserve, and for a long time there have been land conflicts in regard to land use in the reserve area," Makwati said.

He said due to these challenges, the government, through the eight-minister's committee has come up with a solution for the implementation of government's directives in regard to the area by starting to erect official boundaries to prevent people from conducting human activities in the reserve area.

"Nearly 25,400 acres of land area has been portioned off for the villagers hence we appeal to them to abide by the laws, they should not enter inside the reserve to destroy the environment, as the forest helps us to get rains," he said.

Makwati said for now the government has strategic plans to develop tourism in southern Tanzania, hence Mpanga-Kipangare

Forest Reserve is among the areas for promoting tourism.

For his part, Head of Lands Department from Wanging'ombe District Council, Naili Mbyopya told villagers to respect directives of the eight-minister committee who visited at the village in November last year that prevented them from invading the reserve area.

For her part, the chairwoman of Wanging'ombe District Council, Aginetha Mpangile thanked the government for starting to take steps to solve villages' conflicts as the launching of the boundaries erection exercise will be a solution to the conflicts.

Wanging'ombe District Commissioner, Claudia Kitta reminded and stressed to the villagers to continue protecting water sources and avoid conducting any human activities inside the reserve area, as the government will not tolerate to take stern measures against the culprits.

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole, Morogoro

THE Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship (RITA) has encouraged Tanzanians to create a culture of writing wills as it helps reduce unnecessary conflicts in families and communities.

According to RITA, there has been a misconception that writing a will is bad omen, a situation that makes people afraid to write it.

Angela Anatory, Rita chief executive officer (CEO) made the call here at the weekend during the discussion of the agency's operations at the 12th meeting of members of the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF).

She said that many conflicts that occur in families especially after the demise of key family members are due to lack of wills.

Angela said that a will makes it easier to resolve conflicts once a family member dies because experience shows that inheritance cases have been taking a long time to complete due to lack of wills.

"There are many cases of inheritance that do not finish. You find family members fighting for

Tanzanians urged to create the culture of writing wills

years, for example, we have a case of inheritance there since 1998 until today," Angela said adding: "All this is happening because things were not set right by the deceased during his lifetime, if the deceased had left a legally will, things would have been easier because the will would have been followed."

She said there has been a problem of some people who are nominated to supervise the inheritance process putting themselves as part of the inheritance, a situation which fuels conflicts.

She said the head of the inheritance process is only appointed to ensure that the parties get their rights but due to the greed of some of them, they want to take part of the inheritance which causes long-term conflicts.

"There are people who think that to write a will is like a curse, while it is not because there are more than 1,000 wills that have been registered with us since 2008, but only 96 wills were collected after

the those people died, so writing a will is not bad omen," she said.

She said apart from RITA, a person can write a will and keep it at various institutions including banks or authorized lawyers.

Regarding the licenses of religious leaders who attend marriages, Angela said they have to obtain a license to provide the service in accordance with the law.

She said they are legally obliged to do so because when a marriage fails, it becomes easier for legal procedures to be followed.

She said that only the court has the authority to dissolve a marriage adding that RITA only issues a divorce certificate to show that the person can marry or remarry.

"We have been stressing the religious leaders who attend marriages to come and register with RITA in accordance with the law and they are not supposed to do it locally because at the end of the day it will cause legal problems when the marriage gets into conflicts," she said.



Envirocare Tanzania legal officer Godlisten Muro (L) briefs residents of Malowe village in Mbeya District at the weekend on coffee farming and budget planning with a gender perspective. The organisation advocates environmental justice, human rights and gender equality and equity. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

It's 'salvation' for 151 human trafficking victims in Mtwara

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari, Mtwara

ANTI-Human trafficking agencies in collaboration with other security organs have rescued a total of 151 human trafficking victims since April 2022 to January this year, it has been revealed.

Acting Mtwara Regional Police Commander (RPC) Nicodemus Katembo told regional law enforcement officers last week here in Mtwara that, during that period also a total of 13 cases were under probe, while nine were at hearing stage in court and six suspects were jailed under The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, No. 6, 2008.

"There is an increase in human trafficking cases annually, however here in Tanzania domestic trafficking is higher than international high demand for cheap laborers, sex workers, drug carriers, kidney and witchcraft accelerating these misconducts" said Katembo during training to create a common understanding on combating illegal human trafficking.

He added: "Tanzania is mentioned as host and corridor for international illegal human trafficking business...as law enforcers, we need to create common understanding to avoid law contradiction which might create a gap for suspects to escape...Tanzania do not prohibit human

trafficking, but it must be complied with our laws."

A representative from Anti Human Trafficking Secretariat ACP Ahmad Mwen-dadi revealed that, one among other initiatives against human trafficking is to ensure local and international job recruiting companies are tighten to comply with laws.

"We must create data base and strong monitoring system from the first point of departure to the final destination, this will enable us to track our people and taking legal action against the companies involved in case of any misconduct...most of those workers ending up by being tortured and killed sometimes," he said.

Tanzania Relief Initiatives (TRI), with the support from Hans Sediel Foundation stated that, a total of 1,250 law enforcement officers and other front liners from 12 regions were trained on response to in person tactics since 2017.

"Under these training programs Police officers, Prison officers, Lawyers, Prosecutors and Immigration officers were capacitated on response to trafficking in person...we believe that if these law enforcers work together with support from communities, we can minimize illegal human trafficking acts," said Edwin Mugambila, TRI Chief Executive Officer.

Gender lens crucial in getting gender balanced budget, govt, CSOs advised

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

POLICY makers, politicians and civil society organisations have been urged to put special attention to gender issues so as to spot and prioritise needs of men, women and people with special needs hence prepare a budget that will touch and address basic needs of each group.

Training facilitator, Idd Mziray made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during a four-day seminar to civil society organisations. The seminar was organised by Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP) under the support of COADY Institute, the seminar focused on how to prepare a gender responsible budget (GRB) and leadership.

He said: "People who lack a gender lens/eye normally exclude gender issues when preparing their budgets. And this at the end will make some groups in the community miss their essential needs."

He said that the needs of a boy child are quite different from that of a girl, and all these need to be considered when setting a budget.

Mziray further noted that people with a gender lens/eye usually prepare their budgets by considering the needs and priorities according to the biological difference and gender to the targeted people.

He said that there are more benefits than losses for the government to have a gender responsible budget.

He said that a gender responsible budget is beneficial to the government because among others: It improves accountability and transparency through proper monitoring.

"It shows commitment to gender equality and a way of reporting on progress on gender equality commitments. By having GRB, the government will have more balanced and sustainable development goals. It would prevent losses to the nation from policy failure to unexpected gender impacts," he asserted.

TGNP executive director, Lilian Liundi said that the objectives of the training are to capacitate civil society organisations' leaders with the various concepts of gender equality.

"To establish a collective understanding on the concepts and importance of gender responsible budget; and to recognise the different approaches of how to analyse the gender responsible budget," she said.

The event is also aimed to share experience from each other on the challenges of how to prepare a gender responsible budget. And to consolidate the skills of CSOs to persuade on the policies, plans and gender sensitive budgets, this also includes empowering the community with the same skills which at the end will ensure they have a gender responsible budget.

The training further empowers the CSOs with the skills of persuasion and advocacy and hence be able to encourage the increased number of participation of women in leadership and in decision making positions.

Liundi encouraged the participants to productively utilise the training opportunity and at the end come up with positive results for the benefits of the entire community and nation as a whole.

Director of Centre against gender based violence, Sophia Komba has commended TGNP for the training, which has been an eye opener on how to prepare a gender responsible budget which is a solution to all needs of women and men, importantly including the vulnerable groups and people living in the peripheral.

She has urged the government that when preparing its national budget it needs to consider the needs of each special group, including people with disabilities.

"Give more priorities to women when preparing your budget because their needs are different from those of men."

Director of Mpakani Tunaweza Organisation of Ubungo, Asia Omary urged the government to ensure the money provided through the district councils reach the targeted groups, such as the people with disabilities and women.

She has also urged the government to come up with a gender responsive budget because it is through that women can be able to grab the available opportunities and at the end also enjoy the cake of the nation.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

INCOME TAX ESTIMATES AND DUE DATES FOR FILING OF TAX RETURNS AND PAYMENT OF TAX FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

Dar es Salaam, 3rd April, 2023:

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has noted with concern, that there are **a number of taxpayers who have not filed statements of estimated income tax payable by instalments or appear for assessment of the same and payment of taxes due**. TRA wishes to remind those taxpayers to observe the requirements of the law by filing returns or appear for assessment and payment of respective taxes. TRA shall conduct a thorough enforcement campaign and take appropriate actions against all non-compliant taxpayers.

Furthermore, TRA wishes to remind all taxpayers of their statutory obligation to file tax returns and pay taxes on time for the month of April 2023. The due dates for returns filing and payment are as depicted hereunder:

Table: Due Dates for Filing Returns and Payment of Taxes:

Sn	Type of Return	Due date for filing and payment
1	Statement of Tax Withheld for Employee (PAYE) for the period of March 2023.	On or before 7 th April 2023
2	Withholding Tax Returns (Other than PAYE) for the period of March 2023.	On or before 7 th April 2023
3	Skills Development Levy (SDL) Return for the period of March 2023.	On or before 7 th April 2023
4	Value Added Tax (VAT) Return for the period of March 2023.	On or before 20 th April 2023
6	Other tax returns.	On or before prescribed dates

You are reminded to submit correct returns and pay respective taxes in time to avoid inconveniences, penalties and interest that adds unnecessary burden in business. TRA wishes to reiterate that there shall be no extension of time to file tax returns and pay taxes unless applied and granted pursuant to the provisions of The Tax Administration Act Cap 438.

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

Website : www.tra.go.tz
Toll Free Numbers : 0800-110 016 or 0800-750 075 or 0800-780 078
WhatsApp : 0744 23 33 33
Email : services@tra.go.tz or huduma@tra.go.tz

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Issued by:
DEPARTMENT OF TAXPAYERS SERVICES AND EDUCATION

PASS Trust moves to boost livestock sector in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

THE livestock sector in Zanzibar, unlike in mainland Tanzania, is mainly dominated by small-scale holders. This is attributable to several factors, among them scarce grazing areas and limited financial resources for modern livestock farming.

Available data indicates that an estimated 35 per cent of agricultural households (about 45,700 households) keep large or small ruminants. Further, slightly over 50 per cent keep poultry birds, primarily chicken. On average, they keep 1 million chickens, about 325,000 ducks, 155,000 cattle and 69,000 goats. They also keep sheep, turkeys, rabbits and pigs low in numbers between 3,000 to a few hundreds.

However, among the challenges that Zanzibar livestock farmers face include animal diseases such as tick-borne diseases, foot and mouth and lumpy skin in ruminants while poultry struggle with fowl typhoid and Newcastle diseases.

To bolster development of the sector, the Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust (PASS), a non-profit organisation, is all set to spread its tentacles into Zanzibar with the aim of collaborating with the relevant stakeholders in order to support various agribusiness sectors that include livestock keeping on the island.

PASS Trust, through the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Initiative, aims at facilitating investment and growth in the commercial agriculture and related sectors through supporting farmers, livestock keepers, beekeepers and fish farmers as well as facilitating agricultural food processing.

Yohane Kaduma, PASS Trust managing director says the organization supports and facilitates access to sustainable finance and technical support and ensures that agribusinesses are environmentally sustainable and inclusive thus improving the living conditions of the communities and promoting local development in targeted areas in the country.

"Though livestock production in Zanzibar makes up for only 4 per cent of the Island's gross domestic product (GDP), livestock farming, on the other hand, plays a significant role in cash income generation for agricultural households and often determines a household's economic status within the

community", says Yohane Kaduma.

Notably, over 80 per cent of cattle-keeping households in Zanzibar rear between one and five heads of cattle, the average being 2.64 heads. In total, they own almost 54 per cent of all cattle on the island and to date PASS Trust has already served over 5432 stakeholders dealing in horticulture, seaweed farming, sardines and fish, cooking oil and farm equipment.

He notes that a major factor that PASS Trust will be called upon to address will be the improvement of the quality of livestock that Zanzibar farmers keep because about 96 per cent of cattle in the Isles are indigenous, save for some improved chicken (layers) and pigs.

Needless to say, PASS Trust will be up to the task of modernising livestock-keeping in Zanzibar because it has in its repertoire strategies that it implements to jumpstart agribusiness activities whenever it operates.

Kaduma says, among the strategies to boost livestock keeping in Zanzibar will be to collaborate with the department of livestock and fisheries to run outreach programs and extension services for farmers in order to facilitate successful and increased production of mixed-breed livestock at the level of small-holder farms as well as encouraging better management practices for local animals.

Moreover, PASS Trust will also strive to build the livestock keepers' capacity to access financial products and services as well as building the capacity of financial service providers to better serve livestock keepers in order to address the challenge of lack of funds that hinder farmers from developing intensive livestock production in Zanzibar.

PASS Trust's timely intervention in the livestock keeping in Zanzibar effectively supports Tanzania's Livestock Policy within The Tanzania Development Vision that posits: 'By 2025, there should be a livestock sector which to a large extent shall be commercially run, modern and sustainable, using improved and highly productive livestock to ensure food security and improved income for the households and the nation'.

As an organization working with the vision to uplift farming activities across the country, skilled and unskilled farmers always reach PASS Trust via the customer care service number 0800750037 to get first-hand information.



Parliamentary Public Investment Committee chairman Jerry Silaa (C, in white shirt) with members of the committee as well as Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) board deputy chairman Dr Aggrey Mlimuka (2nd-R) and director general Hosea Kashimba (R) during last week's visit to Mwanza city's Rock City Mall commercial building, one of the fund's real estate investment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Z'bar GNU helps to prop up democracy foundations and unity, says CCM cadre

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE ruling party in Zanzibar says the Government of National Unity (GNU) has helped to prop up democracy foundations and national unity among the people of Zanzibar.

The remarks were made by the party's Deputy Secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Khamis Mbeto Khamis as he briefed reporters after arriving at Al-Rahma hospital here to wish well the former chairman of the accords committee, Ali Mzee Ali who is admitted to the hospital for treatment.

He said since the 10th Zanzibar Constitutional Amendments that ushered in GNU, hate politics has disappeared and the foundations for the national unity

continues to take hold in the Isles.

"I have come to wish well our veteran politician, after hearing he has been admitted to this hospital, this man is very important for Zanzibar, he helped in propping up democracy foundations and national unity we are now enjoying," Mbeto said.

He said as for now Zanzibar was witnessing courteous politics from among the people and political parties instead of politics of hate.

He said development projects that continue to crop up in various sectors are a result of the strengthening of the peace and security in the Isles.

However, he added that Zanzibaris should respect and exalt GNU that has been the source of the peace maintain in

Zanzibar as opposed in the past years after the establishment of multiparty politics.

Speaking from his hospital bed, veteran politician Ali Mzee said he was doing well after receiving treatment since he was admitted on March 25 this year.

Prominent CCM cadre, Saleh Mohamed said explained that he came to wish well the veteran politician after he learned that he was admitted to the hospital and added that he was pleased to see that his health was improving.

Other party leaders and officials who at different times visited the hospitalized veteran politician included President Hussein Ali Mwinyi, former Presidents Amani Abeid Karume and Ali Mohamed Shein, First Zanzibar Vice President Othman Masoud Othman and others.

'Reinforce competitiveness of priority value chains to boost intra-EAC trade'

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) should focus on the next five years in strengthening the competitiveness of priority value chains to boost intra-EAC trade, delegates of the 38th meeting of Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (Ex-SCTIFI) have suggested.

The Ex-SCTIFI delegates also highlighted the need for leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Global Value Chains (GVCs) for export growth and rapid Industrial Sector Transformation; utilization of local sourcing, supporting the private sector and SMEs' resilience for accelerated growth and recovery.

They made the suggestion when speaking at the just-concluded five-day meeting in Kilimanjaro Region and considered the progress of the reports of the implementation of the directives in the sector, Cotton, Textiles and Apparel (CTA) Strategy; Leather & Leather

Products Strategy and Automotive Industry Action Plan. They also considered EAC industrialisation policy implementation action plan; the development of micro, small and medium enterprises; fruits and vegetables strategy and action plan; and pharmaceutical manufacturing plan of action.

As part of promotion of Buy East Africa Build East Africa (BEABEA), the meeting encouraged the partner states to adopt the use of traditional folklore as official dresses for official events; establish digital platforms to support exchange information on harvesting of cotton and trade of cotton lint in order to increase the intra EAC trade on the products.

They also made proposals on textile and textile articles to be moved to maximum band to stimulate local production; expand the harmonized cotton, textiles and apparels (CTA) articles under duty remission; and develop modalities of developing leather industrial parks with common effluent treatment; among others.

Audace Niyonzima, chairperson of the meeting and Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, from the Republic of Burundi called on the partner states to remove the restrictions and bottlenecks that impede industrial development in the region.

"Industrialization, trade, finance and investment are important pillars of integration and their development will help to deepen integration as the region moves towards the next milestone of financial integration," he said.

He called on partner states to not only put in place clear policies and strategies but also to implement them on the ground to support economic development and employment for the EAC citizens.

Dr Peter Mathuki, EAC secretary general also challenged the partner states to adopt revolutionary and innovative approaches to implementing industrial policies if the anticipated economic growth in the regional policy was to be achieved.



Mirerani police station commanding officer Dominick Fwaja (R, foreground) briefs Simanjiro District CCM chairman Kiria Laizer (2nd-L, in jacket) at the weekend on the state of security in the area. Photo: Correspondent Gifty Thadey



WWF for a living planet

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF FISHERIES LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS AND DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITY NEEDS TO IMPROVE FISHERIES TRANSPARENCY IN TANZANIA

1. INTRODUCTION

With increased international awareness of the issue of fisheries transparency, numerous instruments and transparency initiatives have been introduced at international levels. Among them, the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI) is a prominent effort that supports coastal countries in improving the accessibility, quality, and credibility of national fisheries information. In 2016 WWF TCO facilitated a study to evaluate efficiency in sharing fisheries-related data and information. Countries were evaluated against availability, accessibility, and transparency in sharing relevant information. Eight South Western Indian Ocean countries were evaluated against fishing vessel registrations, fishing vessel licenses (foreign, domestic, and access agreements), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS/AIS), reporting of catch (on-board observers, catch documentation, landings, Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) requirements), reporting of trade and other Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) information. In May 2022, WWF TCO under the Bloomberg Project supported the development of a road map to improve fisheries transparency and governance in Tanzania.

2. THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

To review and assess the fisheries legal and governance frameworks in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Work closely with Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA), to determine the fisheries transparency challenges in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the United Republic of Tanzania;
- Review the existing WWF-SWIO countries project support in production of fisheries transparency documents and policy briefs;
- Undertake fisheries needs assessment and capacity needs to improve the fisheries transparency
- Develop a transparency national policy brief (refer (b) above) in English and Kiswahili

4. IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION

Advanced written and verbal proficiency in English and Kiswahili and working knowledge of other experience. Master's degree/PhD in Fisheries Aquatic science, Fisheries ecology, Environmental Science, oceanography, Fisheries Economics/Socio-economic studies, political science, Natural Resources Governance and social-political ecological studies. At least 5 years of solid working experience in marine environment; Experience in regional and national fisheries related bodies such as DSFA, SADC, IOTC, FAO (IUU-Fishing); Experience in Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) and Fisheries Transparency Initiatives (FITI). Ability to organize and facilitate high level meetings, for technical and non-technical audience; Excellent analytical and research skills and strong interpersonal skills.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified and experienced consultant(s) through the following address: **Secretary, Procurement Committee; WWF Tanzania; Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikochei P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535; website. www.wwf.or.tz**

The time span for this activity is spread from **25th April to 25th June 2023**

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement: e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org and or hard copy to the address indicated above. The deadline for submission is Monday 17th April 2023 at 10:00am EAT Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/

WWF TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. The late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to fcic@wwftz.org



Habib African Bank Limited
Dar es Salaam

PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Issued pursuant to Regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2022

(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Year 31.12.2022	Previous Year 31.12.2021
A. ASSETS		
1. Cash	7,864	5,686
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	22,248	26,306
3. Investment in Government Securities	62,592	72,428
4. Balances with other banks and financial institutions	22,030	28,515
5. Cheques and items for Clearing	50	39
6. Interbranch float items	201	147
7. Bills negotiated	1,710	2,219
8. Customer liability on acceptances	11,505	10,144
9. Interbank loans receivable	0	0
10. Investment in Other Securities	0	0
11. Loans, advances and overdrafts (Net of allowances for probable Losses)	170,224	148,206
12. Other Assets	3,524	5,882
13. Equity Investments	0	0
14. Underwriting accounts	0	0
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	558	751
16. TOTAL ASSETS	302,506	300,323
B. LIABILITIES		
17. Deposits from other Banks and financial institutions	0	0
18. Customer deposits	237,944	237,431
19. Cash Letters of Credit	0	0
20. Special deposits	4,711	4,043
21. Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0
22. Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	61	113
23. Accrued taxes and expenses payable	5,152	5,438
24. Acceptances outstanding	11,505	10,144
25. Inter branch float items	191	134
26. Unearned income and other deferred charges	0	0
27. Other liabilities	2,250	3,109
28. Borrowings	0	0
29. TOTAL LIABILITIES	261,814	260,411
30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 minus 29)	40,692	39,912
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31. Paid up share capital	2,600	2,600
32. Capital reserves	220	285
33. Retained earnings	32,187	29,334
34. Profit (Loss) account	1,051	1,347
35. Other capital accounts	4,633	6,345
36. Minority Interest	0	0
37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	40,692	39,912
38. Contingent liabilities	59,969	61,987
39. Non performing loans and advances	8,768	10,103
40. Allowances for probable losses	169	(223)
41. Other non performing assets	0	0
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS		
(i). Shareholders Funds to total assets	13.45%	13.29%
(ii). Non performing loans to total gross loans	5.04%	6.58%
(iii). Gross loans and advances to total deposits	70.33%	62.26%
(iv). Loans and advances to total assets	57.52%	51.12%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	88.22%	86.69%
(vi). Deposits Growth	0.34%	1.20%
(vii). Assets growth	0.73%	4.30%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2022

(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Year 31.12.2022	Previous Year 31.12.2021
1. Interest Income	24,056	21,611
2. Interest Expense	(13,695)	(13,497)
3. Net Interest Income(1 minus 2)	10,360	8,114
4. Bad Debts Written Off	(2,273)	(732)
5. Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	169	(223)
6. Non-Interest Income	4,850	4,745
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	1,165	981
6.2 Fees and Commissions	1,571	1,632
6.3 Dividend Income	0	0
6.4 Other Operating Income	2,114	2,133
7. Non interest Expenses:	(9,813)	(9,958)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(6,004)	(6,106)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(266)	(235)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(3,544)	(3,616)
8. Operating Income/(Loss)	3,293	1,946
9. Income Tax Provision	(2,248)	(599)
10. Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax	1,045	1,347
11. Other Comprehensive Income (Itemise)	6	0
12. Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year	1,051	1,347
13. Number of Employees	77	86
14. Basic Earning Per Share	402	518
15. Number of Branches	4	4
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	1.11%	0.68%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	2.61%	3.48%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	33.95%	37.78%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	4.11%	3.50%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2022

(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Year 31.12.2022	Previous Year 31.12.2021
I: Cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	3,299	1,946
Adjustment for:		
Impairment/amortization.	330	374
Net change in loans and advances	(21,509)	(17,570)
Gain/loss on sale of Assets	0	0
Net change in deposits	846	2,722
Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	(2,698)	13,131
Net change in Other Liabilities	66	94
Net change in Other Assets	776	(447)
Tax paid	(1,627)	(880)
others (Specify)	(999)	(91)
Net cash provided(used) by operating activities	(21,515)	(721)
II: Cash flow from investing activities:		
Dividend Received	0	0
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(132)	(276)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	0	0
Proceeds from Sale Non-Dealing Securities	0	0
Others(specify)	0	0
Net cash provided(used) by investing activities	(132)	(276)
III: Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayment of Long-Term Debt	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	0	0
Payment of Cash Dividends	0	0
Net change in Other Borrowings	0	0
Others(specify)	0	0
Net cash provided(used) by financing activities	0	0
IV: Cash and cash equivalents:		
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(21,648)	(997)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter/Year	85,367	86,363
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter/Year	63,719	85,367

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31.12.2022

(Amounts in million shillings)

	Share capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	Other Reserve	Total
Current Year 2022						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	30,681	6,345	285	39,912
Profit for the year			1,051			1,051
Transfer to statutory Reserve			1,712	(1,712)		-
Transfer to other Reserve			65		(65)	-
Tax paid for prior years			(271)			(271)
Balance as at the end of the year	2,600	-	33,238	4,633	220	40,692
Previous Year 2021						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	30,849	3,816	321	37,586
Profit for the year			1,347			1,347
Transfer to statutory Reserve			(2,530)	2,530		-
Transfer to other Reserve			36		(36)	-
Tax paid for prior years			(141)			(141)
Prior year adjustment for correction of deferred tax			1,120			1,120
Balance as at the end of the year	2,600	-	30,681	6,345	285	39,912

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2022

The above extracts are from the Financial Statement of the Bank for the year ended December 31,2022 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).The Financial Statements were audited by Baker Tilly DGP & Co, Certified Public Accountants and received unqualified audit report.

These Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. S.S Hassan Rizvi Managing Director

Ms. Mwatumu J. Malale Director

Maize sale: Curbing access to traders will cut acreages

WITH the maize harvesting season no so far off at the moment, different kinds of preparations are evidently taking place. One is procedural or routine, and another side is beefed with innovation, seeking to control the harvesting and purchasing process as it was the case in the past. It becomes difficult for a section of district administrators and perhaps among higher authorities to let the farmer just decide.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe has time and again explained that the crop is the property of the farmer and not of the government, and admittedly President Samia Suluhu Hassan has zeroed on that theme as well. Still there is a strident line of opinion for instance objecting to free market status of farming, harvesting and selling maize. The idea of ending regulations is unclear to a section of regulators.

Take this year's scenario, as it was also the case for last year, that the government has injected billions of shillings into the fertiliser subsidy scheme. It is also placing large amounts of money into irrigation agriculture, where crops like maize and rice, apart from wheat, are substantially targeted, not just to ensure sufficient local supplies but to make use of grain trade openings. It is advantageous comparatively.

It is entirely possible that most regional and district administrators understand that the idea that we can only sell the surplus of what we ourselves need is still a steady undercurrent of policy outlooks. The reason this view persists is that the market economy is a kind of fashion that the government

has adopted from time to time, not really our proper character of policy thinking as a country. We are used to total controlling of trade.

There is another aspect, where district administrators believe they have genuine worries over ravages caused by a free maize market, like farmers selling all the produce and retaining nothing for domestic use. A market economy is based on the premise that the producer knows his or her interests quite well and doesn't need to be reminded by public authorities what should be the priority purchases, what part of product can be sold or what part retained. All that hinders investment in acreage.

That is why recent regulatory initiatives in maize growing areas are likely to bring up some worries on agro-sector policy makers and stakeholders. District authorities in Songea have directed that traders, local or foreign, will no longer be able to buy maize directly from farmers, reaching agreements before harvests are made. It isn't that immature maize is pulled out or used as cattle feed but rather as it ripens there is some buyer waiting. The local DC says the national grain reserve nearly suffices.

The DC sought to insist that NFRA will offer good prices, but experience shows that they come last when farmers can give the crop at throwaway prices. It is like closing all street pharmacies and then expect plentiful supply of drugs on hospital counters. It isn't clear if this order to limit access to maize by buyers until NFRA is finished with its late purchases will be removed, or farmers will next year cut on crop acreage, offering their fertilizer to the same middlemen. It is a tricky situation.

One of Africa's biggest potential is its people

WHEN you look at the global demographic implosion, African is the only hope the world has so far. In many countries, European countries, North American, and some Asian countries, for example, looking at their demographic implosion, their social safety net will not hold in the future.

Africa has human potential, which translates both in terms of production as well and consumption potential. With its one billion primarily young people, harnessing this richness will be crucial if Africa takes its rightful place among the community of nations.

According to the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, 60 per cent of Africa's population of approximately 1 billion is under the age of 25. This represents a huge opportunity for the Continent to position itself in the global production and consumption chain.

According to the World Bank, Africa is well endowed with natural resources, including large pools of water resources and over 200 million hectares of unused but potentially arable land, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

What is sad is that Africa's potential as a growth market for business remains both underestimated and misunderstood—as does the potential for business to play a transformative role in solving the continent's biggest challenges. Africa has been one of the world's fastest-growing regions over the past decade, and by 2030 will be home to nearly 1.7 billion people and an estimated \$6.7 trillion worth

of consumer and business spending. Increased political stability in recent years and improving regional integration are making market access easier, and business expansion will generate jobs for women and youth, who represent the vast majority of the population.

Current economic growth and poverty-alleviation efforts mean that more than 43 per cent of the continent's people will reach middle- or upper-class status by 2030.

However, Africa's vast potential is coupled with immense challenges. Lack of infrastructure and the legacy of colonialism are major hurdles Africa has to overcome if it is ever to become the agricultural superpower it aims to be.

To transform the continent's food security and fortunes, all stakeholders including government, donors, and the private sector must align and target their investments towards a shared goal of sustainable, equitable, and inclusive growth.

While an absolute increase in investment is essential in almost all sectors, in many of those sectors, there is an untapped margin of potential economic impact to be had from applying existing funds in a more targeted and coordinated way.

Agriculture today accounts for 32 per cent of GDP in Africa. It is the sector that offers the greatest potential for poverty reduction and job creation, particularly among vulnerable rural populations and urban dwellers with limited job opportunities.

We must change our views on agriculture in Africa and treat it as a lucrative business instead of treating it as a development activity or a social cause.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

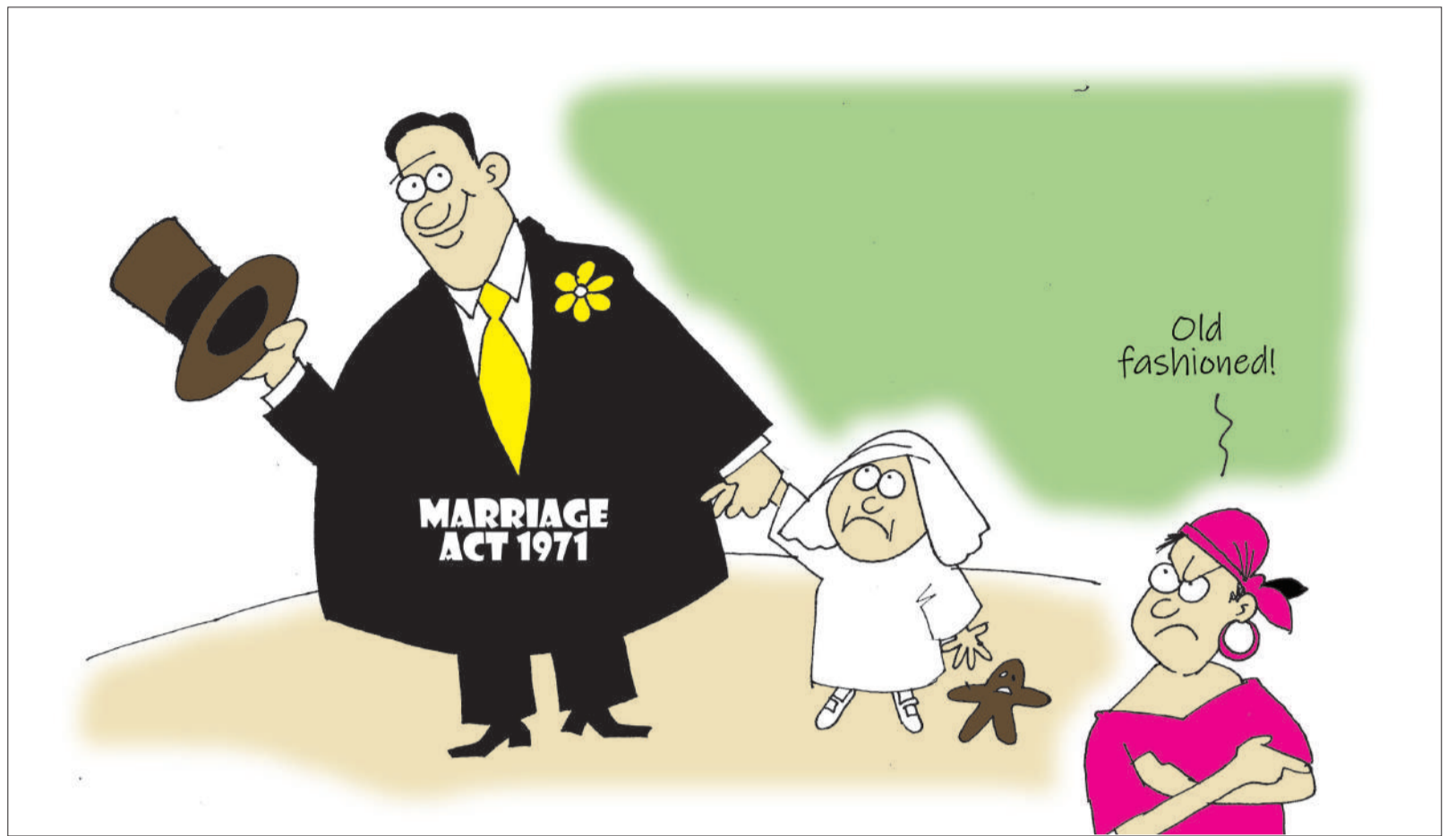
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Getting health back highest on political agenda

By Helga Fogstad, Corine Karema and

Svetlana Akselrod

IN September, 2023, world leaders will have a unique opportunity to commit to bolstering health systems, to end tuberculosis, and to invigorate progress on health for all, as three United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Meetings (HLMs) on health will take place back-to-back in New York, USA. The HLMs on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR); universal health coverage (UHC); and tuberculosis, on Sept 20-22, can help to place health high on the political agenda. This attention is urgently needed, because most health-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including those on pandemic PPR, UHC, and tuberculosis, have been thrown off track and inequalities have widened following the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased conflicts and climate change threats have left countries and vulnerable populations at even greater risk in the face of emerging health challenges and social justice.

However, this period of multiple, complex crises also offers a rare opportunity to work together and use lessons learned from the pandemic. We can rally world leaders to make actionable commitments backed by investments in equitable, resilient, and sustainable health systems. We can use these three HLMs to strengthen synergies between health-related SDGs and support governments to effectively prioritise health needs to address

multiple challenges such as rising disease burdens caused by non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions, and limited progress on ongoing response to communicable diseases. We have an opportunity to ensure that millions of people, young and old, especially women, children, and adolescents, can access the quality and affordable preventative, diagnostic, and therapeutic services they need.

In 2021, we came together as the Coalition of Partnerships for UHC and Global Health

to unite behind a common goal to align advocacy and accountability efforts to achieve UHC and other health-related SDGs. Now more than ever, we stand behind this goal and our collective efforts.

Strengthening integration across the levels of care and life course, and expanding access to health services that are truly people-centred, have proven challenging in countries. In response, national health plans need to be better at reflecting on priority actions for health systems and integrated approaches with adequate budgets, effective implementation, and financing. Despite continued increases in overall health expenditure during the COVID-19 pandemic, many essential health interventions remained unfunded. Many countries must prioritise allocating sufficient funding for essential health packages.

With the three HLMs this year, world leaders can commit to more efficient global health architecture, closer and accountable partnerships, and transformative

actions for ensuring equitable, resilient, and sustainable health systems so that they deliver for all people in periods of crisis and calm. Countries with people-centred, equity-focused health systems with strong primary health care and community participation are more resilient, sustainable, and better prepared to respond to crises, including maintaining access to essential services under emergency conditions.

Governments must provide financial protection to keep out-of-pocket payments minimal so vulnerable populations can continue accessing the care and services they need at all times. We know issues affecting the access and uptake of health services, such as migration, natural disasters, and climate change require solidarity across countries. We also know that when effective policies inclusively respond to people's needs, we can truly address them. Identifying, mitigating, and overcoming human rights and gender-related barriers is paramount if we want to achieve health for all.

In March, 2023, the UHC Movement launched an Action Agenda, recognising that all countries require more ambitious, concrete actions and milestones to advance progress on UHC. Political commitment to date has been substantial, but more is needed to get countries on track to deliver on their targets. Recognising that strengthening health systems, ending epidemics such as tuberculosis and malaria, and ensuring pandemic PPR go hand in hand, the Action Agenda

will inform the political declaration on UHC and contribute to the other health-related declarations. As the Coalition, we urge all leaders to unite behind this coherent, integrated health agenda. Specifically, the Action Agenda provides a blueprint for areas that cannot be neglected, such as the health workforce, financing, and gender equality, as well as ensuring that health security is embedded in health systems.

This September, the three UNGA HLMs on health and the SDG Summit provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and gaps in following the Global Health Commitments adopted by previous UNGAs since 2015, strengthen collective accountability, and commit to truly transformative changes towards 2030.

For health to be prioritised by heads of state at all times, we call for health progress review summits every 2 years at the UNGAs in 2025, 2027, and 2029, in addition to the specific HLMs, to enhance coherence and leverage synergies among existing processes with all health-related SDGs under a common goal—ensuring health for all to become a reality for everyone, everywhere.

We declare no competing interests.

Helga Fogstad is the Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), Corine Karema is Interim CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and Svetlana Akselrod is Director of the Global Non-communicable Disease Platform.

Nigeria's Buhari decongesting exclusive list

system has also been decentralized such that States can now build and operate Correctional Services.

Critical as this devolution items are many had thought that the government would be bold enough to go all the way by including the contentious State Police and constitutional roles for traditional rulers.

The state police clamour had become a major defining issue in the Buhari years following the escalated security crisis. And this was strongly tied to the helplessness of traditional institutions under whose domain the insecurity thrived.

Nevertheless, late as the devolved powers to state have come, we applaud the move. For one, the prospects of a more balanced federal system appears to be gaining momentum.

The era of an overly powerful Federal executive on the one hand and an bullish federal government on the other hand seem to be coming to an end. While many believe it

might still be a long shot considering the prevalent political culture at the moment, with a definite law in place, our democratic evolution within the context of a federal system would have taken a major leap.

With the devolution of these economic powers and strengthening of the separation of powers principle, especially in the states, presidents and governors would have such overbearing influences over the Judiciary. The Judiciary is expected to and more emboldened to assert itself.

Sadly, we had witnessed in this country state legislatures shying away from efforts to liberate themselves and the local government councils, from governors' grip. This further buttresses the question of a poor democratic culture vis-a-vis a failure of having people of character holding public offices.

In a clime where public offices are seen as a patronage for self and a few as against the overall well-being of the public, such poor culture has

become the mainstay of the nation's democratic experience. With this new law, we expect that the governors, State Assemblies and Judiciary now have the power to perform their checks and balances' functions for better governance. No doubt, the mindset would need to change.

Thankfully, this set of laws are coming in a transition period. The new administrations both at federal and state levels would be saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that these laws are followed through.

For instance, the potential of states having freedom to generate power is almost priceless. As such all eyes will be on states to see what they make of this item of the law which has the capacity to ensure they industrialise at their own pace.

Again, it is regrettable that State Police and roles for traditional rulers were not included in this round. We hope the 10th National Assembly will quickly deal with it to further strengthen true federalism.

Solar energy benefits children and indigenous people in northern Brazil

By Mario Osava

SOLAR energy is booming in Roraima, a state in the far north of Brazil, to the benefit of indigenous people and children in its capital, Boa Vista, and helping to provide a stable energy supply to the entire populace, who suffer frequent electricity shortages and blackouts.

The local government of Boa Vista, a city of 437,000 people, installed seven solar power plants that bring annual savings of around 960,000 dollars.

"We have used these savings to invest in health, education and social action, which is the priority of the city government because we are 'the capital of early childhood'," said Thiago Amorim, municipal secretary of Public Services and Environment.

Solar panels have mushroomed on the roofs of public buildings and parking lots around the city. The largest unit was built on the outskirts of Boa Vista - a 15,000-panel power plant with an installed capacity of 5,000 kilowatts.

In the city, the parking lot of the Municipal Theater, a bus terminal, a market and the mayor's office itself stand out, covered with panels. There are also 74 bus stops with a few panels, but many were damaged when parts were stolen, Amorim told IPS in an interview in his office.

In total, the city had a solar power generation capacity of 6700 KW at the end of 2020, equivalent to the consumption of 9000 local households. It also promotes energy efficiency in the areas under municipal management.

"Eighty percent of the city is now lit up by LED bulbs, which are more efficient. The goal is to reach 100 percent in 2023," said the municipal secretary.

The mayor's office, during the administration of Teresa Surita (2013-2020), was a pioneer in the installation of solar power plants and also in comprehensive care for children from pregnancy to adolescence, for youngsters in the public educational system.

The city's Welcoming Family program provides coordinated health, education, social assistance and communication services for mothers and children, from pregnancy through the first six years of the children's lives. The day-care centers are called Mother Houses.

In recent years, students in the local municipal elementary schools have

performed above the national average, coming in fifth place in student testing among Brazil's 27 state capitals.

This was an especially outstanding achievement because the influx of Venezuelan migrants more than doubled the number of students in Boa Vista schools in the last decade.

Despite this, the quality of teaching was not affected, according to the indicators of the Education Ministry's Basic Education Evaluation System.

The results of the local early childhood policy have been recognized by several national and international specialized entities, including the United Nations Children's Fund, which awarded it the Unicef Seal of Approval in 2016 and 2020.

More visible than the solar panels are the 30 playgrounds of varying sizes scattered around the city, in some cases featuring large playground equipment and structures in the shape of national wild animals, such as crocodiles and jaguars. They are called "selvinhas" (little jungles).

The use of solar power has spread to other sectors of life in Roraima, a state with only 650,000 inhabitants, despite its large area of 223,644 square kilometers, twice the size of Honduras, for example.

In May, there were 705 solar plants in homes, businesses and private companies, in addition to public buildings, in the state, with a total installed capacity of 15,955 KW (just under one percent of the region's total).

In Roraima there are solar plants in the courthouses in four cities, in an aim to cut energy costs through a program called Lumen.

The Federal University of Roraima (UFRR) is also building a 908-panel plant, to be inaugurated by March 2023, with the capacity to generate 20 percent of the electricity consumed on its three campuses.

"The main objective is to save energy costs, and the goal is to expand to cover 100 percent of consumption. But it will also be useful for electrical engineering studies," Emanuel Tishcer, UFRR's head of infrastructure, told IPS.

