



Guardian BUSINESS

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PM lauds Korean firms' interest in minerals

Youths need to steer into livestock and fishing sector engagement

By Guardian Correspondent

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega has said the ministry is pursuing various strategies to implement the vision by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for involving bigger numbers of youths in livestock and fishing activities. At a State House press briefing in Dar es Salaam organised by the Presidential Communications directorate at the weekend also involving Agriculture ministry, he said that the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) project has already taken up 200 youths. They are now being trained in purchasing livestock, fattening them and selling them for a profit, he said at the briefing to explain how Tanzania is mobilised for the upcoming Africa food systems forum drawing scores of heads of state and thousands of delegates. He explained key policy action by the ministry, alongside his Agriculture counterpart Hussein Bashe, ahead of the forum that starts tomorrow and winds up on Friday. The forum will raise a breadth of opportunities in the livestock and fishing sub-sectors, he stated, praising the president for her efforts that have made the massive gathering possible. In the past the forum was preoccupied with farming issues but for the first time it has included issues of livestock and fishing, he pointed out, noting that since the sectors touch many people, the president asked for priority to be extended to them. While various strategies are in place to widen meat markets he said, noting that banks and other financial institutions need



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa congratulates Father Thomas John Kiangio (59) shortly after the cleric was ordained Bishop of the Catholic Church's Diocese of Tanga. The PM filled in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the ceremony, held in Tanga city yesterday. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed satisfaction with South Korean minerals sector firms wishing to invest in the country's minerals' value chain, including the production of motor vehicle batteries. A statement by the Prime Minister's Office said at the weekend that the premier met the South Korean business delegation, with officials from Posco Holdings, Posco International SK, Korea Zinc and LX International. He expressed interest in the proposed investments, assuring the delegation of cooperation to have their projects take off smoothly, it said, noting that Tanzania has the minerals and the Koreans the capital, "hence we should combine our efforts for the benefit of both countries." "I would like to assure you that our country is safe and our President, Samia Suluhu Hassan is doing all that she can to improve the investment and business environment in the country," he notably affirmed. Improving the investment environment includes the boosting of transport infrastructure like roads and aviation, plus adequate electricity supply for industrial operations, he said, stressing that every investor coming to Tanzania ought to reap profits from his investment. Yoon Sang Jick, the delegation leader, appreciated the cordial welcome, saying they will pursue that expressed intent to ensure that the investment goals are achieved. Anthony Mavunde, the Minerals minister, was happy that South Korean firms had picked Tanzania as one of the most promising investment destination in Africa. "Tanzania is rich in critical mineral deposits, essential components in components of electric vehicles, solar and other renewable energy sources," he said, asserting that the mining sector was a rapid growth pole in the economy at present, with the value of minerals sector exports consistently increasing. Mining sector activity at the moment relates to gold, iron ore, copper, nickel, cobalt, silver, graphite, coal and uranium. Tanzania is also home to a wide expanse of rare earth elements and critical minerals currently in exploration.

Shortage of HIV testing kits hits Z'bar hospitals

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FOR three months now Zanzibar has been facing a shortage of HIV testing kits in government health centres, impairing HIV testing especially among the youth, seeking to know their health status. Addressing reporters when visiting health centres, medical officers at Fuoni, Tunguu, Mwera, Magirisi health centres said many people, especially the youth have shown enthusiasm for HIV tests but are disappointed upon visiting hospitals owing to shortages of testing kits. Syltan Shela, doctor in charge at Fuoni health centre said the shortage has persisted for over two months, compelling service demanders to visit private clinics to pay and get tested. At the health centre, the service is only available for pregnant women owing to the small number of the kits available. Khadija Ali Hamis, a medic at Mwera Health Centre, confirmed the lack of free HIV testing in public hospitals discouraging those who flock there for the service. Health minister Nasser Ahmed Mazrui admitted being aware of the shortage of HIV testing kits, explaining that delay in the arrival of a container with the kits from outside caused the situation. The container arrived last Monday and preparations are ongoing to distribute the kits in public health centres, he said, remarking that the government receives the

kit as assistance from the Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, with the delivered consignment intended to last for one year. He appealed to the people to use the health centres for various needs as the HIV testing kits situation is being rectified. HIV infections are now placed in the special groups category, similar to drug addicts. The journalists' visit at the various health centres was organised by the Tanzania Media Women Organisation (TAMWA-Zanzibar) as part of its maternal health reporting project.



The International Spinal Cord Society has since 2016 been observing Spinal Cord Injury Day each September 5. The idea is chiefly to increase knowledge and raise public awareness and knowledge of the difficulties people with spinal cord injury in conflicts and disasters face. Pictured are some of the people so affected staging a special ride in Moshi municipality yesterday. The event was co-ordinated by the NGO Songambe Initiative in line with the spirit of the Day - tomorrow. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Mbagala BRT road 'closer to handover'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CONSTRUCTION of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Phase II project from city center to the vast Mbagala suburb

in Temeke District is expected to be ready for use next month. Yuan Rui, the Sinohydro Corporation project manager, said at a press briefing yesterday at the end of a tour to witness progress of the project that the 23km

“Right now we’re clearing the road and installing traffic lights before the handing over exercise, which will be next month” he said, asserting that the project is meant to provide reliable and cost-effective transport facilities. This will improve

urban mobility, connectivity and accessibility in commuting to business activity, thus supporting the economic growth and social uplift

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Zambian entrepreneur empowering homeless youth through recycling

LUSAKA

JOHN Ngoma, a 40-year-old man who owns a recycling company in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, has helped homeless youth earn a sustainable living through the collection of recyclable wastes, giving them a sense of dignity and hope for life.

Having witnessed the hardship the youth endured in finding a job, Ngoma felt that he could change their lives for the better through the collection and sale of recyclable materials.

He opened a waste collection point on the periphery of Kamwala trading area, a busy trading place in Lusaka, and employed young people lack of social supports. This has not only helped bring them more incomes but also contributed to environmental sustainability in Kamwala and surrounding areas.

It has been three years since Ngoma registered the company called Ngoma Recycling that provides jobs for 21 young people aged 19 to 28 years. Aside from a weekly pay, they have been provided with free accommodation to ensure they do not end up back on the street.

"This job puts food on my table and a roof over my head. I am grateful for the opportunity to earn a living through earnest work," said Mapalo

Zulu, 24, a beneficiary of the Ngoma Recycling initiative. John Ngoma works on recyclable materials in Lusaka, Zambia, Aug. 15, 2023. (Photo by Lillian Banda/Xinhua)

Zulu's colleague, Amos Mwape, said that he is grateful for working in the recycling company as many homeless young people could hardly get a job because they are considered to be social misfits.

"This recycling initiative has been a lifeline for me. Collecting recyclables not only provides an income, but also gives us a sense of purpose and the desire to do better in life," Mwape said.

Ngoma's quest to uplift the lives of homeless and troubled youth through recycling has earned him praise from community leaders and local authorities.

Bobkins Chipeso, a local official, said Ngoma's efforts are creating opportunities for earnest living for underserved individuals.

"His efforts have been significant. By empowering vulnerable youths to become part of the recycling value chain, he has helped them gain financial stability and accorded them a dignified life. We need more social entrepreneurs like him to reduce unemployment among young people," Chipeso stated.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe addresses editors from various media houses at a joint briefing at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the four-day AGRF-Africa Food Systems Summit 2023 scheduled to be held in the city from tomorrow. Photo: State House

Mbagala BRT road 'closer to handover'

FROM PAGE 1

of the city, he stated. The project is expected to benefit upwards of 1.2m people on a daily basis living in that section of city, about 25 percent of the city population, bringing positive impacts to zone and the city as a whole. Having completed all major works, the firm is finalising auxiliary tasks like setting up

signal lights, ahead of handing over the road, also projecting that the road will help disadvantaged group such as women, school children and the handicapped. Depending on the number of buses put on the road and number of passengers, these groups can gain from more spacious public transport especially during the peak hours, he said. There is also a likelihood of an

improvement in the trading environment with increased accessibility, which promotes new market facilities, improved sanitation and cutting bottlenecks to traffic flows, he further noted. Economic activity centres such as industrial zones will be boosted when workers face fewer hurdles to arrive at work or at home, he said. Kichawele Mruma, the company's safety officer, cited some of the

challenges the road builders faced as congestion of petty vendors along the project corridor, impeding work at various instances. The firm also faced vandalism of tools in the project as newly installed materials like electric wires and PVC pipes were being grabbed by thieves, in the absence of reliable site guards, compelling the contractor to keep repeating work already done, he added.



Prof Manasi Kumar (R) from Kenya's University of Nairobi pictured in Zanzibar at the weekend making a presentation at a seminar on ways to combat gender-based violence. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Youths have to steer into livestock, fishing sector engagement

FROM PAGE 1

to inject funds there, "as many of our livestock keepers are not in this kind of trade".

The second step is to fatten the livestock and load them into the markets, which also needs access to capital, he said, pointing out that this strategy is focused on sending many youths to the BBT project to make it a success.

Upwards of 240 youth have begun training on tackling the market issue, and each of them has started with 19 cows. The entire group has so far sold 900 cows and earned 74m/- in profit, he stated.

Similarly, 200 youths are being trained in fish farming on the outward spheres of Lake Victoria and the seashore, farming crabs in particular, he said, underlining that the government wants to see the youth cultivating grapes in Dodoma and also engage in livestock keeping.

"They should buy and fatten goats, cows for milk production; we want them to be rich," he added.

JKCI urges Dar residents to go for free screening camp

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

RESIDENTS in Dar es Salaam and neighbouring regions have been urged to show up in big numbers at the heart disease screening and treatment camp being held at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI)'s Dar Group Hospital.

Dr Peter Kisenge, JKCI executive director made the call when speaking to people who attended the cardiac check-up and treatment at JKCI Dar Group Hospital.

Dr Kisenge said that if people get early diagnosis and heart treatment services, it will help the government

to reduce the cost of paying for treatment abroad.

"Until now, 84 people have received diagnostic and cardiac treatment services and many had high blood pressure, this is a disease that we have found in many people, something which needs more efforts to educate the public on regular medical check-up," said Dr Kisenge.

He said that heart disease has been the leading cause of death in the world, where according to the statistics of the World Health Organisation (WHO), 17 million people lose their lives every year

due to the disease.

"Our institution has decided to move the access to specialist services for diagnosis and treatment of heart by following the people where they are, we need people with heart problems to get medical services early," he said.

He said: "This service goes by the name-Samia Suluhu Hassan Outreach Services by following people in their areas and providing diagnostic and testing services for non-communicable diseases including heart and diabetes," he said.

Some people who got diagnostic

and heart treatment services thanked the government for the service they got and asked the Institute to provide that service regularly because many of them find it difficult to go directly to JKCI to get treatment because of the existing procedure of getting referrals.

"As you know that procedures to access services at JKCI, if you don't have health insurance, you must have a referral, so after seeing this camp I thought it would be good for me to come and have my health checked, I have been tested and given heart medication, I am

asking my fellow citizens to use this opportunity to come and know their health status," said Selemani Athumani, a resident of Mbagala. Birgitha Boaz, a resident of River Side in Ubungo District said: "I saw an advert for this camp on social media and I decided to come and get tested and find out if I have heart problem or not."

Festus Asenga, a representative of Micro Labs Limited - Laborex Tanzania, who are in the camp to provide medicine services to people diagnosed with heart problems and diabetes, said that the company decided to join JKCI to give free

medicine to the people with such problems.

"We also provide free of charge medical doses of 30 days to those diagnosed with the problem because many people can not afford to purchase medicines and by doing this, we help them to start treatment earlier," said Asenga.

At the camp, services provided include blood glucose testing, height, weight, weight ratio, blood pressure, education on good nutrition and the correct use of medicines and diabetes medications.

Mbulu cuts down gender, sexual violence incidence in the district

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

INCIDENCES of child pregnancy in Mbulu District of Manyara Region have dropped from over 487 cases in the year which ended in 2022 to only 102 cases in 2023.

On the other hand, Gender and Sexual violence incidences have also been trimmed down from 380 cases that were recorded in 2022 to just 100 such reports as of 2023.

That was stated by the Mbulu Town Social Welfare Officer Tomic Simbeye, who also revealed that many families have also been improving their domestic incomes.

"In the past more than 50 households used to report at the social welfare office to be provided with subsidy allowances but today the number has dropped to less than 10 families," explained Simbeye.

The Social Welfare Officer was speaking during the awareness raising seminars held at the Mbulu Township, organized by the Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP), through their ongoing Rural Women Cultivating Change Project.

Mbulu is one of the districts of Northern Tanzania that have been notorious for cases of child pregnancies, gender and sexual violence as well as economic violence against women.

Such incidents, according to participants during the seminar, have been ignominious in the precinct because most cases used to go unreported.

That is because many victims have been suffering in the hands of close relatives and matters solved or hushed, at family levels.

Some casualties have also been losing lives leaving no traces or evidence to enable the perpetrators to be prosecuted. But now local communities have been empowered to report such incidences.

"Gender Violence cases are on the decline in Mbulu, because there are toll free hotlines for people to report all incidents," stated Simbeye.

He added that also through the Mama

Samia Legal Aid Campaigns many people in the 17 wards of Mbulu have been assisted to secure their rights and solve most legal challenges free of charge.

"Through the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign, we have been able to address matrimonial problems, family conflicts, cases of property heritage and gender violence," explained the Social Welfare Officer.

He said at the moment Mbulu is facing problems of Female Genital Mutilations among local girls which is what his office is working to address.

Most incidents occurring in rural villages go unreported as victims are either afraid to be labelled, stigmatized or the culprits happen to be feared people or close members of the family.

On her part the Policy and Program officer of Tanzania Gender Networking Program, Rogathe Loakaki explained that their initiative is to provide voice to the previously voiceless victims of gender violence in rural parts of Tanzania.

She added that the TNGP implements the 'Women Cultivating Change Project' in the three mainland regions of Manyara, Morogoro and Kilimanjaro.

"In realizing the goals of empowering rural women to advocate for change in society the TNGP works alongside the Civil Organization Society known as PELUM Tanzania which is based in Morogoro region."

"In Manyara, the program focuses mostly on Babati and Mbulu District," she said, adding that the project is executed with support from Global Affairs Canada through Seed Change.

"We work to empower the communities to solve their own problems using the available local resources," she added.

We work to empower the communities to solve their own problems using the available local resources



Octobere Msamau, chairman of the community of herders in Coast Region, pictured in Dodoma city on Saturday airing his views at a meeting of a committee of the national breeders' association called to deliberate on intermittent grievances by pastoralists. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Farmers forecast: Impacts of seasonal rainfall expectations about agriculture

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma



THE Ministry of Agriculture has called on extension officers to educate farmers in their areas this year's off season rain patterns expected to start in October to December this year as per weather forecasts provided by Tanzania Meteorological authority (TMA) in order to avoid crop destruction.

In the circumstances, the ministry has called on farmers to plant crops that can withstand more water in the soil by adhering to directives from agriculture experts and stressed the cultivation of rice.

The remarks were made by the permanent secretary in the Ministry for agriculture, Gerald Mweli in a statement in regard to the off-season rains forecasts as provided by TMA.

The statement shows that the off-season rains from October to December in areas with two season rains pattern a year include Northern Highlands regions, eastern, Lake Victoria Zone and Northern East Coast areas.

The PS said in the statement that according to the TMA forecast the rain expected to begin in the fourth week of September will be of average or above average in many areas including Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Pwani, Simiyu, Mafia Island and North Morogoro Region.

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USAID Tanzania Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity

RTI is currently implementing the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity that addresses dynamics that threaten habitat connectivity and the long-term persistence of biodiversity in Tanzania. This activity incorporates a series of interventions that support and strengthen government and civil society capacity for biodiversity conservation.

RTI is looking for a candidate to fill the **Monitoring & Evaluation and GIS Officer position under USAID/Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity**. The position will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Purpose of the position:

The Monitoring and Evaluation and GIS Officer will provide assistance on tools, frameworks, and data collection methods and support GIS data collection to include the location of implementation activities, infrastructure, and environmental features and data from the applied Political Economic Analysis (PEA) and Land Use Plans (LUPs).

Essential Responsibilities:

- Supports the development, implementation, refinement, and harmonization of project's MEL system; develops and operationalizes indicators, sets targets, and monitors progress; ensures they are informed by and feed into program decisions.
- Supports all project activities to capture data on indicators and to identify best practices and lessons learned as required by USAID.
- Supports the collection, analysis, and reporting on performance indicators by other team members and project counterparts.
- Work closely with partners and grantees to support data collection activities and requirements and help build their capacity in data management and sharing.
- collection, management, and analysis in a consistent, standardized, and disciplined manner.
- As part of a comprehensive learning agenda, designs needs-based operations research studies and protocols to generate evidence for which innovations work, which do not work, and why.
- Proactively reviews/analyzes project activities and their outputs and outcomes to continuously learn from and adapt ongoing project implementation; provides feedback to the technical team on where to improve.

Minimum required Education, Experience, Skills & Abilities:

- Bachelor's Degree and 5 years of experience and/or master's degree and 3 years of experience in designing and implementing M&E systems and identifying sources of scientific data and data gaps or equivalent combination of both the academic and professional experience in relevant professional field.
- Knowledge of reporting procedures, best practices, guidelines, methods, and approaches for MEL.
- Experience building capacity of scientific research institutions, CSOs and private sector.
- Demonstrated experience with indicators relevant to natural resources management, biodiversity and conservation, wildlife trafficking, and/or climate change adaptation.
- Experience working with ArcGIS and/or QGIS and other statistical software/tools.
- International donor and USAID experience preferred.

How to apply

RTI is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates may apply directly on RTI's careers site at <https://www.rti.org/careers> or submit an updated CV and cover letter to tuhifadhi_hr@rti.org. Please reference the position title in subject line. The deadline for submitting application is **16th September 2023**.

ONLY SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED



General Insurance

VACANCY

Sanlam General Insurance Tanzania Limited seeks to recruit qualified and experienced professional in the following vacancy:

1. Internal Assessor

Duties/Responsibilities

- To assess, survey, adjust and investigate the extent of the loss or damage and recommend repairs and replacement of items insured.
- To comply with the insurance companies rules and ensure that the customer is compensated for the loss sustained
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- Ensure salvaged vehicles are kept safe before disposal.
- Constantly review the list of rare model vehicles
- Resolve customer disputes on matters relating to repairs.
- Provide updated catalogue on prices of parts.
- To write a full detailed report after carefully analysing the loss sustained.
- To estimate insurance costs and inspecting insured properties to evaluate the conditions that affect underwriting standards
- To carry out background research and gathering information.

Minimum qualifications and experience

- Bachelor's degree in mechanical/Automotive Engineering.
- Bachelor's degree in insurance or business-related field will be an added advantage.
- 3 years working experience as assessor.
- Good communication and negotiation skills

Interested candidates who meet the minimum qualifications should apply to the Chief Executive Officer, Sanlam General Insurance (Tanzania) Limited, Amani Place, Ohio Street House, P.O. Box 21228, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania not later than Tuesday, 5th September 2023. Email: vacancies@sanlamgeneralinsurance.co.tz



Sergeant Asha Abdul from Police Headquarters stands as facilitator during road safety training for 250 motorbike taxi riders held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It was jointly organised by BetPawa and the Traffic Police wing. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanian students leave for Japan to pursue Master's and PhD Scholarship Programmes

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has urged 22 young Tanzanians who left for Japan for Master's and PhD degree programmes to acquire adequate skills and experience to contribute to the country's development agendas.

Ibrahim Mahumi, the Director of Human Capital Management at President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance, said that in Dar es Salaam in a farewell ceremony for 22 highly motivated young and promising Tanzanians going for Master's or PhD degrees studies in Japan from September/October under Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Long Term Training Program.

He told the participants to acquire adequate skills and experience in Japan and effectively contribute to Tanzanian development agendas. "We want you to make impacts on our national development agenda after you come back. I also ask you to become the bridge between Tanzania and Japan in terms of development cooperation," he noted.

Chief Representative of JICA Ara Hitoshi said that this year marks the 30th anniversary of Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), established in 1993, as well as the 10th Anniversary of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth ("ABE Initiative") which was launched as one of the Long Term Training Program in 2013 at the TICAD V.

He said it was a great milestone and wished the trainees academic success in their studies and a fulfilling life in Japan.

"JICA has so far sent more than 22,000 Training Program participants to Japan both short-term and long-term. I hope participants' academic success, wonderful life in Japan, and participants are also expected to build solid network and to be bridges between Japan and Tanzania", he said.

Abella Denis, is one of the student from the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) who goes for Master's Degree Program on International Development Program (IDP) to learn the development policy of SMEs, International Trade and Business and understanding the advanced technology and policy that are used in Japan.

"I will use the knowledge acquired from Japan both from studies and internship to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries through different works in the industries, governance and private sector community so as to contribute for the development of Tanzania," she said.

