

National Pg 5 New online trading platform



National Pg 6 Law to curb online violence



National Pg 7 Govt to upgrade Dr Livingstone Memorial



President Samia Suluhu Hassan participates in virtual 19th Extraordinary Summit of East African Community Heads of State from Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Regional bloc counting seven as EAC Summit welcomes DRC

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

HEADS of State of the East African Community (EAC) yesterday unanimously agreed on admitting the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) into the bloc, following a virtual summit viewed by the public.

Summit chairman President Uhuru Kenyatta said DRC's entry was a milestone in the history of the bloc, underlining that all over the world;

countries are integrating and organizing themselves into regional economic blocs.

This will strengthen intra-regional trading and increase inter-regional competitiveness through economies of scale, he declared, explaining how over the past two decades of EAC revival, the bloc has continued to deepen and widen the regional integration process.

"Today we take another critical step

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RPC seeking IGP's position under probe, moved to HQs

By Guardian Reporter

WANKYO Nyigesa, a teasing regional police commander for Kagera is being shifted to headquarters for reassessing, pending an investigation on his recent appeal to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to appoint him Inspector General of Police (IGP).

The troubled RPC made the remark at a function to bid him farewell as Coast RPC recently, where the teasing senior police officer

“... I want to become IGP or commissioner so that I can do big things

said he has what it takes to be Tanzania's top cop.

He told well wishers that he had prepared to be the DCI (Director of Criminal Investigations) but that post was taken by someone else. He then prepared to be Zanzibar Police Commissioner but that job was also taken; so he was now preparing to become IGP.

"I believe the Commander in Chief of our armed forces will get this request. If I work

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Treasury designs app to monitor privatised firms

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Treasury Registrar has finalised a computer application for monitoring the performance of parastatal organizations, including privatized industries, as 'privatization information system.'

Mgonya Benedicto, head of the office of the Treasury Registrar, made this observation during a task force meeting with executives of privatized parastatals in Dar es Salaam yesterday, picking up from another meeting in Dodoma last week.

The government says that parastatals were privatized to reduce the government's burden of

running them so that they become profitable in private hands, as one way of involving the private sector in the country's economy.

The Treasury official noted that the system is at various stages of completion and that when it starts operating, investors will oversee the channeling of information into the application, avoiding visitations by government officials to the premises of the new operators of those firms.

Over 200 such firms were followed up for verification last year, with about 76 operating

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Pandemic recovery: CRDB obtains 182bn/- loan funds

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc has secured 182bn/- from Proparco, a French development bank, to boost its capacity to lend to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Tanzania.

The amount, in the form of a credit line and two portfolio guarantees, is designed to issue loans reflecting the country's economic growth agenda, especially for women-led enterprises, and those recovering from COVID-19 disruptions.

Proparco, an arm of the French Development Agency (AFD), provides funding and support to businesses and financial institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, the managing director, said at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the partnership with Proparco was timely and would go a

long way in revitalizing the targeted sectors, spurring economic growth.

"Most of the last three years has been difficult, particularly for small firms, as the majority have grappled with a lot of uncertainty. We expect that this guarantee facility, alongside our innovative financial solutions, will provide the much-needed support to business owners and enable them to emerge financially healthier and stronger," he declared.

The credit line and portfolio guarantee granted by Proparco comprise a \$50m credit line (115bn/-) to support the bank's financing activity towards small entrepreneurs. It will also help CRDB Bank set up new, innovative products dedicated to the agricultural sector to increase the sector's resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change, he further noted.

With the €8m (20bn/-) guarantee to help CRDB Bank support small firms that were particularly affected by the Covid-19 crisis, the bank shall offer investment guarantees, from resources specially allocated by the French government as part of the resilience component of the Choose Africa initiative overseen by the AFD Group.

Another €18.5m (47bn/-) guarantee will cover up to 70 per cent of loans granted to women entrepreneurs, supplemented



CRDB Bank Plc group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (L) and Jean-Benoît du Chalard, director general of Nairobi-based Proparco East Africa, display documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a loan agreement and loan guarantees worth 182bn/- for empowering entrepreneurs in Tanzania. Under the pacts, loans and securities provided by Proparco will enable the bank to issue loans to agricultural sector players, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks at a meeting for coffee crop stakeholders at Kayanga in Karagwe District, Kagera Region, yesterday. To his left is Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe, followed by Kagera regional administrative secretary Prof Faustin Kamuzora. Photo: PMO

'Tropical cyclone Gombe causing long rains delay'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has issued reasons for Masika rain delay in some parts of the country, saying it was as a result of cyclone Gombe.

According to TMA, rains were expected to begin in the third and fourth week of February this year, but periods of dry spells

have been experienced from the first week of March especially in northern highlands due to cyclone Gombe which has overstayed in the Mozambican coast.

The weatherman said despite the cyclone, there has been below normal sea temperatures on the East African coast which has led to delay in rains.

"The situation has also contributed to the Inter-Tropical Convergence

Zone (ITCZ) to remain in the southern part of the country which normally by the beginning of March begins traveling north, these are the main reasons for the delay in rains," the statement reads in part.

TMA however said rains are expected to be stronger in many parts of the country by the end of March and the beginning of April then become weak in the last week of April.

The authority said the remaining of the ITCZ in the southern zone has caused rains to remain strong in unimodal areas namely regions of Kigoma, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Ruvuma, and some parts of Morogoro and southern highlands west zone.

TMA has called upon wananchi to continue to follow weather updates as issued by the weatherman to understand climate conditions.

Regional bloc counting seven as EAC Summit welcomes DRC

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towards regional integration as we deliberate on the application of DR Congo to join the EAC trading bloc. DR Congo applied to join EAC in February 2018 and when we discussed during the Heads of State meeting in 2021, we agreed that the application be prioritized and concluded within the provisions of the treaty. I want to thank all those who worked hard to make this a reality," he said.

He said DR Congo has met all the criteria needed, with its admission a historic moment, demonstrating the bloc's ability to expand beyond existing social boundaries and trade-centered partnerships to boost trade and investments.

"Today therefore marks another historic day for the EAC as we admit a new member to the growing EAC family," he declared, saying there is more to be gained working together than being separate.

With the entry of DRC the EAC will expand significantly in various aspects for the mutual benefit of all, he stated, pointing at the combined population of the bloc and its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as growing by 50 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. That implies an improved market for goods and services for member states, he stated.

These numbers imply expanded market opportunities for producers located within the EAC with the customs union, so the bloc will attract more foreign direct investments across all sectors and create wealth across the region, he further noted. The community will be in a better position to mobilise the necessary funds needed to develop the much needed infrastructure to facilitate cross-border movement as envisaged in the EAC common market protocol, he asserted.

With a bigger market, the community will achieve better outcomes brought about by more economies of scale, the pooling of human capital and financial resources, he argued, affirming the need for increased awareness for the Congolese people on the community's operations, to tap available opportunities.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan commended Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi for his commendable decision to seek admission into the EAC. Its entry will afford it great opportunity to intensify peace and security, prosperity and solidarity in DRC and for the wider community.

Expressing optimism that DRC will ratify the treaty quickly enough for its people to enjoy the full benefits of its new membership, she reiterated her personal commitment and of the country to EAC integration.

Burundi Vice President Prosper Bazombanza said DRC's entry shall widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration and will improve the quality of lives and prosperity of the people of East Africa. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni urged the community to continually strive to ensure peace, security and stability is maintained in the region.

The process of Congo's admission into EAC was initiated on June 8, 2019, writing to then summit chairman President Paul Kagame.

After the Covid-19 hiatus, regional leaders on February 27, 2021 considered the application by DRC to join the EAC and directed ministers to "expeditiously undertake a verification mission in accordance with the EAC procedure for admission of new members."

On January 17, 2022, final negotiations were launched in Nairobi, with the verification process largely completed. The country's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Christophe Lutundula Apala Pen'Apala, spoke on DRC expectations.

He said that DRC was looking forward to increased trade and investment plus strengthened relations with EAC partner states, crossing over from bilateral ties to belonging in the EAC. DRC was keen on cooperating with the EAC for maximum exploitation of natural and human resources, he said.

DRC has a big population, consumers constituting a big market for the EAC, he stated. DRC was also in dire need of investors and was offering incentives for entrepreneurs wishing to invest in the country, he added.

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with a technical assistance grant to reinforce CRDB capacity to serve them, the accords specify.

Launched in May 2019 with the support of the European Union (EU) and the European Development Fund, tied to the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the guarantee programme facilitates access to credit for small firms, chiefly in sectors with a high development impact, officials noted.

Jean-Benoit du Chalard, the director for Proparco (EA), said that the credit line and guarantees will boost the Choose Africa initiative launched in 2018 and dedicated to supporting African entrepreneurs, start-ups and other small firms.

He said Proparco takes the relationship with CRDB Bank as

partnership in the Choose Africa initiative. "The comprehensive package of support illustrates Proparco's commitment to Tanzanian small firms sector and CRDB Bank to provide the right set of products and tools, to meet the needs of entrepreneurs," he explained.

CRDB Bank is among local banks engaged in supporting entrepreneurs through transformational financial solutions, enabling small firms to increase sustainable growth and generate employment, skills and enterprise sustainability.

This project, helping to reduce poverty countrywide, contributes to realizing the sustainable development goal number five (gender equality) and number eight (decent work and economic growth), bank officials noted.

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with her, I'll do big things; I will work for only three years and relinquish the position. How about that?" he calmly demanded. He was seemingly unaware of the serious disciplinary infringements he was making.

The current police chief has done a lot, he declared, affirming nonetheless that he was confident that he would do more if appointed to the position.

"As a human being you need to have big dreams and you cannot dream to continue being an RPC. I want to become IGP or commissioner so that I can do big things," he emphasised.

A headquarter statement said yesterday that the RPC has been transferred to headquarters and was being replaced by Rukwa RPC William Mwampagale, who thus shifts to Kagera

Region.

Theopista Mallya, a staff officer for Rukwa police region, takes over as RPC, while the head of operations, Mashenene Mayila becomes staff officer or head of police administration in the region.

The transfer exercise is intended to pave the way for an investigation into what the Coast RPC said at that function, creating a disorderly atmosphere, with the statement asserting that the words uttered showed elements of lack of discipline and violations of Police General Orders (PGO).