The training of specialists in renewable sources, research into more efficient and cheaper panels, the comparison of technologies and innovations all become more accessible with the availability of an operating solar power plant,



Aerial view of the Municipal Theater of Boa Vista and its parking lot covered by solar panels, near the center of a city of wide avenues, empty spaces, abundant solar energy and high quality of life compared to other cities in Brazil's Amazon region. In the background is seen the Branco River, which could be dammed 120 kilometers downstream for the construction of a hydroelectric plant that would flood part of the capital of the state of Roraima.

which serves the university's electrical energy laboratory.

Edinho Macuxi, general coordinator of the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), the largest organization of native peoples in the state, said "the great objective (of solar energy) is to prove that Roraima and Brazil do not need new hydroelectric plants."

The Bem Querer (Portuguese for "good will") plant on the Branco River, Roraima's main river, "will have direct impacts on nine indigenous territories" and will also affect other nearby indigenous areas if it is built, as the central government intends, he told IPS.

That is why the CIR is involved in three projects - two solar energy and a wind energy study - in territories assigned to different indigenous ethnic groups, he said.

The government's hydroelectric plans, which currently prioritize Bem Querer, but include other uses of local rivers, have sparked a renewed debate on energy alternatives in Roraima, which has an installed electricity capacity of only 300 megawatts, since it has almost no industry.

From 2001 to 2019, Roraima relied on electricity from neighboring Venezuela, generated by the Guri hydroelectric plant in eastern Venezuela, the deterioration of which caused a growing shortage over the last decade, until the supply completely ran out in 2019, two years before the end of the contract.

Diesel thermolectric plants had to be reactivated and new plants had to be built, including one using natural gas transported by truck from the Amazon jungle municipality of Silves, some 1,000 kilometers away, in order to guarantee a steady supply of electricity that the people of Roraima did not have until then.

It is costly electricity, but its subsidized price is one of the lowest in Brazil. The subsidy drives up the cost of electric power in the rest of the country. That is why there is nationwide pressure for the construction of a 715-kilometer transmission line between Manaus, capital of the state of Amazonas, also in the north, and Boa Vista.

With this transmission line, Roraima will cease to be the only Brazilian state outside the national grid, and local advocates believe it will be indispensable for a secure supply of electricity, a long-desired goal.

To discuss this and other alternatives, a group of stakeholders created the Roraima Alternative Energies Forum in September 2019, to promote dialogue between all sectors, in search of "the strategic construction of solutions to make the use of renewable energies viable in the state."

"Our focus is energy security. The Forum is focused on photovoltaic sources and distributed generation. But it seeks a variety of renewable energies, including biomass," said Conceição Escobar, one of the Forum's coordinators and president of the Brazilian Association of Electrical Engineers in Roraima.

"There is an opportunity for everyone to be involved in the discussion. The construction of transmission lines and hydroelectric plants takes a long time, we have perhaps ten years to develop alternatives," she told IPS.

"I am against Bem Querer, but the government of Roraima supports it. The Forum listens to all parties, it does not want to impose solutions. We want to study the feasibility of combined sources, with solar, biomass and wind, and encourage the use of garbage," said biologist Rosilene Maia, who also forms part of the three-member board of the Forum.

By Mohammad Rakibul Hasan

CLIMATE change is a global problem that requires a global solution. However, negotiating a solution has been challenging due to several factors.

One of the main reasons that recent COP Climate summits and other international climate talks have not been able to resolve climate change is that there is a lack of consensus among countries on how to address the issue. Developed countries, which have historically been the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, are often unwilling to take on significant emissions reductions or to provide financial assistance to developing countries to help them adapt to the effects of climate change.

The Gabura union, a small island adjacent to the Sundarbans forest, is expected to be submerged in seawater by 2050.

Another significant barrier to progress on climate change is the need for more political will among leaders of countries. In some cases, leaders may not see climate change as a priority or may be reluctant to take on the economic and political costs of reducing emissions or investing in clean energy due to political reasons. Some countries may be influenced by powerful fossil fuel lobbies that push against climate action.

Developed countries must be willing to take on more significant emissions reductions and provide financial assistance to developing countries to help them adapt to the effects of climate change. Developing countries, in turn, need to be willing to take on emissions reduction measures and invest in clean energy and other climate mitigation measures. This can happen through more effective multilateral negotiations such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where all countries agree to set emissions reduction targets and support developing countries.

Bangladesh is located in the low-lying delta region of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers, making the country particularly susceptible to flooding and rising sea levels. Bangladesh is also prone to cyclones and other extreme weather events, which are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change.

The country has a long coastline, much of which is low-lying and vulnerable to flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, the risk of coastal flooding is increasing, devastatingly impacting the lives and livelihoods of the people in these areas.

These events are causing widespread damage to homes and infrastructure and affecting the country's agricultural sector, a significant source of income for many people in Bangladesh. Many people in the coastal areas have lost their homes and livelihoods due to sea level rise and coastal flooding. They face food and water insecurity due to increased soil and water salinity.

Globally, rich countries can assist Bangladesh cope with

The climate conversations



The Gabura union, a small island adjacent to the Sundarbans forest, is expected to be submerged in seawater by 2050.

climate change in several ways. One crucial way is by providing financial assistance to help the country adapt to the impacts of climate change.

This may include funding for building sea walls and other flood protection infrastructure and programs to help people in coastal areas relocate to higher ground. Another way rich countries can help is by providing technical assistance to Bangladesh to develop and implement clean energy and other climate mitigation measures.

This could include funding and expertise to help the country develop renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, as well as to improve energy efficiency and to reduce emissions from

the industrial and transportation sectors.

The Sundarbans forests, located in the coastal belt of Bangladesh, is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to the impacts of climate change. The forests span over 10,000 square kilometers and is home to various plant and animal species, including the Royal Bengal tiger. Sea level rise is one of the most significant threats to the Sundarbans forest making it particularly susceptible to flooding and rising sea levels.

According to a study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, sea levels in the Bay of Bengal are projected to increase by up to 1 meter by the end of the century. This would devastate the Sun-

darban forests, as seawater would submerge large areas.

The impacts of climate change on the Sundarbans forests are also likely to have knock-on effects on the people living in the surrounding areas.

The forests are a significant source of livelihood for many people in the region, who rely on it for fishing, agriculture, and other activities. As the forests are damaged by sea level rise and extreme weather events, these people will also be affected by food and water insecurity and the loss of their homes and livelihoods. Many people who lost their homes and land to flooding, were forced to relocate to higher grounds.

The health impacts of climate

change on people living around the Sundarbans are also significant. As a result of sea level rise and increased flooding, many are at risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. Extreme weather events are accelerating salinity across the coastal belt of Bangladesh.

Women are experiencing uterine cancers, infertility, and skin diseases, and men, too, are experiencing fertility problems and other health issues. Due to the loss of livelihoods and displacement, many people face food insecurity and malnutrition. In addition to these immediate impacts, climate change exacerbates the region's existing social and economic inequalities.

People living in poverty and

marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by climate change, as they have fewer resources to cope with the impacts and less access to services and support.

Climate change has led to a growing number of people migrating from these areas, searching for better opportunities and escaping the impacts of climate change. Most climate migrants from coastal belt areas of Bangladesh are moving to urban areas, such as the capital city of Dhaka and other major cities.

These migrants often seek better job opportunities and access to services and support. However, many migrants face challenges in their new locations, such as a lack of affordable housing, discrimination, and limited access to services and support.

The future is uncertain for those still living in coastal areas of Bangladesh and fighting the climate crisis. Many of the people living in these areas are among the country's most vulnerable and marginalized communities, making them particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

Climate conversations worldwide by world leaders and major organizations have been occurring every year. But they must see the severity of the situation for the people suffering and take concrete actions beyond being in a room to converse about the effects of climate change.

Nepotism, cronyism crippling Ethiopia's job market

By Zelalem Tamir

THE issue of unemployment is one of the most frequently discussed subjects among government officials, academics, and employers in and of itself. Many people grow tired of hearing about it every time it becomes a major news subject because of how often it has been covered.

Media outlets frequently begin their coverage with the plight of recently graduated people who cannot find work. The final conclusion in these articles and productions typically places the blame on government officials and lawmakers for failing to produce sufficient employment opportunities for newly graduated college students. This might be one of the reasons, but there are many more secrets that are being kept from the public that can be pointed to as a key cause of the job shortage Ethiopians are experiencing right now.

I would like to begin unearthing the buried truths by focusing on a few situations that are already familiar to me. The following is the story of a recent college graduate who earned a degree in marketing from one of the country's public universities.

Soon after graduation, the graduate started applying for employment, just like any other job seeker would do. His aspiration was to work in banking, so he submitted his resume to as many private financial institutions as he could manage.

- Advertisement - Yet, getting hired wasn't exactly a walk in the park. He sought the opinions of those close to him to determine the cause of his troubles. While some people with a lower cumulative grade were getting the position for which he had applied, his desperation for an answer intensified. The phenomenon puzzled him, so he posed the question to his close friends. Their response was startling. They advised him that in order to get the position, he would need to pay a certain amount of money to the HR managers who were in charge of hiring fresh graduates at the banks.

That's bribery, and the sum can top 200,000 birr. It was at this moment that the graduate got in touch with me to ask for my assistance in securing this employment. At first, I believed that he wanted me to tell the media about this event; however, it turned out that this was not what he desired. He requested monetary assistance from me in order to compensate the HR



managers. I did not agree.

It is a disturbing reality that unemployment has become a source of employment for those looking to capitalize on the vulnerability of recent graduates. The marketing graduate's story extends beyond him. Not only recent college graduates are struggling with this issue, but also a significant number of people who are currently employed but are looking for a higher position in the job market. It is becoming increas-

ingly necessary to either have a friend or relative who already works for the company at which one is seeking employment or to have a relative who is already employed there. Employers use a recommendation as an excuse when asked why they hired someone without a job vacancy announcement. In many cases, employers or people in charge of the department of human resources will choose a candidate for a position and then proclaim that the position

is open, even though it has already been filled by another individual. Because of this, some dissatisfied job searchers will say things like, "Why would I bother to apply for a position that is already granted to someone affiliated?" Instances like these can frequently be seen in international institutions, embassies, and non-governmental organizations.

When it comes to the current state of the employment market, which is

dominated by affiliations and cronyism, women are the ones who suffer the most. They are exploited by a system that trades sexual favors for jobs. They are willing to do whatever is requested of them by their bosses in order to keep the job that they have already paid a price for. As a result, some of them reach a point where they become dependent.

There were certain institutions that had the guts to tell the public the truth. For

example, the African Union once disclosed that young women were used in exchange for jobs in order to obtain and keep jobs at the organization. This was done so that the young ladies might have the possibility of working there. Even while making such a bold revelation is applauded, now is the time for private companies and non-governmental organizations to examine their methods of hiring.

To begin, let's look at banks, since that's where the narrative began: the HR managers at banks need to be investigated, and whoever is profiting off of the agony of recent grads needs to face the consequences of their actions.

The same can be said for various international organizations. If these incidents had taken place in Europe or the United States, it is pretty apparent that legal action would have been taken against the individuals involved. They need to follow the same criteria here as well, and everyone needs to do their part to ensure that the job goes to someone who is deserving of it.

Job seekers must be a part of the solution. People must have the courage to expose such misconduct in order to create a better future.

Nigeria, our ballooned debt and our great grandchildren's burden

By Okey Anueyiagu

TODAY, our country's debt is about ten or more times what it was at the start of this present government. Compared with the size of our economy, this is the largest it has been since independence. To make it worse, this debt profile is projected or expected to grow exponentially to an alarming, but unknown ratio, in the coming years.

Our ballooning debt is the result of the unconscionable choices made by our government from their habitual habit of borrowing money to mostly finance frivolous expenditures, irresponsible spending to support recurrent expenditures for huge salaries of politicians and their unproductive workforce.

This level of debt that we are experiencing today, has in itself, become an economic crisis. The growth of our economy has therefore become imperiled, stunted, and almost comatose. What is assured, is complete catastrophe and doom.

How we got ourselves into this fiscal quagmire is not very difficult to decipher. The constant need to borrow money to fund federal budgets that include salaries, defence, security, education and everything else that government provides for, and the unrealistic expectations for our economic books to balance, created the imperativeness and necessity for government borrowing.

At the end of the civil war, and from years preceding the war, our coffers were flush with huge revenue from oil wealth and from the export of various products ranging from agriculture to mineral resources. We, at that point, did not know what to do with money. This proposition, of course, did not last for long, for we were very soon to fall into distress and into one of the world's most indigent and indignant countries.

Paradoxically, we have faced tremendous challenges from many fronts; both institutional and structural, bringing with them, deep-rooted corruption, income inequality, incompetent

governments, disjointed policies, deepening poverty and hunger, insecurity and all horrible vices capable of distorting even a well-endowed economy, and hindering prosperity. The results of these contraptions are the colossal losses of economic opportunities that have deprived us of significant growth and progress, leaving us in the throgs of being a beggarly country.

It is clear that what drives a stable economy to a large extent, is the macroeconomic environment which invariably reflects the productive capacity and performance for the competitiveness and profitability of local initiatives and companies that push and provide stability for the economy. But the distortions that we are experiencing in these various sectors, today, portray government's incapacity to intervene and maintain stability and good economic outlook.

Preceding Buhari's time, and more prevalent right after his advent in 2015, Nigeria's macroeconomic environment became essentially unstable, disjointed and portending a dangerous trend hindering economic growth. The dilapidating drivers for these economic outcomes are; foreign exchange drastic volatility, outrageous inflation, fiscal unsustainability and other unfavourable variables that brought high rate of macroeconomic instability.

I have heard a lot of Nigerians, especially our politicians talk about how our country will prosper, but I have not heard any of them tell us how we will grow out of the deep mess of debt that we owe. Fantasize as they may about our prosperous future, the quantum of problems awaiting us and our great-grandchildren are unimaginable. It is difficult to share in this fairytale prosperity framework philosophies that will create jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, while ensuring economic and social prosperity for all Nigerians, without capturing the dreadful calculus of our prohibitive huge debt burden. This is very distressing and bewildering to say the least.

Nigeria's current dispensation finds itself grossly deficient in many of the attributes and



qualities that define and power a country's rise. Our collective strengths in all the facets of our existence should be the building blocks of what should propel our prosperity. But to succeed, we must reinforce and support these collective strengths and attributes. Instead, our egregious penchant for little ambition, shortsightedness, lack of diversity, and lack of willingness to learn and adapt to proper ways of doing things, have imperiled and slowed, or even regressed our economic development and growth.

The first essential indicator or characteristic of the foundation of a country's strength lay in its economic power and wellbeing. The causal links between these, and the success a country records across board, suggest that they play very prominent role in determining the fate of all nations, Nigeria inclusive. When the dynamism and vitality of our oil boom era evaporated, the fearful threat

to our existence faced a strikingly dreadful peril.

I find it rather difficult to begin to apportion and assign responsibility, or blame to individuals or regimes for our levels of debt, but by their disgustingly crude action, the debt has become a stinking filth that has been the bane of all our past and present leadership. Even as some economists agree that by borrowing during economic downturn, the borrowing entity helps to revive the economy by protecting its citizens and businesses. However, the case of our debt burden is disproportionately inconsistent with reality. In order words, we cannot justify the huge debt we have accumulated with any significant commensurate development and economic growth. Where did all the money go? Some think that it disappeared into the leaky pockets of our politicians and their lackeys.

Others swear, that they can trace these borrowed monies to the Swiss Bank and Dubai Bank accounts of our citizens and their thieving partners.

Just imagine: our current debt stands at US\$101 billion, about N44 trillion. According to the data available from the Debt Management Office, the debt categories are as follows: Total External Debt = US\$39,661.72 million, Total Domestic Debt = US\$62,251.71 million, Federal Government of Nigeria Debt only = N49, 846.02 million, States and FCT = US\$12,402.69 million. All these total to over 100 billion US Dollars. By the First Quarter of 2022, our debt stock stood at a staggering \$40 billion, up 288 per cent from \$10.3 billion at the beginning of Buhari's "change" government. Take a look at the profile of our domestic debt that has risen above 160 per cent from N8.4 trillion to well over N22 trillion, and see how the country's debt-to-GDP ratio has been pushed beyond a 40 per cent threshold.

The agony of our predicament is that we now spend as much as 90% of our revenue on debt servicing. We are at risk of economic extinction if you consider the position of other economies. For instance, South Africa which has about 2.5 x Nigeria's debt stock and over 2 x the debt-to-GDP ratio, is a good case in point. Like an economist wrote: "Nigeria is staring down the barrel of financial bankruptcy."

The challenges confronting Nigeria are grievous and very real. The threats posed by the debt conundrum should never be underrated or exaggerated, but must be viewed as absolute antithetical to Nigerian interest, values, goals, and future.

This phenomenon has become counterproductive, yielding devastating domestic repression and orthodoxy. On a melancholic meditation, my firm grip on the causes of our present and future anticipated stagnation and decline can mostly be pointed to the consequences of our protracted and senseless borrowing and our ever ballooning debt.

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	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 KADOGO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Optimism as UK-funded programme enhances education in public schools

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'

A NEW programme dubbed 'Shule Bora' which is implemented in collaboration by stakeholders has strengthened and improved teaching and learning as well as addressing challenges in various public schools.

The initiatives is being implemented under the School Readiness Programme (SRP) that aimed at helping children access quality pre-primary education improving the quality, inclusiveness, and safety of leaning for girls and boys in government schools.

'Shule Bora' is a UK aid-funded education support programme with technical assistance from Cambridge Education Tanzania in partnership with Action for Disability and Development-ADD international, International Rescue Committee and Plan International.

SRP was developed by the government and EQUIP-Tanzania through the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), as a real measure of the success for children which prepared them to start primary school with knowledge of basic learning skills and continue learning for success.

Amongst the basic objectives of the SRP is to ensure that 65-percent of children who are passing through the program centers are enrolled at the main primary schools. At least 5,000 children have graduated from the SRP and enrolled for Standard One on December last year.

Rukwa Regional Coordinator of Shule Bora Programme from Cambridge Education Tanzania Limited (CETL), John Shindika revealed that almost 60-percent of children at age of 5 to 6 years were identified and access to early education opportunities and engaged them into School Readiness Program (SRP) in Rukwa region last year.

Speaking during the meeting organized by CETL to give awareness on Shule Bora Programme to Information officers, journalists and Community Radio managers at Namanyere, Nkasi municipal council in Rukwa region recently, Shindika said over 3000 children equivalent to 60 pct were provided with pre-primary education under SRP for twelve weeks only before enrolled to start primary school.

"The twelve weeks of teaching to children who were left out of early education system commenced on October-December 2022 whereby 3,392 (1,641 boys and 1,751 girls) have been enrolled in 17 centers for SRP this year and are continuing with studies," said Shindika.

He elaborated that the SRP has special teachers who volunteered for the job, but they should be respected by the community, masters Writing, Reading



Some of the students who are the beneficiaries of the UK-funded education programme in Tanzania. File photo

and Arithmetic (3Rs), speaks Swahili language and native language which used by people where the SRP center located, this will help those children who don't speak other languages than their mother tongues.

Rukwa regional education officer Samson Hango said Shule Bora program, is one year of implementation programmes which has brought changes to the region in education system.

He said there are 17 centers with conducive and attractive environments including caring teachers for children of pre-primary education.

Rukwa regional administrative secretary (RAS) Rashid Mchatta said the region is not performing well academically at all levels from pre-primary, primary and secondary school, the situation is contributed by various reasons including low response amongst the public towards supporting education sector.

Mchatta urged the public and private media to disseminate information concerning education and development programmed including Shule Bora to be well known because it will be useful in strengthening and boost academic in the region.

The SRP which is under a Six-year period (April 2021 to March 2027) is implemented in nine regions including Tanga, Coastal, Mara, Simiyu, Singida, Dodoma Kigoma, Rukwa and Katavi.

Program leaders in the Coast region said that many children who graduated from the SRP managed to join primary schools in January 2023.

DC calls on farmers to abandon traditional farming practices

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FARMERS have been required to abandon traditional and unprofitable farming practices using crude equipment and instead use modern machinery for productivity.

Kongwa District Commissioner, Remidius Emmanuel made the remarks at the weekend as he addressed more than 300 Dodoma Region farmers at a three-day training seminar on better agronomic practices aimed to urge the use of farm equipment and financial knowledge to the farmers.

The seminar was organised by EFTA Ltd-Tanzanian finance company specialized in serving small and medium enterprises and farmers. The farming machinery loan firm in collaboration with Hughes Tanzania-sellers of New Holland tractors have teamed up to equip farmers with new farming techniques.

DC Emmanuel said in order to attain profitable farming, farmers in the country should change their old concepts in regard to farming

practices.

"As for now, farming is the Number One of the Phase VI Government and that is why there have been great efforts to assist farmers to acquire better education on farming practices and access to essential farming services via extension officers at ward and village levels," said DC Emmanuel.

He added that government efforts were now aimed to spur great revolution in the farming sector to benefit farmers.

"To succeed, you must direct your efforts and resources towards the use of farming technology for better crop yields," he said, and added that in the past farmers used traditional farming practices with negligible benefits that never changed their life styles.

"As for now in our Kongwa District there are nearly 1,000 farming machinery of various kinds which in truth have spurred great economic revolution among our farmers," he added.