Sophia Mgoba, an assistant lecturer from University of Dar es Salaam will study PhD's Program on Doctoral Program in International Public Policy wants to learn more on Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptability.

"After my studies, I will encourage the government in making new policies related to water resources management and climate change that will help to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socio-economic losses and livelihood failures in Tanzania," she expected

Magu fights impact of climate change

By Guardian Correspondent, Magu

MAGU District residents are fighting the effects of climate change by enhancing food security and nutrition through farming and livestock keeping.

Donald Brown, Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) revealed at the weekend during his visit to inspect the projects.

Among the visited projects in-

clude sheep keeping, cassava farming and water wells for both irrigation and human and livestock use.

Brown also thanked the government for implementing the projects accordingly as he was impressed by what he saw in the groups and discovered the main challenge was water, hence he expects to return to the country to see the implementation of the water wells' projects.

Evarist Pamba, the Secretary of

Lumeji Community Development Group engaged in sheep farming said due to soil destruction that contributed to small crop harvests they have concentrated in the demonstration farm on sheep farming and harvest fertiliser to be used in their farms.

He said they have been trained on abandoning from traditional farming practices and opted for modern, profitable farming practices and added that so far, they

have restored soil fertility in their farms. "We started the project in January this year with 60 sheep and now we have 93, and got two tonnes of fertiliser that has improved soil fertility in our farms," Pamba said.

Magu District Agriculture Officer, Linus Baguma explained that they have witnessed changes in regard to the effects of climate change, with diminishing rains, increase of insects that have contributed to an

increase of diseases with farmers failing to attend to their farms

"Hence the project is a solution to the destroyed soils, and reached the situation that saw us harvesting very little crops despite large land areas we have, but after this strategy, we expect to reap big harvests from small land area," he added.

Joseph Kihale, the Coordinator of the national projects said the projects are strategic in enhancing food security and the conservation

of the environment to do away with malnutrition, adding that the district has received over 1bn/- for the implementation of the projects that are expected to benefit 3,000 people directly and 7,000 indirectly.

Emil Kasagara, Acting Mara Region Administrative Secretary said that the government has put in place a friendly environment that contribute to the coming of donors to sponsor people's development efforts and improve food security.

PRESS RELEASE

SURVEY OF COMPANIES WITH FOREIGN LIABILITIES IN TANZANIA

The Bank of Tanzania, National Bureau of Statistics and Tanzania Investment Centre are jointly surveying companies with foreign liabilities in Tanzania. The objectives of the survey are to assess the impact of foreign private investments on the domestic economy, update the Balance of Payments (BoP) and International Investment Position (IIP); and for policy formulation. The survey will cover data on equity and non-equity for 2022 and will be conducted from August - October 2023. During the survey, a team of researchers and enumerators will visit the selected companies that are kindly requested to:

- extend maximum cooperation to researchers/enumerators;
- provide the requested information by completing survey questionnaires accurately;
- provide the researchers/enumerators with the company's audited financial statements for 2022. Where audited financial statements are not ready, the company's best estimates or provisional financial statements will suffice; and
- observe the deadline of one week for completion of the questionnaire after its receipt to enable timely processing of the information.

The selected companies are kindly reminded that under Section 6(b) of the Tanzania Investment Act (Cap 38), Section 34 of the Statistics Act (Cap 351), and Section 57 of the Bank of Tanzania Act (Cap 197) submission of the requested information is compulsory. Thus, compliance is mandatory.

Please, note that the requested information will be strictly used for statistical purposes and published in aggregate form.

Your usual cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Dr. Albina Chuwa
 Statistician General
 NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Emmanuel M. Tutuba
 Aug 22 2023 6:33 PM
 Mr. Emmanuel M. Tutuba
 Governor
 BANK OF TANZANIA

Mr. Gilcald J. Teri
 Executive Director
 TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is among the leading conservation organizations working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people.

Through the Lake Tanganyika Program, TNC is working with a wide range of partners to enhance community-led fisheries resources in Nkasi District Council.

For that purpose, Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMA) have been established in two wards of Kirando and Mkinga mainly to protect and conserve Fish Breeding Sites (FBS).

Sustainability of a CFMA and its leadership depends entirely on availability of financial resources to support management interventions. Lessons from other project villages show that the established BMU/CFMAs are not implementing their duties properly due to lack of sustainable source of revenue to support BMU activities and hence illegal fishing practices are highly destroying fisheries resource in those areas.

Lake Tanganyika project aims at ensuring that there is sustainable financing mechanism for implementation of CFMA objectives and improved livelihoods of fisher communities. To deeply understand the environmental, social, and economic viability of these initiatives, and to deeply support the resource and financing base needed to grow their impact, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in collaboration with the Nkasi District seeks to engage a Vendor/s to conduct a comprehensive capacity building trainings to these cooperative initiatives after assessing the surrounding enabling environment, critical gaps for enterprise development and relevant stakeholders.

Interested and technically competent vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal.

The deadline for submission of proposals is set on **13th September 2023**.

E-mail : procurement.lake@tnc.org

Education stakeholders praise govt's initiatives

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

EDUCATION stakeholders have lauded the government for improving the business environment where a number of locals are now chipping in and establishing big investments. One of them is Rose Rwakatare who said: "When the government shifted to Dodoma called on investors to invest in various infrastructure to promote access to education and we are among those who decided to invest by building this school to be able to provide quality education."

Rose, who also the owner of the East Africa Primary School made the remarks yesterday in Dodoma during the first graduation ceremony for standard seven students at the school.

She said the efforts are meant to complement the government's efforts in providing quality education to Tanzanian children to enable them to compete well in the global job market and fulfill their dreams.

Pilly Mbaga, Dodoma-based education stakeholder said that due the increasing moral decay, parents need to heighten efforts and protect their children from harmful foreign cultures.

Mbaga said that the world is rapidly changing and this needs to play their responsibility to ensure that they protect their children.

She also asked parents to stop evading their role of taking care of their children and

leaving the burden to teachers alone, something which affects proper development of the children.

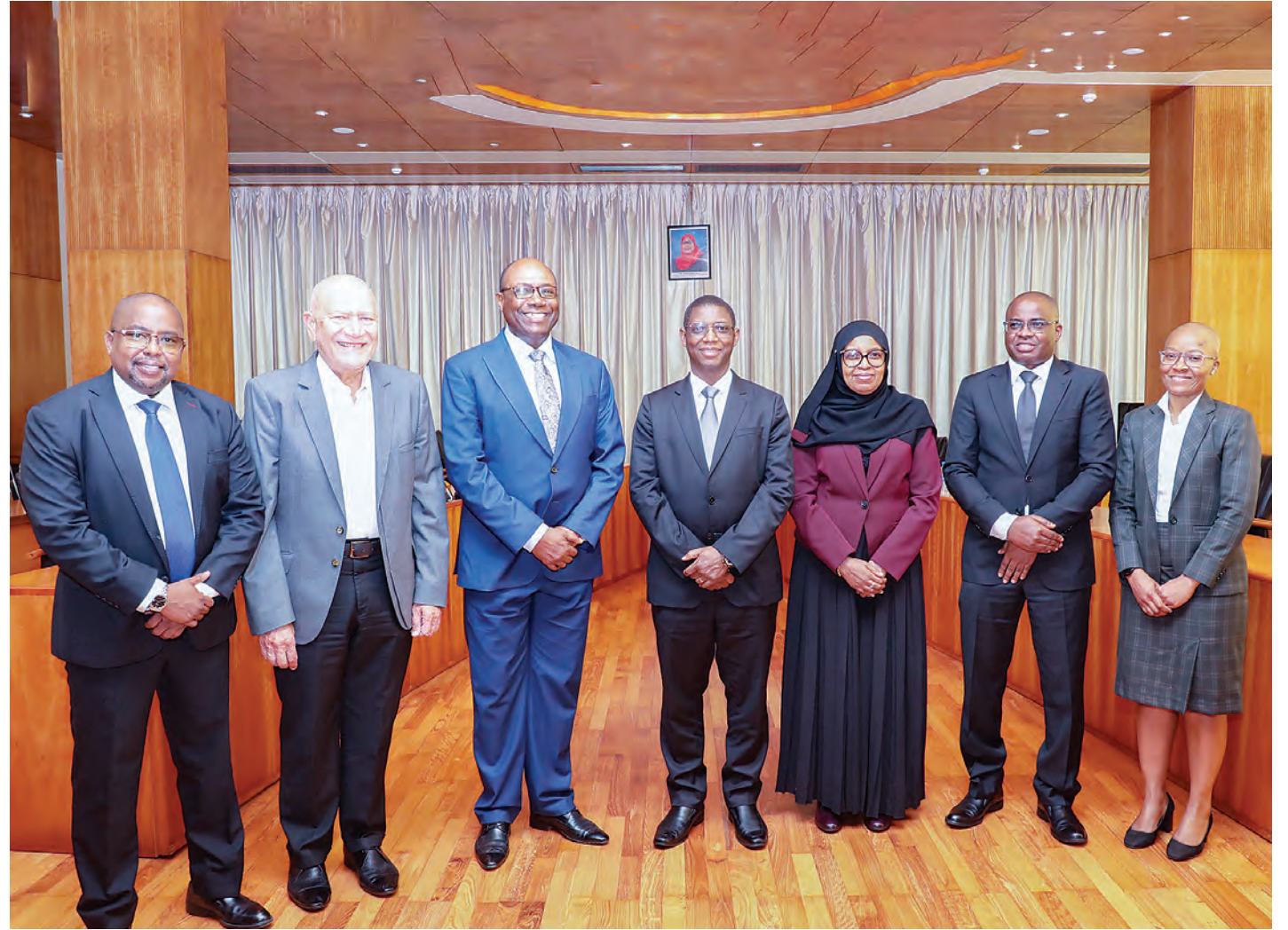
"Parents should not leave the matter of children upbringing to the teachers alone, but make sure that we monitor our children in collaboration with the teachers to help them not fall into the hands of the devil, the situation has changed a lot now, children have developed strange behaviors that if we are not careful with them, we will lose them," said Pilly who is also the Dodoma regional CCM chairperson.

She asked teachers to ensure that they supervise children including those in dormitories to determine if there are any behavioral changes and take early action.

Similarly, she praised the school for supporting the government's efforts in investing in the education sector to provide quality education to Tanzanian children.



Parents should not leave the matter of children upbringing to the teachers alone, but make sure that we monitor our children in collaboration with the teachers to help them



Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba (C) pictured at the central bank's offices in Dar es Salaam last week with an Exim Bank Tanzania delegation led by CEO Jaffari Matundu (L) and board chairman Saidi Mwema (3rd-L) shortly after talks focused mainly on economic matters. Looking on are Exim Bank shareholder and board member Yogesh Manek (2nd-L), BoT deputy governor (Financial Stability and Deepening) Sauda Kassim Msemo (3rd-R), BoT director of finance Sadati Mussa (2nd-R) and BoT statutory manager Neema Koka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

LSF partnership to empower Maasai women economically

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

LEGAL Services Facility (LSF) has teamed up with the German-based North-South Cooperation Institute to empower economically women in Longido District, Arusha Region.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala, LSF executive director revealed recently when briefing about the Wanawake Tunaweza (Women We Can) project, which meant to help the Maasai women and girls in different spheres of life.

The group has been behind in decision-making, ownership of resources including land and livestock, as well as the opportunity to go to school.

"The main means of economy and wealth production for the Maasai community are owned and run by men, a situation that causes the rights of Maasai women and girls to be violated and with this project, we'll help solve some of those challenges facing them," Lulu said.

So far, Maasai women have been given 22m/-, which will go to 11 groups of women from Kimokouwa ward, as a startup capital. They have been given 11 sewing machines that will be used to make female towels for 1412 girls in Namanga and Lekule secondary schools in the district.

LSF also empowered 8 women who are representatives of women's groups in Mariale Vocational Training College to acquire tailoring skills.

It has also launched the construction of two girls' dormitories, one dormitory will be in Lekule Girls' Secondary School, the construction will cost 140m/-. The LSF will also build 120m/- worth dormitories at the Namanga Secondary School.

Roberto Marta, North-South Cooperation Project Coordinator, expressed his satisfaction with the positive results of the project, which touches the lives of the Maasai community.

"This project is focused on building gender equality and promoting the people's lives as well as meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030," he said.

Longido District Council acting director Dominic Ruhumva describe the project tool to uplift the lives of women in the district, which for years were behind when it comes to education.

He emphasized that empowering these women group will increase their strength to fight against poverty, hence bring the gender equality into reality.

African Development Bank hold 'risky' entrepreneurs in Senegal

ABIDJAN

THE project to Support and Enhance the Entrepreneurial Initiatives of Women and Young People (PAVIE) implemented in Senegal, is now producing significant socioeconomic transformations that are benefiting young people and women.

The project has been extended by a year to complete its implementation under optimal conditions, according to the African Development Bank's implementation progress and results report, which was published recently.

Anouar Ouédraogo, the AfDB's project manager said: "The project to support and enhance the entrepreneurial initiatives of women and young people focuses on training, support for formalising businesses, funding and post-funding follow-up with the beneficiaries to ensure that interventions are sustainable."

"After three years' implementation, over 3,200 young people and women have been trained in specific trades and business management, 3,176 businesses that were operating in the informal sector have been formalised and 6,441 businesses have received funding worth a total of 38 billion CFA francs. The main areas of activity involved are agriculture, fishing, fish farming and artisanal activities," he said.



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Lucky Michael, executive director of a CSO known as Environmental Conservation Community of Tanzania, pictured in Dar es Salaam on Saturday addressing young women just through a programme designed to empower them into becoming champions of green actions and environmental stewardship. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

KOICA donates minibus to support Temeke's Kurasini Children's Home

By Getrude Mbago

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has donated Hyundai minibus to support daily activities at Kurasini Children Home in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam.

Established in 1966, the Kurasini Children Home is managed by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups providing care, supporting and protecting vulnerable children who face various challenges in accessing their fundamental rights.

Speaking during the handover event during the weekend, KOICA Country Director, Manshik Shin said that the vehicle support to the centre is part of the continued relations and support to the government of Tanzania and its people.

"I was here about two months ago, when KOICA and the KOICA Alumni Tanzania came to support the home with some materials. We were so much impressed with the good work that the Home is doing, and we told ourselves that if we have another opportunity to support this Children's Home, we will do something," he explained.

He added: "The car should not be taken just as a gift of mobility, but as a symbol of solidarity and shared commitment to the welfare of our community's most vulnerable."

He said the vehicle will not only aid in logistical matters, but also serve as a

reminder that compassion knows no borders.

Shin reaffirmed commitment of South Korean government to continue supporting Tanzania in creating a society where no child feels neglected, no individual feels forgotten, and where we all work together to uplift one another.

"KOICA will continue to collaborate with the government of Tanzania in the priority sectors which are education, health, rural development, water, and gender," he said.

Dr Nandera Mhando, Ministry's Commissioner for Social Welfare thanked KOICA for its generous support which is going to address transport and logistics challenges at the centre.

She said the Kurasini children's home provides all necessary services that enable the child to grow well in all spheres of life including education, food, clothing, health care, sports, accommodation, psychosocial support, family reunification and reintegration, life skills and hand-crafts.

"In the period of five years in this centre we proud of various achievements where two children graduated in higher Learning Institutions and 15 children received vocational Training Skills, 26 youth became self-reliant and reintegrated to the communities and 31 children rescued from the streets were reunified to their families in different regions within Tanzania mainland," she explained.

Telecom in electronic card to keep up with global technological progresses

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania PLC has designed electronic card (eSIM card), which operates the same way as the current physical ones.

The card is not physically manufactured from plastic but is rather printed electronically in devices that support their usage hence making it eco-friendly.

Linda Riwa Vodacom Tanzania's

Consumer Business Unit Director pointed out that the introduction of eSIM is in line with the company's ambitions to keep up with global technological advancements, respond to customers' needs, and adopt more environmentally friendly technologies as per their Net Zero strategy.

"The increased use of smartphones calls for more advanced technologies and this is why we

are today introducing this product. I know for a fact that most of our customers and Tanzanians, in general, would be questioning why they should shift to an eSIM if the current one offers the same services. The answer is simple, with eSIM, you can have multiple mobile numbers in one phone thus allowing customers to switch mobile carriers with ease since it doesn't require you to physically swap

out SIM cards. Moreover, since an eSIM is directly embedded into the device's hardware, it makes it less vulnerable to theft or loss and it is a more environmentally friendly option."

Linda further added that any Vodacom customer with a smartphone that supports eSIM can switch to it by visiting a nearby Vodacom shop and doing a SIM swap.

"There are two ways to know

whether your smartphone supports eSIM or not."

Linda called on Tanzanians to switch to eSIM cards available on their super network.

Arjun Dhillon, company's enterprise director said: "eSIM is a brilliant solution not just for our everyday customers but also travelers, businessmen and individuals in the corporate world who are often moving around a lot. This is

because when traveling abroad, they don't have to worry about losing their physical cards when they switch mobile carriers as the e-SIM will already be embedded in their phones. The same applies to tourists and other travelers visiting Tanzania. They can easily latch onto our super network because registering an eSIM is fast and easy thus allowing them to stay connected while on the go."

Scientists urged to do more research to curb GBV cases

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

AFRICAN scientists and academicians have been tasked to conduct more researches to find scientific solutions to eradicate gender-based violence (GBV) acts in the society.

Prof Gbenga Ogedebde, founder of the Centre to Advance Research on Health in Africa (CAREH Africa) made the call over the weekend in Zanzibar when speaking at a seminar that brought on board various stakeholders from the government, NGOs, academicians from local and foreign higher education institutions.

The seminar meant to discuss on how to eradicate acts of GBV in the country which have been on the increase year by year. Participants got experience from institutions that deal with victims of the challenges of GBV and emphasized that in order to eradicate these acts, joint co-operation between the government is necessary whereby they also made various recommendations including conducting detailed research on the problem and finding solutions scientifically.

Prof Ogedebde said that more researches needed to be done to reduce the numerous diseases and social challenges that exist in Africa that have been slowing down the pace of development.

So far, according to him, CAREH Africa has planned to ensure that it facilitates diseases research to be carried out in Africa by collaborating with the government and various stakeholders.

Dr. Bonus Sizya, from Care Africa Non-Governmental Organization, said that the problem of GBV is currently affecting all groups of people in society and so there is a need to educate the commu-

nity to oppose these actions and get rid of the notion that it is only the government's responsibility.

He said that in the workshop they have discussed various issues that should be done by the government such as policy, oppressive laws, creating a friendly environment for the main victims who are affected by these acts, especially Girls and Women and providing education to the community to oppose GBV acts although the education issue is also the responsibility of various stakeholders, including abandoning bad traditions that encourage the increase of these acts.

Prof Chinwe Ogedebde from the Hackensack University of Health and Medicine, said that the increase in these actions is also related to the challenges of mental health disease in society and so it is important to conduct more researches and all stakeholders to cooperate in eradicating it.

All the facilitators and contributors in this workshop came up with resolutions to continue to support the governments' efforts in providing education against GBV acts in the society, along with complimenting various internal and external organizations and institutions that have already begun the struggle to face this challenge.

Gift Msowoya, Gender Coordinator Officer in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups said that the Government has already started implementing measures to combat gender violence, including providing education to the community and thanked all stakeholders from non-governmental institutions who have been cooperating with the Government on the goal of eradicating these acts.



TCB Bank's human resources and administration director, Diana Myonga (C), presents to Kibaha Urban legislator Silvestry Koka 50 chairs at the weekend. It was meant as assistance by the bank to Kibaha Town Council's Bundikani and Pangani secondary schools. Witnessing the event include TCB Bank's Kibaha branch manager, Juvestina Julius (R), and the schools' headmasters. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Implementation of empowerment policy up for review September 29

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PARTICIPANTS in the seventh economic empowerment forum to be held in Dodoma on September 29 are expected among other things to evaluate the implementation of the national economic empowerment policy.

Bengi Issa, Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) told reporters here yesterday that since its establishment in the country, the empowerment policy has touched the life of

many from all walks of life as well as alleviating poverty among Tanzanians.

"The forum is crucial in the sector of people's economic empowerment which is the priority of the sixth phase government under the leadership of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan," Ms. Issa said.

Issa said the policy in question has so far achieved a lot of success in terms of people's empowerment as well as economic development and people's social wellbeing.

"The theme of this conference is 'Sustain-

able Economic Empowerment' which gives a wider room for thoroughly discussing matters related to people's economic empowerment for the country's sustainable economic development," she said.

She said the Prime Minister, Kassim Majalwa is expected to grace the occasion which will be presided by the week of empowerment and three-days entrepreneurs' exhibition from 26 to 28 September, 2023 at Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre here in Dodoma.

"It should be noted that in the previous sym-

posium, the Prime Minister ordered all the Regional Commissioners to put in place people empowerment centres," said Ms. Issa adding that President Samia's intention is to see every Tanzanian benefiting from economic empowerment policy.