Investigations have started and a report of outcomes will be submitted to relevant disciplinary authorities, it affirmed, landing promptly on social media where it became the talk of the day.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend addressing the Women Lead Forum. The event is hosted by the Southern Africa Embrace Foundation in partnership with She Forum Africa and Businesswoman Africa supported by Impact Hub-Dar es Salaam, March being International Women's month. The premier high-level event will also be hosted in Accra, Ghana and Abuja between July, and November 2022. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Treasury designs app to monitor privatised firms

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well, while 41 were limping along and 83 had closed down, he stated.

Of the visited firms, 108 were factories, 54 farms, 19 hotels and 19 others of various fields, he said, noting that various steps were being taken upon the visits, including talking to investors to improve operations of ex-state firms they now control.

What the government was doing is not to grab the firms, but to see how

far the ownership transfer agreements were being implemented, he stated, noting that during follow up they also discovered various deficiencies including owners thereof taking loans to finance other business activities.

"The aim in privatizing these parastatals was to increase government revenues and reduce the government burden in running them and inject new technology in their operations, especially in areas where

the government failed to attain such competences," he emphasized.

In the circumstances, whenever the government makes a follow-up and evaluation, it does not mean it wants to take back the parastatals or require them to pay exorbitant taxes against the law.

The idea is to identify challenges they face and look for ways to assist them, he explained, urging cooperation in the matter.

In 1993 the government established the Parastatal Sector Reform Commission (PSRC) to involve the private sector in the revival of parastatals operating at a loss.

PSRC came in the wake of amendments to the Parastatals Act (Cap 257) aimed at enabling the private sector and individual Tanzanians "to be involved in owning and running parastatals that were not performing well at the time."



Liwale District Council chairman Mohamed Mtesa (L) symbolically presents 1,200 bags of cement to Liwale Urban education officer James Mabula at the weekend. It was a donation by Liwale legislator Zuberi Kuchauka for use in the implementation of education and various other projects in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Heavy rain, winds destroy homes and crops in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

HEAVY rain which was accompanied by strong winds has destroyed people's houses and crops at Holongo-Igale ward in Mbeya district, Mbeya region.

The rain which pounded for about two hours on Sunday evening caused massive destruction to people's settlements, properties and infrastructure.

Rebecca Wilson, one of the victims said when the rain started she was in the house with her children and grandchildren.

"We later saw our house's wall collapsing and ran to the kitchen. We are still living in the kitchen as we have no place to stay since the house has been destroyed," she said.

Rebecca said they have not rescued any property in the house and everything was washed away by floods, something which kept us in a difficult situation.

"We have no food, no cloth or anything as everything had been destroyed, crops in the farm have also been swept away, I am frustrated as I have children to take care of and

I don't know what to do, I call for the government and stakeholders to support us come out of this situation," she said.

Enea Mwabhela, another victim, said when their house collapsed, she was in the house with children and her husband was sleeping in the bedroom.

"I am going through difficult moment as my husband has disability, so he doesn't do anything to generate any income, I have to wake up and struggle for my family to eat, I don't know what to do at the moment where all our properties have been destroyed, I have no crops in the farm to depend on," she lamented.

She said houses roofs had been blown which is impossible to bring them back as they have also been destroyed.

"We are currently living in an unfinished old house which is also very small to accommodate all of us, we are suffering because we have no food, no any service," she added.

Holongo village chairman Meshack Mayasu said the village has eight hamlets but six of them been badly destroyed.

Mayasu said crops that have been destroyed by the rain included maize, coffee and beans which he said were still immature and so there is a risk that the people will experience acute hunger as well as economic challenges.

He said to address the situation; the government and stakeholders should extend their support to the villagers who are now struggling to get food for their families.

"We are appealing to stakeholders including Mbeya Rural MP Oran Njeza to support them as they are going through a hard situation after food in the houses and farms were destroyed," he said.

He also called on other residents in the village to also support their fellows who have been affected by the rain.

"We have no food, no cloth or anything as everything had been destroyed, crops in the farm have also been swept away, I am frustrated as I have children to take care of and I don't know what to do, I call for the government and stakeholders to support us come out of this situation"

Tanzania comes up with blueprint for traditional climate change resiliency

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

BUILDING heavily on the traditional expertise from the nomadic pastoralists, scholars in Tanzania have compiled alternative ways through which the world could offset the effects of climate change and global warming.

The blueprint includes traditional knowledge systems in prevention and control of disasters for resilience compiled from the social-ecological experience garnered from the Maasai culture, skills that have also stood the test of time.

"As pilot research program, we started with the Simanjiro District in Manyara region, precisely in five villages of Irkujit, Narosoito, Lormorijoi, Endonyongijape and Orkirung'urung'u," explained the climate change officer for the pastoralists indigenous non-governmental organisations' forum, Gideon Sanago.

"The Maasai can use the sun, stars, plants and even wind to predict the weather, climate and natural disasters before they occur to remarkable accuracy, this is the knowledge that we want to share with the nation, policy makers and the entire world," added Sanago.

The first draft labelled, 'traditional knowledge system for agro-pastoralists resiliency,' has just been introduced in Arusha through the Pastoralists Indigenous non-governmental organisations (pingos) forum in conjunction with the open society initiative for eastern Africa (OSIEA).

PINGOs forum's officer in-charge of the gender department, Nailileji Tupap added that, while climate change and related effects of global warming are inevitable, the new research will also help in sharing the proven methods of adaptation

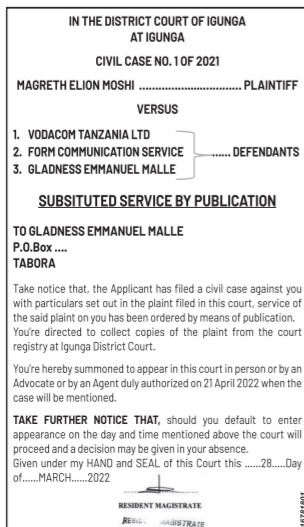
capacity which has helped nomadic pastoralists remain resilient against all environmental changes.

Pastoralists forum's legal officer Saitoti Parmelo pointed out that, all national parks and game reserves in East Africa were hatched from areas previously inhabited by the nomadic pastoralists; "Which is a good evidence that, they are extremely good in environment conservation," he said, noting that the fact that the nomadic pastoralists also don't hunt or eat game meat which to them is a strict taboo.

Dr Swalehe Masaza is the Simanjiro district livestock and fisheries officer who reinforces the importance of the new study report, saying the world had a lot to learn from the Maasai communities regarding resilience against effects of climate change and global warming.

The Maasai are the only communities in East Africa capable of surviving in all types of hostile environments.

“Which is a good evidence that, they are extremely good in environment conservation”



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IT'S A RECORD PERFORMANCE FOR EQUITY GROUP



Equity Group Managing Director and CEO Dr. James Mwangi (centre), Equity Group Board Chair Prof Isaac Macharia (left) and Equity Group Executive Director Mary Wamwe (right) go over the Full Year 2021 Financial Results. Equity Group has announced a 99% growth in Profit After Tax to Kshs 40.1 billion from Kshs 20.1 billion, 29% growth in balance sheet to Kshs 1,305 trillion from Kshs 1,015 trillion and 29% growth in customer deposits to Kshs 959 billion from Kshs 740.8 billion in the Full Year 2021 Financial Results making the Group the largest bank in Kenya and in the region in terms of balance sheet, profitability, market capitalisation and customer base.



Equity Group Managing Director and CEO Dr. James Mwangi (centre), Equity Group Director IT and Operations Lanre Bamisebi (left) and Equity Group Director Enterprise Risk Sam Gitwekere (right) go over the Full Year 2021 Financial Results. Equity Group has announced a 99% growth in Profit After Tax to Kshs 40.1 billion from Kshs 20.1 billion, 29% growth in balance sheet to Kshs 1,305 trillion from Kshs 1,015 trillion and 29% growth in customer deposits to Kshs 959 billion from Kshs 740.8 billion in the Full Year 2021 Financial Results making the Group the largest bank in Kenya and in the region in terms of balance sheet, profitability, market capitalisation and customer base.



Equity Group Managing Director and CEO Dr. James Mwangi (centre) and Equity Group Executive Director Mary Wamwe (right) engage with Alois Chami, an Equity shareholder (left) during the release of the Full Year 2021 Financial Results. Equity Group has announced a 99% growth in Profit After Tax to Kshs 40.1 billion from Kshs 20.1 billion, 29% growth in balance sheet to Kshs 1,305 trillion from Kshs 1,015 trillion and 29% growth in customer deposits to Kshs 959 billion from Kshs 740.8 billion in the Full Year 2021 Financial Results making the Group the largest bank in Kenya and in the region in terms of balance sheet, profitability, market capitalisation and customer base.

- 29% growth in Balance Sheet to Kshs 1,305 trillion from Kshs 1,015 trillion
- 29% growth in customer deposits to Kshs 959 billion from Kshs 740.8 billion
- Emerges the largest bank in Kenya and in the region by all key parameters: balance sheet, profitability, market capitalisation and customer base
- Improvement in NPLs from 11% to 8.3% and increase of provision coverage from 89% to 98%
- 99% growth in Profit After Tax to Kshs 40.1 billion from Kshs 20.1 billion
- 98% growth in earnings per share to Kshs 10.40 from Kshs 5.20
- Record dividend pay-out of Kshs 11.3 billion, a 50% increase from last dividend pay-out for 2018

Nairobi, Equity Centre 22nd March 2022 – “When COVID-19 struck, Equity Group sought its true north, its purpose and commitment to support its members. The Board and Management decided to focus on saving lives and livelihoods, giving dignity, and expanding opportunities for wealth creation while keeping the lights of the economies on.

Against a backdrop of uncertainty, the Group focused on supporting customers and in the process increased and accelerated loan disbursements and growth by over 29% and 23% for the two years respectively while the economy was plummeting to a GDP growth rate of negative 0.1% from a high of 5.8%. Equity was committed to save the businesses of its customers while maintaining livelihoods. As the COVID-19 pandemic mutated into a social, humanitarian, and economic crisis, Equity Group rolled out social investments of Kshs 5.8 billion to complement Government's health and social responses in the East and Central Africa region. Equity Group MD and CEO Dr. James Mwangi served on the Kenya National Emergency Response Fund for COVID-19 Board as Chairman of the Health Committee.