Nicomed Bohay, EFTA managing director said the training which his

institution was providing country-wide in collaboration with Hughes Tanzania aimed to provide practical to farmers on the right use of various kinds of farm machineries.

Bohay said in teaching farmers better farming practices, they are assured of high crop yields as well assurance of the machinery maintenance for many years.

He said EFTA has also come with a special plan to enable farmers access to loans for the purchase of new Holland TT75 tractors.

Some farmers who talked to this paper said they witnessed great changes in their activities after adopting modern farming practices.

One of them, Salama Mohamed said in the past she owned a small farm area - 20 acres with little harvests.

"I decided to abandon the traditional farming practices and purchased a tractor on loan that has completely changed my life as in one season I managed to cultivate nearly 200 acres and obtained huge harvests," Salama said.



Dodoma farmers take part in training organised by EFTA Ltd, in collaboration with the Hughes Tanzania-sellers of New Holland tractors recently at Kibaigwa in Kongwa District.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Programme Officer: Development Embassy of Ireland, Dar es Salaam

Our mission is to promote and protect abroad the values, interests and economic well-being of Ireland and its people. We do this under the political direction of our Ministers, through our staff at home and through our Embassy network abroad.

The goal of the Embassy of Ireland is to promote Ireland's values and interests in Tanzania and across the Great Lakes sub-region, in line with Ireland's commitment to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. The Embassy seeks to advance Ireland's values and interests through support for peace, prosperity and equality, with a focus on women and girls in Tanzania.

The Embassy of Ireland is seeking to recruit a highly motivated and dynamic individual to join a growing team in the position of Programme Officer: Development in the Embassy.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The precise range of duties will vary over time according to the needs of the Embassy, but will include the following:

- Work in accordance with the Department of Foreign Affairs' Standard Approach to Grant Management (SAGM) including maintaining files, processing grant payments and tracking;
- Work effectively within a whole of Embassy approach that underpins the 2022-26 Mission Strategy;
- Contribute to the Embassy's policy, strategy and reporting relating to Gender Equality, Governance and Human Rights, including formulation of key messages and event planning;
- Represent the Embassy on appropriate working groups and coordination structures for Gender Equality, Governance and Human Rights;
- Maintain a strong network of key stakeholders in the sector, including through representing the Embassy in relevant working groups and coordination structures;
- Participate in Embassy strategic planning processes and contribute to cross-Embassy team work on Gender, Governance and Human Rights, putting women and girls at the centre;
- Contribute to work across and within appropriate Mission structures and working groups - in particular as the secretariat for the Gender Action Team and in coordinating the Development Management Team;
- Carry out additional responsibilities that may be assigned by line management from time to time.

Essential Requirements candidates must be able to demonstrate:

The candidate must have:

- A graduate qualification in social studies, development, human rights or related discipline relevant to the requirements of this post.
- At least 5 years working in a Tanzanian national or international organisation in a field related to gender, women rights and governance.
- A proven capacity for delivering timely results and taking responsibility for quality outcomes.
- A sound understanding of key concepts relating to gender transformative approaches and women's movement building; monitoring, evaluation and learning; governance and human rights.
- Excellent interpersonal skills to form effective working relationships with people at all levels and the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- A proven appetite for learning and structured approach to self-development / career progress
- Excellent communication skills including fluent written and verbal English.
- Fluency in Kiswahili.
- The successful candidate must have a legal entitlement to live and work in Tanzania prior to recruitment.

Desirable Skills and Experience:

- Post-graduate qualification in a relevant discipline.
- A sound understanding of the political, economic, social and cultural environments impacting on Tanzania, including a clear understanding of the relevant Tanzanian policies and institutional frameworks.
- Experience working in or closely with women's movement and women rights organizations in Tanzania

Terms and conditions of employment:

- The successful candidate will be offered a three-year renewable contract, including a six-month probationary period. Start date: 01 July 2023, or sooner if possible.
- Primary work location: Embassy of Ireland, Dar es Salaam
- Working hours: full time, or 38 hours per week. There are 24 days' annual leave. Occasional late working or attendance at work-related events outside of working hours is required (periodic travel will be required).
- The salary for the position is TSH 5,395,160 per month and TSH 70,137,074 annually, including a 13th month, paid locally, plus health insurance and training opportunities. Salaries are paid direct to a bank account; therefore, the successful candidate must have a bank account.

How to apply

The Job Description and Application Form for this position is available on our website <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/tanzania/about-us/job-opportunities/vacancy-programme-officer-development.html>
Completed application forms should be sent via e-mail only to embassydarjobs@dfa.ie with the subject line "Programme Officer Development"

Applications must be received before 17:00hrs (local time) on 15 April 2023

CVs or cover letters will not be accepted. (No applications will be accepted after this deadline)

Please note that only short-listed applicants will be contacted

Selection Process:

- Depending on the number of applications received, short-listed candidates may be called for a competency-based interview informed by the Essential Requirements above.
- It is planned that interviews will be held before the end of May 2023.
- A skills test may be included in the recruitment process.
- A second and third interview may be included in the recruitment process, and
- A panel may be set up depending on the calibre of candidates.

General Data Protection Regulation:

All personal information received will be kept in line with GDPR guidelines.

Security Clearance for Local Staff

Police security clearance will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment. Enquiries may also be made with the police force of any country in which the applicant under consideration for appointment resided. If unsuccessful, this information will be destroyed. If the applicant subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

Please note that canvassing will disqualify applicants.
The Embassy of Ireland is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunity.

Wuhan emerges from the shadow of COVID-19

By Cui Jia and Liu Kun

ON a Saturday morning at the end of February, the indoor training facility at Wuhan Sports Center was packed with people playing badminton. The air was filled with the sounds of rackets hitting shuttlecocks, sneakers thumping on the courts and cheers for teammates.

Three years ago, this sports center in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, was packed with COVID-19 patients and medical workers wearing white protective suits. The medical teams were sent from Jiangsu, Guizhou and Anhui provinces to aid the city after the training facility and the indoor stadium next door were turned into one of China's first makeshift hospitals – in just 72 hours – to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

Back then, people called these makeshift hospitals "Noah's Ark" as the virus spread rapidly around Wuhan, a city with a population of about 13.65 million, and there were not enough medical resources, especially hospital beds, to meet the demand.

Zhao Shaodong, a coach at the sports center, said that some of the regulars have a special connection for the facility because they recovered there after contracting the infection. In total, 1,056 patients were treated at the facility, which was one of the largest makeshift COVID-19 hospitals in Wuhan.

"During breaks, they often show people pictures of what the facility was like when it was a makeshift hospital, and point out where their beds once were. Now that they are back and enjoying life, I believe both the Wuhan people and the city have stepped out of the shadows of the COVID-19 epidemic," Zhao said.

Wuhan detected its first case of novel coronavirus at the end of 2019, and the fatality rate was relatively high at the beginning of 2020 in the central Chinese city.

By then, the country had implemented a series of unprecedented measures in the city to contain the outbreak and save lives. More than three years later, Wuhan has pulled through and people's lives have returned to the pre-epidemic state.

The city's medical workers and residents have said that the Feb 23 announcement by the national health authorities that the COVID-19 epidemic had "basically" ended was like a reward for them, while the memories of how they battled the epidemic during its most deadly phase will never fade.

Tough times

Wen Danning, head of the infectious diseases department at Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, said even when the number of patients being treated for pneumonia of an unknown cause started rising in early January 2020, she didn't realize that a pandemic would soon begin, changing people's lives worldwide.

Specializing in infectious diseases, Jinyintan was one of the first hospitals in Wuhan and the world to treat patients with this pneumonia, including those with severe symptoms.

It quickly turned out that the infections were caused by the novel coronavirus, which could be transmitted from human to human. "Dealing with a new disease that even didn't have a name, the medical workers were gripped by a feeling of panic at the beginning," Wen said.

On Feb 11, 2020, the disease caused by the virus was named COVID-19 by the World Health Organization.

Soon, medical experts from all over China arrived at the hospital to study the disease.

Based on their experience of treating viral pneumonia, the team quickly drafted

the first guidance on diagnosing and treating the disease. Since then, China has published 10 versions of the guidance.

"China's quick response to gain insights into COVID-19 in Wuhan laid a solid foundation for the country and the world to introduce measures to contain the spread of the virus and save lives," Wen said.

In addition to putting enormous pressure on local medical workers, the sudden outbreak became a grave test for both the city and its people as the original strain of the virus started to spread among communities, and the fatality rate was relatively high.

Memories of the period from late January to mid-February 2020 are terrifying for local people. When he was interviewed by China Daily in April 2020, Zhang Dingyu, former head of Jinyintan, said people were worried about a shortage of medical resources and whether they would be treated if they fell ill.

Walking in the outpatients' reception hall at Wuhan Hankou Hospital, Zhao Hua, who worked as a doctor in the department, recalled the scene about three years ago.

Zhao said the hospital received orders to transform itself into a designated facility for COVID-19 patients at 4 pm on Jan 20, 2020. At 9 pm, as soon as things were ready to admit patients, the fever clinic quickly filled with people with symptoms.

The hospital then opened the outpatients' reception hall and the emergency department to cope with the rising number of patients.

"The outpatient's reception hall was packed with people. There was not even time for medical workers to worry about getting infected – all we could think about was to see as many patients as possible. The outbreak hit Wuhan so suddenly and fiercely. However, we soon got the help we desperately needed," Zhao said.

To help the overstretched medical workers and resources, the central government decided to send medical teams from other provinces and regions to the city. The first batch arrived on Jan 24, 2020. About 40,000 medical workers volunteered to come and aid the city, which was seen as the main battlefield in China's war on COVID-19.

What's more, to contain the outbreak, the central government made the unprecedented decision to put Wuhan under lockdown from Jan 23, 2020. On April 8, the 76-day lockdown was lifted after the initial outbreak was brought under control.

"Looking back, if there had been any slight hesitation in implementing those measures, the country would have faced irretrievable losses. The development of the epidemic would have been like seeing a drop of ink expanding in all directions in water. It would have gotten out of control," Zhao said.

During the lockdown, all transportation links from Wuhan to the outside world were suspended and people were ordered to stay home to stop the virus from spreading. It may seem a brief period now, but the people of Wuhan had no idea how long the situation would last or when the outbreak would be contained.

"The epidemic drew global attention to Wuhan and its people. Without the full cooperation of the Wuhan people, I think the first round of the outbreak would have lasted much longer," Zhao said.

Xiao Bang, a local resident, said that he was deeply worried in 2020 when he heard that the epidemic had plunged the city into "a state of war".

"Wuhan people fully complied with the epidemic control measures, which were



Students play soccer at the Wuhan Sports Center in February 2023. File photo

all new to us. At that time, every person was a soldier in the war to contain the epidemic. We fought hard. Even by staying home, we bought valuable time for those measures to take effect," Xiao said.

During the lockdown, many Wuhan people became volunteers in their communities, delivering daily necessities to residents or driving medical professionals to work. Xiao volunteered to guard the entrance to a community in central Wuhan near Huanghelou, or the Yellow Crane Tower, a famous landmark.

"Barely a car or pedestrian passed by Pengliuyang road in front of the entrance, which was always busy and noisy. I had never seen anything like it," he recalled.

On a Saturday afternoon in late February, Xiao returned to the community. Heavy traffic meant it took him quite a while to find a parking space and cross Pengliuyang road.

"To be honest, Wuhan people are happy to see traffic jams now, because they show that the city has regained its vitality and glamour," he said.

As time goes by, the strains of COVID-19 have become increasingly contagious, more capable of developing immunity to treatment, but at the same time less deadly. On Jan 8, China downgraded its management of COVID-19 from a class A to a class B disease.

On Feb 23, the health authorities said the country's COVID-19 epidemic had "basically" ended. "The news was particularly significant for Wuhan people, who fought the toughest battle in the epidemic and won," said Zhao, from Wuhan Hankou Hospital.

Changing situation

On April 26, 2020, the last four COVID-19 patients at the Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University (Hubei General Hospital) were discharged.

As the doctor in charge, Hu Ke, di-

rector of the second department of respiratory and critical care medicine, remembers the date clearly.

On the same day, the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals across Wuhan hit zero. By April 16, 2020, only 50,333 people had been infected in the city and the death toll stood at 3,869.

"The experience gained in epidemic control in Wuhan is extremely valuable," Hu said.

"We proved that by quickly isolating patients and making sure they could all receive treatment in hospitals or makeshift hospitals, the COVID-19 epidemic could be contained in a short period of time."

As an expert in COVID-19 epidemic control, Hu has been to other parts of the country to assist local medical workers in dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks during the past three years.

"When medical workers hear that I am from Wuhan, they always show great respect because they know that I have dealt with the deadliest strain of the virus, and how hard it was. My experience is greatly valued," Hu said.

Wen, from Jinyintan Hospital, said the research on the virus carried out in Wuhan enabled China and the world to quickly develop testing kits and vaccines. She added that research on COVID-19 started at the hospital as soon as the outbreak began spreading in 2020. Several vaccines and medicines targeting COVID-19 in China have been developed, based on the hospital's data and research.

"More importantly, we are always willing to share the findings of the research and our experience with other hospitals around the world because COVID-19 is the common enemy of mankind," she said.

A special award

In September 2020, Zhang, former head of Jinyintan and now deputy head of the Hubei Health Commission, received the national

honorary title "People's Hero" for his outstanding contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

A photo of Zhang shaking hands with President Xi Jinping when he received the title is displayed at the entrance to the hospital's administration building. Wen said: "After passing the test of containing the COVID-19 epidemic, I believe we would act more calmly and be better prepared if a similar public health incident happened again. More importantly, medical resources at hospitals in Wuhan were boosted during the epidemic."

At Jinyintan, construction of two new buildings is almost complete. One of them will be dedicated to conducting research on infectious diseases, and the other will be an emergency response building that will provide routine healthcare, but can quickly be transformed into facilities to handle any sudden epidemics in the future, Wen said.

The hospital had only treated COVID-19 patients for the past three years, but in February, all general healthcare services fully resumed and the newly renovated outpatients' building was also put into use.

"The resumption of other healthcare services is quite significant for the hospital and the city because it shows that our lives are returning to normal," Wen said while inspecting the fever clinic and a number of patients.

A similar emergency response building is under construction at Wuhan Hankou Hospital. It will be equipped with standardized isolation wards that can deal with patients who have infectious diseases.

"You can see such buildings being built in many hospitals in Wuhan because in the past three years, the central government has attached great importance to boosting the infrastructure and improving the emergency

response system to handle public health emergencies in the city," Zhao, from the hospital, said.

Wu Zhifeng, president of the Wuhan Sports Center, said the folding beds used at the makeshift hospitals are kept in storage nearby. "If there was a need to transform the stadium into a makeshift hospital in the future, I believe that we would be able to do it faster and more calmly."

A new era

Xiao, the Wuhan resident, said his fear of the virus eased when he saw how the makeshift hospitals were quickly erected and medics started arriving from other parts of the country. "The Wuhan people really appreciated all the help we received at the time. We will never forget that, even when the epidemic is fully over," he said.

The last medical team that came to aid Wuhan left the city on April 15, 2020, marking a new phase of epidemic control in the city. Many people gathered along the roads to see the team off. They held banners that read, "Thanks for risking your lives to save ours."

Since 2021, the Wuhan government has been inviting medical workers who aided the city to return and see the beautiful springtime cherry blossoms, which are famous across China. They were unable to enjoy them in 2020 because of the strict epidemic control measures.

This year, more than 16,000 medical workers have been invited back to the city. Once again, they received a warm welcome. On March 18, a special viewing session was arranged for them for the third year running at Wuhan University, one of the most popular spots to see the cherry blossoms in the city.

Zhao, from Wuhan Hankou Hospital, said that in addition to the help provided by medical workers, Wuhan people will remember the support of those in other parts of the country. "We received many messages from people around China, offering encouragement and giving us strength during the most difficult times. Such emotional support was priceless," she said.

"Wuhan people are very tough. We fought the epidemic hard, and now we are playing hard. I had to abandon a plan to visit the East Lake last weekend because the traffic jam there was scary. Don't get me wrong: I am not complaining – I am glad to see that Wuhan has recovered so well and that people are enjoying their lives."

RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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KCB Bank beats Safaricom in net assets
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How new technology will disrupt oil and gas industry

By Alex Kimani

At a certain point in its lifecycle, every industry faces its moment of reckoning with growing pressure to transform due to factors such as increasing competition, changing consumer preferences, government policy and other secular headwinds.

The transformation usually takes the shape of improved supply chain discipline as well as streamlining business operations in order to achieve better operating margins.

For the oil and natural gas industry, the moment of truth arrived a few years ago after years of weak benchmark prices, shrinking margins and massive capital flight forced the sector to seriously rethink the way it does business with energy companies increasingly turning toward tech heavyweights for help in cutting costs and streamlining operations.

A good case in point is a partnership struck between Halliburton Co, Microsoft Inc, and Accenture Plc. in 2020.

For years, Halliburton, one of the world's largest oilfield services companies, has been plagued by shrinking margins and chronic underperformance. The company eventually made a deal with the two cloud giants to migrate its existing data centers to cloud and enhance digital offerings.

After years of dilly-dallying, oil and gas companies are now rapidly moving their IT infrastructure out to the Cloud as well as adopting Business Process Management (BPM) systems. This frequently results in a leaner, more agile organizational model whilst delivering significant cost savings.

Barclays estimates that the upstream market digital services industry will grow from less than \$5 billion in 2020 to a more than \$30 billion annual tab by 2025, thus enabling \$150 billion in annual savings for oil producers.

Opportunities for cost savings include cutting capital expenditures (capex) as well as selling, general and administra-

tive (SG&A) costs and transportation operating costs.

According to Barclays, the digital age is finally dawning for the energy sector with the market poised to erupt over the next five years.

Over the past few years, Microsoft has struck cloud partnerships with several Big Oil companies including ExxonMobil Chevron Inc and Halliburton while Google's parent company Alphabet Inc has significantly expanded its partnership with Schlumberger Ltd another oilfield services giant.

Meanwhile, Amazon Inc offers digital services to the industry through Amazon Web Services oil and gas division, and counts BP Plc and Shell Plc among its top clients.

In many cases, Big Oil's digital makeover is quite extensive.

For instance, Halliburton kicked off multiple digital transformation projects during the pandemic. Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production and Kuwait Oil Company were among the notable oil and gas companies that were awarded Halliburton contracts to implement digital transformation and enhance efficiency and production at their oilfields.

For years, Big Oil has been using tech companies' enterprise software in their highly complex operating systems-including rig management operations and precise drilling techniques.

However, they have traditionally been somewhat reluctant to hand over their treasure troves of valuable data mainly on cyber security concerns as well as the need to maintain competitive advantages, preferring instead to develop most of their software developed in-house or by companies within the oilfield services sector such as Halliburton.

However, this is now changing as they look for ways to improve operational efficiencies in a bid to squeeze higher cash flows and profits from their existing operations.

Is the new approach working? The evidence seems to suggest so, with shale



drilling costs on an encouraging downtrend. J.P. Morgan estimates that Permian's Delaware Basin oil drillers now require oil prices of just -\$33/bbl to break even down from \$40/bbl in 2019.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Let's face it: Our electric grids are simply ill-suited for the energy shift. After all, renewable power is highly intermittent by nature whereas our grids are designed for near-constant power input/output. Indeed, wind and solar energy have the lowest capacity factors of any energy source.

For the energy transition to be successful, our power grids have to become a lot smarter. Luckily, there's an encouraging precedent.

Five years ago, Google announced that it had reached 100% renewable energy for its global operations including its data centers and offices. Today, Google is the largest corporate buyer of renewable power, with commitments totaling 2.6 gigawatts (2,600 megawatts) of wind and solar energy.

In 2017, Google teamed up with IBM to search for a solution to the highly intermittent nature of wind power. Using IBM's DeepMind AI platform, Google deployed ML algorithms to 700 megawatts of wind power capacity in the central United States-enough to power a medium-sized city.

IBM says that by using a neural network trained on widely available weather forecasts and historical turbine data, DeepMind is now able to predict wind power output 36 hours ahead of actual generation. Consequently, this has boosted the value of Google's wind energy by roughly 20 percent.

A similar model can be used by other wind farm operators to make smarter, faster and more data-driven optimizations of their power output to better meet customer demand.

IBM's DeepMind uses trained neural networks to predict wind power output 36 hours ahead of actual generation

Houston, Texas-based Innowatts, is a start-up that has developed an automated toolkit for energy monitoring and management. The company's eUtility platform ingests data from more than 34 million smart energy meters across 21 million customers including major US utility companies such as Arizona Public Service Electric, Portland General Electric, Avangrid, Gexa Energy, WGL, and Mega Energy.

Innowatts says its machine learning algorithms are able to analyze the data to forecast several critical data points including short- and long-term loads, variances, weather sensitivity, and more.

Innowatts estimates that without its machine learning models, utilities would have seen in-

accuracies of 20% or more on their projections at the peak of the crisis thus placing enormous strain on their operations and ultimately driving up costs for end-users.

Further, AI and digital solutions can be employed to make our grids safer. Three years ago, California's biggest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, found itself in deep trouble after being found culpable for the tragic 2018 wildfire accident that left 84 people dead and, consequently, was slapped with hefty penalties of \$13.5 billion as compensation to people who lost homes and businesses and another \$2 billion fine by the California Public Utilities Commission for negligence.