In the symposium, various prizes will be given out to all those who did a good job including a Region that has performed well in this area and various empowerment institutes.

The symposium will involve ministries, organisations, agencies, government insti-

tutes, private institutes under the umbrella of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), regions, councils, entrepreneurs, financial institutes, academic institutes, research institutes, investors and other empowerment stakeholders.

Issa took the opportunity to extend an invitation to all Tanzanians to use the opportunity to learn various matters related to empowerment, accessing capital, opportunities in the strategic projects, market and networking.



DISPOSAL OF ASSET NOTICE FOR BUYING SIX (6) BANK PLOTS LOCATED AT KARATU- MANYARA, MSIJUTE (DANGOTE AREA- MTWARA, BOMANI BARIADI-SIMIYU, NANYAMBA - MTWARA, CHAKE CHAKE LUSHOTO - TANGA, MKWAJUNI MANGAKA - NANYUMBU- MTWARA:

CRDB Bank PLC (the Bank) is an African bank and a leading financial services provider in Tanzania with a current presence in Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, East Africa. The Bank owns title to various landed properties in the country, one of those being Plot No. 963 Block F (2,149) located at Karatu, Plot No. 88 Block A Mtwara (3,755) located at Msijute (Dangote area Mtwara, Plot No. 38 Block A (5,524) located at Bomani Bariadi, Plot No. 38 Block A (2,120) located Nanyamba, Plot No. 97 Block E(2,708) located at Chake Chake Lushoto Tanga and Plot No. 139 Block A (2,191) located at Mkwajuni Mangaka -Nanyumbu. The Bank intends to sell the plot to any interested buyer under the following conditions:

1. The sale of the plots will be conducted in line with the Bank's Procurement Policy. The selection will be done based on the highest evaluated bidder.
2. All interested bidders are requested to visit the plots. The site visit can only be done on weekdays during normal working hours (0900 hours to 1500 hours) from August 31st, 2023, to September 13th, 2023.
3. The successful bidder must pay a deposit of 100% not later than five (5) working days after being awarded. In the event of failure to do so, the award will be cancelled and given to the second bidder.
4. The purchaser will be liable for all taxes relating to this purchase.
5. The deadline for submission of the proposals shall be before 1500 hours local time on September 08th, 2023. All bids/quotations will be opened in public on the same date at 1500 hours, online presence of buyers is allowed via the link available on the bank's website.
6. For further information, please contact the office of the secretary of the CRDB Bank PLC Tender Management Committee, which is located on the 6th floor of the CRDB Head Office, along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, and is open from 08:00 to 16:00 Monday through Friday, excluding public holidays.
7. All bids must be submitted in electronic form. The bids should be submitted in PDF format only (encryption is advised). Tenders should be sent to tenders@crdbbank.co.tz. The tender must be addressed to the Secretary of the Management Tender Committee, CRDB Head Office, Plot No. 25 & 26 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road and Plot No. 21 Barack Obama Drive, P.O. Box 268, Dar es Salaam.
8. Opening of the submitted bids/quotes will be done at CRDB HQ 6th floor-Procurement Office together with an online option via a link available on the bank's website.

The Managing Director
CRDB Headquarters,
Plot No.25 & 26 Ally Hassan Mwinyi Road &
Plot No.21 Barrack Obama Road
P.O. Box 268, 11101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0) 22 211 7441 - 7
Fax: +255 (0) 22 211 6714
Email: info@crdbbank.co.tz
Website: <http://www.crdbbank.co.tz>

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

There's great need for policies which incentivise investments

AHEAD of the Africa climate summit, Greenpeace Africa has called on African governments to act now to minimise the devastating impacts of the climate crisis on the livelihoods of Africans.

In a letter sent to the secretariat of the summit, the organisation is warning against turning Africa into the frontier of a new scramble for oil, gas and coal, driven by former colonial powers.

As East Africa is reeling from its worst drought on record, extreme heat and wildfires are ravaging northern Africa and flash floods are hitting countries across the continent. The science is clear on what drives the climate crisis: long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns caused by greenhouse gas emissions that blanket the Earth and trap the sun's heat. This crisis would not happen without human activities like the extraction and burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

While greedy corporations continue to scramble for Africa's coal, oil and gas, more severe and frequent floods and droughts are shattering communities across the continent. This human-induced climate crisis will only become more catastrophic if we collectively fail to act.

Extreme weather events - droughts, floods and landslides are leading to grave impacts on farming and crop harvests, as seen in the worst drought on record a few months ago in Kenya. This has severe knock on effects on food security, and causes rising food prices, which the people living in Africa can ill afford.

Africa's dependence on fossil fuel-powered energy is stealing our future

and leading us to an ever worsening climate disaster. Africa has the potential to build greener and better than previous generations did if we act now together. We have a collective responsibility and the power to minimise the harms of the climate crisis.

Our governments and leaders must have the courage to reimagine an alternative future and chart a new developmental path away from the destructive models of the West, a path that prioritises people and the planet over profit. This summit is an opportunity for genuine dialogue, where our leaders, civil society organisations, scientists, youth activists, and other stakeholders can assert our perspectives, needs and solutions.

According to the World Bank, an estimated 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have limited to no access to electricity, and renewable energy has the potential to deliver distributed energy access to all.

Instead of pushing for the continued extraction of dead-end fossil fuels, Africa can lead the world in a just transition to 100 per cent renewable, secure and affordable energy, which empowers communities and workers. Renewable energy technology has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, becoming the cheapest form of energy, also generating a boom in employment.

Greenpeace Africa calls for Africa's leaders to avoid falling into the fossil fuel trap and lead the continent towards a clean, renewable, affordable and sustainable energy future. We need policies that incentivise investments in the continent's exceptionally high potential for decentralised renewable energy.

Communication networks can only tick more with better infrastructure

MAINLY courtesy to its abundant natural resources, youthful population, and favourable climate, Africa stands at the threshold of a transformative opportunity to become the next global manufacturing hub.

The continent's riches are undeniable, from arable land to mineral reserves. About 30 per cent of the world's mineral reserves are in Africa. Eight percent of its world's natural gas, 12 per cent of oil reserves, an impressive 40 per cent of the world's gold and a whopping 90 per cent of chromium and platinum are here. It has the largest cobalt reserves, diamonds, platinum, and uranium.

In addition, 65 per cent of the world's arable land and 10 per cent of the planet's renewable fresh water are all in Africa. This unparalleled endowment gives Africa immense potential to drive industrial growth and economic prosperity.

Yet, Africa is also the poorest continent on Earth. Economic insecurity, political instability and corruption, civil wars, and terrorist insurrections have left millions of Africans impoverished. But what can the continent do to realise its potential?

With its vibrant and youthful population, Africa holds a priceless demographic advantage that sets it apart. As the continent boasts the youngest population worldwide, Africa stands at the forefront of this remarkable trend. As of 2022, 40 per cent of its people were aged 15 years and younger, surpassing the global average by 25 per cent.

The benefits of this youthful population are abundant and crucial for Africa's development. Firstly, it provides a robust and cost-effective labour force, a key catalyst for economic progress and prosperity.

With a vast pool of young talent, the continent can tap into a well-spring of potential and unleash

its productivity to propel growth. Furthermore, the energy and creativity of Africa's young minds fuel innovation and invention, paving the way for novel solutions to pressing challenges. Embracing this spirit of ingenuity can foster technological advancements and further enhance Africa's global standing.

Africa's youthful demographics create a robust market for products and services that cater to the preferences and needs of the younger generation. It opens up exciting business opportunities to innovate and thrive, nurturing a dynamic and thriving economy.

Moreover, the large proportion of the population in their productive years translates to a broader tax base, supplying governments with the resources needed to invest in vital infrastructure, education, and healthcare, ultimately uplifting communities and improving livelihoods.

The composition of Africa's population fosters a mobile and adaptable workforce capable of seizing opportunities and contributing to diverse sectors across the continent. This mobility enhances labour market flexibility and drives economic efficiency.

Africa's youthful advantage is a beacon of hope and promise, offering unparalleled prospects for growth and development. By harnessing the potential of its energetic and vibrant youth, the continent can build a brighter future and rise to new heights on the world stage.

Harnessing this youthful population, and favourable climate, Africa can position itself as a prominent player in the global manufacturing landscape. So, by prioritising investments in education, infrastructure, and strategic partnerships, the continent can unlock its full manufacturing potential, paving the way for sustainable growth and progress.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Subsidy removal and its discontents

By Sam Amadi

THE sudden but predicted removal of fuel subsidy has sparked some fireworks and a lot of incoherence about the Nigerian economy and its sociopolitical currents. In the matter of subsidy, I suspect that there is as much consensus as confusion.

The major presidential candidates all committed to removing fuel subsidy, although with different nuances about what comes before and after. Notably, Mr Peter Obi, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, promised to first establish the exact amount of consumption as to establish the volumetric impact of subsidy. He would then reduce it by 50% at the first instance with simultaneous mitigators.

President Ahmed Bola Tinubu promised swift removal of subsidy and reinvestment of the savings in infrastructure. Atiku's plan is not very different from the two.

But none of them has a coherent plan about how the manner of removal of subsidy entails any of the strategic objectives they intend to achieve in the economy. Now, think about it.

Nigeria has the lowest minimum wage in the world, or at least any of its comparable countries. Let us take a few examples. Pakistani is a comparable country to Nigeria in terms of population, diversities, and economic development.

Its minimum wage is \$111. South Africa has a minimum wage of \$226, while Saudi Arabia has \$958. Minimum wage in neighboring Chad is \$108.2. War-torn DRC has a minimum wage of \$92.47. Nigeria's minimum wage is \$68, the lowest in the World. Besides, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world with an estimated 80-90m very poor citizens.

The recent NBS estimates report that 143m Nigerians are multidimensionally poor. The current unemployment is about 33.4%. The concern should be how proper pricing of an essential product like premium motor spirit (PMS) would impact on the livelihood and well-being of majority of these citizens.

In the context of pervasive poverty, any serious economic plan must relate actions like removal of subsidy to managing poverty. The sad part is that poverty is self-perpetuating. It does not reduce itself except when there is an effective policy response.

So, the reasonable prediction is that unless something drastic is done, poverty will continue to increase. The minimum you would expect from a serious economic plan in Nigeria on removing subsi-

dy should be that it argues how the removal will reduce poverty, or at least not worsen it. The only policy response of the Buhari administration was a proposed N5,000 one off cash transfer to about 40 million households.

The intersection of the economics of subsidy removal and the economics of poverty reduction in Nigeria frames the fight over subsidy removal.

The two broad camps opposing each other on the wisdom of the abrupt and complete removal of fuel subsidy are looking through two different lenses: efficiency and equity. The efficiency camp focuses on the balance sheet of government.

Subsidy creates a big hole there and contributes to fiscal bankruptcy of the federal government. When a government spends double the amount it budgets for education and health to subsidize a product used mostly by rich citizens who can afford to pay for their use, then the provision of such goods or services is patently inefficient.

Twentieth-century economics rates high the idea of market efficiency based on the theories of Kenneth Arrow and Gerard Debreu. That theory holds that a market can be competitive and efficient (under some assumptions) at the right prices that converge all subjective preferences.

At this price, the demand matches supply. The free market requires flexible prices that reflect the equilibrium points where supply equals demand. We know that in the real world, markets are rarely perfect and fully competitive because of both externalities and asymmetries.

The concern for efficiency in the consumption of PMS is two-fold. First, efficient pricing will stop the federal government from paying for PMS and reduce the public sector borrowing requirement for a heavily indebted, low revenue country like Nigeria, that spent 78% of its revenue in 2022 servicing debts.

In the past, the NNPC would pay the difference between market prices and actual costs. This created room for serious fraud. Today, NNPC imports the PMS and sells to marketers at costs and mark-up. The landing costs which NNPC incurs on behalf of the government constitute the 'subsidy payment'.

What matters for government in the subsidy case is that market for PMS will now be one that consumers pay for what they consume. This is cost-efficiency.

The second value of price efficiency is that people will make efficient use of the product, consuming when they need it and can afford it, and forbearing when they don't need it and can forbear. If the

price equals costs, there would be no need to subsidise the supply and no incentive to smuggle the product through the borders because there is no significant price differential.

Nigeria's porous borders require policing. But it is cheaper to achieve the same objective through pricing. In this case, the price in-state is the same or close to the same as the price out-state.

How much will government save if it allows the price of PMS to equal the cost at any time? It estimates that it could save about N10 trillion annually. The argument is that the saving will go into building infrastructure, which will drive up growth and improve welfare.

The efficiency logic goes together with the argument about the proper role of government. Public sector economics believes that a state properly plays three roles in a society: allocative, distributive and stabilization roles.

The allocative role of the state prescribes efficiency, which requires that the state allocates resources to where it is most efficiently utilised. Proper pricing is one mechanism of attaining allocative efficiency.

The distributive role relates to concern about what is happening to the wellbeing of citizens. The official orthodoxy of the Washington Consensus used to be that 'a rising tide lifts all the boats'. In the subsidy debate, it translates to saying 'we recognise that the removal of subsidy will cause hardship to many. But don't worry, trust us.'

Once we invest the savings into infrastructure there will be good life for all. But the thing though is that the return of investment in infrastructure for citizens will not correlate to ending their suffering, even in the long term. In the short term, investing in infrastructure will not mitigate the extreme hardship that the poor and vulnerable citizens will suffer.

A rising tide does not lift all boats. Who get lifted depends on the nature of the current, what the boat is made of and how it is steered.

Whereas government will focus on efficiency rather than equity, the labour movement and associated groups pick up the equity lens.

The state overriding obligation for the security and wellbeing of the people commits it to more than efficiency considerations. In fact, efficiency must be coupled with equity.

The mistake of the subsidy debate is to assume that the existence of subsidy as an equity issue dispenses with efficiency from an economic perspective. As the first African Noble Laureate in

Economics, W. Arthur Lewis, puts it in his classic text on economic growth, efficiency translates to economising. That is, ensuring we produce more with less. Subsidy administration can be efficient and inefficient.

We can target it to the group that needs it and in the measure it needs it, without damaging incentive for economising. The main problem may not be the existence of subsidies as much as the gross inefficiency and corruption in their administration.

Most Nigerian elites seems to agree that fuel subsidy should be removed. But the elite consensus to remove the entire subsidy and expose the working and unemployed poor to poverty and immiseration does not translate to a consensus to attack many layers and levels of entrenched inefficiency in Nigerian political economy. The Orosanya Report recommended rationalization of parastatals and agencies to reduce costs of governance. Successive Nigerian leaders have refused to implement the report because it will result in powerful elites losing high paying political jobs. Nigerian legislators earn the highest in the world in a bankrupting economy.

The annual salary and benefits of a Nigerian senator come about N350m while those of a minimum wage earner are less than N400,000. Despite clamor and street protests, legislators have refused to cut down on the gross waste. Nigeria loses about 470,000 bpd (amounting to \$700m monthly) of its crude to thieves working for top military and political leaders.

There is no consensus to go hard on oil bunkering because it is Nigerian military and political leaders who are involved in the criminality. We have accepted this inefficiency in our stride.

There is no doubt that Nigeria can ill-afford this level of subsidy payment with its low revenue profile. The fiscal crisis of the Nigerian economy is endemic and needs a drastic action to stabilise. That brings up the third role of government in public finance: stabilisation.

The government should consider how its fiscal and monetary policies affect employment, prices, and productivity. The inflationary impact of subsidy removal may undermine growth and economic recovery. It may reduce household consumption and aggravate poverty.

This is why some who support the removal of subsidy are worried at the abrupt and reckless manner of the removal. As part of the government's stabilisation role, it must think of mitigation of the social and economic impacts of its policy.

Samia's message to leaders apt: 'Be servants of the people'

By Mark Mapambano

SERVANT leadership is a well-documented principle with empathy at its core. Servant leaders normally focus on their employees, or in case of public affairs, ordinary citizens, constantly working to understand and solve their problems.

The term 'servant leadership' was coined by Robert Greenleaf, a 20th century American researcher who was sceptical about traditional leadership styles that focus on more authoritarian relationships between leaders and the ordinary people.

A servant leader always wants to get to know the problems facing the people, works on solutions and good relationship as well as helps them reach their goals. Empathy is crucial because it helps servant leaders connect with the people and actively work to serve them.

Even upon attaining a powerful position, a servant leader typically encourages their subordinates to look to serve others as their priority over personal gains. Most servant leaders normally delegate or share power and encourage development and growth of others.

On the other hand, an autocratic leader is the one who looks out for themselves primarily. Leadership coaches discredit autocracy because it has been established through research that to be an effective leader, it's important to develop humility and selflessness. The two drive people to look out for the goals and well-being of others before thinking about their own goals and interests.

Autocratic, or authoritarian leaders, are often described as those with ultimate authority and power over others. These leaders tend to make choices based upon their own ideas alone and do not listen to their team or seek input from others.

It has been established that autocratic leadership style works only in situations of war or crisis. This is because leaders in those situations are required to make difficult decisions, communicate and execute strategies with an unwavering focus. But when it comes to running public affairs in a peaceful country like ours, servant leadership is the real deal.

Our first President, the late Julius Kambarage Nyerere is remembered for inculcating servant leadership during his tenure. The man who embraced African socialism always encouraged public office holders to be servants of the people.

Nyerere disliked even big titles that place leaders up there and the people down there. Yes, he enjoyed the title mtukufu (noble) during formal functions but in normal undertakings that brought him close to the people, he preferred his career title, Mwalimu (teacher).

I remember Jakaya Kikwete, upon his first election as President in 2005; he made it categorical that he did not like the title mtukufu. "Nitaitwa mheshimiwa



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Dr Doto Mashaka Biteko as Deputy Prime Minister (Coordination of Government Activities) and Minister for Energy at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar on Friday. Photo: State House

kama viongozi wengine (I'll be addressed as honourable just like other leaders," he said. That is how the title died.

Days of Nyerere when honourable MPs shared a bus from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma for parliamentary sessions are gone. Now, every MP has a gas guzzler or two and a driver. Somewhere along the way, some leaders have forgotten that they are supposed to serve the people.

Given the trappings of power and resources our leaders enjoy, some appear to think that it is their right to be served by the people and not the other way round.

I'm not making this stuff up. It's President Samia Suluhu Hassan who is con-

cerned about where we have reached. Speaking after swearing-in recently-appointed ministers in Zanzibar last Friday, she urged the new leaders to sort out people's problems, well ahead of next year's local government elections.

She told the reshuffled ministers, deputy ministers and permanent secretaries at the Tunguu State Lodge in South Unguja Region that the reshuffle isn't a punishment but intended to stimulate efficiency.

Urging the portfolio holders to meet expectations of the public as servants of the people, she said that in serving the people, strengthening relations was vital, and all leaders need to take this into account to bring inclusive changes.

Leaders must stop positioning them-

selves as big people, ignoring people's problems, she said, insisting that they need to show how strong they are to address challenges facing society.

Leaders need to be calm and gentle, prioritising thinking before making decisions, she said, pointing at huge tasks ahead of Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office, which needs to work on burning issues, with next year's local government elections in mind.

The President had previously raised concern that some public office holders give Tanzanians a raw deal because they don't do what they are supposed to do.

Now that the appointing authority has spoken, it is expected that everybody should understand their positions, hence duties and responsibilities. The bigmanism that somehow found its way in our public service should end.

For, in its presence, bigmanism or big man syn-

drome, even where there is a framework of formal law and administration like our country, public service is informally tainted by patronage networks. As a result, personal interest takes precedence over the formal functions of the state, severely limiting the ability of public officials to make policies in the general interest.

The author comments on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.




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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-08-04	Multi Element Sample Analysis (ME-MS61 via ICP-MS + ICP-AES)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory/Company/Firm profile High level schedule of similar work indicating all major milestones. Must be capable of doing multi element sample analysis by ME-MS61 via ICP-MS + ICP-AES method. Experience in conducting similar projects in large scale Underground mines across the world. International accreditation with more than 10 years of experience. Updates of calibration history for all testing machines Proof of previous multi element sample analysis (ME-MS61 via ICP-MS + ICP-AES) method Resumes of all technical stuffs with more than 5 Years experience in Material Testing Laboratory.

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

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage).
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate i.e statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **11th September 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-08-01	LABORATORY ANALYTICAL SERVICES FOR WATER, SOIL & GAS SAMPLES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialized in Laboratory sample analysis and must have a proven experience in carrying out water, dust, gases, and soil samples analysis using accredited methodologies Accredited analytical methodologies and its laboratory. Experience to carry out similar works (at least 5 years). Calibrated instruments (proofs from known institution). Team with multi-discipline trained specialists with expertise in conducting Environmental sample analysis. Reliable laboratory QA/QC approach.