Equity Group Chairman Professor Isaac Macharia served as the Chairman of the Board's Health Technical Advisory Committee while Dr. Joanne Korir, Equity Group Foundation's Head of Health, served as the Committee Secretary. The Group leveraged on its Equity Afiu clinic network to spearhead a COVID-19 health awareness campaign for staff and customers, keeping the doors of its 51 clinics open and cumulatively recording over 701,000 patient visits. The Group, jointly with Mastercard Foundation and Dr. Mwangi's family contributed Kshs 1.7 billion of which Kshs 1.3 billion went into the COVID-19 health response focused on building capacity, including repurposing and funding local manufacturers to establish PPE manufacturing facilities, and supporting 116 National Referral, County and faith-based hospitals with free PPEs and comprehensive supplies in Kenya. This was accomplished over the last 2 years in collaboration with the Kenya COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund Board.

Under the coordination of the Kenya Medical Association, the funding also helped to scale up the psychosocial wellness and case management program for frontline medical workers. In Rwanda, Equity Group supported the Government in its COVID-19 testing and tracking measures through a Ksh100 million initiative to provide testing kits, while in Uganda, the Group presented logistics support to the national emergency response centre. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 41 hospitals received Kshs100million in PPE support to safeguard healthcare workers. Kshs 428 million went into supporting 14,600 Wings to Fly and Elimu scholars in Secondary Schools and TVET scholars through provision of a monthly allowance of between Kshs 3,500 to Kshs 4,000 for the 9 months that schools were closed while also providing them with a solar panel, a radio and a charger to enable them to continue their studies and to charge their phones which kept them engaged with their teachers, classmates, and the educational broadcast programs.

To strengthen resilience and expand economic opportunities for young people and women, Equity Group Foundation (EGF) scaled up capacity building for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through provision of Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship Training and Digital Literacy under the Young Africa Works (YAW) program in partnership with Mastercard Foundation. This resulted in 436,000 MSMEs being enrolled into the program, with over 316,000 of these MSMEs cumulatively trained, 200,000 MSMEs accessing Kshs 136 billion in loans and 1.2 million jobs created. To date EGF has provided Financial Literacy training to over 2.3 million youth and women to enhance their financial inclusion.

Our initiatives in Energy and Environment kept young people gainfully engaged in tree nurseries where Equity sourced seedlings to plant 12 million trees to date. More than 329,000 households were reached with clean energy solutions, domestic water harvesting and storage as well as household water purifier initiatives. In the mission to transform agriculture, over 2.2 million farmers and micro small and medium agriculture enterprises were supported with various interventions and partnerships, to access financing to expand their scope, scale, resourcefulness, and capacity in Food & Agriculture production. To cushion small holder farmers from access challenges presented by COVID-19 restrictions, the bank collaborated with like-minded partners to distribute inputs through a digital technology innovation – the E-Voucher system. Cumulatively Kshs 1.9 billion worth of inputs have been distributed to 91,000 farmers through agro dealers enrolled in the system. In leveraging partnerships to expand Social Protection, Equity worked with Governments, development partners and global foundations to extend safety net payments reaching 3.5 million people cumulatively.

EGF is scaling its initiatives in the subsidiaries. In education, to cement the objective of creating the next generation of leaders, the Equity Leadership Program (ELP) was rolled out in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC and Rwanda with 131 scholars and 32 scholars respectively on boarded for internship, coaching, and mentorship. This marked the regionalization of the ELP program.

In social protection, through Cash Transfer Programmes, the Group provided inclusive financial services through fully fledged bank accounts and biometric smart cards to millions of marginalized and vulnerable households living in Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan. Equity leveraged innovative delivery models to co-create enrolment and payment solutions for Elderly Persons, Orphans, Persons with Severe Disabilities, Persons living in ASALs, Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and other vulnerable segments.

EGF under its Enterprise Development & Financial Inclusion pillar is replicating its MSME capacity building initiatives across the region to enhance Financial Inclusion. Under the YAW-Uganda program, Equity bank Uganda trained 18,341 MSMEs in financial education and disbursed loans worth Kshs 420 million to over 3,700 youth ventures. EquityBCDC, under the Mastercard Foundation (MCF) and Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Fund for Financial Inclusion program, trained over 1200 women owned MSMEs.

To enhance regional expansion into Rwanda, Uganda, DRC and Tanzania, EGF scaled up its operations in Food & Agriculture and started establishing private public partnerships jointly with various development partners to drive the growth of the sector.

In support of the economy during the COVID-19 crisis, the Group waived mobile banking transaction fees amounting to Kshs 2.9 billion and Kshs 1.2 billion of loan rescheduling fees to enhance disposable income of clients while easing cost of living loans to low-income households. The Group rescheduled loans amounting to 32% of all client loans to support businesses to survive, and households to realign to new and emerging opportunities. The shareholders paid the price for two consecutive years foregoing dividends to backstop the risk of uncertainty and enable the Group to enhance its capital buffers. International financial and development partners worked with Equity to strengthen its capital buffers through USD 265 million of Tier 2 capital, and partial credit guarantees in a credit risk sharing mechanism for sectors adversely affected by COVID-19. “This fortified our capital buffers and increased our ability to support our customers, enhanced liquidity buffers to 64% while mitigating cashflow risk during the uncertain times,” said Dr. James Mwangi while releasing the results.

After 2 years of operating in a COVID-19 environment, Equity has emerged as the regional financial sector market leader as defined by financial parameters; balance sheet, asset size, profitability, customer base and market capitalisation at the Nairobi Securities Exchange. Equity has emerged stronger, transformed, and registered record financial performance and has strengthened its social contract with society, remaining focused on its purpose while learning valuable lessons:

- Human resilience through innovation and creativity; humanity has in a record time developed a COVID-19 vaccine giving hope to overcome the health crisis.
- Sustainability is built on social contract of shared prosperity.
- You can do good while doing well and the two are not mutually exclusive; purpose can be profitable if executed sustainably on an appropriate business model.
- Business can be a force for development if it operates with a twin economic and social engine and can achieve sustainability and harmony with society when the two engines are in sync and parity.
- The power of a compelling and inspiring purpose helped to rally the staff, customers, and other stakeholders against adversity. The Equity Group family has an excellent track record in this regard and was able to overcome the fear of uncertainty and COVID-19 related deaths to carry on the purpose of saving and transforming lives, giving dignity while expanding opportunities for wealth creation and keeping the lights of the economies on.
- A crisis is an opportunity to innovate and act expeditiously to facilitate and support customers; never waste a crisis.

Equity Group has recorded superior performance for the year ended 31st December 2021 despite the challenging operating environment characterised by a global COVID-19 pandemic.

Profit After Tax increased by 99% to Kshs 40.1 billion from Kshs 20.1 billion with Profit Before Tax recording a growth of 134% to Kshs 51.9 billion up from Kshs 22.2 billion the previous year. The Group has recommended a record dividend pay-out of Kshs 3 per share totalling Kshs 11.3 billion which is a 50% jump from previous dividend pay-out after earnings per share grew by 98% to Kshs 10.40 up from Kshs 5.20 the previous year.

Net interest income grew by 25% to Kshs 68.8 billion up from Kshs 55.1 billion. This was driven by a 23% growth in loan book to Kshs 587.8 billion up from Kshs 477.8 billion and an 81% growth in investment in Government securities to Kshs 394.1 billion up from Kshs 217.4 billion. Non-funded income grew by 15% to Kshs 43.6 billion up from Kshs 37.8 billion driven mainly by trade finance, payment channels and foreign exchange trading income. Trade finance registered a 55% growth in revenue to Kshs 3.2 billion up from Kshs 2.1 billion.

Despite zero rating mobile transaction offerings, transaction income grew by 37% to Kshs 10.4 billion up from Kshs 7.6 billion on the back of E-commerce and Merchant banking business. Foreign exchange trading income grew by 33% to Kshs 8.3 billion up from Kshs 6.2 billion driven by diaspora inflows that grew 37% to reach Kshs 383.5 billion up from Kshs 279.4 billion.

Total income grew by 21% to surpass the psychological USD 1 billion mark to record Kshs 112.4 billion up from Kshs 92.9 billion the previous year. Despite a 24% growth in staff costs to Kshs 19.1 billion, growth in other operating costs to Kshs 36.5 billion up from the Kshs 30.6 billion, total costs recorded a decline of 16% to Kshs 60.5 billion down from Kshs 71.9 billion driven by an 81% decline in loan loss provision to Kshs 4.9 billion down from Kshs 25.9 billion the previous year. Portfolio at risk declined to 8.3% down from 11% with non-performing loan coverage increasing to 98% up from 89%. In absolute terms, total non-performing loans declined to Kshs 44.5 billion down from Kshs 50.6 billion.

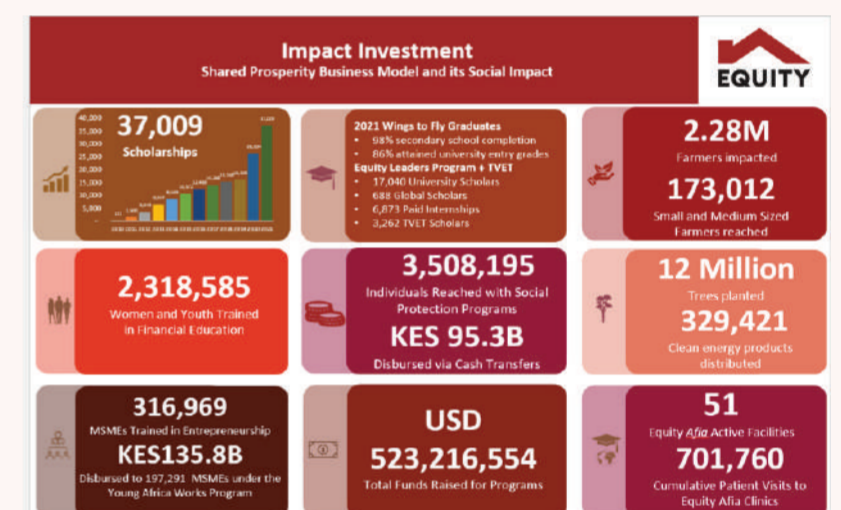
Total Assets grew by 29% to Kshs 1,305 trillion up from Kshs 1,015 trillion driven by a corresponding 29% growth in customer deposits to Kshs 959 billion up from Kshs 740.8 billion resulting in excess cash being deployed in low yielding government securities at 9.6%, while cost to income remained fairly constant at 49.1% up from 48.5%. Return on Average Equity expanded to 26.1% up from 15.3% while Return on Average Assets grew to 3.5% up from 2.3% on the back of benefits of economies of scale and efficiencies of digitisation and a shift of business model from fixed costs to variable cost resulting in the enhanced returns.