Perhaps the loss of lives and livelihood could have been averted if PG&E had invested in some AI-powered early detection system like Innowatts. By employing digital and AI models, our power grids will become increasingly smarter and more reliable and make the shift to renewable energy smoother.

Blockchain

Despite its enormous potential to transform the global energy sector, blockchain technology has largely remained confined to the financial sector with the energy industry consistently catalyzed by innovations in sub-sectors such as rooftop solar, offshore wind, smart metering, battery storage, and electric vehicles.

But this is now beginning to change thanks to the Enterprise Ethereum blockchain emerging as the newest technology to spur growth in the energy sector across a raft of verticals from peer-to-peer (P2P) energy trading and smart contracts to green energy provenance and systems interoperability.

Indeed, a Global Blockchain in Energy Market research document says blockchain technology in the energy industry is about to record explosive growth over the next five years with blockchain energy startups such as Power Ledger, WePower, UAB, and LO3 Energy set to open up new possibilities for the energy industry, ranging from cost-savings for the consumer by eliminating third parties in energy deals and faster transaction settlements, all the way to the emergence of a new market for peer-to-peer and excess renewable energy trading.

Special loans facility at BoT spurs private sector

By Guardian Reporter

PRIVATE sector credit growth nearly doubled to 22.5 percent in the year ending February 2023, compared with 11.9 percent recorded in the corresponding period in 2022, thanks to Bank of Tanzania (BoT) loan facility and economic recovery.

According to the BoT monthly economic review for March, 2023, the outturn was attributable to supportive monetary policies, ongoing recovery of private sector from the COVID-19 pandemic effects and improved business environment.

BoT has continued to sustain implementation of a moderate liquidity reducing monetary policy stance, which aims at striking a balance between controlling inflation and supporting the ongoing recovery of economic activities.

Credit to agricultural activities continued to register the highest growth, attributable to the introduction of a special loan facility by the Bank of Tanzania to banks for on-lending to private sector, particularly agricultural activities.

The review shows credit to agriculture sector recorded the growth of 41.8 percent during the year ending February 2023, compared with 2.2 percent recorded during the year ended in February 2022.

However, the February 2023 growth rate was lower than 47.4 percent recorded during the year ended in January 2023 and 46.1 percent recorded during the year ended in December 2022.

Despite strong growth, contribution

of credits to agriculture to the growth of credit to the private sector decreased top 13 percent during the year ending February this year, compared with 14 percent during the year ended in January 2023.

The review shows the share of credit to agriculture amounted 8.7 percent in February this year, similar to January this year, but lower than 8.9 percent recorded during the year ended in October last year.

Loans granted to personal (micro, small and medium enterprises) remained the main driver of the growth of credit to the private sector, followed by trade, agriculture and manufacturing activities.

Data by BoT and banks computations show personal loans growth slightly increased to 22.7 percent in the year ending February, compared with 22.4 percent recorded during the year ended in January, but lower than 24.3 percent in the year ended in February 2022.

However, personal loans continue to dominate with the highest share of total credits with 38.8 percent.

The second highest credit growth was recorded by trade, which accounts for 16 percent of total credits, after growing at 23.1 percent in February this year, higher than 18.3 percent recorded in the year ended in January 2022.

Credits to manufacturing recorded the growth of 20.5 percent in the year ending February 2023, compared with 17.4 percent during the year ended in February 2022, but lower than the growth of 28.6 percent recorded in the year ended in January 2023.

The review shows the credit to hotel and restaurants shrank by 2.3 percent during the reported period, an improvement from compared with the



BoT headquarters in Dar es Salaam

shrink of 6.9 percent in February 2022.

Meanwhile, Interest rates charged by banks on loans were marginally lower in February 2023 relative to the preceding month and corresponding month in 2022.

The overall lending rates averaged 15.96 percent compared with 16.29 percent in January 2023 and February 2022.

Similarly, negotiated lending rates eased to 13.75

percent from 14.19 percent in preceding month, and 13.99 percent in February 2022.

In general deposit rates offered recorded a slight increase compared with the similar month in 2022, but were lower than rates recorded in January 2023.

Specifically, overall time deposit rate

averaged 7.18 percent in February 2023, compared with 7.02 percent and 7.38 percent in February 2022 and January 2023, respectively.

According to BoT data negotiated deposit rates averaged 9.37 percent, slightly above 9.30 percent in the preceding month, but lower than 9.74 percent in February 2022.

Digital Marketing; The influence of behavioural economics

By Alley Mtatya

FIRST of all, let us dive into the meaning of Behavioural Economics in its context. The easiest way to think about it is in contrast with standard economics. In standard economics we always believe that people think or make decisions in a rational way.

People always take all the information into account and do the comparison; they think long-term and they're not hindered by emotion. They can very quickly make the right trade-offs. In behavioral economics we say, hey not so fast! Why do we make these very strong assumptions?

Instead of making these assumptions we put people to the test, and we think what if people cannot make all the assumptions. What if all the options make it difficult. What if people solve their needs very quickly but not in an optimal way. What if people are emotional or vindictive.

The reality is that we find out that a lot of these irrational influences that get people to act in the wrong way from an irrational perspective. From a marketing perspective we care less if someone is irrational or not, but we ask the question, can we predict their behavior? Say, I take a mobile phone, and on this phone, I add a new feature to it. Are people going to like it more or less or it wouldn't matter to them



at all. The serial objective here is that we are trying to create a model of a human being by understanding is this offer good for that human being, are these changes good for him and would they want it more or less. From a practical perspective the rational or irrational thinking is less important but what is the model of thinking of the human being. Well, if you think about the default bias that people are likely to keep on doing what they previously used to do before. If you understand that bias when you try to predict how people will behave, then that is a good thing. If you do not understand the nuances, then you will have the wrong prediction. These models go deeper into econometrics modelling but I will not go into that.

The representation of how people would react is in our minds, as a model that reacts to different changes. Economics in digital marketing is becoming the social science of choice. Economics has been very successful in the policy

sector but in the digital sphere it has its huge influence as a behavioral science topic. Traditionally, one can go to the supermarket and hold two products to decide from visa vie the same person holds their mobile phone and is presented with a variety of products or services that have been presented to them via the help of modelling through artificial intelligence. The science of advancement to predict your irrational or rational thinking with assistance from data compiled about your habits or behaviors is the new realm. Which is under the influence of technological behavioral economics.

This model must constantly change within organizations. The model of changing behavior is based on the economic behavior of paying people what is selfishly good for them in the long-term. We would come up with a very different intervention. If we actually understood how people really work and what drives them.

As the world is changing different forces come to the foreground. For example, think about "Divided Attention", switching attention between things. How important was it 20 years back, I'd say not that important. How important is it now? When you are working on computer screen, a mobile phone and texting while driving. Very important! Our temptation with food like cakes, burgers, roast meat etc. that tempt us to act crazy and get us to act in a long-term way that is not in our best interest. The world of social science is not static it is dynamic. It is changing with different forces in our environment.

Social science is forcing us to adopt quickly. Take for example, Apple pay, Google pay, automatic deductions from bank accounts. The world with debit cards is different from the world with credit cards and people act in different ways.

When we talk about modelling behavior there is a need to talk about the influence of cloud data gathering and put in the cloud for say someone to analyze. Today there is so much data available than it was in the past, enough to use it to do predictive modelling or understand behavioral dynamics. I wouldn't go deep into this as well but lately there has been a big demand for data analysts and understanding modelling programs like python etc. One would also need to ask is data the one driving behavior.

The digital revolution of bringing data to daily activity is incredibly helpful in understanding what people are doing. Data science via Social science. New technology taps into the human need and once their tapped into they can be elevated to that which is culture specific. In the same way that a human has a basic need for food, so the option available is that one can eat Nigerian, Morocco, Italian or Chinese food etc. Those are different ways to satisfy one's basic need, but culturally different. There is food and there is the way we do it and there is the culture aspect.

When it comes to the Social Science part of behavioral Economics. One has to ask, what drives a consumer to choose a specific product or service digitally? Furthermore, when there are many competing choices available on digital devices. How do they choose? It's important for marketers to ask as well as understand this, but it can often be difficult to know where to begin. Fortunately, the science of behavioral economics can provide a helpful roadmap to set us on our journey.

Alley Mtatya is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzanian meat lands market in Middle East

By Joseph Mwendapole, Morogoro

NGURU Hills Ranch meat factory located in Morogoro, which has an international abattoir, has started exporting meat abroad and has found a large markets in Middle East.

The factory is jointly owned by the Public Service Social Security (PSSSF) which own 39 percent of shares, Eclipse of Oman with 46 percent share and Busara 15 percent.

This was said over the weekend by the ranch general manager, Erick Cormack, when members of the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) visited the factory on the sideline of editors' annual retreat.

He said the ranch located in Mvomero District, Morogoro region has the capacity to accommodate 10,000 cows and 15,000 goats at the same time.

He said that their slaughterhouse is capable of slaughtering 100 cows and 1,000 goats per day adding that 80 percent of the meat produced in the slaughterhouse is exported and only 20 percent is sold in the local market.

He said the biggest market for their meat is Qatar, Oman Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

"Our meat meets international standards because we have started selling in those markets in large quantities since last year, it has been well received and can compete with meat from different countries in the world," he said.

He said they have registered people who have been going around the country to buy cows to be fattened at the ranch before being slaughtered.

He said that once the cow is brought to the ranch, it spends three months being fattened with various nutrients and after that, if it meets the criteria then it is slaughtered.

Other projects that PSSSF is doing in partnership are Mponde Tea Tanga Tea Factory, Karanga International Leather Industries Limited located in Moshi Kilimanjaro and Mamba Miamba Ginger located in Same in Kilimanjaro region.

Shanta Gold announces its first pour at Singida mine

By Guardian Correspondent



SHANTA Gold has announced the first gold pour, of 35 oz, at the Singida gold mine in central Tanzania on March 30, on schedule and within budget, mining weekly has reported.

There are about 500 oz of gold currently in the carbon-in-leach and gravity circuit.

"This is a significant milestone and inflection point for Shanta, one that marks our next phase of growth as a 100 000 oz/y gold producer. With first production at Singida completed, the mine will add 45 percent to 50 percent to the group's annual production profile. We are now positioned to capitalise on our full growth potential, armed with a diversified resource base, a de-risked balance sheet and financial flexibility," acclaims CEO Eric Zurrin (pictured).

He says that this is also an important milestone for the Ikungi region of central Tanzania.

"We have invested in the project to ensure it delivers sustained and long-term benefits to the local community and the wider Tanzanian economy.

"Through increased local employment and subsequent economic activity, as well as our investment in initiatives focused on improving health, water and education services, Singida has already started to transform the social and economic potential of the region," Zurrin highlights.

The Singida mine will employ about 270 Tanzanian nationals as permanent staff.

"Importantly, the project was delivered on time and on budget, a testament to our dedicated project management team. Despite globally inflationary cost pressures, no material capital cost inflation was incurred in the construction costs.

"This was a direct result of the excellent supervision, advanced planning, and overall flexibility from the Singida team in Tanzania," Zurrin notes.

Looking ahead, he says Singida is transitioning from a cost centre to a cash generator.

"As our focus turns to mine life extension, we are confident that we will unlock further long-term value for our shareholders," he notes.

The Singida 2023 guidance and five-year mine plan is expected to be communicated in the second quarter.

Wind overpowers water in Kenya monthly energy mix

NAIROBI

WIND power for the first time overtook hydro in Kenya's monthly generation mix in January, highlighting the severity of the effect of drought on the Seven Forks dams and the growing importance of wind in stabilising the national grid.

The latest data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shows that wind generated 203.31 million kilowatt hours (kWh) in January, compared to the 180.22 million kWh from hydro in the same period.

Kenya has been in the grip of a searing drought in the past 12 months that pushed water levels at major dams to record lows towards the end of last year.

This dip in hydropower generation has brought to the fore the need for the country to develop additional capacity in clean energy plants in the wind and geothermal to plug the deficit and ease reliance on dirty diesel-powered generators.

"The decrease in hydro energy generation between September and December is attributed to the poor hydro regime. Masinga and Turkwel hydropower plants, which have the largest reservoirs, recorded their lowest dam levels in three years," the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority says in the latest industry report.

The last time the monthly generation of hydro-power was lower than the January 2022 levels was in June 2017 when it stood at 180.22 million MW, a year when Kenya also endured prolonged drought.

The highest monthly generation of wind electricity in Kenya was in October last year, at 237.49 million MW.

Kenya has in recent years ramped up investments in wind power generation with the private sector spearheading the push.

The country has an installed wind capacity of 436.1 Megawatts (MW) with the Lake Turkana Wind Plant being the biggest with a capacity of 310 MW, followed by Kipeto Wind Farm in Kajiado at 100 MW.

The Ngong Wind farm is the third biggest with a capacity of 25.5 MW. State-owned electricity distributor Kenya Power operates 0.6 MW of off-grid wind generation.

CURRENT NEWS

Recovering KCBL scoops 'most aggressive bank' award

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Institute of Bankers (TIOB) held its first ever bankers' gala, an event that recognises the achievements in the banking industry whereby Kilimanjaro Cooperative Bank Limited was announced as the most aggressive bank.

The event brought together the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) officials, bankers, trainers and other sectors professional partners.

TIOB Executive Director, Patrick Mususa said the ceremony showcased the growth and the achievement of Tanzanian banks across the years.

"Our theme was celebrating 30 years of professional excellence. What better way to do this than unveiling the bankers' awards that recognise what banking sector has achieved so far. We will also have the prestigious 'Tanzania's Best Bankers' Awards for the first time," said Mususa.

The Kilimanjaro Cooperative Bank Limited (KCBL) was the inaugural winner of the Tanzania's Best Bankers. The cooperative bank is largely credited for being one of the first banks to adopt the warehousing receipt system in the country.

"Across the years, we have had ups and downs in the sector, but we have weathered the times. KCBL's story in the last few years is a remarkable example of the resilience and professional approach in problem solving in banking," Mususa said about KCBL's award.

KCBL has faced liquidity issues and in 2020, CRDB bank injected a total of 7bn/- . The cooperative bank has since transformed from a loss-making entity to a profitable bank.

In 2021, KCBL made a pre-tax profit of 318mn/- and extended loans amounting to 4.7bn/- while deposits rose to 5.5 bn/-.

"This success story is an indication that our banks can succeed. In fact, Tanzanian banks are in a very good state and are responding well to the shocks from the global financial markets," Mususa said.

The second prize winner overall was ABSA bank followed by Azania bank and the fourth place went to Equity bank.

Other categories of awards were the most conscientious bank award went to NMB bank and Azania bank, while KCBL bank also scooped the final round award for the Most Aggressive Bank.

The most cautious bank award was won by Stanbic bank (round one) while



Gasper Njuu (L) receives a token of appreciation from TIOB executive director Patrick Mususa (R) for his role on the Judges Panel in the Tanzanian Bankers' Challenge. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Equity bank won the same award in the final round. ABSA bank Tanzania swept the best bank presentation and came in the round one of the most aggressive bank that was won by KCBL.

"Competition among banks is healthy. We need a vibrant financial services sector that will offer a wide range of products that will match what the economy and consumers need," Mususa noted when explaining the importance of the awards.

Founded in 1993, TIOB's mission is training Tanzanian bankers to world-class standards adhering to professional excellence grounded on ethics, integrity and quality in all of its undertakings.

The event also marked the end of the Tanzanian Bankers' Challenge, a 2-month bank risk management competition that simulates banking industry conditions and the market environment.

A typical bank simulation offers participants' practical learning on major risks that are faced by a bank and provides the learners an opportunity to identify and analyse these risks.

The TIOB director described banking as the business of taking on and managing risks, "and the levels of risks increasing in market."

"The intellectually gruelling exercise teaches these participating

professionals team collaboration skills and working effectively under pressure," Mususa said.

The competition organised by TIOB in collaboration with ICAP Training Solutions tests bankers' ability to make the right decisions that will give results needed to become the best bank in the virtual competition.

Mususa noted that the competition is part of TIOB's strategy of offering training that reflects the very dynamic conditions of the global financial markets.

"We are in a global world. Banks in Tanzania are no exception to the shocks in the global financial markets. ICAP Training Solution's simulation offers world class exposure to this environment to our local talent," he added.

The TIOB boss remained upbeat about the future of the awards noting that the second edition of the event will bring in more bankers, members from academia, policymakers, government and non-bank sectors of the financial services industry.

"We are proud of what we have achieved in 2023. Our target and ambition for the second gala and awards are higher," he said, adding "we are heading in the right direction. This will be the premier bankers' gathering in the country and the region."

Oil buyers reel from OPEC+ cuts while prospecting for alternatives

RIYADH

OIL refiners in Asia – like the wider crude market – have found themselves caught out by the surprise Saudi-led move to spearhead an OPEC+ production cut, and are now preparing to diversify purchases in the spot market if needed.

The shock decision from Riyadh and some of its partners came just before the release of Saudi Arabian Oil Co.'s official selling prices, or OSPs, for May crude sales. Term buyers of Saudi crude expressed some concern about their ability to get the volume and type of oil they want from Aramco next month after the announcement of a 500,000 barrel-a-day curb by the Kingdom.

Given the turmoil in the market, some Chinese refiners are starting to mull spot purchases from suppliers including Latin America, the US and West Africa to make up for a shortfall should OSPs from Saudi Aramco and other producers become too expensive, according to people familiar with trading strategies.

Oil futures surged as the week opened following the supply cut. The plan was announced in piecemeal fashion at the weekend, with Saudi Arabia unveiling a plan for lower production that was followed by smaller moves by other nations. Riyadh, along with Moscow, are the de facto leaders of OPEC+, as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies are known.

Persian Gulf nations such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq sell the bulk of their oil to Asia, with China, India, Japan and South Korea as the biggest buyers. Aramco typically releases OSPs in the first five days of the month, and they are used as a benchmark by others. In a Bloomberg survey last week, six refiners and traders predicted a cut for Aramco's OSP for its flagship Arab Light grade.

The surprise move boosted Brent futures by more than 8% as the week's trading began. It comes at a complicated juncture in the market, with concerns about weaker consumption in the US and Europe gath-



An oil and gas drilling platform stands offshore near Dauphin Island, Alabama

ering pace should a recession coincide with a wave of demand-sapping refinery strikes in France and, on the upside, expectations that consumption in China will pick up.

Ahead of the shock, China's state-owned PetroChina Co. has already been tapping supplies from Canada, Colombia and Ecuador, buying at least 8 million barrels that will load this month as a new mega-refinery starts production officially in Guangdong, Bloomberg News reported last week.

In India, another major consumer of Middle Eastern

crude, Mukesh Surana, chief executive officer of Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., which is building a refinery, said that OPEC+ may have decided on a supply reduction as it foresaw a weaker market.

"The market is well-supplied, so there is no concern on availability," said Surana, who's also ex-chairman of Hindustan Petroleum Corp. "OPEC+ must be expecting a fall in prices or dip in demand, so this is probably a preemptive move to provide floor to prices. But I don't see prices rising above \$90."

Global gas flaring falls to lowest level since 2010



WASHINGTON

PROGRESS in reducing gas flaring resumed in 2022, with gas flared worldwide falling by 5 billion cubic meters (bcm) to 139 bcm, its lowest level since 2010, according to new satellite data compiled by the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (GGFR).

"After a decade of stalled progress, global gas flaring volumes fell in 2022 by around three percent, which is a welcome drop, especially during a time of concern about energy security for many countries. We continue to encourage all oil producers to seize opportunities to end this polluting and wasteful practice," said Guangzhe Chen, World Bank Vice President for Infrastructure.

Three countries, Nigeria, Mexico, and the United States, accounted for most of the decline in global gas flaring in 2022. Two other countries—Kazakhstan and Colombia—stand out for consistently reducing flaring volumes in the last seven years.

In addition to the overall reduction in flare volume, global flaring intensity—the amount of flaring per barrel of oil produced—also fell to its lowest level since satellite data began, due to the 5 percent increase in oil production in 2022. This indicates a gradual and sustained decoupling of oil production from flaring.

Despite this progress, the top nine flaring countries continue to be responsible for the vast

majority of flaring, with Russia, Iraq, Iran, Algeria, Venezuela, the United States, Mexico, Libya, and Nigeria accounting for nearly three-quarters of flare volumes and under half of global oil production.

The satellite data shows that decreased Russian gas exports to the European Union did not increase gas flaring in Russia.

Throughout 2022, the European Union significantly increased its liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from the United States, Angola, Norway, Qatar, and Egypt, and via pipeline from Azerbaijan and Norway.

Of these countries, only the United States, Angola, and Egypt have made substantial progress in converting associated gas that would otherwise be flared into LNG exports.

GGFR estimates that in 2022 gas flaring released 357 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents, 315 million tonnes in the form of carbon dioxide and 42 million tonnes in the form of methane.

The report also considers the 'state of the science' and the uncertainty surrounding how much methane is released from flaring. It finds that methane emissions due to flaring could be significantly higher than previously estimated.

For example, if the average flare is just five percentage points less efficient at combusting methane, then globally, the amount of methane released would be three times higher than currently estimated.

"We're concerned by the amount of methane emitted through flaring, particularly from flares that are not working properly. Methane is a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide in the short term. So we need to understand this more and are ramping up our efforts to help developing countries tackle methane emissions," said Zubin Bamji, the World Bank's GGFR Program Manager.

Gas flaring is the burning of natural gas associated with oil extraction.