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- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage)
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner
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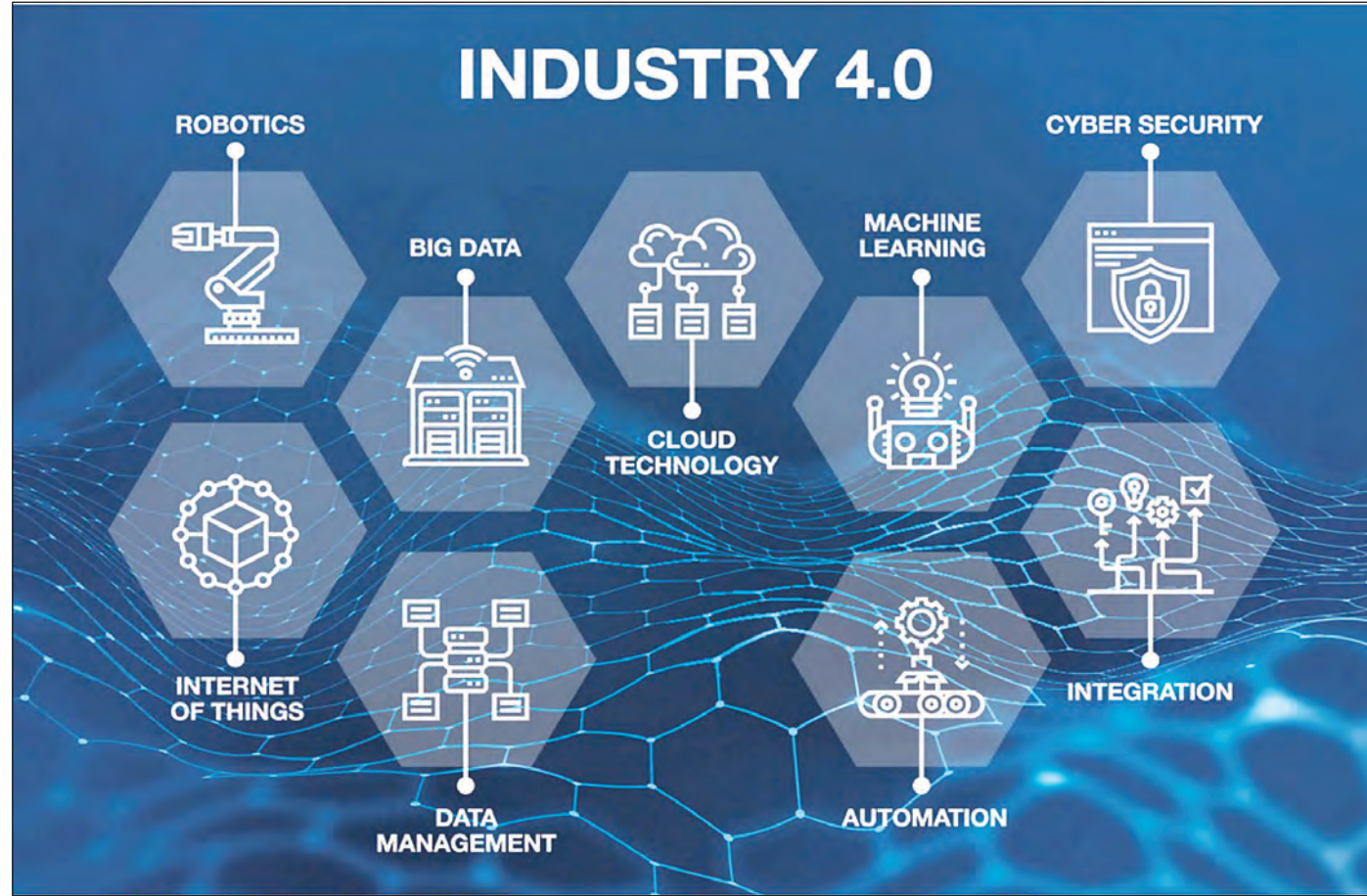
A look at Tanzania's preparedness for the fourth industrial revolution

By Telesphor Magobe

MANY countries have started reforming their education systems to align them with the rapidly changing world caused by the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) (digital) era. The world is also witnessing an unprecedented paradigm shift in education from teacher-centred approach to learner-centred approach which instills in learners critical thinking, problem-solving, interactive and personalised learning skills.

The advent of the new era is characterised by modern technologies (also called frontier or exponential technologies), which include artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), virtual and augmented reality, robotics, analytics, blockchain, metaverse, big data, cloud computing and others. These technologies, according to Nung'u & Signé (2019), facilitate the way of doing things, meeting targets in the shortest possible way and increasing efficiency.

Some studies suggest that in the future many people are going to be replaced with workplace automation, not because there will be no jobs to be done, but because those people will be lacking requisite knowledge, skills and competencies needed in the 21st century and in the 4IR era. World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Challenge Insight Report (2016) suggests that "without urgent and targeted action to manage the near-term transition and build a workforce with future-proof skills, governments will have to cope with ever-growing unemployment and in-



says Çetingöz (2023).

Studies show that although soft skills contribute to 85 per cent of a person's success, they are not easily demonstrated by academic credentials. "Yet, they are considered essential especially for teachers who stand at the very heart of teaching and learning processes" (A çam & Do an, 2021).

Therefore, adequate investment in high quality pre-primary education should go hand-in-hand with preparing pre-primary school teachers so that they become skilled in digital literacy and in child psychology and are able to instil in pre-primary schoolchildren prerequisite digital knowledge, skills and competencies. Adequate investment in pre-primary education and in the training of pre-primary school teachers is needed to improve the quality of pre-primary education, which takes into account the knowledge of schoolchildren's needs, interests and welfare.

A çam & Do an (2021) suggest that the socioeconomic welfare of a country plays a crucial role in having effective teachers at various levels and stages of education and the influence of teacher quality and competency is inextricably linked to the learner's success. Thus, there is legitimate expectation that Tanzania being a lower-middle income economy ought to have the capability to invest adequately in high quality education.

The World Bank suggests that by investing in both human development and physical capital Tanzania positions itself to achieve its broad goals and improve the quality of life for all citizens. In light of this, Tanzania can take a leaf from the Republic of Namibia which now "leads the world in spending on education and performs well above the regional average on human capital and research," according to Global Innovation Index (GI) 2022. Namibia is also a lower-middle income economy with a per capita GDP which is significantly above average for sub-Saharan African countries.

The author comments on law, human rights and education. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com



Many countries, including Tanzania, have started investing in free and compulsory pre-primary education. In Tanzania, pre-primary and secondary education has become part of free and compulsory basic education. In the past, free and compulsory education started with primary education and pre-primary education was optional for those who could afford it,

equality, and businesses with a shrinking consumer base".

Besides having professional skills (also called hard skills), which students acquire during their school, college and university studies, the future labour market requires 21st century skills (also called soft skills). Employers in the 21st century are more interested in hiring people who besides possessing professional skills they also possess soft skills suited for the labour future market. Thus, people with soft skills are at an advantage over those who do not have such skills.

Soft skills are also called life skills, transferable skills, employability skills, core competences, portable competences and so on. People who have over the years developed critical (intelligent) thinking, people who take initiative, those who are innovative, creative, those who have the capacity to communicate intelligently, those who collaborate with others, those who are problem solvers, those who work in a team, those who are able to negotiate, lead or manage others and are digital literate are said to possess soft skills.

Joynes et al. (2019) suggest that "digital literacy is individual confidence in the use of information communication technology (ICT) and proficiency in the use of digital technologies, including interactive digital skills, critical use of digital tools (analysis, critique, evaluation, creation) and the ability to attend to ethical responsibilities required in participatory in culture in technology)". These skills add value to the person's performance by increasing the person's effectiveness and efficiency.

Soft skills also transform people into being global citizens - that is, people who are aware of and understand the wider world and their place in it. Global citizens value intercultural education through which they acquire intercultural and interactional skills and competencies. Intercultural education helps children to grow up seeing each other interdependent and bearing with each other.

Global citizens are people who take an active role in their community and work with others to make the world a more peaceful, sustainable and fairer world to live in. This is an attribute which each one of us ought to have.

Autor et al. (2020) suggest that technological change is simultaneously replacing existing work and creating new work, but it is not eliminating work altogether. The authors say that "enabling workers to remain productive in a continuously evolving workplace requires empowering them with excellent skills programmes at all stages of life: in primary and secondary schools, in vocational and college programmes, and in ongoing adult training programmes."

Many countries, including Tanzania, have started investing in free and compulsory pre-primary education. In Tanzania, pre-primary and secondary education has become part of free and compulsory basic education. In the past, free and compulsory education started with primary education and pre-primary education was optional for those who could afford it, but now it is part of basic education.

Studies conducted in various countries show that early childhood education (including pre-primary education) lays the foundation for successful lifelong learning (Eurydice Report, 2019; Mabagala and Shukia, 2019; UNESCO, 2022). Thus, children who get exposure to high quality early childhood education are likely to be successful in character formation and in life and become law-abiding citizens.

In the context of the 21st century, pre-primary schoolchildren should get exposure to appropriate digital technologies so that they too possess soft skills while they are still small and develop them as they grow up. This will put them in a better position to cope with the rapidly changing world and the future labour market. "It is emphasised that 21st century skills like critical thinking and problem-solving can be developed, and qualified individuals can be raised through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education during early childhood,"




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1	BUL-23-08-03	Photon Assay sample analysis for Gold, Copper and Silver.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory/Company/Firm profile High level schedule of similar works indicating all major milestones. Experience in conducting similar projects in large scale Underground mines across the world. International accreditation with more than 10 years of experience. Must have Chrysol Photon Assay equipment for Gold, Copper and Silver sample analysis. Updates calibration history of all testing machines Proof of previous sample analysis using Photon Assay equipment for Gold, Copper, and Silver. Resumes of all technical stuffs with more than 5 Years experience in Material Testing Laboratory.

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For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



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Public-private partnership vital in ensuring success for AfCFTA

By Guardian Reporter

REBECCA Kadaga, Uganda's first Deputy Prime Minister has emphasized the importance of public and private collaboration in achieving the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Rebecca made the remarks over the weekend when inaugurating the East African Trade and Investment Summit & Expo 2023, which has been organized by the East African Business Council (EABC), the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), Afreximbank, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), RSM Eastern Africa, Madhvani Group, Standard Chartered Bank, PAC Capital, SEATINI, and PWC, the 2nd East African Business & Investment Summit carries the theme "Private Sector Driven Regional Integration for Increased Intra-African Trade & Investment."

The summit has drawn over 600 delegates, including government leaders, private sector representatives, academics, and international organizations, to discuss strategies for enhancing regional integration and boosting intra-African trade and investment.

Rebecca who is also the Uganda's minister for East African Commu-

nity Affairs highlighted the persistent non-tariff barriers that hinder intra-East African Community (EAC) trade, calling for the full implementation of AfCFTA, compliance with EAC Common Market commitments, and an increased focus on manufacturing to boost the EAC's GDP.

John Kalisa, Executive Director of the East African Business Council (EABC) said cited some of the challenges facing the regional group as the global economic shocks and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on East African economies. He outlined the summit's focus on critical domains such as the trade and investment climate, AfCFTA, Sustainable industrialization and value chains, tax regime harmonization within the EAC, liberalization of trade in services, the digital economy, innovation, SMEs, women and youth in business, and climate change & agriculture.

Kalisa underscored the summit's aim to build upon the achievements of the inaugural event held in 2019, including the ratification of AfCFTA, the finalization of the EAC Common External Tariff, and the inclusion of the Democratic Republic of Congo into the EAC.

Stephen Asiimwe, CEO PSFU stated that the Private Sector Foundation (PSFU) works closely with EABC to champion borderless



Rebecca Kadaga, Uganda's first Deputy Prime Minister

trade in the EAC bloc as the National Focal Point in Uganda. Dennis Karera, EABC Vice Chair, speaking on behalf of EABC Chairperson Angelina Ngalula, commended the EAC Council of Ministers for their commitment to creating an enabling business environment for trade and their role in key achievements.

He emphasized the need for practical policy reforms that stimulate cross-border investment within the region, reduce reliance on foreign direct investment (FDI), and promote productive integration based on comparative advantages and specialization.

Karera also highlighted the crucial roles of women,

youth, and SMEs in African cross-border trade and economic growth.

Amb. Ezéchiel Nibigira, Chair of the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers urged the private sector to tap into the EAC and AfCFTA markets to create jobs for the youth and prepare for competition in the AfCFTA market.

He stressed the importance of simplifying trade procedures, improving access to finance, and establishing joint venture partnerships for youth-led businesses.

Amb. Nibigira highlighted the significance of creating favorable legal frameworks, conducive business

environments, and eliminating non-tariff barriers to support intra-EAC exports.

Olive Kigogo, Uganda National Chamber of Commerce (UNCC), called upon governments to eliminate protectionism of non-tariff barriers and fully implement commitments and accountability of protocols on the freedom of movement of persons and goods in the EAC region.

Ashif Kassam, O.G.W, Executive Chairman, RSM Eastern Africa LL-PRSM, said: "We need to create an enabling environment for business through public private partnership. We need to work together is that it's only through fiscal consolidation and fiscal discipline, that we will be able to rationalize the tax structures across the various countries."

Annette Ssemuwemba, EAC Deputy Secretary-General Customs Trade and Monetary Affairs, reiterated the EAC treaty's people-centered and market-driven approach and commitment to implementing the resolutions of the East African Business Summit.

Dr. Klingler Michael Kurt of Germany Development Cooperation (GIZ) emphasized GIZ's commitment to championing a vibrant private sector across East Africa to shape sustainable economic development.

The East African Business and Investment Summit & Expo 2023 promises to be a platform where policies transform into prosperity, forging the path to a vibrant and prosperous East African business landscape.

Green activist wants gender equality in climate change mitigation policies

By Henry Mwangonde

CLIMATE activist has suggested the need to ensure that climate change mitigation policies are inclusive and provide equal opportunities for women participation through approaches that address challenges women face in accessing resources and information.

Lucky Michael, Executive Director of a Non-Governmental Organization, Environmental Conservation Community of Tanzania (ECCT) made the suggestion over the weekend in an exclusive interview.

She said that Tanzania's climate change mitigation policies should ideally consider gender equality and the empowerment of women, noting that though influential,

women have often been underrepresented in climate change mitigation programs due to socioeconomic factors, cultural norms, and unequal access to education and resources.

ECCT is leading a campaign dubbed: 'She Leads Green Action Program' which is designed to empower young women in Tanzania to become champions of green actions and environmental stewardship.

"Advisably, the programs could incorporate gender-sensitive approaches that recognize and address specific challenges, but all in all engaging women in policy development and implementation can lead to more comprehensive and effective strategies," she said.

Lucky said when fully involved,

women can help drive community engagement, facilitate behavior change, and promote sustainable practices at the grassroots level.

"Their involvement can lead to more holistic and effective solutions, as they often play key roles in resource management and decision-making within their families and communities," she added.

She said the motive behind the programme is to empower and engage young women and girls in environmental and climate change initiatives as it aims to equip young women and girls with the knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities necessary to take proactive steps toward sustainable and green practices.

"By involving young women and girls in these efforts, the program

seeks to create a more inclusive and diverse approach to addressing environmental challenges and fostering positive change within their communities and beyond," she added.

According to her, the decision to target young women and girls stems from the recognition that they are often a marginalized and underrepresented group in environmental and climate change initiatives adding that by focusing on this demographic group, the program aims to address gender inequalities.

She said young women and girls have the potential to bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and unique strengths to the table, making them valuable contributors to green action efforts.

After several years, the goal is to see the trained green action champions actively leading and participating in a range of environmental initiatives.

These champions should have taken on leadership roles, advocating for sustainable practices, influencing policies, and inspiring others to adopt eco-friendly behaviors. The hope is for these individuals to be driving forces behind positive environmental change and fostering a culture of sustainability within their communities," she noted.

She said however, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of gender equality and women's involvement in environmental initiatives with efforts being made to address the

gaps and ensure that women have equal opportunities to participate and lead in climate change mitigation programs.

She said Tanzania can involve women in formulating climate change mitigation policies by providing educational and training opportunities for women to enhance their knowledge and skills in environmental management and sustainable practices.

"This can also be achieved through encouraging the active participation of women in decision-making processes related to climate policies and initiatives. Creating platforms for women to share their experiences, innovations, and success stories in environmental conservation,"

Tighter control needed on perilous pesticides to protect people's health

By Getrude Mbagu

TANZANIA is among the African countries that register pesticides including the highly hazardous bug repellents (HHPs) for use in controlling pests and diseases for crops and livestock.

Unfortunately, many sellers, users and the public at large have low awareness on how to identify banned and unrestricted HHPs among other pesticides that are sold in shops due to lack of information and knowledge.

The Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) is now urging the government to put in place robust strategies to make it openly and educate the public on all banned highly hazardous pesticides.

According to the organization, the government banned a total of 44 HHPs but the majority of stakeholders are unaware of the pesticides, something which poses a huge threat to users and the environment.

Addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam recently, AGENDA's senior programme officer, Dorah Swai said making the banned pesticides publicly and greatly educating farmers and other users on them will greatly help them identify and be able to act.

She noted that highly hazardous pesticides have been recognized as an issue of concern but due to the severe adverse effects they cause to human health and the environment.

She wanted the government to put adequate investment in scaling up alternatives, especially ecological options for pest management so as to protect the sector and people's health.

"All stakeholders, the Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) importers, sellers and users have a role to play, therefore they have to be involved in implementing the ban," she said.

She added: "HHPs have been successfully phased out from agriculture in a number of countries without affecting agricultural productivity. National bans on HHPs are a cost-effective and affordable intervention for reducing deaths and harm from pesticide poisoning, we need to tell Tanzanians what pesticide to buy and not to buy."

Swai said that highly hazardous pesticides harm biodiversity and ecosystem services on which agricultural productivity depends and have been linked to significant declines in terrestrial insect and vertebrate species and



adversely affect pollination and natural pest control.

The organization urges the government to strongly control the importation of the banned HHPs in the country with the aim of protecting human health and the environment.

"These measures will increase the engagement of stakeholders in control-

ling the use of Pesticides that have serious effects on human health and environment," she said.

She cited some of the characteristics of the HHPs as causing irreversible severely acute or chronic effects. Some of the effects include cancer, sterility and defects to unborn children, effects that pass from mother to child,

and loss of biodiversity.

Haji Rehani, executive secretary of AGENDA urged the government to invest and promote research and registration of non-chemical pesticides while also disseminating their information to the public so as to increase their use in agriculture.

"This will greatly enhance production of safer

crop products without effects to humans and the environment as well as improving ecological agriculture and increasing the foreign market of ecologically produced products," he explained.

He noted that Tanzania has been participating in implanting the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

(SAICM), a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world.

SAICM was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral Preparatory Committee and supports the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

"SAICM's overall objective is the achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health," he said.

Silvani Mng'anya, Principal programme officer said that concerted international action is urgently needed, including through partnerships among governments, intergovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, pesticide manufacturers, farmers' organisations and agricultural workers' trade unions, to address the challenges.

"This is necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030," he noted.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) code of conduct (FAO and WHO in 2013) and the Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FAO and WHO 2016) HHPs as pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.

AGENDA is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which was registered in 1997 and has been raising public awareness on how to avoid health and environmental effects. It is also a member of an international NGO Network known as the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) with its headquarters in Sweden and with over 600 members in 125 countries globally. IPEN and its members work to strengthen global and national chemicals and waste policies, contribute to groundbreaking research, and build a global movement for a toxics-free future.

A nation at risk: Bangladesh's battle against climate change

By Mohammad Rakibul Hasan

BANGLADESH, a picturesque land of rivers, lush green landscapes, and a vibrant cultural heritage, faces one of its most significant challenges ever – climate change.

Situated in South Asia, with a population of over 160 million people living in an area the size of the US state of Iowa, Bangladesh is among the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and changing rainfall patterns are already profoundly impacting this nation, with potentially devastating consequences for its people and environment.

The country is a low-lying delta formed by the confluence of several major rivers, including the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna. This geographical feature makes Bangladesh prone to flooding, and as global temperatures rise, the situation only worsens. One of the most immediate and visible impacts of climate change in Bangladesh is the rising sea levels. Approximately 80 percent of the country is less than 5 meters above sea level, and a 1-meter rise in sea level could displace millions of people, submerge vast areas of agricultural land, and inundate significant cities like Dhaka, Chittagong, and Khulna. This poses a severe threat to the country's economy and social stability.

Bangladesh is also experiencing increased extreme weather events such as heatwaves, cyclones, storms, and heavy rainfall. The frequency and intensity of these events have risen in recent years, causing widespread damage to infrastructure, homes, and agricultural land. The cyclone-prone coastal areas are particularly at risk. Climate change alters rainfall patterns in Bangladesh, leading to erratic monsoons and prolonged dry spells. These changes affect crop production, causing food insecurity for many. Additionally, altered river flows disrupt livelihoods dependent on fishing and agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of Bangladesh's economy, employing nearly half its workforce and contributing significantly to its GDP. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and increased salinity in coastal areas reduce crop yields and make traditional farming practices unsustainable. This has far-reaching consequences for food security nationally and globally, as Bangladesh exports rice and other agricultural products.