The bulk of customers' engagement and consumption of banking products and services is now on digital channels of internet and mobile on self-service devices delivering 24-hour banking experience and convenience. Banking has largely shifted from where you go to what you do on your devices compressing geography and distance.

The Group's offensive and defensive strategy has led to achievement of the twin objective of securing the future while securing market gains of customer consolidation. Equity Group has now strategically positioned itself as a systemic regional diversified business in six countries with the dominant market in Kenya contributing only 59% and 63% of the Assets and Revenues respectively. Strict adherence to IFRS 9 has led to full recognition of lifetime risk in the Asset portfolio with provisions for portfolio at risk being 98% and at 128% with credit risk guarantees.

“We have strengthened our business model to achieve an embedded shared value concept in our twin engine of social and economic aspirations and deliverables. We have scaled our social and environmental impact investments in capacity building and enhancement through education, health, and entrepreneurship training,” said Dr. Mwangi, adding, “We have strengthened our participation in formalising and integrating the informal sector in the real economy with the formal supply chains and ecosystems of agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises. To strengthen the social contract of shared prosperity, Equity is celebrating the strong social brand and exceptional performance by offering 2,000

comprehensive Wings to Fly scholarships for 4 years at an anticipated cost of Kshs 2 billion representing shared prosperity with host communities.”

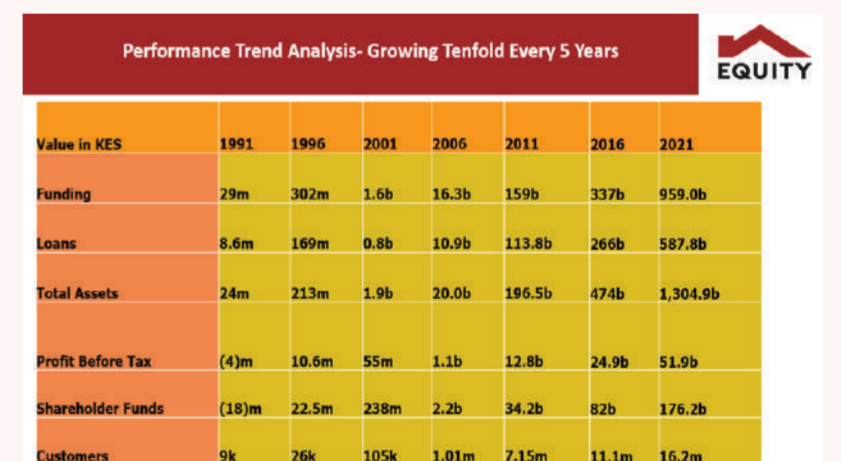


The Group has a positive outlook of the future. We have launched a Marshall Plan 'Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan' with a seed fund of USD 6 billion equivalent to Kshs 690 billion to act as a stimulus for the private sector. The 'Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan' is built on a platform of collaboration and cooperation for Public Private Partnerships to transform the region through value addition and ecosystem development in 5 key areas:

- Primary sectors of Food and Agriculture, and extractive sectors
- Manufacturing and Logistics
- Trade and Investments
- Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
- Social and Environmental impact investments

The strategy aims at funding and financing 5 million businesses and 25 million households to reach 100 million people in Africa and to create 50 million jobs both directly and indirectly. By offering its rails and capability to drive this ambition, Equity hopes to be equally transformed to sustain its growth trajectory that has led it to sustain 10-fold growth every five years and to exponentially grow value for its shareholders.

“We are optimistic that the 'Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan' holds great promise for Africa's socio-economic prosperity and Equity Group is well positioned to catalyse this outcome,” concluded Dr Mwangi.



For more information, please contact:

Alex Muhia
Equity Group Holdings Plc.
T: Office - 0763 026007; Mobile - 0763 618871
E: CorporateCommunications@equitybank.co.ke
E: Alex.Muhia@equitybank.co.ke

Carol Wairugu
Ogilvy PR
T: 0764 515797
Carol.Wairugu@ogilvy.co.ke



Mohamed Kugonda (C, gesturing), transport manager with Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), briefs members of the Parliamentary Accounts Committee at Kariakoo bus station in the city yesterday. This was during the delegation's inspection tour of the second phase of the project being implemented by the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads). Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Mpango to officiate at this year's Uhuru Torch marathon launching

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Vice President, Philip Mpango is expected to officiate the inauguration of the Uhuru torch marathon to be held at Saba Saba grounds in Njombe region on 2nd April, 2022.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the deputy minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Patrobas Katambi said the annual event is important and is still relevant to contemporary Tanzania.

He observed that the father of the nation used the Freedom Torch symbiotically to lighten the nation and bring development and unity.

In upholding the philosophy of the late first President Nyerere, which is embedded in the national torch relay, the government decided to combine commemoration of the Nyerere Day and climax of the Uhuru Torch Race, which is marked every October 14th.

"The government decided to mark the climax of the Uhuru Torch Race on this Nyerere Day in order to connect his philosophy of lighting the national torch," said the deputy minister.

Introducing the Uhuru Torch after Independence, Mwalimu Nyerere said it aimed to lighten the country and across the borders to bring hope where there is despair, love where there is enmity and respect where there is hatred.

Since then, the Uhuru Torch is one of the National Symbols of Tanzania, often used to promote socio-economic prosperity and fight evils including theft, corruption, embezzlement and laxity.

Katambi noted that among others, this year's event will see assessment of last year's audit on the last year projects that were not launched due to misappropriation of funds.

He added that the 150-day race will involve 31 regions and 195 councils of mainland and Zanzibar with the main theme being encouraging people to participate in the forthcoming census.

The deputy minister also noted

that the race serves as an eye to the presidents as it is used to audit and launch development projects in the country.

The 2021 leader of the Uhuru Torch Race, Lieutenant Josephine Mwambashi expressed dismay over majority of water supply projects implemented in Mtwara Region, branding them as dubious and shoddy.

She made the remarks after the Torch Relay inspected Chitanda Water Supply Projects in Newala District, Mtwara Region, accusing the supervisors of negligence in managing the schemes.

She said the water project inspected by the Uhuru Torch in Mtwara Region has faults that hinder the provision of smooth water services in the region, calling on project supervisors and regional leaders to take immediate action towards fixing spotted flaws.

"In general, most water supply projects that we have inspected in Mtwara are questionable," she said.

The Uhuru Torch Race 2021 started in Mtwara on Saturday to inspect the progress, launch and inaugurate 42 development projects worth 11.1bn/- The Torch has so far run through Mtwara, Tandahimba and Newala districts.

Commenting on the Chitanda Water Supply Project, Lt Mwambashi condemned the Regional Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) for neglecting the project that is now slowly supplying water to residents of the area.

She directed RUWASA to embark on serious work and ensure close monitoring and regular supervision of the water supply project to provide sustainable services to the citizens.

She faulted supervision of the Chitanda project, saying the infrastructures of the water storage tanks are worn out but no action has been taken by the supervisors to repair them. Lt Mwambashi thus directed the supervisors to immediately take action and repair the infrastructure of the tanks.

By Guardian Correspondent

New online trading platform to enable local businesses to get global markets

THE government has called on the DP World, a global logistics provider which has entered into contract with the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), to always supervise and guarantee safety of money and goods for customers who make their orders online.

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment, Prof Godius Kahyarara during the launch of the country's online wholesale trading platform dubbed Dubuy.Com which is also aimed to support Tanzania's businesses better access to international markets.

DP World and TCCIA signed an agreement to open a new digital trading zone in Tanzania and the East African region to provide opportunities for Tanzanians so as to participate in

foreign markets.

Kahyarara said the agreement was the result of the Dubai Expo 2020 where Tanzania was among the participants. He said the Dubai Expo has produced positive outcomes and the agreement reached is especially important in online trading as it facilitates business and customer access to products on time.

In addition, he said while in Dubai they signed 36 agreements in the presence of President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the next day another agreement was signed making a total of 37 agreements which will strengthen trade and investment in the country.

He commended DP World for coming to the country to support the

government's efforts in opening more investment opportunities in digital technology.

On his part, Mahmood Al Bastaki, Chief Operating Officer of Dubai Trade World said this latest expansion of Dubuy.com follows launches in Kenya and Rwanda last year, which created an online business community of more than 1500 active merchants.

He said the move into Tanzania demonstrates Dubuy.com's commitment to creating a strategic trading gateway into East Africa by working in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

"Dubuy.com presents an opportunity for homegrown businesses to transform into international

enterprises by providing access to new markets in Africa, the Middle East and the rest of the world. We are thrilled to continue our expansion into East Africa with our launch in Tanzania, a key strategic market given its rapidly growing economy and under-served e-commerce marketplace. It is our hope that access to these new digital tools will enable local businesses to prosper," he said.

Paul Koyi, TCCIA President said: "Tanzania's Development Vision for 2025 is to have a strong, diversified, resilient and competitive economy, one which is easily and confidently able to adapt to the changing market and technological conditions of the regional and global economy."



implemented by: giz

GRANTS FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF COVID-19-RELEVANT MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany are jointly supporting the "COVID-19-relevant Medical and Pharmaceutical Products" (CMPP) Component.

The CMPP Component is now calling for project proposals from private companies, state-owned companies and institutions (including universities and research centres) located in the SADC region. These project proposals shall increase local production capacity of affordable and innovative COVID-19 relevant medical and pharmaceutical products. Specifically for this call, these project proposals shall focus on any of the following: (i) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccine administration (e.g. syringes, needles, plasters, gloves); (ii) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccination management (e.g. cold chain equipment, dry ice, vaccine carriers, deep freezers, vaccination monitoring tools); and (iii) items relevant for COVID-19 clinical management (antivirals such as molnupiravir, COVID-19 tests, dexamethasone, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flasks, nasal cannula; (iv) items/machinery relevant for COVID-19 vaccine production (e.g. production machinery, adjuvants, stabilisers, preservatives, vials, stoppers, packaging). The CMPP Component will allocate grants ranging from EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 to selected eligible proposals. Eligible companies and institutions are expected to finance at least 25% of the project's total costs and to complete the project within twelve months, which must be reflected in the proposal. The detailed call for proposal, which has a link to the application form, can be found on the SADC website: <https://tinyurl.com/SADCSIPSCall2>. The submission of applications deadline is 25th of April 2022 18:00hrs (Botswana time).