This wasted gas could displace dirtier energy sources, increase energy access in some of the world's poorest countries, and provide many countries worldwide with much-needed energy security. The World Bank's GGFR is a trust fund and partnership of governments, oil companies, and multilateral organizations working to end routine gas flaring at oil production sites around the world.

GGFR helps identify solutions to the array of technical, economic and regulatory barriers to flaring reduction.

GGFR, in partnership with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Payne Institute at the Colorado School of Mines, has developed global gas flaring estimates based upon observations from two satellites, launched in 2012 and 2017.

The advanced sensors of these satellites detect the heat emitted by gas flares as infrared emissions at global upstream oil and gas facilities.

KCB Bank beats Safaricom in net assets

NAIROBI

KCB has edged ahead of Safaricom in the value of net assets after the consolidation of its Congo DRC acquisition and strong loan growth in other regional subsidiaries.

The lender's net assets—total assets less total liabilities—rose to Sh206.28 billion by the end of December from Sh173.5 billion a year earlier, its full-year financials for 2022 show.

Safaricom, which is the biggest listed company in Kenya by market capitalisation, had net assets worth Sh186.79 billion on its books as of the six months ending September 2022, when it released its most recent financial results. It had net assets



Kenya Commercial Bank branch along Mama Ngina Street in Nairobi. Photo by NMG

worth Sh178.8 billion a year earlier.

Safaricom, however, trades at a much larger premium on the Nairobi Securities Exchange where it is valued at Sh725 billion or 6.3 times KCB's Sh113 billion as of Friday.

KCB entered the DRC market last year with the acquisition of an 85 percent stake in Trust Merchant Bank (TMB), in a deal that was closed in December.

The acquisition was priced at 149 times the book value or net assets of the DRC lender, which as of the end of 2021 stood at Sh14.15 billion. This valued the takeover at Sh17.9 billion at this multiple.

The DRC entry came just months following KCB's acquisition of Rwandese lender Banque Populaire du Rwanda (BPR) from London-listed financial services firm Atlas Mara Limited in August 2021.

The Rwandese acquisition was merged with KCB's existing subsidiary in the country and renamed BPR Bank.

Both the telco and the bank have recently made moves into new markets, opening up avenues for new assets on their books, as has Equity Group which reported net assets worth Sh182.2 billion at the end of last year.

Equity's foray into the DRC, where it owns the Equity BCD subsidiary, has given it its most profitable unit outside of Kenya.

The DRC also houses the operations with the most assets for both KCB and Equity outside Kenya, underlining the growing importance of the market for Kenyan businesses and lenders.

Disclosures by KCB show TMB held 13.5 percent of KCB's total assets of Sh1.55 trillion as of December. Equity BCD accounted for 30 percent of Equity Group's total assets worth Sh1.447 trillion in the period.

Safaricom however leads both lenders in profitability, even though they have closed the gap in the last two years.

The telco's profit of Sh675 billion in the year ended March 2022, is now 1.46 times that of Equity (Sh46.1 billion for the year ended December 2022) compared to 3.66 times more in 2020, when the telco's profits peaked.

Chinese lithium producers lower price over demands

BEIJING

CHINA'S top lithium producers agreed this week to set a floor price of 250 000 yuan (\$36 380) per tonne of lithium carbonate, six people familiar with the matter said, in an effort to slow a plunge in the price of the battery raw material.

The price was agreed on Tuesday by around 10 companies including Tianqi Lithium 002466.SZ and Ganfeng Lithium that met on the sidelines of a conference in Nanchang in southern China, said one person who attended the meeting and five others briefed on the discussions.

The people declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the topic, which was discussed in a closed-door meeting.

Ganfeng said in a response to Reuters that no discussions on a floor price had taken place.

"Ganfeng always insists that product prices should be determined by the market, and will never take the initiative to control prices to influence the market," a company representative said in an email.

It added that no company in the industry has such capabilities. Tianqi declined to comment.

Zhucun Lithium, one of the top lithium carbonate producers in China, was also represented at the meeting, said four of the people, but could not be reached for comment.

The move comes as lithium prices plunge on a significant slowdown in demand for electric vehicles (EV) in China, the world's largest EV market.

Spot prices have slumped by more than 60% since their peak in late November, with the decline picking up pace in recent weeks on a growing price war in China's auto market.

It is not clear how long the companies, which account for over half China's lithium carbonate output, will follow the floor price.

Spot prices dropped to 220 000 yuan a tonne on Friday, according to a weekly price assessment by Fastmarkets, down from 260 000 yuan a week earlier.

Offers as low as 150 000 yuan were also heard in the market this week as traders sought to offload mounting stocks, said a buyer for a battery manufacturer who did not attend the meeting of lithium producers.

"Setting a floor price should strengthen the market sentiment and hold the prices from falling further," said the person who attended the meeting.

However, some buyers were sceptical that producers would stick to the floor price, given the sluggish demand.

"If we don't buy, someone will eventually drop the price," said a lithium carbonate buyer briefed on the decision.

Participants at the meeting also discussed the planned launch later this year of lithium carbonate futures on the Guangzhou Futures Exchange, according to two of the people, another move that could help stabilise prices.



VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Trump to fly to NY for court surrender amid tight security

NEW YORK / PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

FORMER US president Donald Trump was set to fly from Florida to New York City later yesterday, ahead of his scheduled arraignment related to hush money paid to a porn star before the 2016 election, as security tightens in Manhattan.

Trump, the first former US president to face criminal charges, is due to be arraigned, fingerprinted and photographed at the downtown Manhattan courthouse today. His lawyers have said he will enter a plea of not guilty.

The specific charges included in the grand jury indictment have not been disclosed; today's arraignment marks Trump's first appearance in court and in front of a judge in the case.

The Republican businessman-turned-politician planned to travel from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach mid-day yesterday, arriving later in the day in New York and spending the night at

Trump Tower in Manhattan before arriving at the courthouse today morning, an adviser said.

A court official said the arraignment is planned for 2:15 pm (1815 GMT) today. Trump then will return to Florida and deliver remarks at Mar-a-Lago at 8:15 pm today (0015 GMT tomorrow), his office said.

New York police during the weekend began erecting barricades along the edge of the sidewalks around Trump Tower and the Manhattan Criminal Court building downtown, and some other courtrooms will be cleared.

Demonstrations are expected at those sites and police vowed to be prepared. "Officers have been placed on alert and the department remains ready to respond as needed and will ensure everyone is able to peacefully exercise their rights," the New York Police Department said in a statement.

Other courtrooms on the courthouse's



Former US president Donald Trump

higher floors will be shut down ahead of the arraignment as part of the security precautions, a court official said.

US Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene tweeted an invitation on Sunday to join her at a protest near the courthouse today, saying "They're not coming after President Trump, they're coming after us, he's just in their way."

Trump lawyers hope to dismiss

Before the indictment, the grand jury heard evidence about a \$130,000 payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels in the waning days of the 2016 presidential campaign. Daniels has said she was paid to keep silent about a sexual encounter she had with Trump

at a Lake Tahoe hotel in 2006. Trump denies the affair.

Trump, 76, served as president from 2017 to 2021 and in November launched a bid to regain the presidency in 2024, aiming to deny Democratic President Joe Biden a second term in office.

Word of the indictment, arising from an investigation led by Manhattan's Democratic district attorney, Alvin Bragg, surfaced last Thursday. Trump has called himself innocent and he and his allies have portrayed the charges as politically motivated.

Joe Tacopina, a Trump lawyer, said on Sunday he expects more details surrounding the arraignment to be resolved yesterday and noted that the Secret Service, which protects

former presidents, also has a role to play on Tuesday. Tacopina said it was unlikely there will be a "perp walk" - perp being shorthand for perpetrator - in which an individual who has been charged is paraded in front of the news media, because of security concerns.

Tacopina added that Trump's lawyers will "dissect" the indictment once it is made public and will look at "every potential issue" to challenge, adding that he anticipates at some point making a motion to dismiss the charges.

"I honestly don't know how this is going to go - hopefully as smoothly as possible - and then we begin the battle to right this wrong," Tacopina told CNN's "State of the Union" program, speaking about the arraignment.

Trump is expected to appear before Justice Juan Merchan, the judge who also presided over a criminal trial last year in which Trump's real estate company was convicted of tax fraud. Trump himself was not charged in that case.

A court official said on Sunday that the judge has asked both sides to submit their positions on whether cameras and video should be allowed in the courtroom and was to decide on the issue later yesterday.

Beijing, Moscow confident in future development of China-Russia relations, says diplomat

BEIJING

BEIJING and Moscow are full of confidence in the future development of China-Russia relations, an official spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said at a briefing yesterday in response to a TASS request to comment on Russia's new Foreign Policy Concept.

"Last month, Chinese President Xi Jinping made a successful state visit to Russia. During this visit, the two heads of state outlined an ambitious plan for the development of China-Russia relations at the next stage and indicated directions for further development," Mao Ning said. "At present, both sides are fully implementing a number of important consensus reached by the two heads of state, and we are full of confidence in the future development of China-Russia relations."

Mao Ning (pictured) stressed that relations between Beijing and Moscow were based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation.

According to her, the interaction between China and Russia is not aimed at any third party and is not subject to outside influence.

On March 31, Russian President Vladimir Putin approved a new Russian Foreign Policy Concept, which emphasizes the priority of developing relations with China and India.

In particular, the document states that Russia aims at further strengthening the comprehensive partnership and the strategic cooperation with the People's Republic of China and focuses on the development of a mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas, provision of mutual assistance, and enhancement of coordination in the international arena to ensure security, stability and sustainable development at the global and regional levels, both in Eurasia and in other parts of the world.

Agencies



Kosovo's former president pleads not guilty to war crimes charges

THE HAGUE

FORMER Kosovo president Hashim Thaci yesterday pleaded not guilty to all charges as his war crimes trial opened at a special court in The Hague.

He faces 10 charges stemming from the 1998-99 insurgency that eventually led to the region's independence from Serbia.

"I understand the indictment and I am fully not guilty," he told judges shortly after hearings began.

The charges comprise persecution, murder, torture and forced disappearance of people, including after fighting ended.

Thaci and three co-defendants, all former close associates in the guerrilla Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and later in peacetime politics, have pleaded not guilty to all 10 counts.

More than 13,000 people, the majority of them members of Kosovo's 90 percent ethnic Albanian majority, are believed to have died during the insurgency, when it was still a province of

Serbia under then-strongman president Slobodan Milosevic.

Thaci, 54, resigned as president shortly after his indictment and was transferred to detention in The Hague.

The four defendants are charged with participating in a "joint criminal enterprise ... that carried out widespread or systematic attacks" on minority Serb civilians in Kosovo as well as Kosovo Albanian opponents of the KLA.

The trial is likely to be lengthy as prosecutors said in procedural conferences that they would need two years to present all its evidence.

Several thousand KLA veterans gathered on Sunday in Pristina to express support for Thaci and his three close associates. They chanted 'Freedom' and carried national flags of Kosovo and Albania, as well as flags with the KLA symbol.

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers, seated in the Netherlands and staffed by international judges and lawyers, was set up in



Former Kosovo president Hashim Thaci attends his war crimes trial in The Hague, Netherlands yesterday. (PHOTO / REUTERS)

2015 to handle cases under Kosovo law against ex-KLA guerrillas. Many Kosovars believe that the

tribunal is biased against the KLA and interested in denigrating its record in paving the way to lib-

eration of the ethnic-Albanian majority region from brutal Serbian rule.

"This trial is of four people accused of committing terrible crimes during (as well as) after the war, when the fighting had stopped, including against people from various ethnic groups," Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement on Friday.

"It offers a chance after so many years for the victims to learn what happened and highlights the pervasive impunity that still hangs over the Kosovo conflict."

The court was created separately from the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which was also located in The Hague where it tried and convicted mainly Serbian officials for war crimes in the Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo conflicts.

Milosevic went on trial before the ICTY but he died in 2006 before a verdict was reached.

Agencies

Egypt's Sisi visits S. Arabia amid regional realignment

RIYADH

EGYPTIAN President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi visited Saudi Arabia on Sunday, Saudi state news agency SPA said, as Cairo seeks financial inflows to ease pressure on its currency and bolster a faltering economy.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has long provided financial support to Egypt while the trip also comes amid a major diplomatic realignment in the region, with moves by Saudi Arabia and Egypt to ease tensions with Syria, Iran and Türkiye.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, met with Sisi at the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah, where they discussed bilateral ties and regional developments, SPA said.

Other Saudi and Egyptian officials, including Saudi national security adviser Musaad bin Mohammed al-Aiban and Egypt's intelligence chief Abbas Kamel, attended the meeting, it added. Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies have repeatedly come to Egypt's help since Sisi led the ouster of Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood a decade ago.

When Egypt's financial difficulties were exposed and exacerbated by the fallout from the conflict in Ukraine last year, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar made deposits in Egypt's central bank and pledged major new investments.

But those investments have been slow to materialize, putting new pressure on the Egyptian pound in recent weeks despite the currency's losing nearly half its value against the dollar since March 2022.

Egypt signed a \$3 billion rescue plan with the International Monetary Fund in December that targeted \$9.7 billion in foreign direct investment in the financial year ending in June 2023.

Hutchinson announces 2024 White House bid

WASHINGTON

FORMER Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson announced his bid for the 2024 White House on Sunday.

Hutchinson, who served as Arkansas governor from January 2015 to January 2023, made the announcement during an interview with ABC News.

"I have made a decision, and my decision is I'm going to run for president of the United States," said Hutchinson, a 72-year-old Republican, adding that a formal announcement will be made later this month.

Hutchinson joins the 2024 Republican field, which includes former U.S. President Donald Trump, former South Carolina Governor and United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

Sitting U.S. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, hasn't announced his reelection bid yet. The 2024 U.S. presidential election is scheduled for Nov. 5, 2024. *Xinhua*

Rwanda's ruling party marks 35th anniversary with call for accountability

KIGALI

RWANDA'S ruling party Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF-Inkotanyi) on Sunday marked its 35th anniversary with its chairperson, President Paul Kagame, emphasizing the importance of accountability and sacrifice to move the party forward and sustain the achievements made over the last few decades.

"From the beginning, we chose three guiding principles: to think big, to work together, and to hold ourselves accountable to each other and to others beyond Rwanda's borders," said Kagame while speaking at the party's 16th national congress at its headquarters, Intare Conference Arena, in Rusororo, on the outskirts of the Rwandan capital



Kigali.

He said the country and party possess the same level of ambition, expectation, sense of responsibility, and burden as any other country, regardless of its size.

"Today, we are celebrating 35 years of the RPF's existence. Some may see this as just a few years, but for others like myself, we view it as many years.

The birth of the RPF and the challenges it had to overcome make it seem like 100 years or more have passed," Kagame said. He paid a glowing tribute to all the people who sacrificed for the party's existence and for what the party has achieved so far.

He also emphasized the importance of maintaining a sacrificial mindset within the RPF, as the party has ambitious goals and must address numerous challenges that are beyond its means.

The event, held under the theme "Reflecting on 35 Years and Beyond", will see the

party cadres elect a new National Executive Committee composed of the party chairman, vice chairman, secretary general, and commissioners to lead the party in the next five years.

The RPF national congress attracted more than 2,000 party members and allies. Other invited guests are representatives of political organizations operating in Rwanda. Only RPF cadres will participate in the elections.

On Saturday, the party held its international conference, which brought together party cadres, representatives of other political organizations in Rwanda, international delegates representing political parties from other countries, diplomats, and researchers, among others. *Xinhua*

UN envoy calls for dialogue to achieve peace in Yemen

ADEN

UNITED Nations (UN) Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg on Sunday called for dialogue and compromises between the Yemeni government and the Houthis to achieve long-lasting peace.

In a statement marking the first anniversary of the signing of a ceasefire agreement between Yemen's warring parties, Grundberg said the UN-mediated ceasefire that started in April 2022 was generally observed even after its expiration in October 2022.

Hailing the truce as "a moment of

hope", Grundberg said its "most significant promise is its potential to jumpstart an inclusive political process aimed at comprehensively and sustainably ending the conflict."

"There are still significant risks," he cautioned, adding a surge in military, economic, and rhetorical escalation in recent weeks has highlighted the frailty of the ceasefire's achievements when they are not backed by political advancements towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

He also underscored the necessity "to protect the gains of the truce and to build on them towards more



People gather at a market in Sanaa, Yemen, on March 18, 2023, ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. (PHOTO / AFP)

humanitarian relief, a nationwide ceasefire, and a sustainable political settlement that meets the aspirations of Yemeni women and men."

"At this critical time, any new temporary or partial arrangement needs to include a clear commitment from the parties that ensures it is a step on the course of a peaceful solution that is reached through the consensus of Yemenis in an inclusive political process," said the envoy.

A UN-brokered humanitarian truce that went into effect in April last year provided a glimmer of hope for a peaceful resolution to Yemen's con-

flict by substantially reducing violence across the country.

However, sporadic armed confrontations have resumed in many parts of the country after the expiration of the truce in October last year.

The recent Houthi attacks against government troops in Marib and other regions have further shattered hopes for a lasting peace pact.

Yemen has been embroiled in a devastating civil war since 2014, with the Houthis fighting against the internationally-recognized government and its allies, which include a Saudi Arabia-led coalition. *Agencies*

Lavrov tells Blinken that it is up to court to decide about Gershkovich's future

MOSCOW



RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that it is up to court to decide about the future of The Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich who was detained on espionage charges in Russia, the Russian foreign ministry said on Sunday after their telephone conversation.

"In light of the established evidence of the US national's illegal activities, his future will be determined by court. The American embassy in Moscow was duly notified about his detention," the ministry said.

"In the context of the discussion of the issue of the detention of US national Gershkovich in Russia on suspicion of espionage, which was raised by the Secretary of State, Blinken's attention was drawn to the necessity to respect the Russian authorities' decision made in conformity with law and Russia's international commitments," the ministry said.

"Lavrov stressed that Gershkovich had been detained red-handed when he was receiving secret data and was collecting data constituting a state secret acting under the guise of a journalist's status."

The Russian top diplomat also told his US counterparts that it is inadmissible to fan hysteria around the journalist's arrest. "It was stressed that it is inadmissible for Washington officials and Western mass media to stir up hysteria with an obvious aim of giving a political overtone to this case," the ministry said.

According to the ministry, Lavrov and Blinken also touched upon several other bilateral matters.

The call was initiated by the US side.

Lavrov and Blinken had a ten-minute meeting on the sidelines of the Group of Twenty meeting in New Delhi. According to the Russian minister, the meeting was quite constructive. The topics included the situation in the sphere of strategic stability in the context of the New START treaty and Ukraine.

The Public Relations Center of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said earlier that Evan Gershkovich, "acting at the behest of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of an enterprise within Russia's military-industrial complex."

The reporter was detained in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg. The FSB investigators opened a criminal case against the US citizen under Article 276 of the Russian Criminal Code ("Espionage"). On March 30, Moscow's Lefortovo district court sanctioned Gershkovich's arrest until May 29.

In light of this, The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) published a statement expressing deep concern for the safety of Gershkovich. According to the WSJ, Gershkovich covers Russia from his post at the newspaper's Moscow bureau.

AU mission calls for renewed efforts to enhance peace, stability in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) marked a year of service in Somalia on Saturday with a renewed commitment to strengthening cooperation and building partnerships to enhance peace and stability in the country.

Mohammed El-Amine Souef, special representative of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission for Somalia and head of ATMIS, said an overview of the situation in the ATMIS Areas of Responsibility in the past year shows a decrease in al-Shabab activities with the security situation remaining relatively calm across the country.

"However, we cannot afford to lower our guard since the Khawarij (al-Shabab) remain the greatest threat to Somalia's peace and stability," Souef told a media briefing in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Saturday evening.

The AU jointly with the Somali government reconfigured the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) into ATMIS. Following the reconfiguration, ATMIS became operational on April 1, 2022, effectively replacing AMISOM, and will work to prepare the Somali security forces to take over responsibility for security in the country by 2024.

Souef said the transition, which requires the transfer of security responsibility to Somali security forces, is already underway.

He said ATMIS has executed its mandate over the last year with the support of international partners whom he said deserve special recognition for the contribution and support that they continue offering the Mission.

"In this regard, I would like to reaffirm ATMIS's support to the federal government and the good people of Somalia that we stand in solidarity with the communities facing the hardships of droughts and floods, and those displaced by wars," Souef said.

He also paid tribute to the troop- and police-contributing countries whose men and women have paid the ultimate price in pursuit of peace in Somalia.

Out of cowardice, al-Shabab extremists have resorted to asymmetrical warfare targeting civilians and security forces, he said, but noting that the ongoing military offensive by ATMIS forces and the Somali National Army will prevail, and the terrorists will soon have nowhere to hide.

"We urge all peace-loving Somalis to continue working closely with the security forces to help the country achieve long-term peace and security," Souef said.

Violent US storms kill at least 32 people

THE death toll from a violent storm that whipped up tornadoes in the southern and midwestern regions of the United States rose to at least 32 over the weekend, according to officials and media reports.

In Memphis, Tennessee, two children and an adult were found dead on Saturday after the storm's heavy winds knocked trees onto several houses, according to the Memphis Police Department.

In Tennessee's McNairy County, officials reported that an additional two people had died, having reported seven deaths earlier on Saturday, according to local media. The Tennessee Department of Health on Sunday reported that there were an additional three weather-related deaths in three more counties, but did not provide more details.