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, a bustling metropolis known for its vibrant culture and dynamic economy, is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change-induced weather patterns.

A case study of Gabura, a union of Satkhira District, Bangladesh, adjacent to the Sundarbans, comprises twelve villages and an island near the mainland, the most vulnerable places in Bangladesh.

It is home to more than 35 thousand people that was washed out by cyclone Aila in 2009. Hundreds of people, cattle, trees, and wild animals drowned and died in the water.

Many people went to the nearest cyclone centers to survive, but many survived by climbing the trees or standing on the roofs of houses made of wood. Even after the cyclones, people were too poor to rebuild their homes and lived on the dams for over two years.

The study noted that along with the flood, the cyclone brought seawater that caused permanent salinity. Regular water sources were damaged, and crop fields created food insecurity. The land became barren, and trees couldn't sustain themselves due to soil salinity.

Flooding also impacts the region. Because of the geographical setting, Bangladesh receives and drains a massive volume of upstream water.

The flows of significant rivers originate from the Himalayas; due to the temperature rise, melting glaciers cause floods, and areas become waterlogged. Floodwaters seep into supplies used for drinking and washing, and latrines are washed away, allowing raw sewage to increase the threat of diseases such as cholera.

Women in developing countries like Bangladesh mostly live in poverty and natural disasters. These are making them more vulnerable, affecting their livelihoods and security.

In general, women are responsible for household work. The impact of climate change around coastline



Gabura Union, situated in the southwestern region of Bangladesh near the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest, faces a dire threat as scientists predict that it could be submerged by the year 2025 due to the impacts of climate change. This area, characterised by low-lying coastal terrain, is exceptionally vulnerable to sea-level rise and storm surges. Credit: Mohammad Rakibul Hasan

areas of Bangladesh has made women more prone to poverty.

The effect of climate change impacts indirectly on people, especially women and children.

Physical vulnerability may include death, injury, diseases, physical abuse, chronic malnutrition, and forced labor. Social vulnerability includes loss of parents and family, internal displacement, risk of being trafficked, loss of property and assets, and lack of educational opportunities.

Women contribute to both household maintenance and work in agriculture. "Up to 43% of rural women devote their time to aquaculture and agriculture, which are spheres likely to be affected by weather variability" (Hanifa et al. 2022), and when catastrophes hit either in rural coastal areas, income declines directly affect women's agency, quality of their diet, and wealth and this in turn impacts the children.

Safe drinking water sources have become scarce in coastal areas because of groundwater salinity. Women and children must collect drinking water from distant places, and even many cases, they collect water crossing rivers. Frequent cyclone hits, food shortages, and inadequate water supply make women's lives difficult, and as a result, school dropout

rates and child marriage rates are high across the coastline. Malnourishment and diseases also impair learning. Extreme climate change-related disasters threaten school buildings and educational materials. For example, cyclones Sidr and Aila caused massive damage to school buildings and wiped out teaching materials around Sundarbans and its locality.

The coastal areas of Bangladesh have completely different geophysical features from the other parts of the country. It also has socio-political patterns that are not seen in the rest of the country, which elevates risks and vulnerabilities of the people who live across the coastline territories.

The coastline brings challenges for earning income. Thus, the poverty margin accelerates many risks and human security factors immediately impacting its inhabitants, as do frequent natural catastrophes.

"A vast river network, a dynamic estuarine system, and a drainage basin intersect the coastal zone, which made coastal ecosystem as a potential source of natural resources, diversified fauna, and flora composition, though there also have an immense risk of natural disasters," Shamsuddoha and Chowdhury (2007) noted.

Every year people are displaced from

the coastal areas of Sundarbans. The tidal floods and cyclones bring seawater to destroy sweet water sources such as ponds, rivers, and land groundwater.

Over the last two decades, the increase in salinity has been high. Paddy and various vegetable fields have failed, and this has resulted in food scarcity exacerbating many diseases.

The International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR) researchers have noticed an alarmingly high rate of miscarriages in the small village of Chakaria, near Cox's Bazaar, on the east coast of Bangladesh (Haider, 2019). Studies and research on the other part of the coastal areas around Sundarbans on fertility and uterus cancer that may be linked to climate change and salinity rise are underway because there is evidence that consuming saline water harms the skin, menstruation, and, more seriously, unborn children.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) reports have indicated the increasing ferocity of weather patterns throughout the years, documenting the environmental and social impacts of each disaster.

People around coastlines near Sundarbans constantly search for food, catching excessively young shrimps from rivers and degrading the marine ecology

and biodiversity. As the places around coastlines are affected by salinity due to climate change, people's usual professions are replaced by alternatives to survive in hostile conditions. Due to the lack of work opportunities, women have no choice but to catch baby shrimp from coastal rivers; they sell them in the local market. A significant number of agents work for big shrimp firms that buy undersized shrimps.

Fishing communities in Bangladesh report that the availability of many local species has declined with riverbeds' silting up, temperature changes, and earlier flooding. Communities are coping by selling labor, migrating, and borrowing money from lenders. The unemployment rate has increased as local peasants lose their jobs due to the scarcity of agricultural land. Shrimp farming needs much less labor than agriculture. As a result, many migrate to wealthier areas, while others depend on Sundarbans' forest resources.

The government has invested in constructing cyclone shelters and early warning systems, reducing the loss of life during cyclones and storms.

Efforts are underway to promote climate-resilient agricultural practices, including developing drought-resistant crop varieties and better water management. Expanding access to renewable energy sources, such as solar power, in rural areas reduces the pressure on traditional biomass fuels, mitigating deforestation minimizes the stress on conventional biomass fuels and mitigates.

Bangladesh has sought international support and partnerships to fund and implement climate adaptation projects, including efforts to protect coastal areas from sea-level rise. The country's efforts to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change are commendable, but the scale of the problem requires sustained international cooperation and support.

The world must recognize that Bangladesh is not alone in this battle; the consequences of climate change here are harbingers of what may come in other vulnerable regions if global action is not taken promptly. To protect this beautiful nation and its people, we must act decisively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support those on the front lines of climate change, like Bangladesh.

Mohammad Rakibul Hasan is a documentary photographer/filmmaker and visual artist. He was nominated for many international awards and won hundreds of photographic competitions worldwide, including the Lucie Award, the Oscar of Photography, the Human Rights Press Award, and the Allard Prize. His photographs have been published and exhibited internationally. He is based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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BUSINESS

Chinese Exports and Imports Plunge This Year

Weakening trade is weighing on the economy's recovery



China's economy recovery remains fragile despite announced stimulus

BEIJING

China's trade and inflation data this week will likely signal that the economy's recovery remains fragile, keeping pressure on policymakers to roll out more stimulus.

Thursday's trade report is expected to show exports and imports contracted again in August from a year earlier, although at a milder pace than in July, according to the median estimates in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

Deflation may also have eased, with figures due Sept. 9 probably showing an increase in consumer prices, according to state media.

Economists warn that China's growth outlook remains far from certain despite the likely improvement in the data.

Global demand for Chinese goods is still weak, as reflected by the depressed level of manufacturing gauges in the country's main export markets. And an ongoing slump in the property market is curbing China's import demand for building materials.

Beijing has taken more concerted steps in recent days to shore up the ailing housing market, while also stepping up its defense of the currency and expanding some tax breaks to households. It may take some time for those policy measures to show up in the economic data, though.

"The mortgage rate cuts announced by China's regulators are bigger than we previously envisaged, and are well designed to stimulate consumption while avoiding inflating more property bubbles," says Chang Shu and David Qu of Bloomberg Economics.

Economists have downgraded growth forecasts for the year closer to Beijing's target of about 5%, while also lowering their expectations for inflation.

Purchasing managers' surveys for August showed a pickup in manufacturers' input and output prices, suggesting an easing in producer-price deflation. Rising food prices and stronger spending on services such as travel and eating out also probably helped to lift consumer inflation in August, according to economists at Citigroup Inc.

Elsewhere, testimony by UK policymakers and key pre-decision speeches by euro-zone and US officials will punctuate the week.

Central banks in Canada, Australia, Malaysia and Israel may keep rates on hold, while officials in Poland and Chile are likely to cut them.

US and Canada

After a hefty dose of labor market data, the US economic calendar gets considerably lighter in the coming week, which is shortened by Monday's Labor Day holiday. The Federal Reserve's Beige Book on Wednesday will offer anecdotes of recent economic activity around the country.

The same day, the Institute for Supply Management releases results of its August survey of service providers. Economists forecast activity expanded at a moderate pace during the month.

A slew of Fed officials, including John Williams, Raphael Bostic and Lorie Logan, are scheduled to speak on Thursday.

Further north, the Bank of Canada is widely expected to hold rates steady at 5% after data on Friday showed the economy unexpectedly shrank in the second quarter.

The central bank's decision on Wednesday will be accompanied by a brief statement. Governor Tiff Macklem will deliver a speech and take questions from reporters the following day in Calgary.

South, East African Chief Justices to discuss AFCTA's dispute resolutions

By Guardian Reporter

Chief Justices (CJs) from south and East African countries are expected to convene at Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha to share experiences on trade and investments disputes resolutions, as Africa is moving towards creating the continental free trade area.

The forum among other things will involve the discussion on the role of judiciary in resolving trade and investment disputes that will arise during the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) agreement.

The chairman of the forum's preparatory committee Judge of the Court of Appeal, Ignas Kitusi said Chief Justices (CJs) from 16 countries, forming the South and East Africa Chief Justices Forum (SEACJF) are expected to convene in the East African Community (EAC) headquarters for five days.

The attending CJs are coming from South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda.

Judge Kitusi said the main objectives of the forum, which is expected to be held from 23rd to 28th this



Judge Ignas Kitusi

month, will include the use of Information and Communication Technology in dispute resolution and the role of judiciary in implementation of continental free trade agreement.

"The CJs and other delegates from judiciary, including two judges from each member will formulate a strategy on how to increase efficiency in resolving AFCTA's trade and investments disputes through the use of ICT," he said during his meeting with editors from different media organizations.

He said the forum will also discuss on whether the regional judiciary will

use adopted ICT system or there is a need to form domestic system that will be operated in resolving investment and trade disputes.

Judge Kitusi said the forum will also identify ways to reduce obstacles associated with resolving trade and investment disputes.

The meeting is expected to be officially opened by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and will be attended by ministers responsible for trade and investments

from each member countries, the office of the Speaker of National Assembly, representatives from higher learning institutions as well as different

institutions.

"The forum will discuss how judiciary in the South and East Africa region is positioned to efficiently resolve disputes associated with the implementation of AFCTA protocol," he said.

He said six Chief Justices (CJs) from the forum's member countries are expected to share experiences on trade and investments disputes resolutions.

"The attending Judges are expected to have the common understanding that when they resolve trade and investments disputes, they have to recognize that the area is gov-

erned by free trade agreement," he further said.

Apart from discussions and presentation, the forum will also feature exhibitions among judiciary services providers.

The forum's attending delegates will also have a chance to visit the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, one of the world heritage sites to see the wonders of the area as part of promoting tourism.

The South African Chief Justice Forum provides a formal platform, structure and framework through which the Chief Justices of Eastern and Southern Africa and Africa at large are able to collectively reflect on critical issues on justice delivery and adopt action plans to address those issues in a systematic and sustained way in order to strengthen justice delivery in the region.

In recognition and amplification of the important role that judiciaries play within the regions, the Southern African Chief Justices Forum was established in 2003 to, among other things, uphold the rule of law, democracy and independence of the courts and to promote contact as well as co-operate among the courts in the regions of its operation.

BoT to maintain less accommodative monetary policy to contain liquidity

By Guardian Reporter

In the view of the global and domestic economic environment, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) will continue to maintain a less accommodative monetary policy stance to contain liquidity within the desired levels.

In its statement after its 227th ordinary meeting on 31st August, the BoT's Monetary Policy Committee said monetary policy measures will be implemented to align liquidity with the foreign exchange demand.

This is the continuation since 2022/23, when the BoT shifted from pursuing an accommodative monetary policy to a less accommodative monetary policy in response to the spillover effects of the global economic shocks caused by the war in Ukraine, the residual effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and domestic economic conditions.

The thrust of this policy stance is to strike a balance between the objective of containing inflation within the target of 5.4 percent and safeguarding recovery of economic activities, while sustaining financial stability.

The statement issued by the Governor of the central bank said in Tanzania mainland, inflation has been declining for six consecutive months, reaching 3.3 percent in July 2023 from 4.9 percent in January 2023, while in Zanzibar it reached 6.7 percent from 8.4 percent.



Emmanuel Tutuba, Governor, Bank of Tanzania

Inflation is projected to remain low, below the medium-term target of 5 percent.

Money supply growth has been relatively high compared to the target, mostly driven by private sector credit growth, according to the statement.

The annual growth of extended broad money supply was 18.8 percent in June 2023, compared to the target of 10.3 percent.

The governor said the less accommodative monetary policy measures are also expected to facilitate attainment of the targets under the Extended Credit Facility Program for the quarter ending September 2023.

The MPC also observed that, the economy experienced shortage of the foreign exchange, particularly the US dollar, due to the global shocks.

However, owing to ad-

equated foreign reserves and measures adopted to increase supply of the foreign exchange in the market, the situation is expected to improve, according to MPC.

The private sector is therefore encouraged to boost production to increase exports and import substitution.

MPC notes that the foreign exchange position remained stable, as reflected in foreign exchange reserves, which remained adequate amounting to US\$ 5,338.9 million in July 2023, sufficient to cover about 4.8 months of projected imports.

The MPC also observed that the growth of credit to the private sector was high, thus providing impetus to improved economic growth in 2023.

In addition, the MPC discussed the recent performance of the global economy and observed that it is gradually improving.

The projected growth for 2023 has been revised to 3 percent, up from the earlier projection of 2.8 percent. Additionally, commodity prices in the world market have been easing, and inflation have been declining.

As a result, central banks in advanced economies are progressively reducing aggressiveness of monetary policy tightening.

This global landscape provides favourable environment for improved growth of economic activities in Tanzania.

Furthermore, the MPC discussed the recent performance of domestic economy and observed that In Mainland Tanzania, the GDP growth for the first quarter of 2023 was 5.6 percent, in line with the annual projection of 5.2 percent, mainly driven by agriculture, construction, and mining.



Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo speaks with Kariakoo traders at a meeting aimed at discussing ways to ensure improved conditions for traders in downtown Dar es Salaam. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Absa gets mortgage deal for 5-star hotel in Zanzibar

By Francis Kajubi

Absa Bank Tanzania has entered into a mortgage lending deal with The Squid Zanzibar Limited, an investor of a 5-star luxury condo resort in the Isles, The Ocean Pearl Zanzibar.

The deal, which comes only a few months after the bank launched its revamped mortgage proposition, will see the provide Tanzanians, both residents and non-residents, an opportunity to invest in Zanzibar's stunning 5-star resort overlooking the Indian Ocean.

The Ocean Pearl Zanzibar is set to become one of its kind 5-star luxury condo resorts in the Isles upon completion of the first phase come mid-2025.

The dream destination will offer a unique combination of water, sandy beaches, culinary experiences, adventure and trips to nearby islands, history and culture, everything gathered in one place as to spoil and make visitors fall in love with this exotic destination.

The luxury condo resort will contain different types of apartments including studio apartments on the ground, first and superior floor with stunning view to the ocean from generous terrace; penthouse apart-

ments with amazing pools, generous terrace with amazing sunshades and jacuzzi; Pearl villas and Luxury villas with private pools, amazing ocean view, bar, generous terraces, and gardens.

George Alexandru, the Managing Director of Squid Zanzibar Limited - the developer of The Ocean Pearl Zanzibar, speaking during the press event, said "We are really thrilled to have secured this mortgage agreement with Absa Bank Tanzania. For us winning the confidence of a Pan-African bank like Absa speaks volume about our credibility and it serves as a testament to the viability of this multi-billion shillings project".

"To our potential investors, this is once-in-a-lifetime investment opportunity for those who have been looking to get into the hospitality business without wanting to deal with the hassles of day-to-day management of a hotel," he added.

On her part, Ndabu Swere, the bank's head of retail banking, said "When we launched our revamped mortgage proposition in February, we promised to continue to enhance our proposition even further. And now within just six months we have come up with another great proposition that's first of its kind in the market.

Obedi Laiser, the bank's Managing



Absa Bank Tanzania Head of Retail Banking, Ndabu Lilian Swere (R), addresses a media conference in Dar es Salaam soon after signing a mortgage deal. Looking on are Absa Bank's head of affluent segment, Thereza Majinge and The Squid Zanzibar Ltd CEO, George Alexandru. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Director, said "These kinds of deals are the embodiment of our brand purpose and we are truly committed to empowering Tanzanians, and this is why we are constantly coming up with new solutions and invest-

ment opportunities that are geared towards helping our customers grow their investments and accumulate real wealth."

"This opportunity is open to both resident and non-resident Tanzani-

ans, which means that even our relatives in the diaspora can also benefit from our home loan and capitalize on this great investment opportunity while continuing with their work abroad," he added.

Pan Africa PR agency expands operations to UK

By Guardian Correspondent

PAN-African public relations agency LSF PR has expanded its operations to the United Kingdom after a decade of operations in Africa.

Speaking on the move, Managing Director, LSF PR Africa Operations Tolu Akinbamiyori said the expansion to the UK is proof of the organization's growth in the last decade.

"We are optimistic that with our understanding of the African, UK and EU markets, we're well-equipped to navigate cultural nuances and offer a unique perspective with impactful communication strategies".

With an impressive record of over a decade in strategic and corporate communications and a well-established Pan-African presence across East, West, and South Africa, the company is poised to redefine the PR industry by offering unparalleled expertise in facilitating impactful connections, building narratives from an African perspective, and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups across the world.

With the strategic expansion, the agency will cater to three target groups; businesses in Africa looking to seamlessly integrate into the UK and European market, ensuring visibility and success, UK and European businesses seeking to tap into diverse stakeholder groups across Africa.

The company also seeks to link UK and European based businesses looking to effectively connect with the African diaspora community within the region.

LSF PR specializes in corporate communications, technology, and consumer brands, boasting an extensive portfolio and an experienced team. Among the agency's robust clientele is inq. Group; leading-edge computing technology company, Convergence Partners - a Pan-African private equity firm dedicated to accelerating ICT infrastructure growth across Africa, Siemens, L'Oréal Professional Paris, Binance, BIC, Jumia and several others.

"Our expansion into the UK and European market signifies a natural progression, born from our deep understanding of the intricacies of the African media landscape and the unique dynamics of the UK and EU market, enabling us to offer unparalleled insights and solutions that transcend cultural boundaries," said Bidemi Zakariyau Akande, Founder and CEO, LSF PR.

Since inception, LSF PR has consistently demonstrated an unswerving dedication to excellence, one that has earned the agency a distinguished array of accolades spanning diverse categories.

It has also been listed by PRovoke's Global Creative Index as one of the most creative PR agencies in the world.

2023 to 2.3 percent, from 2.6 percent previously expected.

"Our revision is mostly driven by lower global energy price expectations, including gas prices in key LNG export markets, which will drive down government revenue and, hence, public investment spending," the report said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects Qatar's real GDP to grow by 2.4 percent in 2023, following 4.2 percent growth in 2022.

"After very strong growth in 2022 boosted by the World Cup, the economy is expected to normalize in the near term while the outlook remains relatively favorable," the IMF said in May.

Real GDP growth is expected at 2.2-2.5 percent in 2023 and 2024 on robust domestic demand and the ongoing LNG expansion, with inflation moderating gradually to around 3 percent, the fund noted.

Police, betting firm train boda boda riders on road safety

By Guardian Correspondent

Over 250 boda-boda riders in Dar es Salaam region have benefited from a road safety education and awareness program offered by betPawa Tanzania in collaboration with the Police force, traffic division.

Dubbed 'betPawa Boda-boda Road Safety Training', the program is intended to complement the government's efforts in fighting against avoidable road accidents, especially involving boda-bodas, one of the most vulnerable groups to traffic accidents in the country.

In her remarks during the opening session of the training workshop, betPawa's Country Marketing Manager Borah Ndanyungu said according to published surveys boda bodas significantly contribute to the overall road traffic injuries in the country citing lack of formal riding training and road

safety education as among contributive factors.

"Data shows Tanzania loses over 16,000 people annually and boda boda-related accidents account for the majority of road traffic injuries. As a result, it is important to provide education and awareness to this group on their role and responsibility in preventing traffic accidents. betPawa is proud to offer its support in this area," she said.