CMPP Component is part of the joint action "Support towards Industrialization and the Productive Sectors in the SADC region (SIPS)." It is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by the SADC Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

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Expression of Interest for NMB Board Membership

Ref 32383

NMB Bank Plc (NMB) is the leading full service commercial bank in Tanzania. It provides banking services to a customer base reflective of Tanzania as a whole and this includes Government and state-owned institutions, large corporates and institutions, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), civil servants and salaried employees, farmers, and cooperatives, and reaches out to traders and the unbanked.

NMB is seeking to recruit two (2) independent non-executive new directors to join the NMB Board who will represent the 21% public (independent) shareholders. The new Board Members will be expected to add value and expertise to help drive the continued growth of the Bank. The role of a Board member requires dynamism and dedication, with a proven track record in business development and leadership.

The responsibilities of the Board members include but are not limited to the following functions:

1. Defining and reviewing organisational vision and mission from time to time in promoting long term shareholder value;
2. Determining and reviewing the business strategy, objectives, organizational structure and allocation of resources;
3. Governing the bank by establishing and monitoring policies and establishing proper delegation of authorities;
4. Selection, appointment, supporting, assessing and remunerating Executive Management (EM);
5. To monitor the EM for their execution of policies, strategy and operations through setting clear goals;
6. Determining proper financial management practices and approving the annual budget;
7. Determining that adequate risk management practices are implemented;
8. Monitoring compliance with the law, statutes and internal policies and relevant external regulations;

Experience & Professionalism

Director - Audit / Accounting background

- (i) The candidates should have a minimum of fifteen (15) years senior management experience preferably in the financial sector with at least five (5) years of those in the banking industry;
- (ii) They must also have worked in an audit/accounting firm.
- (iii) Previous Board membership experience, being a certified Director would be a definite advantage.

Director - ICT background

- (i) The candidates should have a minimum of ten (10) years senior management experience in the ICT industry.
- (ii) Previous Board membership experience, being a certified Director would be a definite advantage.

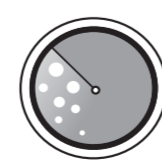
Duration of appointment

The tenure of appointment is three years renewable, subject to performance.

Meetings

The Board of Directors usually meet four times a year. There are also other meetings of Board Committees. The successful candidates will be expected to have adequate time for this assignment.

NMB is an equal opportunity employer and is aiming for gender parity at all levels in the organization. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.



radar recruitment

How To Apply

Email your CV and application letter to jerome@radarrecruitment.com stating the Reference Number **32383** in the subject line.

To view the full job description go to www.radarrecruitment.co.tz and enter the Job Reference Number in the search field.

The closing date for applications is **Sunday 17th April 2022.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

NMB

www.radarrecruitment.com

Women living near mining sites empowered to access legal rights

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 300 people in particular women living around minerals exploration sites in Geita region have benefitted from the project aimed to increase their access to legal rights.

TLS project manager Nelson Frank made these remarks when speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the TLS-SIRD Second Biennial National Forum. Themed: "From Inclusive Extraction to Environmental Accountability: The role of Sustainable Communities in addressing Climate change", the meeting was meant to share success, challenges and chart a way forward.

The meeting was part of the project dubbed "Supporting Inclusive Resource Development" (SIRD) funded by Canada government in collaboration with the Canadian Bars Association implemented by Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) as a pilot in Geita Region.

Frank said that the project target was to increase access to legal rights especially to women, noting that the six-year project (2017-2022) implemented as a project trained 60 lawyers in the government and other non-government officials, 30 paralegals and local government leaders apart from the community.

"Implemented as a pilot, the project has increased women's awareness in the extractive sector to know their rights related to land issues and enable women to be part of the ongoing process," he said.

Frank said since the project was implemented in the area, the women's awareness about land ownership and other rights has increased.

According to him, there were segregation and wrong beliefs in the society that women were cursed and were not allowed to enter mining sites.

A resident of Geita and beneficiary of the project, Nurat Athuman said initially they were segregated by men and sometimes chased for baseless reasons.

"Soon after the project trained us on our rights, we have now been able to own our land and avoid oppression from men," she said, stressing that men used to believe that women were cursed and could lead to low production during the menstruation cycle which according to her was completely wrong.

A paralegal officer, Christina Gamba said that at first, women were not aware about gas, minerals and oil laws governing their processes.

Gamba said after being given knowledge, she went to teach other women in areas around extractive sites to know their rights.

"I'm happy to see women know their rights about lands and have benefitted from their mineral activities," she said.

Canadian Bars Association acting director, Ayo Ogunidipe said the project is implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

In Tanzania, Ogunidipe said it is funded by the Canadian government and Canadian Bars Association worth \$9.5million.

He said that as a pilot in Geita region, the project target was to support economic development for the community, in particular for women and vulnerable groups as well as increasing access to legal rights, involvement, participation and best practices.

"The project worked also with TLS, to review and develop laws in the extractive sector. We can build and protect our community," he said, noting that in the next phase, the project will be embarking on climate change to support community best practices.

"Without doing that, extractives can be part and source of environmental destruction that contribute to climate change," she said.

Govt to enact law to curb online violence

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is planning to enact a law to curb online violence in the country due to the increase of this crime.

It says for now it has started following up the institution involving itself in abortion in order to take appropriate steps as it violates baby's right to live in its mother's womb.

This was revealed by Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender, women and Special Groups when speaking about 17 achievements attained in one year of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership.

Dr Gwajima said the Parliamentary Community Development Services has seen the online violence issue and is currently discussing it for enacting a law thereof.

"A law will be enacted that will control this crime, but I should say that it should be a shame for online users, if you subject a person in such kind of violence, you become part whose mind is not well settled.

"You can submit your report online without having to douse it in such crime - there are so

many of such crimes making rounds online, hence when we are going to enact the law, we should be brave enough, as leading human beings is difficult, prophets were also opposed by those they lead," Dr Gwajima said.

She added: "We shall enact the law and we shall enforce it ourselves."

In regard to acts of gender based violence (GBV) in the country, Dr Gwajima said since families hide reports of the violence done by family relatives, the government is coming up with a new strategy in having guardianship system in the community to eradicate the issue of having the crime settled inside the family instead of legal organs.

Regarding achievements, the minister said in the one-year period of President Samia's leadership, 1,843 committees for the protection of women and children were established reaching 18,186 such committees, out of 20,750 planned to be established from village to national level by 2022. "The government has placed counselling teachers in both primary and secondary schools who provide education to children on acts of GBV committed at schools or homes," she added.



NBCA Bank assistant brand manager Nasikiwa Berya (R) holds the 'Marketer of the Year' award bestowed to the bank shortly after receiving at the Financial Women Forum held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Solve education challenges in your district, Chamwino officials urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

CHAMWINO District Council in Dodoma region has been advised to look into the education sector in the coming 2022/23 budget in order to reduce nine challenges facing students, especially in primary schools.

The challenges include the shortage of pit latrines, the situation that makes many students queueing up at the few pit latrines available thereby failing to attend classes as required.

The remarks were made here yesterday by Wema Nollo, the Chairman of Students Club, who is also a student of Mlwa Secondary School when submitting recommendations to Council top officials at an education stakeholders meeting organised by ActionAid Tanzania, a non-governmental Organisation

through its education improvement project for Singida and Dodoma Regions.

He said: "You find one school with 1,000 students but has only six pit latrines, three each for girls and boys and the time for break of lessons is only 20 minutes. Those going to help themselves are just too many creating a huge congestion," he said.

He mentioned other challenges as including lack of private rooms, shortage of water, teachers' houses and science students at secondary schools as well as lack of infrastructures for students with special need.

In regard to the distance challenge, Editha Mabwe, a Buigiri Primary school student called on the government to build dormitories or schools near the villages for them to reduce truancy.

"Many schools in Chamwino district are built

very far from villages, for example in Chinolwa there are students hailing from Mlimwa who attend lessons at Chinolwa Secondary School, others come from Chiwahele Village, this creates various challenges especially to girl students including child pregnancies," she said.

However, Chamwino District Council chairman, Edson Sweti said they will work on the recommendations.

"We shall discuss the matter so that a big chunk of the budget is directed to pit latrines, since these challenges have been long lasting," he said.

Chamwino District Education Officer, Tulina Ngonile, confirmed the existence of the challenges and pledged to work together with various stakeholders to find solutions thereof.

WTF cites obstacles for women to acquiring leadership positions

By Guardian Reporter

CORRUPTION and sex have been cited as obstacles in attaining gender equality for women to enable them hold leadership positions.

The observation was made on Monday by the Co-Director of Women Trust Fund (WTF-trust)

Rose Marandu in Dar es Salaam when opening a conference of non-governmental organisations from various regions countrywide that receive subsidies for implementing women and children's rights projects.

She said in mobilising for joint efforts via Tanzania Alliance People's Organisation (TAPO) for opposing

patriarchy and brings about women emancipation to attain 50-50 gender equality in leadership positions particularly; there are three issues that have to be severely opposed, including sex and corruption.

"We are failing to get women as leaders because of sexual corruption which demeans women - for example

someone applied for a job for her daughter, and she was asked for sex after which the girl got the job, but the company boss also asked for sex from the mother as well, it is painful and totally demeaning," Marandu said.

She mentioned other obstacles to women to hold leadership positions as including the issues of traditions and customs that are oppressive because these prefer women to continue working for men, and not leading them.

She said another obstacle is maternity health, that when women get maternity leave in some institutions thereby fail to breastfeed their babies.

She called upon the NGOs to spend well the subsidies they received in rescuing women in order to attain gender equality in various fields including the economy, agriculture, owning property and holding leadership positions right from lower levels.

Some of the meeting participants said the main obstacle that they have been facing in implementing their duties of defending women and girls' rights is local customs and traditions that continue to oppress women by marrying off under-age girls.