In Owen County, Indiana, the bodies of a couple were found at a campground in McCormick's Creek State Park, according to the state's Department of Natural Resources.

Another 15 deaths from the storm, which generated tornadoes in several areas, were earlier reported in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Delaware, Mississippi and Alabama. Scores of people were injured and many buildings damaged or destroyed.

US President Joe Biden declared a "major disaster" in Arkansas on Sunday, ordering federal aid to help with the recovery.

The president said in a statement on Sunday afternoon that he and wife Jill Biden were praying for the people impacted by the weekend storms and ordered relevant federal officials "to help with immediate needs and long-term rebuilding."

"We know families across America are mourning the loss of loved ones, desperately waiting for news of others fighting for their lives, and sorting through the rubble of their homes and businesses," he said.

The National Storm Prediction Center warned of severe weather on Sunday in parts of north and northeast Texas around Dallas and Fort Worth, including very large hail, significant wind gusts and a "strong tornado or two." Dallas Fort Worth International Airport was under a ground-stop order for a couple of hours on Sunday afternoon, and flights were delayed as heavy rain, hail and strong winds hit the area.

Similarly severe weather, including thunderstorms, was forecast for later this week in much of the Midwest between Chicago and Little Rock, Arkansas, the center said. **Agencies**



Volunteers comb through an area that was heavily damaged by a tornado in Sullivan, Indiana, April 1, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

China's BeiDou navigation sees large-scale application, energizes industrial development

A programme for promoting the application of China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) in the transportation sector initiated by Chinese enterprises was recently launched. The program will bring innovative BDS applications, which are currently piloted in eight Chinese cities, to the rest of the country.

The innovative BDS applications of the program, including lane-level navigation and real-time traffic lights countdown, are high-precision BDS services. They will promote the commercialization of the BDS in the transportation and travel industries.

The BDS has entered a new phase of development that features higher precision, higher reliability and better services.

According to statistics, the total output value of China's satellite navigation and location-based service industry has reached 470 billion yuan (about \$68.3 billion).

As of January this year, over 1.5 billion intelligent devices around the world had been connected to BDS temporal and spatial services, and the high-precision services were used over 170 billion times monthly in some 230 countries and regions. BDS-based positioning was activated more than 300 billion times in AMAP, a Chinese map app, on a daily bases.

The BDS is constantly expanding its application in various sectors. Its temporal and spatial services, as usual as water, power, gas supply and other public services, are fully integrated into infrastructure construction and energizing all walks of life, including transportation, agriculture, forestry, husbandry and fishing, smart port construction and power inspection.

By the first half of 2022, the BDS has been applied in some 20 industries and sectors, with more than 15.5 million Beidou-based products widely used.

"Today, the BDS has become an important temporal and spatial infrastructure of China and is forcefully supporting the country's digital economy," said Yu Xiancheng, head of the GNSS&LBS Association of China. The increasing industrial and civil scenarios have effectively promoted the BDS application, Yu added.

As the BDS is integrated with AI, big data, cloud computing, 5G communication and other frontier technologies, its application is also gradually extended to emerging industries.



A smart harvester guided by China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System works in a paddy field in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province, Nov. 23, 2022. (Photo by Zhu Hongsheng/People's Daily Online)

Lane-level navigation is a typical application of intelligent temporal and spatial services, as well as a product of in-depth integration between the BDS and emerging technologies.

"With lane-level navigation, users can obtain extremely high-precision positioning on mobile applications while driving. When they need to change lanes, for instance, to an interchange or a ramp, lane-level navigation would provide more accurate guidance," said Liu Zhenfei, president of AMAP. The effective application of lane-level navigation couldn't have been possible without the all-around update of technical elements such as positioning antennas, positioning algorithms, positioning chips and mobile map apps.

Since 2019, Chinese enterprises have joined hands to tackle software and hardware bottlenecks, making a series of breakthroughs in lowering the energy consumption of positioning antennas, promoting real-time dynamic measurement, and adapting chips from mainstream manufacturers. Yang Changfeng, chief designer of the BDS and academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, noted that the BDS in the new era seeks development through application and further promotes application in development.

According to him, China will expand new industries of the BDS and strive for innovative and integrated development of various industries, so as to take the lead in the world in building a whole industrial chain in high-precision mobile positioning.

At present, the application of the BDS is in a critical period, which creates abundant opportunities for the development of the industry.

According to a 2022 white paper on Chinese satellite navigation and positioning services, the core industrial output value of industries directly related to the R&D and application of satellite navigation technology, including chips, devices and algorithms, hit 145.4 billion yuan in 2021. The output value driven by satellite navigation applications and services reached 323.6 billion yuan in the same period.

There were about 14,000 enterprises and organizations engaged in China's satellite navigation and location-based service industry, with over 500,000 employees.

Over recent years, the BDS industry has benefited a batch of enterprises, and these enterprises have also created considerable economic benefits for local communities.

Promoting the development of the BDS and location-based service industry is an important measure for China to accelerate economic digitalization and empower the digital economy, said Yu.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, or between 2021 and 2025, the country will keep promoting the standardization and popularization of the BDS, give full play to the temporal and spatial services and achieve large-scale and market-oriented development of the system.

People's Daily

Israel's cabinet approves establishing a 'national guard'

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S cabinet voted on Sunday in favor of establishing a National Guard force controlled by far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

The National Guard will deal with "national emergency situations," such as violent clashes between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel, according to a statement released by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

A committee composed of all security agencies will draft guidelines for the operation of the National Guard within 90 days, the statement said, adding that the committee will also discuss what would be the powers of the force.

Last week, Ben-Gvir told Army Radio that the force will be deployed "exclusively" in Arab communities. "The police don't deal exclusively with this, because they are too busy with other things," he said.

Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that Israeli police

chief, Inspector-General Yaacov Shabtai has expressed his concerns about the National Guard to Itamar Ben-Gvir in a private letter.

In a tweet, opposition leader Yair Lapid accused Ben-Gvir of seeking "to turn his thug militia into a national guard, that will bring terror and violence everywhere in the country."

Ben-Gvir is one the most extreme ministers in Netanyahu's far-right cabinet. Before entering politics, he was an ultranationalist activist who was convicted of supporting terrorism, incitement to racism and involvement in riots. The minister is a resident of the hardline Jewish settlement in Hebron, located in the occupied West Bank.

Last week, Netanyahu announced that the overhaul of the country's judiciary would be suspended. To gain Ben-Gvir's support for the move, Netanyahu accepted Ben-Gvir's demand to set up a National Guard under the National Security Ministry.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center) attends the weekly cabinet meeting at his office in Jerusalem, on March 19, 2023. (PHOTO / POOL / AFP)

Museveni says African countries should reject promotion of homosexuality

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni has urged African governments to lead in the rejection of the promotion of homosexuality, calling it "dangerous for humanity".

Museveni described homosexuality as a big threat and danger to the procreation of the human race, said the state house statement issued here Sunday. "Africa should provide the lead to save the world from this degeneration and decadence, which is really very dangerous for humanity," said Museveni, quoted by the statement.

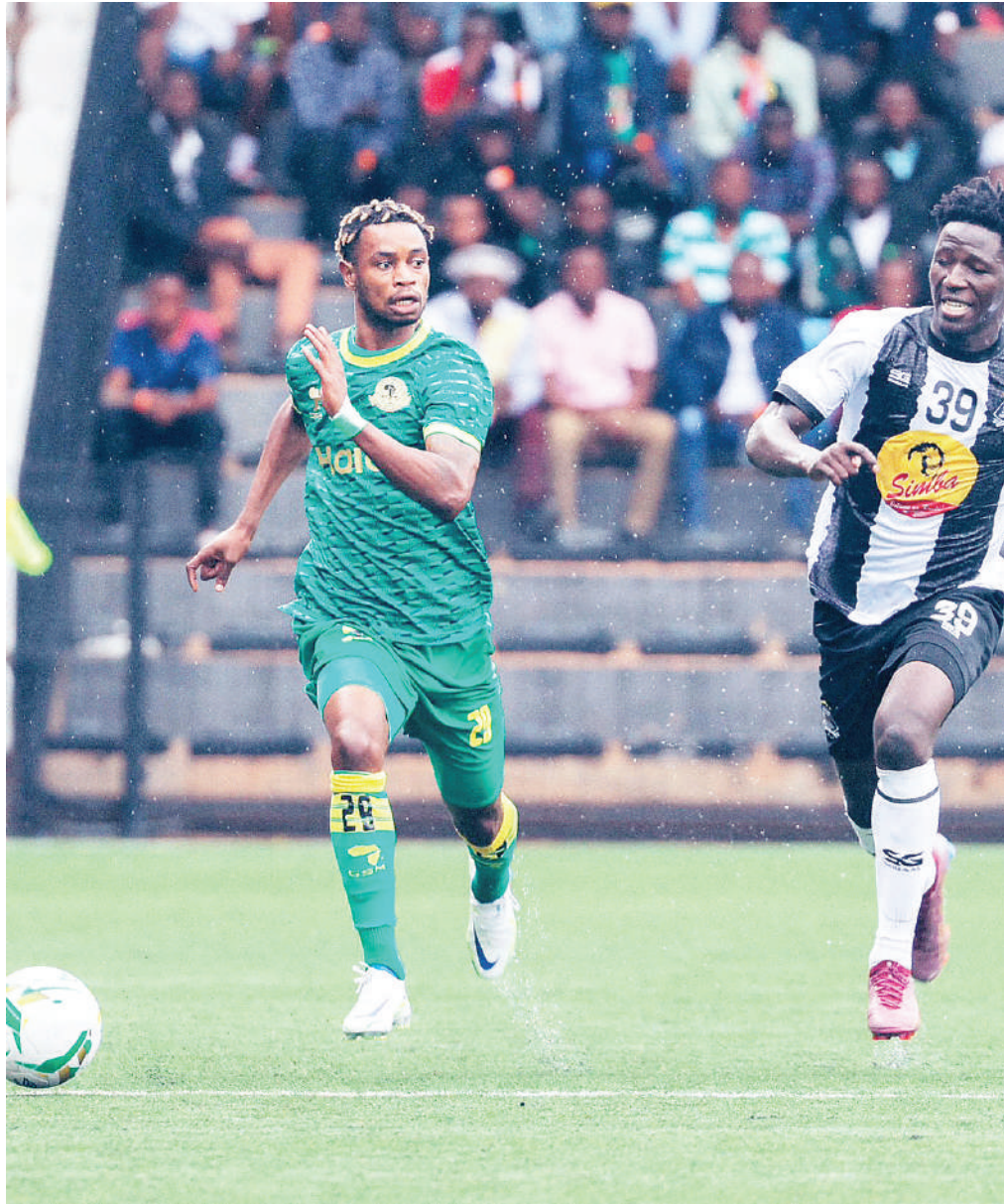
Museveni made the remarks on Saturday while meeting a delegation of members of parliament from over 22 African countries and the United Kingdom.

The group had converged for a 2-day first-ever Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family Values and Sovereignty, under the theme "Protecting African Culture and Family Values" in Entebbe, about 40 km south of the capital Kampala.

Museveni's comments came after the Ugandan parliament last month adopted the contentious homosexuality bill to prohibit same-sex marriage and the promotion of homosexuality, which awaits his assent. The proposed law also seeks to penalize homosexual practices and provides compensation to victims of homosexuality.

Uganda's parliament passed the Anti-Homosexuality Act on Dec. 20, 2013, before it was declared "null and void" by the constitutional court in 2014, citing a lack of a necessary quorum of lawmakers to vote on it.

SPORT



Tanzania's Yanga winger, Tuisila Kisinda (L), negotiates his way past Democratic Republic of the Congo's TP Mazembe forward, Fily Traore, when the outfits faced each other in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D encounter that took place at Stade TP Mazembe in Lubumbashi on Sunday. Yanga notched a 1-0 win over TP Mazembe. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

City rivals in CAF end game away Group ties, with club plans realised

By Correspondent John Kimbute

CITY rivals Simba SC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, were both scheduled to take up their last group games in what is but a formality, having the club dignity to protect, not fall into a shambles like falling to another 3-0 loss because of having qualified.

That is the level the Msimbazi Street side lost to Raja Casablanca whom they would now meet at home, where the Moroccan side isn't playing for anything in particular, save pleasing their home fans.

The visiting side will have a greater reason to play more forcefully and push for something positive, if due to past pain.

The issue at present is whether club officials, pundits, and fans are realistic as to the vision their teams have, the extent of their being realized and if there is something to be righted or corrected.

The situation on the ground, or rather the reality in the continental tournaments, is opposite from what is reigning on the ground based on Premier League results, and it is also a complicated starting point to make an overview.

If Yanga has eclipsed Simba SC for the second year running, and unless there is something seriously at fault with these results, why is the continental sphere of the contest between the altogether different, as Simba SC consistently performs?

Even allowing for that sort of slippery territory as to whether Yanga's dominance in the Premier League is rational or contrived, there is still a problem of determining whether the club's vision has been realized.

Msimbazi Street club officials have no headache in that direction whatever happens in the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, while Jangwani Street club bigwigs have to face up to whether the preliminary aspect is important or it isn't.

The side has done well and is assured of the quarterfinals, but of the second-tier tournament, which ordinarily isn't bad.

What the club leadership and fans have to address is whether remaining in the upper-level tourney is an important lever to measure success, or it isn't.

Based on street feelings, what the fans say haphazardly, is that it is not of much interest whether one plays either TP Mazembe in the CAF Confederation Cup or Horoya AC in the CAF Champions League.

If this sentiment is solid enough in the club rank and file, there is a clear possibility of forgetting the issue of having been bundled out of the top-level tournament to the second, so long they arrived in the quarterfinals.

At the same time, this opens up an issue that is hard to put across for discussion, for

instance, the difference between Yanga being removed from the club champions tourney by Rivers United of Nigeria in a past tournament, and by Al Hilal of Sudan in the more recent appearance at the top level.

The latter side has proved a top-level contender in this year's run, contesting for group supremacy with Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, while multiple champions Al Ahly are left behind, not mention Coton Sport of Cameroon.

Yanga lost 1-0 to Al Hilal in its away tie, after a one-all draw in the home game. It means that Yanga would have had a clear chance of reaching the group stage had they met Coton Sport or Rivers United...

On the same format, Yanga can project that in the Group Stage, it would have realized scores similar to those of its next street rivals.

Despite earlier defeat to Vipers FC of Uganda in a friendly encounter on Wananchi Day, AS Bamako is comparable to Vipers SC given its home score against Raja Casablanca which was much better than what the Msimbazi Street side managed at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, nicknamed 'Estadio Lupaso'.

The result of the return encounter in Morocco would not be data for actual comparison as by that time the figures were done, just dignity was at stake.

In that case, Yanga can be satisfied with their performance in the continental run, despite being eliminated from the top tournament as the side which removed the local champions has since demonstrated it is a hard nut to crack on the continental stage.

And the margin of its loss was nowhere near the 0-3 beating that their rivals obtained against hard hitters Raja, in which case the whole theme of 'jeopardy' by landing a formidable preliminary stage opponent is valid.

It is like the periodic failures of Paris St Germain, ending at the last 16 in UEFA Champions League, having landed Bayern Munich to clear and then proceed, this is part of UEFA design, each year.

Thus both city rivals have reasons to be satisfied with their performance so far, discounting rumours or perhaps a salient fact that the Msimbazi Street side asked Robertinho to take the side to the semi-finals, and he agreed to the proposal in writing.

Even if this isn't realized as the side would land any of the other group giants or Raja CA for a start, most likely they will sit out and plan a strategy for next year.

Yanga has much less deliberation to make, as they need to ably fill places now allocated to Feisal Salum and Bernard Morrison, not just in any manner but obtaining dependable players on the wider stage, much as Feisal is a local player.

SPORTS

Simba SC disappointingly loses but Yanga exceptionally triumphs to end Group Stage on a pleasing high



Tanzania's Simba SC left fullback, Gadiel Michael (L), dribbles past Morocco's Raja Club Athletic midfielder, Zakaria Habti, as the two outfits took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C encounter at Mohammed V Stadium in Morocco on March 31. Raja Club Athletic commanded a 3-1 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

FOLLOWING some riveting football action, the Group Stage of continental football's top-tier competition, the CAF Champions League, and the CAF Confederation Cup wrapped up last weekend in an entertaining style.

Reassuringly though, our flag-bearers in the CAF Champions League, Simba SC, and our representatives in the CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga, had already delightfully sealed their berths in the quarterfinals of their respective championships ahead of last weekend's group matches, which were just mere formalities for the Msimbazi Street side and the Jangwani Street outfit.

Unfortunately, in their Group Stage face-off against table-toppers Raja Casablanca, Simba SC was outplayed and the club lost the encounter 3-1.

Contrastingly, in their final CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage duel against TP Mazembe at the latter's home stadium in Lubumbashi, Yanga was outstandingly able to garner a razor-thin victory of 1-0.

That notwithstanding though, since the outcome of Simba SC's and Yanga's

last group phase run-ins was of secondary importance, the focus of die-hard football aficionados has now shifted to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup, which are likely to provide a litmus test of the mettle of both Simba SC and Yanga respectively.

Admittedly, it is an incontrovertible fact that Simba SC and Yanga could be potentially drawn to lock horns with African football's consistently successful big guns in the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively.

However, even if this nightmarish eventuality were to come true, one would still like to call upon both domestic football titans to be fearless in their approach to the make-or-break quarterfinals of continental football's two immensely cherished tournaments.

As witnessed so powerfully at last year's World Cup in Qatar, unheralded underdogs can sometimes play their socks off to humble the intimidating giants of world football.

Thus, Simba SC and Yanga should have belief in themselves without being hubristic as the latter could potentially prove to be utterly self-destructive.

Let us now revisit the crucial matter of our Olympic preparations, whose importance cannot be overestimated.

Indeed, over the years, I have arguably sounded the alarm ad nauseam about the snail's pace of our Olympic preparations and, although I may be guilty of doing so again here, I strongly feel that it is an issue of great import

that we cannot turn a blind eye to.

In the past, whenever our preparations for sporting extravaganzas have been distinctly below par, we have shown up at such huge, multi-sports events merely to be the also-rans.

What is extremely worrying is the fact that tell-tale signs of preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games are presently few and far between on the domestic sporting landscape.

At this juncture, it should be noted that we prepared diligently for last year's Commonwealth Games, which saw us elatedly secure a few medals.

Hopefully, then, we will be able to learn from our labours last year where the Commonwealth Games are concerned and begin our Olympic preparations forthwith.

AT selects 15 athletes for CAA Junior Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has unveiled 15 junior athletes that will camp to prepare for the coming Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Junior Championships slated for the end of this month in Zambia.

The athletes were selected in the AT-organized trials held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT acting secretary-general, said the athletes have entered camp at Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) in Temeke, Dar es Salaam.

He said the athletes are training under coaches Alfredo Shahanga and his assistant, Asha Abdallah, while Amani Ngoka is the team manager.

Ndaweka revealed: "After the trials, our coaches have selected 15 junior athletes who will represent the country in the CAA Junior Athletics Championships slated for April 29-May 3 in Lusaka, and our country's representatives are expected to depart for Zambia by road on April 25."

"With this early and good preparations, I'm confident the performers will win medals in the championships," the AT official added.

He mentioned the athletes making the national team as Said Ali who will compete in 100m and 200m in U-18

and U-20 respectively, Alex Sezario (100m), and Nicodemus Joseph (1500m and 5000m) in the U-18.

Ndaweka said Gasisi Girunda will represent the country in U-20 Boys' 100m and 200m races, and Elia Clement will participate in U-20's 100m race.

The other U-20 athlete, Benedict Martius, will compete in the 200m race, while Hafidh Talib will battle it out in U-20's discus.

Samir Sururu will compete in the Boys' U-18 long jump, his compatriot Mpaji Gipson will take part in the Boys' shot put in the same category.

In Girls U-20 Javeline, the country will field Mwanaamini McKay while Brethe Evarist and Salma Charles will compete in 200m and 800m races of the same category.

Nasra Abdallah will compete in the Girls' U-18 100m and 200m races, compatriot Siwema Julius will compete in the Girls' U-18 100m event.

More than 100 junior athletes from across the country took part in last weekend's trials.

Initially, AT was expected to select junior athletes in this season's East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR), which were held in Dar es Salaam a few weeks ago, but no Tanzanian athlete met the qualifying time.

Eliah Chani, who won a medal in

the long jump category of the regional tournament, happened to be the only domestic athlete that met the qualifying time.

Over 50 African nations are expected to battle it out in the continental showpiece.

Tanzania's athletics legend, Suleiman Nyambui, issued his opinion on the Tanzania team's preparations, suggesting that the trials should have been postponed to another date.

According to the legend, the approach would have given coaches ample time to prepare U-20 athletes for the trials.

Nyambui, the former AT secretary-general, said in case the trials had taken place on the planned date, senior athletes were supposed to be included to push the juniors to work hard.

He also advised all local athletics coaches to work together so the country can have many athletes in the continental junior championships.

He made several recommendations to AT, some of which are intensive training for athletes before the trials.

The official further recommended that AT should be given full technical support by all local athletics coaches.

Nyambui was adamant the selected athletes should enter camp outright and that there should be mutual communication between all athletics stakeholders.