The chairman of boda-boda riders in Dar es Salaam Boniface Matala lamented the increase of boda boda accidents in the country, citing ignorance of road safety rules as one of the main reasons for the proliferation of accidents.

"Lack of awareness of road safety rules is a problem for many drivers. We are grateful to betPawa and the Traffic Police for bringing to us this education that reminds us of what we have to do and observe

when on the road" he said.

The head of Road Safety Desk at Traffic Police SP Deus Sokoni applauded betPawa for organising the training workshop which he said had provided fresh impetus to promoting road safety in the country.

"All of us, ranging from the police force, drivers, the community and other stakeholders have a responsibility to make our roads safe. I am happy to see that betPawa has organised this important education and awareness session.

"Road traffic injuries cause considerable economic losses to individuals, their families and the nation as a whole. The losses arise from the cost of treatment as well as lost productivity for those killed or disabled by their injuries and for family members who need to take time off work or school to care for the injured," he added.



BetPawa marketing manager Borah Ndanyungu speaks at the opening of road safety training among for bodaboda taxi operators in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Global energy slump impacts Qatar's finances

DOHA

Lower oil and gas prices this year and the end of last year's massive spending before and during the World Cup have slowed down the economic growth in Qatar, one of the world's top liquefied natural gas exporters, which is currently building the biggest LNG expansion project in history.

Qatar announced in 2021 the world's largest LNG project, which is set to raise its LNG production capacity from 77 million tons per annum (mtpa) to 110 mtpa. When the North Field expansion is completed in 2026-2027, Qatar will have significantly higher LNG export capacity, which is set to boost export revenues and public spending.

Qatar is estimated to have spent around \$220 billion to host the World Cup at the end of last year in what was the most expensive World Cup ever. Most of the funds were spent on hospitality, transportation infrastructure, and telecommunications.

With these amounts of spending now over, the Qatari economy slowed in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, when the tournament was held. Qatar's quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices rose by 2.7 percent in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the same period of 2022, Qatar's Planning and



Statistics Authority said this week.

However, compared to the previous quarter, when Qatar hosted the World Cup, the quarterly GDP shrank by 3.9 percent.

Lower international oil and gas prices also led to lower proceeds for the state and for spending. Oil and gas-related growth, the so-called mining and quarrying activities, was 0.3 percent in terms of real gross

value added (GVA) in Q1 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. Non-hydrocarbon activities, on the other hand, saw a 6.3 percent decline quarter-on-quarter in the first quarter of 2023.

Qatar, one of the world's top three LNG exporters alongside the United States and Australia, gets most of its revenues from gas sales, and the Gulf state's long-term contracts are linked

to international crude oil prices. So, volatility and a decline in energy commodity prices impact budget revenues.

LNG prices globally have sunk by 55 percent so far this year, following the record highs seen in August 2022 when Europe scrambled for supply after Russia cut off gas deliveries to most of its previous European customers.

Qatar's economy this year reflects not only the lower global gas prices but also the lack of significant spending on major infrastructure projects after the World Cup ended.

Economists and analysts expect slower GDP growth for Qatar this year compared to 2022.

In April, BMI, a Fitch Solutions company, slightly lowered its projections for Qatar's real GDP growth in

Resource-rich countries facing a double transition

JOHANNESBURG

Resource-rich countries face a double transition - the transition in their energy supplies and the transition in their mining sectors, German Institute for International and Security Affairs senior associate Melanie Müller has said.

The growing drive to confront the issues of climate change and other environmental dilemmas was gaining traction, manifesting as a 'green energy transition', denoting a pivotal shift from energy sources reliant on fossil fuels to those harnessed from renewable origins such as solar and wind, she pointed out this week during a webinar hosted by The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

However, to orchestrate this sweeping global transformation, a diverse array of resources, particularly minerals such as copper, lithium and cobalt, have become essential. Notably, the bulk of these resources are chiefly procured from regions situated in the global south.

SAIIA has launched a

special issue of the South African Journal for International Affairs (SAJIA) titled, 'The energy transition and green mineral value chains: Challenges and opportunities for Africa and Latin America'.

Müller was guest editor of the special issue, which focuses on the global just energy transition and merges various viewpoints on the green energy transition and mineral value chains from Latin America and Africa.

The special issue of the SAJIA attempts to collate various viewpoints concerning the green energy transition and the intricate web of mineral supply chains across Latin America and Africa. The articles in the journal address the challenges encountered by nations on these two continents, while also scrutinizing the potential opportunities that may also unfold as part of these far-reaching changes.

Müller explained that, to uncover the views of players from the global south, the risks and opportunities that stakeholders in those regions encounter needed to be explored, owing to the dual transition and the escalating global geopoliti-



cal rivalry that defines the current era.

She said that, until now, there had been limited efforts for intensive international cooperation between the global north and south to bolster value creation or alternative forms of production and energy.

Current programmes such as the just energy transition partnerships were preliminary steps towards a comprehensive cooperative approach to a global energy transition. However, the requirements of raw material-producing nations were often inadequately addressed in global climate change mitigation strategies, Müller said.

She added that these deficiencies created an imbalance in the present

concept of a global energy transition, but that they also provided potential for the development of more innovative and, hence, more promising policy approaches. She said the States in the global south could consider these when discussing these matters at a national level.

Müller noted that initiatives for implementing green industrialisation programmes, with a focus on the future of the minerals sector, were crucial as this reduced nation States in the global south being dependent on global uncertainties and encouraged all parties to avoid quick fixes. It also provided opportunities to formulate progressive reform programmes for the minerals sector.

Müller said that, to be successful, the sustainable energy transition needed to be viewed holistically, acknowledging the mutual dependence of raw material importing and exporting countries, and the specific challenges and opportunities concerning their minerals sector in relation to national development interests.

She explained that a sustainable energy future would necessitate refram-

ing 'green energy' within a more integrated structure, where sustainability is more comprehensively incorporated.

Müller noted that this ultimately led to the question of how to execute global sustainability standards, which nations worldwide have pledged to through the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the SDG agenda, nations globally have committed to implementing these goals, although progress varies across countries.

Meanwhile, the pressure on resource-rich countries, especially those in the raw materials sector, is intensifying through the introduction of national laws or discussions around the implementation of a European law to regulate sustainability and due diligence in supply chains.

While this aligned with the interests of many global south States, which had long advocated for supply chain regulation concerning sustainability and human rights, it added to the existing geopolitical and economic challenges faced by commodity exporters, Müller said.

Africa the next 'growth engine' for Prudential, says new chief

LONDON

Prudential's new chief executive has said Africa presents the same long-term growth prospects as its markets in Asia, signalling that expansion in the continent would be the next roll of the dice for the FTSE 100 insurer after a drawn-out exit from its US and European operations.

Speaking to the Financial Times, Anil Wadhvani (pictured), who announced last week that he would "do things differently" at the insurance group, said the drivers of growth in Africa were "very similar" to those it has experienced in its core Asian markets, with fast-growing populations and rising appetite for insurance products.

"We believe that over a period of time, Africa will provide us with that growth opportunity, as the markets mature, as the customers get a lot more aware of wanting and needing insurance as part of their protection, health coverage, as well as savings needs", he said.

Over the next five to 10 years, Wadhvani added, Africa could be "absolutely a growth engine that

could complement" the growth in its Asian business. He pointed to Vietnam, which has grown from a small operation to one that provided \$298m of sales last year, or 7 per cent of the group total. "If I could find the next Vietnam in Africa, that would be awesome."

Wadhvani began his role in February, but has only started publicly outlining his plans for Prudential in the past week, after the company published half-year results.

Prudential has been through a major transformation in recent years, shedding its businesses in the UK and the US following pressure from shareholders to focus on faster-growing markets in Asia. It completed the restructuring in 2021.

That left it with a large exposure to Hong Kong and China at a time when Covid-19 restrictions cut off an important revenue stream, in stopping mainland Chinese customers from crossing the border to buy insurance policies in Hong Kong. Prudential's steep fall in new business profits in the territory last year highlighted the risks of its new, smaller footprint.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 8 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Mye Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle
13:55 Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:00 Habari za saa	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:55 Habari za saa
15:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	15:55 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon rpt	16:30 Watoto wetu	16:35 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:45 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
SUNDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
TUESDAY 11 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
WEDNESDAY 12 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
THURSDAY 13 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
FRIDAY 14 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
SATURDAY 15 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
SUNDAY 16 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
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CAPITAL

Mon 10 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
Tues 11 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
Wed 12 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
Thurs 13 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
Fri 14 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
Sat 15 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
Sun 16 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Dw	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Business edition	12:00 Out and About	13:00 Our earth	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt

WORLD

US schools face surge of chronic absenteeism after pandemic

SACRAMENTO

AS the new school year has begun, public schools across the United States face a common problem -- rising absence rate, which was worsened by the pandemic and shows no sign of abating.

From West Coast to East Coast, from urban to rural districts, public schools are struggling to bring students back to classrooms.

Many local news outlets said this week that some schools have to get creative to combat chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism means missing 10 percent or more of a school year. For students on a typical 180-day school calendar, this totals about one month of missed school.

In Bakersfield, California, McKinley Elementary School held a "Walk to School" event on Friday, inviting parents and community leaders to walk students into school.

The school said the goal was to address chronic absence. Last year, 45 percent of the school's students were chronically absent.

In Baltimore, Maryland, Mayor Brandon Scott launched a friendly competition between schools this week to tackle the same absence problem.

The mayor planned to hold a special event at the end of the school year, where he would award trophies and certificates to schools that have achieved significant progress on attendance rate.

The rate of chronic absenteeism among U.S. public school students grew substantially as students returned to in-person instruction from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A new national analysis, based on data from 40 states and Washington, D.C., found that since the pandemic the number of students who were chronically absent nearly doubled to about 13.6 million.

"Specifically, between the 2018-19 and 2021-22 school years, the share of students chronically absent grew by 13.5 percentage points -- a 91-percent increase that implies an additional 6.5 million students are now chronically absent," said the study by Stanford University education professor Thomas Dee.

The study, published in August on OSF Preprints, showed that absences worsened in every state. In seven states, the rate of chronically absent students doubled for the 2021-22 school year from the 2018-19 year.

For the past 2022-23 school year, Connecticut has reported continuing high



School buses sit at the Alltown Bus Service yard on the first day of classes for Chicago's public schools on August 21, 2023 in Chicago, Illinois. (PHOTO / AFP)

absence rates. The state's education department released the 2022-23 attendance and student assessment data on Monday, which showed chronic absenteeism remains nearly double pre-pandemic rates.

More than 100,000, or 20 percent, of students across the state were still missing at least 18 days of school throughout the year, according to the report. Prior to the pandemic, about 10.4 percent of students were chronically absent.

In California, the rate of chronically absent students rose from 12.1 percent in 2018-19 to 30 percent in 2021-22, according to Dee's study, with the highest chronic absenteeism rate of 35.7 percent in rural districts.

The analysis showed that 1.77 million students across California missed at least 20 days

of school through 2021-22 year. The state's attendance data for 2022-23 is not yet available.

It also found that rural districts have seen the sharpest increases in chronic absenteeism and that the problem has been especially acute among Native American, Black and Latino students.

Educators tried to find out what caused the rising absence rate and found there were a variety of factors.

Connecticut Education Department had surveyed over 5,000 families regarding absences.

Responding families said illness was a leading factor for keeping their students at home, followed by mental health and family obligations. In Detroit Public Schools Community District, 77 percent of students were chronically

absent during the 2021-22 school year.

Experts said the reasons were largely rooted in the economic challenges -- transportation hurdles, health problems, family and housing instability.

The exact causes for the sharp spike in absenteeism were unclear, Dee said in his study, adding there's no evidence of linkage with sickness, enrollment loss, or COVID-related policies, such as mask mandates.

"This suggests the sharp rise in chronic absenteeism reflects other important barriers to learning (e.g., declining youth mental health, academic disengagement) that merit further scrutiny and policy responses," said Dee.

Xinhua

Iraq declares curfew in northern province after ethnic clashes

BAGHDAD

IRAQ declared on Saturday a curfew in the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq after clashes involving Kurds, Arabs, and Turkmens.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani, who also leads the Iraqi armed forces, ordered the curfew in Kirkuk province and initiated search operations in the areas that had witnessed riots.

Al-Sudani stressed that the security forces "must be firm in arresting anyone who dares to tamper with the security of Kirkuk, from any party, and not allow the carrying of weapons at all, except for the security services," according to a statement released by the Iraqi armed forces.

The disturbance erupted on Saturday when Arabs and Turkmens protesting the planned return of

the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to its old headquarters in the city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, clashed with Kurds at the site. The KDP is a Kurdish political party close to Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani.

Saad al-Baiyati, an officer from Kirkuk provincial police, told Xinhua that the two sides clashed in front of the KDP's former headquarters, prompting the security forces to intervene to stop the riots.

However, gunshots, suspected to have been fired from the Kurdish side, led to security forces responding with gunfire, resulting in the death of one Kurdish protester and the injury of another, according to al-Baiyati.

The Arabs and Turkmens have been protesting over the past few days against the return of the KDP, including blocking streets, setting



Iraqi protesters block a road following protests in the multi-ethnic Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Saturday. AFP

tires on fire, and staging a sit-in outside the building to prevent the KDP from reclaiming their headquarters.

The clashes are the latest in a series of tensions between the Kurds, Arabs, and Turkmens in Kirkuk, a city located in an oil-rich region

that is claimed by both the Kurdistan region and the central government in Baghdad.

In October 2017, former Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi instructed government forces to enter Kirkuk Province and reclaim authority over the disputed areas between the Baghdad government and the regional Kurdish government.

The move was taken in response to a controversial referendum held by the Kurds on the independence of the Kurdistan Region and the disputed areas.

The Kurds consider the northern Kirkuk province and parts of Nineveh, Diyala, and Salahudin provinces as disputed areas and want them to be incorporated into their region, a move fiercely opposed by the Arabs and Turkmens as well as the central government.

Agencies

'COP28 provides fresh opportunity to further unite global efforts to reduce carbon emissions'

CAIRO

TAREK El Molla Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, confirmed that the 28th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP28), which will be hosted by the UAE from 30th November to 12th December, 2023, will provide a new opportunity to further unite global efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

He said in a statement to the Emirates News Agency (WAM), that the UAE's hosting of COP28 was a successful selection, given the significant efforts and preparations that have been made so far and the extent of the

keenness to present an exceptional summit that builds strongly on what was presented by the COP27, which Egypt hosted last November in Sharm El Sheikh, confirming the keenness of the two summits on the climate effects on people.

El Molla pointed out that new renewable energy technology is one of the solutions to address emissions that affect the biological diversity of wild and natural organisms, stressing the importance of everyone participating in the dialogue and action, and increasing investments allocated to transition to clean energy in order to reduce emissions.



He said that COP27 recognised the importance of increasing participation and investments as well as the presence of everyone at the dialogue table in order to integrate

efforts to preserve the environment, with awareness of the environmental effects resulting from climate change and the extent of their impact on people and future

generations.

He noted that Egypt presented clear visions about transformation to use clean energy and the environmental and economic gains that can be achieved if this is evaluated.

El Molla said, "We have already applied this in the oil and gas sector in Egypt, and this has resulted in multiple environmental and economic gains that have supported us to continue in many projects to recover flare gas and reduce emissions."

ANI

He called for concerted efforts and cooperation among all parties to advance climate action to ensure a sustainable future, especially since COP28 will feature the first global stocktake to measure the ongoing efforts over two years to determine the extent of progress made by the concerned governments in implementing climate action plans to confront global warming and other environmental issues with the highest priority.

ANI

Gabon coup leader won't rush to elections despite pressure

LIBREVILLE



THE leader of a coup that this week overthrew Gabon's President Ali Bongo said on Friday that he wanted to avoid rushing into elections that "repeat past mistakes", as pressure mounted on the junta to hand back power to a civilian government.

Military officers led by General Brice Oligui Nguema (pictured) seized power on Wednesday, minutes after an announcement that Bongo had secured a third term in an election. The officers placed Bongo under house arrest and installed Nguema as head of state, ending the Bongo family's 56-year hold on power.

Nguema said in a televised address on Friday evening that the junta would proceed "quickly but surely" but that it would avoid elections that "repeat the same mistakes" by keeping the same people in power.

"Going as quickly as possible does not mean organizing ad hoc elections, where we will end up with the same errors," he said.

Central African regional bloc ECCAS has urged partners led by the United Nations and the African Union to support a rapid return to constitutional order, it said in a statement after an extraordinary meeting on Thursday. It said it would reconvene on Monday.

Gabon's main opposition group, Alternance 2023, which says it is the rightful winner of Saturday's election, urged the international community on Friday to encourage the junta to hand power back to civilians.

"We were happy that Ali Bongo was overthrown but ... we hope that the international community will stand up in favor of the Republic and the democratic order in Gabon by asking the military to give back the power to the civilians," Alexandra Pangha, spokesperson for Alternance 2023 leader Albert Ondo Ossa, told the BBC.

She said that the junta's plan to inaugurate Nguema as head of state on Monday was "absurd".

Crackdown on bongo entourage

Bongo was elected in 2009, taking over from his late father who came to power in 1967. Opponents say the family did little to share Gabon's oil and mining wealth.

For years the Bongo family occupied a luxurious palace overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. They own expensive cars and properties in France and the United States, often paid for in cash, according to a 2020 investigation by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), a global network of investigative journalists.

Meanwhile, almost a third of the country's 2.3 million people live in poverty.

Military leaders ordered the arrest of one of Bongo's sons, Nouredin Bongo Valentin, and several members of Bongo's cabinet early on Wednesday on accusations ranging from alleged embezzlement to narcotics trafficking.

State broadcaster Gabon 24 said on Thursday that duffel bags stuffed with cash wrapped in plastic had been confiscated from the homes of various officials. Its footage included a raid on the house of former cabinet director Ian Ghislain Ngoulou.

Standing next to Bongo Valentin, he told the channel that the money was part of Bongo's election fund. It was unclear when the images were shot.

Lawyers for Bongo's wife said on Friday that Bongo Valentin was incarcerated in an undisclosed location, and the family were concerned about his safety.

The streets of Libreville were calm on Friday under a heavy security force presence. Talk focused on the junta's response.

Alternance 2023 has said it wants a full vote count from Saturday's election, which it said would show Ondo Ossa had won. Gabon's election commission said after the election that Bongo had been re-elected with 64 percent of the vote, while Ondo Ossa secured almost 31 percent.

Agencies

North Korea conducts "tactical nuclear attack" drill

PYONGYANG

NORTH Korea on Sunday announced that it carried out a simulated "tactical nuclear attack" drill on Saturday, Al Jazeera reported citing the state news agency KCNA.

The drill was carried out with two long-range missiles equipped with mock atomic warheads.

According to the KCNA news agency, the practice was conducted early Saturday to "warn enemies" that the country would be prepared in the event of nuclear war.

With the tactical drill, North Korea laid emphasis on strengthening military deterrence against South Korea and the United States.

Pyeongyang has conducted a succession of missile tests and military manoeuvres in recent weeks, including a botched spy satellite launch late last month. This time for the tactical drill, the two cruise missiles carrying mock nuclear warheads were fired towards the West Sea off the peninsula, Al Jazeera reported.

It flew 1,500km (930 miles) at a preset altitude of 150 metres, the state news agency said.

ANI

RECENTLY, a metaverse-themed short drama called My Chinese Chic Boutique was released on a Chinese streaming platform, which tells a fantasy story of a modern girl accidentally traveling into a simulation video game.

One "actress" that drew attention in the drama is the hyper-realistic digital human "Guoguo." Without revealing her identity, audiences could hardly discern that she is a "non-human" performer.

In recent years, a trend of Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC) has been sweeping industries related to content creation, and the film and television industry is no exception.

In 1982, the first virtual singer in the world was created based on the charac-

Chinese film industry embraces new opportunities brought by AI

ter Lynn Minmay in the Japanese anime Super Dimension Fortress Macross. Entering the 21st century, Japanese virtual singers like Hatsune Miku and Chinese ones like Luo Tianyi gradually came into public view.

As technology develops, digital humans are not merely anime avatars. They are developing toward hyper-realistic human figures.

Hyper-realistic digital humans were not rare in film and television works, but they were mostly generated through computer graphics (CG), like the characters in Avatar and the "resurrected" Paul

Walker in Fast and Furious 7.

Chen Hongwei, executive producer of My Chinese Chic Boutique, explained that digital humans in previous films and dramas were mainly created with CG-enabled analysis, scanning and modeling based on the appearance of real actors and actresses, while hyper-realistic digital humans like "Guoguo" have no real human prototype and are constructed through AI-CG combination based on the AI's understanding and imagination.

Having worked in the film industry for nearly 20 years, Chen firmly believes

that the real change in the future film and television industry will come from further technological development. He told People's Daily that the COVID-19 pandemic once brought film production to a halt as people could not go outdoors, but it also catalyzed explosive growth for virtual production technology.