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CONSORTIUM



ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR THE APPLICATIONS TO INVEST IN MBARANG'ANDU TOURIST HUNTING BLOCK IN NALIKA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) FOR THE HUNTING PERIOD COMMENCES JULY 2022

[[Made under section 31(7) of the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and Regulation 55(2) of WMA Regulations of 2018 and its amendments]]

Nalika Authorized Association (AA) of Tunduru District invites applications from interested outfitter companies to conduct business in Mbarang'andu Tourist hunting block for the hunting period commencing July 2022. The table below provides key information concerning the respective Hunting Block

AA	DISTRICT	BLOCK	SIZE IN KM SQ	CATEGORY	APPLICATION FEE (USD)	ECOSYSTEM
NALIKA	TUNDURU	MBARANG'ANDU	700.61	II	2000	Nyerere-Selous - Mikumi

Both new hunting tourism companies and those which are already in the industry are invited. Criteria for evaluating hunting tourism companies are stipulated in Section 9(2) of Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015) and its amendments.

Application forms are available at the CWMAC office located at Mikoroshini Street, Msasani Area, Dar es Salaam and Nalika Authorized Association Offices in Tunduru. Applications (filled application forms, paid bank slips, and all other supporting documents) should be sent to the respective Authorized Association through the postal address indicated in the table below or to the CWMAC office in Dar es Salaam by **20th of April 2022.**

AA MAILING BOX JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI NALIKA, S.L.P. 6, TUNDURU.	AA BANK ACCOUNT A/C NO. 70902300566 NMB TUNDURU BRANCH
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Interested bidders are strongly advised to visit the respective Hunting blocks before submitting their applications Terms and conditions articulated in the Wildlife Conservation Act No.5 of 2009, Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015) and WMA Regulations (2018) shall apply. For more information, **please call +255 759 676 340 or Email: info@twma.co.tz.**

Prepared By
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SALE OF ASSET

Invitation for Bids

Stanbic Bank Tanzania welcomes you to an open bid.

- Bids to be opened on 06th April 2022. Bidders are free to attend or choose their representative for the opening ceremony that will take place at 15.00hrs at Stanbic Bank board room, Stanbic Head Office, junction of Ali Hassan Mwinyi/Kinondoni road.
- Bids are to be addressed to the Managing Director, Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, P.O. Box 72647, Dar es Salaam. Bids should be clearly marked as Bid for trucks, trailers, motor vehicle equipment or machines.
- All bids to be attached with non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= payable by bankers cheque or cash deposited to Stanbic Bank and receipt to that effect enclosed in the bidding documents. Account name Sundry Deposit Suspense ACCOUNT NO. 1210007Z55108001.
- Bids should be deposited in the tender box at Reception, Ground floor.
- Asset is in Dar es Salaam and can be inspected upon request. Call 0746 969 693 for further details.
- Winner of a bid will be required to pay 25% of bidding amount immediately and the remaining amount to be paid within 7 days.
- The bank reserves the right to accept any bid and is not obliged to explain the reasons thereto.
- Asset will be sold on the condition of "as is basis".
- The highest bid is not necessarily considered as the winning bid. The bank's decision is final.
- Bidding is open to the general public.

More details:

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR OF REG	REGISTRATION /SERIAL NUMBER	PLACE OF STORAGE	PRICE
CATERPILLER	CS533E	2015	T 848 DHP	BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD	TZS 130,000,000

Stanbic Bank IT CAN BE.



Dr Selemani Jaffo (4th-L), Minister of State in Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), speaks during an Earth Hour tree-planting drive in Kisarawe District at the weekend. The district-level initiative is implemented jointly by the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and WWF. Left is VTF manager Sandra Oswald. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tout at Msamvu bus station stabbed to death after brawl

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOUT at Msamvu Main Bus Station has died after being stabbed by a fellow tout following a quarrel between them.

The quarrel is said to have been caused by their fight for passengers.

Morogoro Regional Police commander Fortunatus Muslim confirmed the incident that happened on Monday early morning after the two touts - Tazani Mdeme (35) aka Sarange, resident of Mwembesongo and Abdallah Yassin (32, aka Hajamonga Bonge engaged in a quarrel as they were fighting for passengers.

RPC Muslim said Yassin stabbed Tazani on the left side of the chest and he was rushed to Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital but died while receiving treatment.

He said already Abdallah has been arrested and steps were underway to refer him to court after investigations are completed, adding that the body of the deceased was reserved at the

hospital's mortuary.

The RPC called upon agents of bus owners and their touts not to fight for passengers; instead they should do so in an appropriate procedure.

He also cautioned them not to go to bus stands with weapons or any other dangerous items including knives, screwdrivers, razors or machetes.

Spokesman for BM Coach Services, Joseph Mosha said the quarrel erupted due to the habit that grew from the violation of the procedure in boarding of buses by passengers at the bus

station whereby the bus owned by Abood Bus services take in passengers at an unauthorized place, despite complaints aired to various authorities.

He said after the calls to follow proper boarding of passengers were ignored, fights for passengers ensued culminating in the tragic incident.

"Incidents of harming one another are normal at the bus station but never resulted in death," he added.

He also complained on the absence of recorded incident caught by CCTV cameras installed at the bus station, the issue that could have shown the violation of the procedures at the bus stand.

For his part, the chairperson of Msamvu bus stand, Aziz Kapilima said they are saddened by the incident and they will make sure proper passenger boarding procedures are followed at the bus stand and will call on the touts to reduce their emotions while calling in for passengers to board their buses.



Incidents of harming one another are normal at the bus station but never resulted in death

Support peripheral hospitals, stakeholders told

By Guardian Reporter

DEVELOPMENT partners have been asked to visit peripheral hospitals and to see the problems that exist and help them so that people can get the services they need.

Nanenane Women Saccos' chairperson Happiness Makundi, made the request here yesterday, when the group visited Oltremont District Hospital in Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

Happiness said they have seen many problems facing the hospital so she called on the government to work with stakeholders to take immediate action to solve them.

"One of the biggest problems that need to be addressed is the need to expand the mortuary so as to match the status of district hospitals," she said.

Hospital's matron, Dorice Kahwa said the hospital is facing a shortage of mortuaries, a laboratory laundry room and generator malfunctions, a situation that caused work to stop when electricity was cut off.

"If you look closely you will see that we do not have a mortuary here, the one we have at the moment has the capacity to store only six bodies, also the laboratory room is narrow there is no space to arrange machinery," she said.

She said if stakeholders visit them and helps them solve their problems; it will help patients in those remote areas to get better care.

Acting Chief Physician of the hospital, Lootosim Zablo thanked the group for the support they provided as it came at the right time.

He said the hospital was facing a lot of problems, so it was good that development stakeholders and Tanzanians were

keeping an eye on it, to help the hospital conform to the status of the district.

"The government has already come here and saw these challenges I know it is in the process of solving it but for those who will be moved we invite them to come and help so that the people can get better medical services," he said.

Group's manager, Leticia Cosmas, said the donations were worth 1.4m/-, including 40 bed sheets, five operating room sheets, doctors' wardrobes, blankets and hats.

Other items are water, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet paper.

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By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

MINISTRY of Culture, Arts and Sports in collaboration with Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism are planning to implement the directives of Vice President Dr Philip Mpango issued on January 29 this year to upgrade Dr David Livingstone Memorial at Ujiji as well as identifying other tourist attractions in Kigoma Region.

Speaking on behalf team members, the Assistant Director of Culture Development, Dr Resani Mnata said the aim of the visit is to implement the directives of the vice president.

Dr Mnata said the government wants the memorial to spur the protection of customs and traditions of Kigoma Region and improving lives of residents including building good houses, to have an education centre for the youth as well as a research centre.

Speaking to the team members in his office, Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Thobias Andengenyne

Govt to upgrade Dr Livingstone Memorial

said the region has many tourist and cultural attractions, including Gombe and Mahale game reserves, pristine beaches on Lake Tanganyika and others.

"We cannot interpret your coming here only in terms of culture, we are interpreting it in economic

considerations, we want things to be done, things that have value in life," said the RC.

He said the team's coming has come at the right time for keeping historical records and other writings which Kigoma residents have so that they are kept in modern libraries for present and future generations.

He stressed that the region has Gombe Game Reserve that opens the region for both local and foreign tourists, and that they have plans to enable it to be reached by road from Mwandiga through Chekere up to Mwamgongo village.

He said the step will enable many visitors to come to the tourist attraction by road or air.



...the step will enable many visitors to come to the tourist attraction by road or air

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA



Baraza la Ushindani

Tanzia



Mwenyekiti, Wajumbe na Menejimenti ya Baraza imepokea kwa masikitiko makubwa taarifa ya kifo cha Mjumbe wa Baraza, Prof. Honest P. Ngowi kilichotokea kwa ajali ya gari tarehe 28, Machi, 2022

Baraza litamkumbuka Prof. Ngowi kwa utendaji kazi uliotukuka.

Tunaungana na Familia pamoja na Wananchi wote katika kipindi hiki kigumu. Mwenyezi Mungu ailaze roho ya marehemu mahala pema peponi. Amina

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JAMHURI STREET/ NSSF BUILDING
BENJAMINI W MKAPA PARKING TOWER
P O BOX10674
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Mobile: +255 754497124
Email: Scholastikakevela@gmail.com

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THE AUCTION IN AIRD MUBONDO LOGISTICS BASE - KIGOMA SHALL START at 11:00AM on 09th of April 2022

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If you look closely you will see that we do not have a mortuary here, the one we have at the moment has the capacity to store only six bodies, also the laboratory room is narrow there is no space to arrange machinery

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Sustainable industrialisation: Target within Africa's reach

THE economy of Africa consists of the trade, industry, agriculture, and human resources of the continent. As of 2019, approximately 1.3 billion people were living in 54 countries in Africa. Africa is a resource-rich continent. Recent growth has been due to growth in sales in commodities, services, and manufacturing. West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa in particular, are expected to reach a combined GDP of \$29 trillion by 2050.

In March 2013, Africa was identified as the world's poorest inhabited continent. There are a number of reasons for Africa's poor economy: historically, even though Africa had a number of empires trading with many parts of the world, most people lived in tribal rural societies; in addition, European colonisation and the later Cold War created political, economic and social instability.