Newcastle up to third after beating Man Utd, West Ham out of bottom three

LONDON

NEWCASTLE avenged their League Cup final loss against Manchester United as Joe Willock and Callum Wilson clinched a 2-0 win that lifted the Magpies into third place in the Premier League on Sunday.

Eddie Howe's side were beaten 2-0 by United at Wembley five weeks ago in their first major final for 24 years.

But Newcastle might swap silverware for a lucrative Champions League berth and second half goals from Willock and Wilson at a raucous St James' Park moved them closer to that ambition.

Newcastle's third successive league win -- and their first against United since 2019 -- took them above their fourth placed opponents on goal difference.

They sit one point ahead of fifth placed Tottenham, who visit Everton on Monday, as the race heats up to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top four finish.

It is 46 years since Newcastle last finished above United, but the Magpies, fuelled by Howe's astute management and the financial backing of their Saudi owners, now have a rare chance to emulate that feat.

"We were frustrated not to lead at half-time, but I felt if we performed the same way it would come. Thankfully it did," Howe said.

"If you're playing well that's the most important thing. That gives us a great chance of achieving a special season. If we can maintain our position I'll be very happy."

United are without a win in their last three league games, thrashed 7-0 at Liverpool and then held to a goalless draw by lowly Southampton before this setback on Tyneside.

United's first major trophy in six years was supposed to be the start of a new golden era, but instead they have failed to score in three successive league matches for the first time since February 2020.

It was a dispiriting start to a busy run of nine fixtures in April as Erik ten Hag's men look to nail down a top four finish, while aiming to advance to the Europa League semi-finals and FA Cup final.

"I hate to say it but they were better today, especially their de-

termination, passion and desire. They wanted to win more so they won," Ten Hag said.

"It wasn't good enough. We allowed them too many chances. You have to be hungry and give everything every game.

"We have to deal with the setback and learn a lesson. I believe we'll bounce back."

Newcastle's pressure was finally rewarded in the 65th minute when Bruno Guimaraes clipped a cross to the far post and Allan Saint-Maximin headed back towards Willock, who nodded home from virtually on the goalline.

Wilson put the result beyond doubt after 88 minutes with a clinical close-range header from Kieran Trippier's free-kick.

- West Ham boost -

In Sunday's other game, West Ham scrambled out of the relegation zone as Nayef Aguerd's first goal for the club sealed a crucial 1-0 victory against fellow strugglers Southampton.

David Moyes' side kicked off at the London Stadium languishing second bottom of the table, with Southampton in last place.

But Morocco defender Aguerd's maiden goal since signing from French club Rennes last year lifted the Hammers up to 14th.

West Ham are just one point above the relegation zone, but they have a little breathing space thanks to their first win in three league games.

On the day Leicester sacked Brendan Rodgers after their slump into the bottom three, Hammers boss Moyes must have breathed a sigh of relief when the final whistle blew on a result that may have saved his job.

Southampton remain bottom of the table and sit three points from safety after their winless run reached four games.

Aguerd eased West Ham's mounting anxiety in the 25th minute as the Morocco defender rose to power a header past Gavin Bazunu from Thilo Kehrer's free-kick.

"We have played better than that and not won this season, but today was all about the result," Moyes said.

"I have to get results. There's no protection to stop me losing my job."

AFP

Milan slam brakes on Napoli's title charge with four-goal thumping

MILAN

AC Milan hammered runaway Serie A leaders Napoli 4-0 on Sunday in an incredible performance which slammed the brakes on their opponents' charge to a first league title in over three decades.

Rafael Leao outshone Khvicha Kvaratskhelia in the battle of the wing wizards with a brilliant brace while Brahim Diaz and Alexis Saelemaekers netted the other goals for the rampant defending champions who move up to third.

The biggest win of the Serie A season for Stefano Pioli's side was also a third league defeat for Napoli, whose huge lead at the top of the table has been cut to 16 points after second-placed Lazio beat Monza 2-0 earlier on Sunday.

A difficult 2023 has left Milan 20 points off the pace but they have struck first blood in a trio of matches against Napoli which will conclude this month with the Champions League quarter-final between the two Italian teams.

"It's an incredible feeling, but even if I hadn't scored today, we still played very well," said Leao after his first goals since mid-January.

Napoli were without injured star striker Victor Osimhen but an otherwise first choice line-up was humbled by Milan who have boosted their chances of qualifying for next year's edition of Europe's top club competition.

Milan are however only a point above local rivals Inter Milan and Roma, who sit fifth on goal difference following their 3-0 win over Sampdoria.

"It's only the first step... we have another 10 matches left in the league

in which we need to have the same attitude," Pioli told DAZN.

"We threw away chances in the past and that can't happen any more. I'm happy with the win but it's only one game.

"For this to be a good season we need to be playing in the Champions League next season."

Diaz was at the heart of Milan's fast start and it was his delightful pass which slipped through Leao and allowed the Portugal winger to dink the away side ahead in the 17th minute.

And the home fans were stunned into near silence eight minutes later after more brilliant play from Diaz, who collected Ismael Bennacer's cross before cutting inside Mario Rui and then lashing in from close range.

Napoli struggled to get anything out of a well-drilled Milan and Leao struck again just before the hour mark, showing why he is so important to his team by bursting past Amir Rrahmani and smashing a powerful finish into the top corner.

With Napoli reeling, Saelemaekers took advantage of more sloppy defending, dribbling through weak tackles and nutmegging goalkeeper Alex Meret to cap a perfect night for the seven-time European champions.

- Lazio consolidate second -

Pedro's low finish in the 13th minute and a sensational free-kick from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic 10 minutes after half-time gave Lazio their fifth win in six league matches at Monza.

Milinkovic-Savic's goal was his first since scoring against Milan in January and his 65th for Lazio, making him the club's highest ever foreign goalscorer.

How Chelsea's faith in Graham Potter slowly ebbed away

BY MATT LAW

THE buzzword around Chelsea on Sunday night was 'progress' and a lack of it, but ultimately it was decisions that cost Graham Potter what only six months earlier had been his dream job.

Chelsea's owners wanted to back Potter after the embarrassing home defeat to Southampton in February, which was the final straw for most reasonable supporters.

But with each decision that backfired after that Southampton game, the internal faith in Potter was chipped away at, culminating in the defeat to Aston Villa when just about all of his big calls blew up in his face.

It was left to the man he bizarrely decided against putting on the pitch against Villa, Mason Mount, to applaud all four sides of Stamford Bridge long after his team-mates had disappeared down the tunnel to the dressing room to the sound of jeers and calls for Potter to go.

Co-controlling owners Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali, along with sporting directors Laurence Stewart and Paul Winstanley, were inside Stamford Bridge to take the temperature, but it was Potter who pushed himself towards the exit and not the angry fans.

Following the Southampton defeat, Chelsea's owners wanted a demonstration of progress and remained supportive of their head coach, but Potter's decisions ultimately made that position impossible and his own position practically untenable.

Like the decision to not only start Hakim Ziyech against Tottenham Hotspur, but then leave him on the pitch for the start of



Graham Potter

the second half after the winger had done his best to get sent off.

Ziyech had only been an email away from leaving Chelsea on transfer deadline day in January, having travelled to Paris without the club's position, so his inclusion set alarm bells ringing.

Coupled with the fact that, a goal down, defensive midfielder Denis Zakaria was sent on with just under half-an-hour of the game to go, serious questions started to be raised about Potter's ability to get the big calls right in the aftermath of the Tottenham defeat.

It was not just the decision-makers who were beginning to wonder whether what had been unequivocal backing for Potter to that point could continue, either. There was anger in the dressing-room over some of the decisions of the head coach and even players who liked him feared that he was out of his depth.

Potter came through maker-break games against Leeds United and Borussia Dortmund, progressing to the quarter-finals of the Champions League, when a defeat in either may well have

resulted in his dismissal.

But in the victory over Leeds, Potter's substitutions almost backfired and not even an excellent evening against Dortmund was enough to restore the faith that had already started to be eroded.

Boehly let his guard down to a supporter with a camera phone after the frustrating draw with Everton in which the visitors snatched a late point, giving the assessment it had been a "s--- f----- game." Potter had actually seen many positives in the performance, but he allowed Chelsea to sit back on a one-goal lead and made a series of late changes, none of which improved the team. Again, decisions.

The draw with Everton stunted Chelsea's momentum heading into the international break, but Potter had the best part of two weeks to prepare for the visit of an Aston Villa side who have proved dangerous opponents on the road under Unai Emery.

With Wesley Fofana not fit enough to start, Potter did something he would live to regret. Rather than making a simple change and playing his three

available centre-backs, Kalidou Koulibaly, Benoit Badiashile and Trevoh Chalobah, he started with two full-backs, Reece James and Ben Chilwell, either side of Koulibaly and asked midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek to fill in at right wing-back.

The move blew up in Potter's face as not only did Cucurella set up Ollie Watkins for the opening goal, but Loftus-Cheek failed to provide any threat from the right and the impact of James, so often Chelsea's best attacking outlet, was minimal. It made no sense.

Mykhaylo Mudryk failed to justify his selection, squandering two great chances, while Noni Madueke and N'Golo Kante were sent on straight after Villa went two goals up and Potter took until the 80th minute to make another change. The fact Mount, who has such a good record against the Midlands club, remained on the bench was mind-boggling.

A top-four place and Champions League qualification was never the be-all and end-all for Boehly and Eghbali during what was always considered a transitional season. But seeing Chelsea in the bottom half of the Premier League table was viewed as unacceptable and there could no longer be any argument made for the fact that progress was being made or might be around the corner.

The wheels of Potter's exit were not officially set in motion until around 3pm on Sunday afternoon, five hours before his departure was announced in a statement. But the decisions that had resulted in defeat to Villa had told Chelsea all they needed to know - he was not the man to make the big calls.

THE TELEGRAPH

The monster is at Barcelona's door. Their answer? Bring back Lionel Messi!

SAM WALLACE

THERE is no football institution more intrinsically allergic to facing the reality of its situation than the crisis-riven, stupendously-indebted, corruption-accused, Super League-rebelling, Barcelona - although even by their standards this has been quite a week of deflection.

In disaster movie terms, the creakery is falling off the shelf, the lights are flickering and there is a strange knocking at the door, but inside Camp Nou the prevailing mood seems to be set stubbornly on first-day-of-the-summer-holidays. Their response to another week of desperate news in the borrowing market for a club wrestling with the question of doubling a debt currently around €1.5billion? Bring back Lionel Messi.

Yet another club executive nudging and winking while he rhapsodises about Messi's love for Barcelona. No mention of the cost, given the likely wage competition from Saudi and elsewhere. Nor the fact that Barcelona are currently unable, under current wage budgets, to register the young midfielder Gavi as a senior squad member - which would mean they could lose him for nothing in the summer. Kindly please forget all that - and bring back Messi.

Barcelona keep saying the rebuild of Camp Nou will start in the summer although for all the official holding statements promising agreement there is still no finance in place to refurbish a stadium they might not be able to afford, to play in Uefa competitions they may yet be banned from. There is no scope under Liga budgetary controls for a Messi return yet there is likely no political will to stop it. Perhaps the world's greatest footballer will be persuaded to mend his relationship with the board and play on a promise of a manana payment. None of it would make a scrap of financial sense.

"Barcelona are living day to day. Barcelona made another announcement this week. A statement of a few lines confirming the extension of their loan facilities with Caixa and Santander banks. In

the life of the giant debt-zombie the amounts - around €50million collectively - were relatively small. But these were for "ordinary operating activities", according to Barcelona. Or in other words, paying the bills.

The club are living day to day. That crazy summer of 2022, when they borrowed €700million from their future to bolster their present, has given manager Xavi a team that looks on course to win Liga, but at what cost? It would be a dire situation even without the scandal over payments to former referees' official Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira. Nevertheless, that old ghost has come out the attic to cast doubt over the club's great years when Messi, Xavi, and the rest really were the team everyone wanted to be.

Who controls Barcelona these days? It might well be the US investment bank Goldman Sachs to whom the club owes, at a conservative guess, in excess of €500million. Goldman executives were in Barcelona this week and they were not there for Messi transfer gossip. Rather they were wondering how the Negreira scandal might affect Barcelona's capacity to service their significant debt which is about to get even bigger.

The club are seeking a further €1.5billion to rebuild Camp Nou, a plan that is currently inspiring so much faith within the club that the man in charge of "Espai Barca" resigned in January. No doubt Goldman were curious to know whether a ban from Uefa competition might

impact on revenues.

Meanwhile, Barcelona will have to pay around €20million to get the old Olympic Stadium in Montjuic up to speed. The clock is ticking. One such option is borrowing some of the money for Espai Barca - around €500million - to begin the work although one hardly needs to be a HS2 expert to recognise that half-completed capital projects seeking finance are at the mercy of lenders.

If the Espai Barca project is pursued what might the debt be? How long before it might even exceed the value of the club itself? Of course, Barcelona are owned by their members but what exactly they own and how much that entity owes makes that academic these days. In any other industry, the lenders would have called it a day long ago and the whole regrettable enterprise would have been quietly wound up.

But this is Spanish football and Barcelona stumble on, sustained by massive debt, fearful creditors, big talk, short-term leadership and Messi comeback vibes.

*Club would burn last stick of furniture to win trophy

We have not even reached their continuing participation in the rebel European Super League (ESL) project. A curious side-hustle for a club who sold a vast amount of future revenues last summer solely to get back into the Uefa Champions League, a competition that they also seek to destroy. The football under Xavi has been painful to watch at times but there is still a domestic tre-

ble on the cards with the Super Cup already in the bag. One suspects the club would burn their last stick of furniture to win a trophy, or re-sign Messi.

Even Real Madrid, who have forged an unlikely alliance with Barcelona in recent years over the ESL have been obliged to register their disapproval over the Negreira scandal. That has not prevented Florentino Perez's friends at Key Capital Partners offering a potential solution for Barcelona's problematic finances. It shares a base in Madrid with A22 Sports who are Perez's chief advisors on the ESL.

As for Joan Laporta, the Barcelona president in his second spell in office, he has turned down the suggestion by his predecessor Josep Maria Bartomeu of a public debate including two other former incumbents, Joan Gaspart and Sandro Rosell. The function of which would be to argue over who was to blame for this royal mess. It promised to be very entertaining but really the only question that matters for Barcelona now is the price of servicing their current debt and how long they can keep the monster from the door.

It goes deeper - to the financial probity of a great club, not to mention their moral sense of doing the right thing for football. These are difficult to answer. Or at least much more difficult than deploying the usual diversionary tactics. Vast complex financial problems? Bring back Messi!

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Chelsea's faith in Graham Potter slowly ebbed away

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



KCB Bank Tanzania's Marketing Manager, Shose Kombe (6th R), in a group picture with winners of the 2023 Kilimanjaro Vasso Motorbike tournament, which took place in Kilimanjaro last week with KCB Bank Tanzania being the showdown's main sponsor. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

JKT Tanzania edge closer to Premier League promotion

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2022/23 Championship League log leader, JKT Tanzania, edged closer to the Premier League promotion when the club thrashed Mbuni FC 4-0 in a one-sided match played at Major Isamuhyo ground in Dar es Salaam on Saturday afternoon.

As a result, JKT Tanzania has now accumulated 59 points from 24 matches and only needs three points from the remaining six matches to confirm a return to Premier League.

JKT Tanzania's job was made easier in the afternoon by the fact that title rivals, Kitayosce FC and Pamba FC, settled for a barren draw in Mwanza. The army side has opened up a nine-point lead at the top of the table.

Former Premier League side, Mbeya Kwanza FC, has witnessed the club's run for a playoff spot suffering a major blow when it was held to a 1-1 draw by relegation-threatened Green Warriors.

On Sunday, Ken Gold FC played to a 2-2 stalemate with Ndanda FC to remain in sixth place with 35 points, six points behind the play-off spot.

Fountain Gate FC had a brilliant weekend after beating African Sports 2-0 to move level on points with fourth-placed Mashujaa FC.

Stubborn Transit Camp FC took a valuable point back to Dar es Salaam from Mara's Biashara United, battling out a goalless draw with the latter to edge closer to the safe zone.

The Championship League, which acts as the second-tier league, comprises 16 teams.

At the end of the season, the top two teams are automatically promoted to the Premier League, and the third-placed and fourth-placed teams play in promotion/relegation playoffs against Premier League sides.

In the promotion/relegation playoffs, the first leg is played at the home of the Championship League side and the second leg is played at the home of the Premier League team.

The winner over two legs claims Premier League status in the season that follows.

The two matches are played following the NBC Premier League's final matchday of the season which, in the 2022/23 season, falls on May 28.

The first leg at the home of the Championship League club is scheduled for June 31, 2023, while the return fixture hosted by the Premier League side is slated for June 4.

At the other end of the table, the bottom two teams are automatically relegated to the First League while four more teams play in the promotion/relegation playoffs with First League sides.

“

At the end of the season, the top two teams are automatically promoted to the Premier League, and the third-placed and fourth-placed teams play in promotion/relegation playoffs against Premier League sides.

Tennis legend set to visit Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Tennis Association (TTA) has described the scheduled arrival of a former world tennis champion, John McEnroe, as a great opportunity for the development of the sport in the country.

McEnroe boasts numerous titles, having clinched 155 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) competition titles in his illustrious career.

The tennis legend is expected in the country in December and will be accompanied by his brother, Patrick, and other 120 tourists, to visit for eight days.

Francis Thomas, TTA president, said while in the country John and Patrick will play the game in Serengeti National Park and other tourist attractions, as well as support the sport's growth, awareness, and other charitable initiatives.

“The arrival of John and his brother, Patrick, is a great opportunity to promote and back the growth of the game in the country, we thank Insider Expeditions that are behind his trip and Tanzania's government for the two's visit, their arrival is part of the royal tour,” he said.

Insider Expeditions, a travel company, said the new partnership with John and Patrick to bring the tennis legends to Tanzania in December is part of a new goodwill, awareness, and sports initiative.

The company further said in cooperation and support of the Tanzanian government, the McEnroe brothers will be accompanied by as many as 120 tennis aficionados during the special eight-day trip which will include the dedication of a tennis court in the Serengeti.

“We are excited to welcome John and Patrick and their guests to Tanzania for this special event in December, this is in response to Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who always says the country continues to grow through such efforts which expose the visitors and our people to new experiences from visitors around the world,” the firm noted.

Insider Expeditions revealed: “A special element like tennis to this mix will also help us with another one of our key initiatives, which is to create more health and lifestyle opportunities for our young people.”

“While many know John, their interests sometimes lie with sports like soccer, so using a great individual sport like tennis to teach life skills from legends firsthand will make for an experience people will never have imagined,” the company disclosed.

“While in the country, John and Patrick will also have the chance to introduce tennis to the Maasai youths, probably for the first time,” Insider Expeditions quoted John.

John was further quoted as saying that he thanked Insider Expeditions for creating the opportunity for all of them to learn about Tanzania, a country he says is beautiful.

Insider Expeditions further noted that the luxury journey will include a tennis match between the McEnroe brothers amid the Serengeti, one of Africa's most iconic safari destinations.

The firm said unmatched wildlife, local cultures, and stunning landscapes combine to produce what is often described as the holiday of a lifetime, and coupled with celebrity tennis professionals as hosts – this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The itinerary includes Tanzania's best National Parks including the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti which are home to the Big Five as well as numerous birds and reptiles.

Singida Big Stars 'ready for anyone' in Federation Cup semi-finals



Singida Big Stars FC's head coach, Hans van der Pluijm. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA BIG STARS

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Big Stars head coach, Hans van der Pluijm, declares his outfit is 'ready for anyone' and is confident they are prepared to face any side in the last four of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

The club was the first team to reach this season's showdown semi-finals after beating Mbeya City FC 4-1 in the last eight's match that took place at the former's backyard, Liti Stadium, on Saturday.

A brace netted by Brazilian midfielder, Bruno Gomes, complemented goals netted by Ghanaian import Bright Adjei, and Congolese striker Francis Kazadi in a comfortable afternoon for the hosts who are also competing for third place in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League

with Azam FC.

Asked who he would like to play, either ASFC defending champions Young Africans (Yanga) or Geita Gold FC, at the semi-final stage, the well-traveled Dutch coach said his ambitious side is ready for anyone.

Pluijm pointed out: “We are very happy we have reached the semi-finals. In the first half, I think we played well. The second half was not all that good, maybe the reason is that if you are 3-0 leading then there is a bit of relaxation.”

“You can not relax against any opponent because you have to be playing with determination and concentration for 90 minutes,” the tactician noted.

“The boys have done well, they scored four goals and we created significantly more chances. That is okay for me,” he disclosed.

We are now going to prepare for the semi-finals, if you want to go to the finals you have to win the semis too.”

“At the end of the day, if you are on these

levels, it does not make any difference who you meet. You have to beat them if you want to go to the finals,” the tactician pointed out.

Singida Big Stars now awaits the winner of the ASFC last-eight clash between Yanga and Geita Gold FC which will be played at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The semi-final game between Singida Big Stars and the Yanga vs Geita Gold FC tie's winners is expected to be played at the Liti stadium in Singida at the end of this month.

Winners of the last eight's clash pitting Azam FC against Mtwba Sugar will face winners of the stage's clash between Simba SC and Ihefu SC in the showdown's other semi-final.

The final is set to be played at Mkwakwani Stadium, Tanga in June. The winner of the ASFC earns a ticket to represent Tanzania in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELEK
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 Club Bangers

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika 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