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growth for virtual production technology.

For example, over 50 percent of the content in the Season 1 of The Mandalorian was produced virtually without on-location filming. The actors performed in a semicircular LED studio.

However, Chen believes virtual production is just transitional. He proposed a concept of future films - Artificial Intelligence Movie (AIEM). AIEMs are produced through virtual engines based on digital assets like digital humans, virtual scenes, virtual props, etc. Human directors only need to tell the AI what styles, length, and other standards are required, and the AI will provide options to choose from. **People's Daily**

Sudanese army intensifies airstrikes, artillery bombardments on paramilitary positions in Khartoum

KHARTOUM

THE Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) intensified Saturday airstrikes and artillery bombardments on positions of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

A source in Khartoum told Xinhua that the SAF warplanes conducted airstrikes on RSF locations within Omdurman, northwest of Khartoum.

These strikes targeted neighborhoods such as Omdaba and Dar Al Salam to the west of Omdurman, as well as the Al Salha neighborhood to the south. The army air force also launched strikes on RSF positions in Al-Kadaro neighborhood of Bahri city, north of Khartoum, the source added.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Kandasha, the spokesperson for the South Khartoum Emergency Room, reported on his Facebook page on Saturday that the army's air force had carried out intense bombardments on Al-Inghaz, Al-Azhari, and Al-Salama neighborhoods in southern Khartoum.

South Khartoum neighborhoods have faced relentless air and artillery bombardment since early morning," Kandasha said, adding that two people were killed, and ten others sustained injuries, some of which are severe, due to an attack on a residential and commercial site near Al-Razi Hospital in Al-Azhari neighborhood.

As the capital of Sudan, Khartoum is in fact a tripartite metropolis divided by the confluence of the Blue and White Nile rivers into the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman, and Bahri. In response, the RSF issued a statement on Saturday, decrying the "indiscriminate aerial bombardment by warplanes" that resulted in numerous civilian casualties, including women and children, in the three cities.

The RSF also reported that heavy artillery shelling continued in populated areas, including Al-Salha, Al-Fatah, and Omdaba in Omdurman, as well as the eastern Nile area.

The paramilitary condemned the "Sudanese army's behavior toward innocent civilians" and called upon regional and international organizations to assume responsibility for these actions, categorizing them as "war crimes."

The SAF has not yet commented on Saturday's armed clashes with the RSF. The clashes in Khartoum coincided with a tour by the SAF's General Commander, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, in the Red Sea and Kassala states in eastern Sudan.

Addressing soldiers at military bases in the two states on Saturday, Al-Burhan reaffirmed that the fighting would continue until the rebellion, namely the RSF, is defeated.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly armed clashes between the SAF and RSF in Khartoum and other areas since April 15, which left over 3,000 people killed and more than 6,000 injured, according to the Sudanese Health Ministry.

More than 4.5 million people have been displaced inside and outside Sudan due to the conflict, according to the latest update by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. **Xinhua**

US Capitol attack: Proud Boys leader gets 18 years in prison

WASHINGTON

A leader of the far-right Proud Boys was sentenced on Friday to 18 years in prison over the US Capitol attack, equaling the longest punishment in the case so far, while another member sentenced to 10 years yelled "Trump won" as he left court.

The pair were the latest members of far-right groups sentenced for taking part in the Jan 6, 2021, assault on Congress, an attempt to overturn Donald Trump's election defeat.

The 18-year sentence for Ethan Nordean, a leader of the Proud Boys convicted of seditious conspiracy, fell short of the 27 years prosecutors had sought and tied the sentence handed down to Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes in May. "If we don't have a peaceful transfer of power in this country, we don't have anything," said US District Judge Timothy Kelly.

In a statement to the judge, Nordean called Jan 6 a "complete and utter tragedy" and said he had gone to the Capitol to be a leader and to keep people out of trouble. His wife and sister pleaded for mercy.

Nordean's attorney, Nick Smith, had argued for a sentence of 15 to 21 months.

Dominic Pezzola, a member of the Proud Boys, did not play a leadership role but was convicted of felonies including obstructing an official proceeding and assaulting police. He yelled, "Trump won!" as he left the courtroom after being sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Prosecutors said Pezzola's assault on former Capitol Police Officer Mark Ode, in which he stole Ode's riot shield and used it to smash at a window at the Capitol, helped to justify a lengthy prison term.

Pezzola's attorneys had asked for their client to be sentenced to around five years in prison. Steven Metcalf, one of Pezzola's attorneys, told the judge that Pezzola was caught in the "heat of the moment". **Agencies**



Pro-Trump protesters storm into the US Capitol during clashes with police, during a rally to contest the certification of the 2020 presidential election results by the US Congress, in Washington, US, Jan 6, 2021. (PHOTO / REUTERS)

Many leaders skip global, G20 summits for their own reasons, such decisions no reflection on host country - sources

NEW DELHI

AMID media reports that some heads of state may skip the G20 Summit in India next week, sources said that many leaders skip global summits for their own reasons from time to time and it is not always possible for every leader to attend every summit.

The sources said of the 16 physical G20 summits since 2008, except the first three summits in 2008 and 2009, there has never been a single occasion from 2010 till now when every country has attended at the level of Head of State or Head of Government (HOS/HOG).

The level of attendance at global summits varies from year to year and in today's world with so many demands on the leaders' time, it is not always possible for every leader to attend every summit, the sources said.

They said the most glaring example is the 2021 G20 Summit in Italy where there was no major geopolitical or health reason for leaders to skip it, but the circumstances happened in such a way that six countries attended below the Head of State or Head of Government level.

The sources said these things do not reflect anything about the host country. From 2008, there have been 16 physical summits of the G20, and one virtual summit (Saudi Arabia, 2020). There were two summits each in 2009 and 2010.

The sources said there have been six occasions when one country was represented below HOS or HOG level - 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017

They said five times there were two countries represented below HOS/HOG - 2010, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019.

In the 2022 summit in Indonesia, which was held after the Ukraine crisis, three countries were represented below the HOS or HOG level. "In 2021, before the Ukraine conflict and after the COVID-19 crisis, six countries were represented below HOS or HOG level," a source said.

Giving details of country-wise participation in G20 summits, sources said Canada, Germany, India, Italy, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union have never participated below the HOS or



New Delhi, Sep 02 (ANI): G20 Sherpa of India, Amitabh Kant along with Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and others at the event 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - Positive action for Planet and People' inspired by India's G20 Presidency organised by The Balipara Foundation, in New Delhi on Saturday. (ANI Photo/

HOG level.

They said Saudi Arabia has attended the summits nine times below the HOS/HOG level and the country was in 2017 represented by a Minister of State without portfolio.

Mexico has attended the summit thrice below the HOS or HOG level and the country's President has not attended it since 2018, the sources said.

The sources said Argentina, Australia, Brazil and Russia have twice attended summits below the HOS or HOG level. China, France, Indonesia, Japan and South Africa have taken part in the summits once below the HOS or HOG level.

India will host the G20 Summit on September 9 and 10 in the national capital.

The New Delhi G20 summit will see

the "biggest participation" in the history of the grouping with arrangements in place for the stay of leaders of member countries and the invited guest countries.

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, US, UK and the European Union. India has invited Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE as guest countries for the mega event.

The White House had said earlier that US President Joe Biden will travel to India from September 7 to 10 to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit

China's Juncao grass leads to prosperity, happiness

WHAT is Juncao grass?

In simple words, it is a type of tall herbaceous plant that can be used to cultivate edible and medicinal mushrooms.

In a greenhouse in Yuanyi village, Minning township, Yongning county of Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region, giant Juncao grass is growing, straight and tall, with plants over 3 meters high seemingly touching the roof of the greenhouse. The dense Juncao grass there looks just like a primitive forest.

In 1997, Lin Zhanxi, chief scientist of the China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology, known as the "father of Juncao," led a team to Minning township for poverty alleviation. The six boxes of Juncao grass they brought to the township were called "ecological grass," "fortune grass," and "happiness grass" by the locals.

When Lin visited Minning township again in 2010, the yield of fresh Juncao grass per mu (667 square meters) had reached 20 tons.

In a field in Gaozhao village, Pingfeng township, Xiji county, Guyuan of Ningxia, villagers were seen planting Juncao grass.

"Juncao grass is so good! It can be used as animal feed and also prevents wind and fixes sand," said villager Fan Jianzhi. The man has contracted 30 mu of land.

While marveling at the high quality of the Juncao grass this year, he took videos with his phone and forwarded them to villagers' chat groups. Mobilized by Fan, many villagers have reclaimed land and planted a total of 140 mu of Juncao grass.

As a pioneer plant for ecological governance, Juncao grass can not only be used as feed for cattle and sheep, but also serves as a tool to conserve water and soil, prevent wind and fix sand.

In 1993, Lin planted Juncao grass on severely eroded land in Changting and Liancheng counties in southeast China's Fujian province. This achieved good results in water and soil conservation.

A year later, when he saw exposed riverbed and disrupted flow of the Yellow River in Shandong province in east China, he determined to bring Juncao grass to the Yellow River basin.

Later, he and his team stationed in the Ulan Buh Desert in Inner Mongolia autonomous region. After many failed attempts and replanting, the Juncao grass finally took hold and survived, which brought good governance to the drifting sands.

Today, Juncao grass is being planted in nine provinces and autonomous regions along the Yellow River.



Lin Zhanxi instructs a local farmer to cultivate mushrooms with Juncao grass in Rwanda. (Photo courtesy of the China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology)

"I have always hoped that one day, Juncao grass can play a greater role in ecological governance and contribute its part to building a strong ecological barrier on Earth, benefiting more future generations," said Lin.

"Juncao grass boasts a well-developed root system, high photosynthetic efficiency, and sound adaptability. It is drought tolerant, salt and alkali tolerant, and stress resistant. It can grow quickly on slopes, sandy areas, and alkaline land. It can also effectively improve saline-alkali soil," said Huang Guoyong, former head of a work team promoting poverty alleviation via Juncao grass in Ningxia.

"The development of Ningxia's animal husbandry

industry needs massive corn. Giant Juncao grass has higher crude protein content than corn, and the yield of fresh giant Juncao grass per mu in Ningxia is about 3 times that of silage corn. Planting 20,000 mu of Juncao grass yields at least the equivalent of 60,000 mu of silage corn. This is equal to saving 40,000 mu of arable land," Huang told People's Daily.

The use of the plant today is far beyond its initial definition of "cultivate edible and medicinal mushrooms." It has become a "magical grass" that promotes ecological protection, increases farmers' income, advances sustainable development.

In Shizuishan, located at the end of the Yellow River An-

cient Canalization Project in Ningxia, there are large areas of saline-alkali land with high soil salinity content and poor permeability, which make it difficult for many crops to survive. The severely saline-alkali land exceeds 117,000 mu, accounting for 5 percent of Shizuishan's arable land. Since Juncao grass was grown there, not only has the ecological environment improved, but the local green economy has also taken shape.

Guided by Lin, the first Juncao grass science and technology innovation industrial park was established in Shizuishan in April 2021. In just over two years, the industrial park has built a research building, intelligent workshops covering an area of 12,000 square meters,

and more. It is currently working to build a full industrial chain of Juncao grass.

"Planting Juncao grass conserves water and fertilizer, eliminating the need for pesticides. It reduces costs by over 200 yuan (\$21.73) per mu while improving efficiency, generating direct benefits of 4,000 yuan per mu. Further benefits can be realized through animal husbandry, mushroom farming, and applying fertilizer back to the fields, increasing the value per mu to over 10,000 yuan," Huang said.

The Juncao technology was born and developed for poverty alleviation, said Lin. According to him, Juncao grass is applied today in 12 industries of six areas, including power generation and animal husbandry. Although the technology was invented by China, Lin hopes it can further benefit the whole world in the future.

Today, Juncao grass has also taken root in many countries and regions in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In countries like Papua New Guinea, Juncao grass is nicknamed "Chinese grass" by the locals. Under the unremitting efforts of Lin and his team, the Juncao technology has been introduced to 106 countries and regions worldwide, helping increase income for people in many impoverished areas. **People's Daily**

Biden to commend PM Modi for G20 leadership on Delhi visit

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will travel to India on Thursday for the G20 Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi from September 9-10.

During his visit, he will commend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership of the G20 and reaffirm the US commitment to the G20 as the premier forum of economic cooperation, the White House announced in a statement.

"While in New Delhi, the President will also commend Prime Minister Modi's leadership of the G20 and reaffirm the US commitment to the G20 as the premier forum of economic cooperation, including by hosting it in 2026," read the statement.

During his visit to India, Biden will participate in the G20 Summit, where he and G20 partners will discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, including the clean energy transition and com-

batting climate change, mitigating the economic and social impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and increasing the capacity of multilateral development banks.

"On Saturday and Sunday, the President will participate in the G20 summit, where the President and G20 partners will discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, including the clean energy transition and combatting climate change, mitigating the economic and social impacts of Putin's war in Ukraine, and increasing the capacity of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, to better fight poverty, including by addressing global challenges," White House said in a statement.

On August 29, White House press secretary Karine Jean Pierre said that US President Joe Biden will "reaffirm US commitment to the G20" as the premier forum of economic cooperation globally



and will also speak about a range of issues, including the social effects of Russia's war in Ukraine, the White House said on Tuesday. Karine Jean Pierre made the remarks during a media briefing.

Announcing the US President's

schedule, Pierre said that Biden "will travel to Hanoi, Vietnam, on September 10 following his participation in the G20 Summit in New Delhi."

Responding to a question on top-line goals President Biden hopes to accomplish at G20, the White House press secretary said, "President Biden will reaffirm the US commitment to the G20 as the premier forum of economic cooperation globally."

She also said that Biden will "discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, from the clean energy transition and combating climate change to mitigating the economic and social impacts of Russia's war in Ukraine, to increasing the capacity of the multilateral development banks to better fight poverty and take on the significant transnational challenges that are afflicting countries across the world."

India assumed the G20 Presi-

dency on December 1 last year. The 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi scheduled to be held on September 9-10 will be a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year.

A G20 Leaders' Declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the G20 Summit, stating Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meetings.

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and the United States and the European Union. The G20 members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. **ANI**



Players and officials of the Arusha Wakuda rugby side are pictured after winning the 2023 Dar Touch Rugby Tournament, cruising to a 10-5 victory over the Bull Dogs squad in the showdown's final which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) ground on Sunday. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Arusha outfit clinches 2023 Dar Touch Rugby tournament title

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Arusha Wakuda rugby team has triumphed in the 2023 Dar Touch Rugby tournament which concluded at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) ground on Sunday night.

The tournament's champions registered a resounding 10-5 defeat of another Arusha team, Bull Dogs, in the trophy tie.

Arusha Wakuda rugby team's head coach Juma Kittyler disclosed to The Guardian his players have done well because they have been well-trained since they were youngsters.

The coach pointed out: "I knew we had to win the silverware because we have players and coaches with experience in this game in Arusha, the coaches are taking charge of youthful players to ensure they achieve success in rugby."

Kittyler requested rugby squads that have lost out on the tournament's top honour not to give up, maintaining that the clubs should, instead, step up in preparations and

follow their coaches' instructions.

Tanzania Rugby Union (TRU)'s president Jacob Jonas said this year's showdown has been great, unlike the previous years' editions due to the standards shown by each of the participating squads.

He said the showdown aims to continue promoting rugby in Dar es Salaam, as is the case with other regions in the country.

Anthony Dawa, TRU Secretary-General, called on various sports stakeholders to come forward to support them so that they can fulfill their strategies.

"Currently, this game has been different, we have seen that every team that participated in the tournament has shown great potential. We believe that Tanzania will be better (in rugby) in the coming years," Dawa noted.

The Dar Touch Rugby tournament brought together 17 teams from various regions and culminated with eventual champions receiving the trophy and sports equipment.

Dar athletes gear up for 2023 National Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

FIFTEEN athletes making Dar es Salaam's squad are expected to travel to Morogoro on Wednesday next week to battle it out in this season's National Athletics Championships slated for September 8-9.

Speaking to The Guardian yesterday, the squad's head coach Idd Muhunzi said preparations for the showpiece, slated to involve all Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar regions, are progressing well.

"The athletes we will go with to Morogoro are those who did well in the Umitashumta and Umisseta tournaments," Muhunzi noted.

He said that the 2023 National

Athletics Championships will involve 100m to 1500m races, adding that some of his side's athletes are training at Uhuru Stadium in the city while others are doing the same at the University of Dar es Salaam grounds.

The coach pointed out that the 2023 National Athletics Championships aims at identifying athletes who will make the national team set to participate in various international tournaments- immediately after receiving a schedule from the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

He asked various youths to come forward to participate in the sport, which is now targeting to regain its lost glory.

'Buza kwa Abiola' sets up camp to rival with 'Buza kwa Lulenge'

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

LATE night revelers in Dar es Salaam gospel programs would have come across a distinct curiosity, whereby a new center of presumed attraction is being set up as Buza kwa Abiola, a part of Temeke District that is but a short distance from Buza kwa Lulenge.

The reason is that sympathizers of those who are getting gray hair rather rapidly on account of the exploits of a small tabernacle at Kwa Lulenge are trying to bring up a center of interest. They seek to lure people to skip this explosive center.

The idea itself is now new, as for decades a part of the city priesthood has been at peace with the arts of 'knowledge of the world' and 'knowledge of the afterworld'.

Still, there is rising contention that is now taking higher levels as despite a strident stream of testimonies from various prayer centers, whether it is nightfall services as either at Kawe with Mwamposa 'Bulldozer' or other, they were still trying to retain a relative calm.

Yet admittedly the FM radio stations at night are abuzz with the non-gospel services from various quarters, offering cure-all herbs or ointment for illnesses, etc.

What is making a difference is the past-midnight audio services with Pastor Dominic at Buza kwa Lulenge, where the cause of either an aggravated malady or even a death misfortune that has just occurred, is explained and rectified.

It appears that the pastor, who relishes in the nickname 'witch buster', and it is intended to sort of cap off the 'Bulldozer' tag of the more known mass assembly preachers and healers, is making the other camp massively restless.

They start a healing camp of sorts where a sort of ointment is offered, plus group sessions of healing incantations, etc.

That this initiative has nothing to rival what is offered at Pastor Dominic's place is evi-



Friends of Jesus group's singers make an entrance at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam, recently during the launch of the group's three albums titled 'Ni Mwema', 'Shangwe', and 'Jina la Yesu'. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

dent both from the style and the content. In the style, the new camp tries to mimic everything that the pastor says, by making an awful pretension that people will be coming from all sides of the city and are provided with a different ending but at the same Buza extended neighbourhood.

Still, there is a visible lack of depth in how this direction is spelled out, as one waits for even five minutes before the precise place is given. With the pastor, it is incessantly repeated.

When it comes to the content, the difference is one of David and Goliath, with the unlikelihood that this time David is anywhere going to get the upper hand.

Instead, the old tale is respected that Kwa Lulenge threatens all witches even if they unite.

One cannot say that the new center is a rival to the well-known place but a distraught attempt to seek a sort of miracle ointment so that those who go there may have some sort of story to tell, that one can get better with that ointment.

As was the case with those who were peddling all sorts of magic cures to lure people away from 'Bulldozer' and other

noted preachers or healers, the lacunae with all of them are that they lack any testimonies, let alone convincing testimonies.

One waits at length until the program ends or shifts the station after vainly waiting for testimony.

The surprising aspect of this situation is that it is not just Tanzanian prayer culture that is being exhibited but rather the local blossoming of a person who has his roots in the neighbourhood, and has been here for decades.

At the same time, 'Bulldozer' regularly has listeners in neighbouring countries especially Mozambique, and a number have been known to come from other East African countries.

At Kwa Lulenge, a lady who has local roots but lives in the United States flew to the prayer center, her son was jailed for years for a false charge of rape, but released after prayers.

It is easy to see how vain it is to simply think that people are going to Buza for some services and one sets up another camp at Buza to offer what may roughly be claimed to be equivalent services.

It is a shout, with all the energy that the Buza traditional

elders can muster, that people need to come to Buza alright but, instead of going to Kwa Lulenge, go for that ointment at Kwa Abiola, and there will be some group sessions devoted to some recitals.

It lacks an affirmation of what precisely makes that ointment work, just a plea, an insistence that it will work.

For once it is easy to grasp why those elders are trying to stymie the name Buza to mean different things, targeting not a powerful expression of the ability to heal but some sort of healing tourism.

If the competition was at that level, someone of a rival faith to Pastor Dominic would have possibly been attracted to attend this other service, and if healing tourism is all being done at Buza, he or she may as well go to Kwa Abiola instead of Kwa Lulenge.

But to make the issues this simple to those who seek the services at Kwa Lulenge is within the boundaries of contempt.

There is no inkling of evidence offered over the frenetic broadcasts on the ointment at Kwa Abiola to make one just trust it can work, unlike big miracles on the other side.