Industrialisation is the period of social and economic change that transforms a human group from an agrarian society into an industrial society. This involves an extensive re-organisation of an economy for the purpose of manufacturing. Historically industrialisation is associated with increase of polluting industries heavily dependent on fossil fuels; however, with the increasing focus on sustainable development and green industrial policy practices, industrialisation increasingly includes technological leapfrogging, with direct investment in more advanced, cleaner technologies.

The reorganisation of the economy has many unintended consequences both economically and socially. As industrial workers' incomes rise, markets for consumer goods and services of all kinds tend to expand and provide a further stimulus to industrial investment and economic growth. Moreover, family structures tend to shift as extended families tend to no

longer live together in one household, location or place.

Every year on November 20, the world observes Africa Industrialisation Day. The day reminds African countries of the importance of industrial development to bring about sustained and inclusive economic growth.

As a continent of young people with a median age of 19.7 and an estimated rise of the population to 2.5 billion by 2050, African countries have always been told to pursue industrial development to eradicate poverty and create employment for its young population.

To accommodate all those young people, African countries would need to create 20 million jobs every year to keep up with population growth.

In the wake of the huge wave of independence that swept across Africa in the 1960s, countries tried different industrialization strategies.

However, times have changed and considering global challenges like climate change, it remains questionable whether it makes sense to pursue industrialization by depending on fossil fuels.

The countries least responsible for causing climate change are the ones suffering the most from its effects, especially regarding food insecurity and nutrient deficiencies. African countries are among those particularly affected by climate change. So, should the continent really pursue the old ways of industrialization that have led to the climate crisis?

Africa can learn a lot from other regions and embark on a path towards sustainable industrialization. All the potential for alternative energies such as wind, solar, and water exists on the continent and can be harnessed to industrialize with low-carbon energy.

Though the transition to a green economy comes at a price, it makes sense to look at the long-term effects. Acting now will be cheaper in the long run.

Young people must be at centre of sustainable development agenda

ALL of the world's top 10 youngest countries by median age are in Africa. A 2004 study found that young people are the most likely to commit violent acts, as well as more likely to become victims of violence themselves.

As key drivers of change in the post-2015 era, the world's 1.2 billion young people must be bolstered by robust national policies and innovative solutions to the challenges they faced. The youth are in the driving seat of the sustainable development agenda.

Today's young people were the first generation that could end poverty, and the last that could act to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Youth in Africa constituted 19 per cent of the global youth population in 2015, numbering 226 million. The United Nations defines youth as people aged 15 to 24 years. By 2030, it is predicted that the number of youths in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent. Africa's population as a whole is very young, with 60 per cent of the entire continent aged below 25, making it the youngest continent in the world, in relation to its population makeup.

Today's 'peak' youth generation represents the largest in human history, and more than half the global population is under the age of 30. Perhaps even more consequential to the security and economic landscape is that lower income—often volatile regions—house a significant majority of young people worldwide. Poverty, inequality, conflict and displacement threaten stability and peace, and disrupt commerce and markets by subverting growth. Youth tend to be disproportionately affected by economic shocks as well as by violence

and conflict, as both perpetrators and victims and comprise. Recognizing the imperative of the demographic and security dynamics the UN Security Council adopted the resolution on youth, peace, and security in December 2015.

While youth can be a boon to economies, hundreds of millions of young people are neither in school nor work; and many labour markets can't keep pace in creating enough jobs to absorb new entrants contributing to alarming levels of unemployment. And though youth yearn to work, innovate, and be entrepreneurial, the inability of hundreds of millions to do so is undermining growth and costing the world billions of dollars, driving migration and destroying the social fabric of many communities. Despite their talent and ambition, as longer term financial prospects dwindle, far too many are losing hope in their future. Academics may debate whether scant evidence demonstrates a direct causal link between youth and violence or conflict, but there is little doubt that as conditions weaken, youth are more likely to be drawn into illicit or criminal economic activities.

Similarly, though youth tend to drive social, political, and peace movements, they don't necessarily have a meaningful voice in reforms or regime change and are too often sidelined from governance and decision-making. Only an estimated 2 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide are in their twenties. Faced with rising education costs that often exclude those most in need and diminishing space for civic participation, youth feel more marginalised, more powerless over their fate, and more disillusioned and angry.



By Ines M Pousadela

THE 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was just launched. Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the main annual global forum on gender equality is once again taking place in a hybrid format - both at the UN's New York headquarters, where government delegations will be meeting, and online, where most civil society activity will take place.

This has disappointed women's rights movements from all over the world - for the third time in a row. Back in 2020, CSW's 64th session was due to begin on 9 March, and the spreading pandemic resulted in a dramatic restructure: from a two-week event with around 12,000 confirmed participants to a one-day procedural meeting. The following year, CSW 65 was held in a hybrid format, but mostly virtually.

For more than two years non-stop, the pandemic impacted disproportionately on the rights of women and girls. Gender-based violence raged and femicides increased. The burden of unpaid work on women's shoulders multiplied, economic hardship differentially affected women, who are heavily employed in the informal sector, and the virus itself disproportionately affected women who are over-represented in frontline jobs.

When women most needed a space where they could advocate for their rights and demand that the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery were tackled through a gendered lens, the main such global space almost completely collapsed.

While much was initially made of the inclusive potential of virtual events, it soon became clear that access challenges faced by women in real life were replicated in the online sphere. This year, many women's voices may again go unheard, since they lack the same status as the government representatives allowed into the room.

Fortunately, mobilised women's rights groups have worked extra hard to prevent that from happening. On 8 March, International Women's Day (IWD), feminists from all over the world took to the streets again, showing that they had not been defeated by the pandemic - if anything, they were emerging stronger. They articulated a clear and coherent agenda for equality.

The right to life free of violence
IWD mobilisations demanded action on gender-based violence (GBV) everywhere around the world, but nowhere were these demands louder than in Latin America, where streets in city after city were taken over by green - the colour of the rising tide for abortion rights that originated in Argentina - and violet - the traditional colour of the feminist movement.

Commission on status of women: The streets have already spoken

Mass marches, along with feminist strikes against all forms of violence - domestic and sexual violence but also institutional and economic violence - were held in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador and Uruguay, among others.

In Mexico City, the day started with a giant airship streaking across the skies with a sign reading '10 femicides a day, none of them forgotten', followed by a mass march in the capital and in states across the country.

In Bolivia, ahead of IWD hundreds of women marched for justice and an end to impunity. Convened by the Mujeres Creando collective, they carried photographs of men accused or sentenced for rape, and of judges and prosecutors who freed perpetrators of GBV and femicides.

In Honduras, protesters condemned femicides and urged the approval of the Shelter House Law for victims of GBV. In Panama, women called for greater protection for girls and adolescents from sexual violence, as well as better guarantees of labour rights.

Most IWD protests were held in a celebratory atmosphere: even while they were sharing grievances and expressing anger, women were out there experiencing sisterhood and togetherness, either celebrating victories or giving each other strength to overcome defeat.

This was no invitation to violence, but still there were instances in which repression - unprovoked and unjustified - came. Such was the case in Ecuador, where protesting women were met by police with pepper spray, baton beatings, horses and dogs.

Halfway around the world in South Asia, dozens of IWD events, known as the Aurat March, were held across Pakistan for the fifth year in a row. Recent high-profile femicide cases had intensified calls for stronger legal protections against so-called 'honour killings'.

As in previous years, protesters experienced intense backlash, including attempts to stop them protesting. The minister of religious affairs called for IWD events to be cancelled, for the Aurat March to be banned and for 8 March to be rebranded as 'Hijab Day'.

At least one right-wing organisation accused marchers of 'obscenity' and threatened to beat them. In Lahore and other cities, counterprotests known as 'hijab marches' also mobilised, with women from conservative religious groups calling for the preservation of 'Islamic values'.

Where Asia meets Europe, the Azerbaijani Feminist Movement gathered in Baku to urge the adoption of the Istanbul Convention - the

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - and demand proper investigations of GBV cases. Instead of investigating reports, the police typically advise victims to return home and reconcile with their husbands.

Women also rallied against GBV in nearby Turkey. Campaigners warned that skyrocketing femicide numbers may be gross underestimates, as femicides are often recorded as suicides or accidents. In the evening, women held their annual feminist night walk in Ankara and Istanbul. Here, as in Quito, riot police used pepper spray against protesters to try to disperse a crowd of several thousand gathered in the city centre.

GBV and femicides were under the spotlight in Africa and Europe as well. In Albania, the Feminist Collective protested outside the Prime Minister's office in Tirana to demand freedom from violence in all its forms. Simultaneously, a performance was staged in a central square, where dozens of pairs of red shoes were laid down to symbolise the victims of femicide.

In Belgium, close to 5,000 women took to the streets of Brussels to call for equality and an end to GBV and sexual harassment. Rallying cries included 'Victime, on te croit. Agresseur, on te voit' ('Victim, we believe you. Perpetrator, we see you'), a reference to testimonies shared by women who have experienced sexual harassment.

In the UK, campaigners laid flowers outside an immigration detention centre for women, stating that most women held there are survivors of rape and other forms of GBV and victims of trafficking and modern slavery. They vowed to continue protesting until the site is closed down.

In Nairobi, Kenya, hundreds of women marched to the national police headquarters to demand justice for sexual assault in public spaces and call for the regulation of the commuter motorbike sector, after a video showing a woman being sexually assaulted by motorbike riders on a busy road went viral. Protesters held placards with messages such as 'usinishike' - 'don't touch me' in Swahili.

Global sorority and abortion rights Many protests that focused on GBV also demanded sexual and reproductive rights. This was no coincidence, as GBV and the denial of sexual and reproductive rights have a common root: women's deprivation of the personhood and autonomy to decide over their bodies and lives.

This focus could be seen in El Salvador, which has one of the strictest anti-abortion laws in the world. On

IWD, around 2,000 women from feminist organisations and university groups marched against femicides and to demand the immediate legalisation of abortion on three grounds: to save the pregnant person's life, in cases of life-threatening foetal malformation and when pregnancy is the result of sexual violence.

Something similar would have happened in Poland, where in 2020 a near-total ban on abortion was introduced under cover of the pandemic, if it hadn't been for the emergency caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In less than two weeks, over 1.2 million Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, had crossed the border into Poland, and Polish civil society set to work to help in whatever way they could. Everything else took a temporary back seat.