East Africa Pre & Primary School introduces karate lesson in Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TO strengthen the mental and physical health of pupils, the East Africa Pre & Primary School in Dodoma has started a karate lesson.

The school's head teacher, Evarist Runiba, said so yesterday when he graced the first graduation ceremony of Standard Seven pupils that was held at the school's premises.

He said that sports are part of improving students' health and eventually ensure the youngsters do well in their studies and various daily activities.

"Our school is, apart from teaching other subjects, teaching Chinese and French languages, we moreover have a karate class that all pupils attend while they are here," he said.

He said some teachers are experts in karate, a situation which will help the students be physically and mentally fit so they can continue doing well in their studies.

The graduation ceremony's official guest- Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s Dodoma secretary-general Pili Mbaga, said she was pleased with the various talents she saw at the school.

Pili said it is good for other schools to emulate efforts showcased by the



East Africa Pre & Primary School-Dodoma pupils showcase karate skills during the school's Standard Seven graduation ceremony held at the school's premises in the region last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

institution by allocating good time for students to dance and sing.

She further said that there are pupils with various talents, as seen at the graduation ceremony, adding if these talents are developed,

great artists can be found in the country.

"You are doing very well and should continue similarly in sports and entertainment because you have shown to have talent... I call on other schools to emulate

such an effort," Pili said.

Pili also stated sports make pupils healthy, a situation which will also contribute to doing well in their studies and examinations, so teachers should not see sports as a waste of time.

"Take regular lessons and give them time to play to show their talents, they must have time to do such other things like sports that make them happy," Pili noted.

Ahly, Wydad could meet in first African Football League final

CAIRO

AL Ahly of Egypt and Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, winners and runners-up respectively in the 2023 CAF Champions League, could clash again in the inaugural African Football League final.

Ahly are away to Simba of Tanzania in the opening match on October 20 and, if successful in the two-leg quarter-final, will meet Petro Luanda of Angola or Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa in the semi-finals.

Should Wydad overcome Enyimba of Nigeria at the last-eight stage, they will face TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo or Esperance of Tunisia for a place in the final.

Matches between Ahly and Wydad are among the most anticipated in the continent with the Cairo outfit winning 2-1 and home and drawing 1-1 in the last Champions League final.

Each tie will be played over two legs with the final scheduled for November 5 and 11 in a competition offering a \$10 million (€9.25 mn) prize pool.

The competition was called the Africa Super League when launched in Tanzania last year, but CAF president Patrice Motsepe said the name was changed after advice from undisclosed Europeans.

"Our friends in Europe advised us not to use the expression 'super league'," said the South African billionaire.

"This advice was based on negative associations with the failed attempt in 2021 to launch a super league in Europe."

A planned European Super League collapsed within 48 hours after a backlash from players, supporters and governments forced nine of the 12 clubs who signed up to pull out.

Launched as a 24-club, 197-fixture competition spanning nine months, the African Football League has been dramatically scaled down without an official explanation.

CAF officials have said the original 24-club concept will be introduced for the 2024-2025 edition.

Draw
Quarter-finals
Simba (TAN) v Al Ahly (EGY)
TP Mazembe (COD) v Esperance (TUN)
Enyimba (NGR) v Wydad Casablanca (MAR)
Petro Luanda (ANG) v Mamelodi Sundowns (RSA)

Semi-finals
Simba or Ahly v Petro or Sundowns
Mazembe or Esperance v Enyimba or Wydad
Note: Competition begins on October 20 and ends on November 11

AFP

World Cup kiss scandal hasn't damaged Spanish brand, prime minister says

MADRID

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has praised the country's women's soccer team - and Spanish society itself - for taking a critical stance against Luis Rubiales for his unwanted kiss of World Cup winner Jennifer Hermoso.

The scandal over the kiss has triggered widespread condemnation in Spain and the rest of the world and has sparked a wider debate about patriarchal and chauvinistic attitudes in the country.

Rubiales, president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), has been under mounting pressure to resign since the kiss in the aftermath of the country's historic win against England in the Women's World Cup last month.

However, Rubiales - who has said the kiss felt "consensual" - has refused to do so.

Critics say the scandal surrounding the kiss has overshadowed what should have been a time to celebrate a monumental sporting achievement.

Speaking at an event in the city of Malaga in southern Spain on Saturday, Sanchez said he did not believe the scandal had damaged the Spanish brand abroad thanks to the Spanish women's team.

"I really believe that the Spain brand is the reaction of the female players of our national soccer team and the spectacular reaction of the Spanish society that has joined them in saying 'it's over' - and that it's over is with all the consequences for all the leaders who have been involved in these unfortunate events," Sanchez said.

He shared a clip of his speech on X, formerly known as Twitter, and said: "The Spain that is coming is feminist. Whether you like it or not."

He added that "one could not aspire to represent Spain and make Spain look bad with attitudes and speeches that embarrassed... and did not represent" the country.

"Tip of the iceberg"

Joining the debate was Vero Boquete, who captained Spain's women's national team at the 2015 Women's World Cup.

She told Reuters that Rubiales' behavior was the "tip of the iceberg" when it came to cultural and systemic problems facing the RFEF and said it was "crazy" that he was still president despite a provisional suspension by FIFA.

The Spanish government has suffered setbacks in its attempts to remove Rubiales from his post.

CNN

Bellingham now blows new roof off Real Madrid stadium with late derby winner

MADRID

JUDE Bellingham rescued Real Madrid with a 95th minute strike to secure a 2-1 win over Getafe on Saturday and maintain Los Blancos' perfect start to La Liga, as they played with a closed roof at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first time.

The England international netted his fifth goal in four games to snatch three points from the derby clash, Madrid's first game without injured forward Vinicius Junior.

Joselu, the Brazilian's replacement, had pulled Carlo Ancelotti's side level after former Madrid striker Borja Mayoral sent the visitors ahead in the first match under a roof at Madrid's remodelled stadium.

La Liga leaders Madrid started the season with their opening three games all away from home, while construction work continued.

It allowed for the retractable roof to be finished and it was closed on Saturday, with rain hitting the Spanish capital - but not the players.

"It's a spectacular atmosphere, there's something new," Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters.

"I think the fans pushed a



Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham celebrates after scoring the winner against Getafe at the Santiago Bernabeu. Agencies

lot today, it's a much more enclosed atmosphere.

"You can feel that the fans pushed - it's going to be a very important help and it was today."

Madrid fans were in good voice and serenaded match-winner Bellingham with The Beatles' song 'Hey Jude'.

"When they were singing 'Hey Jude' at the end, I got goosebumps," Bellingham told Real Madrid TV.

"I just wanted to stand still and listen to them. My legs were shaking."

Getafe did not include on

loan Manchester United striker Mason Greenwood in their squad, after his arrival on Friday.

The forward had been suspended by the Red Devils since January 2022 after facing allegations of abuse although prosecutors subsequently dropped the charges.

"Obviously we can only talk about football, about other issues, I think, that the people and the relevant systems did what they had to do, and everybody knows how it ended - without a condemnatory sentence," said Getafe coach Jose

Bordalas.

"Therefore, (he's) a free person, a footballer of the highest level, who comes to Getafe with enormous hope. We are going to help him to recover his best level."

Mayoral started up front for the visitors and, looking to keep his place in the side, he quickly pounced to put the visitors ahead after a heavy Fran Garcia pass.

However Joselu netted his first Madrid goal from close range just after the break when Getafe could not clear Luka Modric's teasing cross.

The Spain international started in place of Vinicius, who suffered a hamstring injury last week and is set to miss over a month.

"It's a shame to go behind on the scoreboard but the team worked and we came out with the mentality that we would turn it around," said Joselu.

- 'Surprising' -

Madrid turned the screw with Toni Kroos and Dani Carvajal hitting the woodwork, while Getafe goalkeeper Soeria made a string of good saves.

However the goalkeeper's only mistake ended up costing his team, when he could only parry Lucas Vazquez's long-range drive and Bellingham reacted quickest to turn the loose ball home.

The former Borussia Dortmund man has now scored five of Madrid's eight La Liga goals this season, helping to fill

the void left by Ballon d'Or holder Karim Benzema's departure.

Bellingham joins a small group of players to have netted in each of their first four Liga matches, including Madrid's all-time record goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo.

"His quality isn't surprising anybody, but the number of goals he's got is surprising," said Ancelotti, who deploys Bellingham behind the forwards in a No. 10 role.

"He's very professional, and he has a lot of examples for professionalism in this squad. He is learning very quickly."

Earlier Takefusa Kubo hit a brace to help Real Sociedad earn their first win of the season, beating promoted side Granada 5-3 in San Sebastian.

Imanol Alguacil's side drew their opening three league games in a frustrating domestic start, as the club look forward to their Champions League return after a decade away from Europe's premier competition.

Real Sociedad visit Real Madrid after the international break, before hosting Inter Milan as they get their European campaign underway.

Real Betis climbed to sixth with a 1-0 win over Rayo Vallecano and Alaves edged Valencia by the same score.

AFP

Seventeen touches, three goals, one assist: Haaland's latest ominous warning to the rest of the English Premier League

By Richard Jolly

ERLING Haaland's Premier League career is so brief that he was crowned PFA Player of the Year for his debut season only this week. It is nevertheless already the case that only eight players have scored more hat-tricks in the division. His fifth in the top flight, and seventh for Manchester City, drew him level with Ruud van Nistelrooy, Robin van Persie, Ian Wright, Raheem Sterling, Dimitar Berbatov and Andy Cole.

Arguably each could be called a Premier League great. Certainly each had a far longer career than Haaland, who has Luis Suarez and Wayne Rooney in his sights now. If he was Sergio Aguero's belated successor as City's striker, he is the threat to the Argentinian's divisional record of 12 trios.

His latest treble was a combination of the opportunistic and the deadly. As Fulham suffered their habitual defeat to Manchester City - making it 15 losses on the trot and taking the aggregate score in the last 10 meetings at the Etihad Stadium to 32-3 - the most important goal was the most contentious, scored by Nathan Ake on the stroke of half-time.

Then Haaland turned it into a rout. When Julian Alvarez's shot bounced off Tim Ream and fell obligingly, he slotted a shot past Bernd Leno. When Alvarez was bundled over in the box

by Issa Diop, Haaland, who had struck the post with a spot-kick at Sheffield United last week, converted emphatically. When the substitute Sergio Gomez embarked on a mazy solo run and supplied a low cutback, Haaland arrowed a shot into the bottom corner.



Haaland has now scored seven hat-tricks for City (Reuters)

He had already been announced as the player of the match, though he probably has a surfeit of the hardware such prizes produce. He took his tallies to 38 goals in 28 games at the Etihad and 42 in 39 Premier League games. He also had a part in four goals, as Alvarez did in three: in each case, not always with perfect accuracy when finding the other.

Arguably Haaland was shooting when he latched on to Mateo Kovacic's line-breaking pass; it became a perfect centre for Alvarez to tuck in the opener amid a swift exchange of goals, Ream levelling two minutes later when Ederson parried a Raul Jimenez shot to him. Haaland ended the day with a direct goal involvement every 4.25 touches: there were 17 in all, but he is a master of efficiency.

Perhaps the Norwegian's relentless appetite for goals was a reason he remained on the pitch in the closing stages, even after the often overworked Rodri and the excellent Phil Foden had been substituted, when Juanma Lillo - or perhaps the absent and injured Pep Guardiola, if he was communicating with his assistant - brought on

Gomez and even Kalvin Phillips, men rarely trusted when the result was at stake. Certainly victory was already secured here, along with a return to the top of the table: West Ham, who City displaced, are their next opponents.

Haaland served another purpose. This was shaping up as his latest, though definitely not the last, outbreak of tedious whingeing and even more tedious what-aboutery that some try to disguise as debate;

analysis, even.

Instead, the remarkable, almost ridiculous nature of his scoring feats demoted it to a subplot. There was no doubt the turning point came on the stroke of half-time, when Ake struck. Yet amid the grim inevitability of never-ending moaning about referees and VAR, Fulham should simply lament their inability to mark Ake from a corner.

Instead, the Dutchman, preferred to the £77m signing Josko Gvardiol, was left in glorious isolation when Foden whipped the ball in. His header was similarly exact, too, directed into the corner. Leno could not reach it though Manuel Akanji, undeniably offside, lingered in his line of vision, waved a foot and failed to make contact; the Swiss international had the most touches in the match, 114, and yet all were less notable than the touch he didn't take. Referee Michael Oliver awarded the goal,

VAR Tony Harrington did not overrule him and Fulham argued. Less, admittedly, than they had when they visited Manchester six months earlier and when they had less of a case, when they showed such dissent to a correct decision that manager Marco Silva and striker Aleksandar Mitrovic got red cards and FA charges. This time they kept a full complement of players and coaches. Silva, who had been booked in each of their first three league games, avoided a fourth yellow card.

And perhaps they lost focus. If that can be perilous against anyone, it is especially dangerous against Haaland. The eventual scoreline renders it harder to argue defeat came courtesy of a decision. And if a 37-minute treble was not his quickest or his most memorable, almost certainly, it will not be his last hat-trick, either.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bellingham now blows new roof off Real Madrid stadium with late derby winner

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Singida Fountain Gate FC's head coach Ernst Middendorp.

Singida Fountain Gate FC head coach opens up on nomadic coaching career

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ERNST Middendorp was formally introduced as Singida Fountain Gate FC's new head coach, giving a full press conference on Friday.

The veteran German coach- who replaced Dutch tactician Hans van der Pluijm at the club- revealed a little more than had been expected, revealing, among other things, that he has certain standards that he expects to be fulfilled.

South Africa's Moroka Swallows, an outfit he left in March this year, was Middendorp's seventh club in the country after Maritzburg United, Kaizer Chiefs, Free State Stars, Chippa United, Bloemfontein Celtic and Golden Arrows.

He had left Moroka Swallows to join SV Meppen as head coach in his home country, Germany. He resigned from his post with SV Meppen two weeks ago.

When asked why he does not stay in clubs for a long time, Middendorp admitted he is not an easy guy to deal with when his expectations are not fulfilled, he was moreover unequivocal that he was not the problem.

Middendorp disclosed: "I went to Kaizer Chiefs in December 2018, I took over an unsettled team. We started the new season- 2019/20- with nearly the same squad. We brought only two new players and a team that ended the previous season at the ninth position was running for the title until the last day."

The veteran coach said: "We challenged Sundowns, and you guys know what Mamelodi Sundowns is about. We drew the last game and finished one point behind Sundowns."

"We qualified for the Champions League as first runners up but the management decided to tell me in front of everybody that the second position is a disaster. I said yeah," the coach added.

"I had been with Kaizer Chiefs twice in 2005 and 2008 and then they brought me back in 2018. Why did they do it? I have been in the Bundesliga with Armenian Bielefeld three times. They brought me back two times, why did they do it?" Middendorp stated.

"I have been with Maritzburg, they called me every time they were in a deep mess or relegation. I have been there four times. Why did they do it? There must be something that I did probably right," he noted.

The coach stressed: "I am saying and that's for sure, I am not an easy guy. I have expectations, I have certain standards and I ask for this. Sometimes some owners or chairman or authorities inside the club say it is enough now then two years later they scratch their heads and realize we probably should have kept him, let's bring him back."

"Unfortunately it is not always the coach's problem. Sometimes the club has to fulfil certain expectations."

The gaffer stated: "Expectations start with facilities, infrastructure and other stuff. Unfortunately, too many coaches just pray to keep their contracts and that's not me. I am coaching because I love it and am quite sure of what I am doing."

Middendorp is expected to guide Singida Fountain Gate FC in the side's forthcoming 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup crucial Second Preliminary Round games against Egypt's Future FC.

Simba SC all out to stun Al Ahly in African Football League



Simba SC players are pictured engaging in training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League, 2023/24 CAF Champions League, and African Football League (AFL). PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE draw for the African Football League (AFL) quarterfinals took place in Cairo on Saturday and has paired Tanzania's Simba SC with 2022/23 CAF Champions League winners, Egypt's Al Ahly, in the quarterfinals.

This will be the third time in five years Simba SC met Al Ahly in a CAF inter-club competition.

In the 2021/22 season, Simba SC beat the Egyptian side 1-0 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam before losing the return leg 1-0 in Cairo, with both sides having already qualified for the season's CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

In the 2018/19 season, Al Ahly- the record 11-time CAF Champions League winners- thrashed Simba SC 5-0 in Cairo before Simba SC avenged

partly with a 1-0 home win in Dar es Salaam in the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

Their first head-to-head meeting was in 1985 when Simba SC won 2-1 in Mwanza but lost 2-0 in Cairo in the African Cup Winners' Cup second round.

Reacting to the AFL draw, Simba SC Media and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, believes his side will 'deal firmly' with their prestigious opponents

from North Africa.

Ally pointed out: "It is a pleasure to be drawn against Al Ahly, we are excited. There was no way we could avoid Al Ahly, Wydad AC, or Esperance in this tournament. You had to meet one of them."

"And we are in the process of a breakthrough to being a continental powerhouse, Simba Sports Club must play against such elites," the leader noted.

He added: "That's why

Al Ahly is upon us, we welcome them back to Tanzania. Fortunately, they know Tanzania very well."

"They know the pain of playing at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. We beat them twice, and Meddie Kagere and Luis Miquissone did the needful," he stressed.

"What has changed for Simba SC is the departure of Kagere but our quality remains. We welcome Al Ahly."

"It is our pleasure. If you

want to be the prison's lord you have to beat the warden, thus, here comes Al Ahly, we promise that we will deal firmly with them. Bring it on!" he said.

Ally threw a dig at Young Africans SC, emphasizing African Football League is a tournament exclusively meant for big clubs in Africa adding they will deal with Al Ahly to ensure progress to the semi-final.

The leader noted: "This is a big boys tournament. On beer adverts they say it is prohibited for persons under the age of 18 similarly, small clubs are not allowed in the African Football League."

"The African Football League is for the seniors, and Simba Sports Club is a big club indeed. So, we have no doubts, no fear, no worry, and no concerns," Ally added.

Ally disclosed: "Al Ahly knows that we know how to deal with them and we will deal firmly with them to ensure that we qualify for the semi-finals."

The first leg will take place in Dar es Salaam on October 20, before both teams face off again a week later in Cairo to decide the aggregate winner who will meet the winners of the tie between Mamelodi Sundowns and Petro Luanda in the semi-final.

Filbert Bayi Schools pupils urged to work hard in academics, sports

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

COAST Region's Filbert Bayi Schools' students and pupils have been called upon to work hard in both sports and academics for them to excel in life.

The College of Business Education (CBE) Tutor, Emmanuel Munishi, issued the advice when he graced the graduation ceremony for the school's Form Four students and Standard Seven pupils at Mkuza in Coast Region on Saturday.

Munishi said in the modern world there is a need for students and pupils to work hard in sports and academic sectors.

The guest of honour insisted for the schools' Form Four students and Standard Seven pupils to excel in life, they must be innovative, creative, and critical thinkers, develop a culture of positive thinking, have financial literacy, and stay away from bad companies.

The CBE professor hailed the Board of Directors Chairman for the schools, Filbert Bayi, for establishing the institution, adding since its inception it has trained many people who are contributing to the social and economic development of the country.

"You must work hard in both sports and academics, I'm asking all of you here to value the importance of education, the world of tomorrow needs you most," he said.

Filbert Bayi Schools' Board of Directors Chairman, Bayi, and the board's vice-chairperson, Elizabeth



College of Business Education (CBE) vice principal, Professor Emmanuel Munishi (2nd L), greets Filbert Bayi Schools (FBS)'s Board of Directors Chairman, Filbert Bayi (R), during a graduation ceremony for the schools' Form Four students and Standard Seven pupils at Mkuza in Kibaha, Coast Region last Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

Mgema, also echoed Munishi's remarks.

"We have well and experienced teachers in both academics and sports in our schools, the aim is to give the children the opportunity to explore their talents," Bayi, also serving as Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) Secretary-General, said.

Bayi also thanked teachers, guardians, parents, and supporting staff of the schools, saying their efforts

have seen the institution become one of the best and most dependable learning centers in the country.

He disclosed that during last year's Primary School Leaving Examination, all Standard Seven pupils at Filbert Bayi Schools were selected to join government secondary schools.

Thirty-four Form Four students from the schools were selected to join various Advanced Secondary Schools in the country.

In the graduation ceremony, pupils entertained the gathering with traditional and new-generation music and dances, as well as other activities.

Filbert Bayi Schools have been doing well since their inception in 1996. The schools have contributed immensely to sports development in the country.

Recently, the institution's former student, Regina Mpingachai- an athlete- secured a \$ 76,000 four-year

scholarship at the University of Northern Colorado in the United States of America (USA) after her previous outstanding performance in domestic and international athletics events.

Another student- Benedict Paul- who performed well in the recent National Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta) in Mtwara, is expected to travel to America after completing his secondary school studies.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