This happened throughout Europe, and beyond: demands for women's rights shared the stage with calls for solidarity with Ukraine. Blue-and-yellow rallies were held in several European capitals, including Brussels, where a 'Women stand with Ukraine' demonstration took place, and Berlin, where hundreds of people, mostly women, gathered outside the Russian Embassy to protest against the invasion. In Turkey, the Ankara Women's Platform publicly sided with Ukrainian women and children as 'the first victims of the war'. Further away in Central Asia, an IWD rally in Kyrgyzstan also denounced the invasion.

In Spain, where hundreds of thousands mobilised, protesters advanced demands for equality while also protesting against the war; in wars, they pointed out, women are always treated as bargaining chips. In Barcelona, the mic was passed to two Ukrainian women who acknowledged the courage of the women putting their bodies on the line to stop Russian tanks.

Political representation a key demand

Women's organisations that have spent years calling for legislative bodies comprising mostly of men to pass laws that benefit women know only too well that fairer political representation is a key that opens many doors.

Political representation was at the centre of IWD mobilisations in Cameroon, where more than 20,000 women came out in Yaoundé to insist on a proper role in decision-making. Protesters demanded gender quotas, saying they would no longer accept being treated as inferior to men. The call was echoed in protests that took place in towns and villages across Cameroon.

Ridiculed Pemba man laughing last after embracing spice farming

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

WHEN Bakari Mataka abandoned growing rice and sweet potatoes, and turned to spice farming over 20 years ago, his colleagues laughed at him. Living in a predominantly subsistence farming community in Pemba Island, many though he had made a big mistake and his family would starve.

They were wrong because the now 70-year-old Mzee Mataka, as he is popularly known, is now laughing last and as the saying goes: he who laughs last, laughs best. He is the man of the moment inspiring others to get into spice farming.

"I used to engage in subsistence farming as a means of ensuring my family's food security but this did not bring me any income. Change came one day while I was resting at home when a friend passed by and told me about spice farming," he said in a recent interview.

He said he had no second thoughts about joining spice farming and as he was wondering where to start, the friend who had told him about the good news of spice farming went ahead and gave him two vanilla seedlings and one cardamom.

"I started spice farming at zero cost as my friend had given me the seedlings to start with and he would often come by to check on my progress. I decided to plant them in my house's backyard for security reasons and close supervision," he said.

In his first harvest, he managed to get some spices that he eventually sold and got some money which gave him hope that when he puts in more effort, he might make tidy amount of money.

He said there was a ready market for a variety of spices since way back in the 1980s for spices such as cardamom which fetched 350/- per 400/- per kilogramme.

"For sure the money I got was not that much but I am grateful that it improved my standard of living," he added.

Mzee Mataka finally made a decision to venture into spice farming and he has never looked back. To date, he has half an acre where he grows a variety of spices that include vanilla, cardamom, black pepper and cinnamon.

He said that spice farming in Pemba is re-



Vanilla beans in a farm, One kilogramme of the spice fetches between 600,000/- and 800,000/- . Photo courtesy of the internet

warding since it is mainly organic with no costly inputs needed and there is a readily available market for almost all the spice varieties.

Mzee Mataka said that on a good season, he makes not less than 1mn/- per harvest and he has embarked on a sensitization campaign to lure more Pemba residents into spice farming.

He noted that the prices of spices have risen with a kilogramme of vanilla selling between 600,000/- and 800,000/- while cardamom sells at 40,000/- per kilogramme and black pepper

going for between 10,000/- and 12,000/- per kilogramme.

"Spice farming is profitable here and after seeing its rewards, I have been encouraging other people to join the bandwagon. Unlike other types of farming, this one requires no farm inputs," he added.

According to Soud Nahoda Hassan, Zanzibar Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock, the rising demand for spices in the world is an opportunity for Tan-

zanian farmers to produce spices sustainably.

Tanzania has over 30 types of spices mostly organic, including cloves, pepper, ginger, cinnamon, chillies, cardamom, lemongrass and vanilla. These spices have numerous health and medicinal benefits.

In 2015, out of the 8,609 tonnes of spices produced, 396 tonnes (4.29 per cent) were exported while the proportion of export in 2019 dropped to 1.23 per cent with only 478 tonnes of spice exported, but with an increase of

38,987 tonnes produced that year.

While the actual production of spice has sharply increased over the years, the proportion of spice for export has significantly dropped.

Tanzania's cloves, vanilla and pepper are ISO-certified among others and this stimulates competitiveness in the global market, provides a means for regulating and standardizing the supply chain and motivates increased production and productivity. Cloves alone dominate over 90 per cent of Tanzania's export market share of spices. Tanzania projects an increase in spice export by 15 per cent in the next 10 to 15 years.

Provided that Tanzania's spice is labeled and compliant with global standards, coupled with sustainable production and increased productivity, farmers can rest assured with high value markets, creating employment opportunities to tens of thousands of Tanzanians with an enabling environment for wealth creation and prosperity.

But according to Khamis Issa Mohammed, Secretary General of Zanzibar exporters association (ZEXA), the spice industry in Zanzibar is a distinct sector with a high exports potential requiring only minimum investment.

"The spice industry presents a major opportunity for Zanzibar and Tanzania to exploit and reap economic benefits in the relatively short term with only a nominal input of resources and attention," he said.

He noted that Zanzibar produces high quality spices, exports to packers and importers overseas, yet Tanzania currently buys 70 per cent of packed spices from foreign suppliers.

Mohammed said the spices currently being produced include cardamom, ginger, turmeric, cinnamon, black pepper, cloves, chili, vanilla, paprika and nutmeg.

He added that spice production and trade can play a significant role in poverty reduction and increases income at both family and national levels.

"Generally, there is high potential for growth of spice business in Zanzibar and Tanzania given fertile land and the climate" he said.

China determined to bring more stability and certainty to a turbulent and fluid world

By He Yin, People's Daily

LATELY, Chinese President Xi Jinping held virtual video summits and had video and phone calls with multiple foreign leaders to seek cooperation, promote development and safeguard peace in pursuit of common interests of the international community, showing China's sense of responsibility as a major country in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

"We need to shoulder our responsibility to bring more stability and certainty to a turbulent and fluid world," said Xi in a virtual summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on March 8.

When speaking with Indonesian President Joko Widodo over the phone on March 16, Xi called on the two sides to keep the global market stable and supply chains unimpeded and promote the concrete implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI).

"China stands ready to work with all parties to uphold true multilateralism, stand for international fairness and justice, and safeguard the legitimate rights and common interests of emerging market economies and developing countries," he stressed in a phone conversation with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on March 18.

The year 2022 brings with it plenty of challenges. While the COVID-19 pandemic has yet to be conquered, the Ukraine crisis arose, further complicating the international situation that was already filled with uncertainties. Such a critical moment requires countries to pluck up their courage and shoulder their responsibilities.

As a responsible major country, China has always moved on the right course of the historical trend, held high the banner of multilateralism and enhanced cooperation and solidarity with all peace-loving countries that pursue development to jointly address challenges and create a bright future for the entire world.

China is an important force for maintaining world peace. Some major countries, trying to hold on to their hegemony, have resurrected Cold War mentality and stoked bloc confrontation, which has fueled instability and division in the world. China, however, believes that competition between major countries should not be the order of the day and zero-sum game is not the right choice.

It calls on countries to follow the vision of



Photo taken on March 1, 2022 shows an aerial view of the China-funded National Road No. 3 reconstruction and expansion project in Takeo province, southern Cambodia. (Photo/Li Lai)

common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, reject the notion of exclusive or absolute security, and stay committed to ceasing conflicts through negotiation, resolving disputes through dialogue, and increasing mutual trust through cooperation to jointly build a world of enduring peace.

After the Ukraine crisis emerged, China has endeavored to facilitate dialogue for peace and stressed that all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of the crisis should be supported, which shows a stark contrast with certain countries that try to add fuel to the fire and fully reflects China's philosophy of peaceful development.

China has made active efforts to facilitate common development. The country believes that good development is sustainable and true development is development for all.

While focusing on running its own affairs well and promoting high-quality economic development, it has actively developed global partnerships, continuously expanding the convergence of interests with other countries and tightening the ties for common development.

China has pushed ahead with the high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road, with the number of countries and international organizations participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) reaching 180.

The country has also proposed the GDI and endeavored to promote the building of an international consensus on global sustainable development.

At present, some countries are using the Ukraine crisis as a pretext to implement sweeping and indiscriminate sanctions,

dragging down the world economy that is already struggling under the pandemic, which harm various parties including themselves and inflict suffering on the people.

For global stability and the work and life of billions of people, China has been doing its best for world peace and creating favorable conditions for global development.

China supports Indonesia in playing its role as the president of the Group of 20 (G20), and its effort to host a successful 2022 G20 Bali Summit focusing on the theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger", which reflects China's determination to forge synergy for common development.

China is the mainstay of strengthening global governance. It believes that when faced with challenges of a global nature, no country can stay aloof or unaffected. The country has stressed that all countries must pull together in these trying times, enhance communication and coordination on COVID-19, climate change and other global issues, build maximum consensus, and pursue convergence of interests wherever possible.

China remains steadfast in championing and practicing true multilateralism, advocates the universal values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, and opposes hegemonism, power politics and bloc politics. It calls on all countries to safeguard the UN-centered international system and uphold the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as they work together to make the global governance system fairer and more equitable.

As the chair of BRICS this year, China is ready to work with various parties to maintain the development momentum of the BRICS cooperation mechanism and build a high-quality partnership that is more comprehensive, closer, more pragmatic and more inclusive, which is expected to further increase the voice of emerging markets and developing countries in global governance.

Facts have proved that in a world of instability and transformation, China always serves as an anchor for stability and a force for good, and always stands on the right side of history.

No matter how the international landscape evolves, China will continue to keep a global perspective, honor its responsibilities, and hold high the banner of peace, development and win-win cooperation to promote the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. It will work with all progressive forces in the world to pursue common development and march toward a shared future.

SA's former white schools are the most racially diverse yet one population group is conspicuous by its absence

By Victoria O'Regan

REGARDLESS of how we measure it, school segregation in post-apartheid South Africa remains very high along racial, as well as socioeconomic lines, and also from an internationally comparative perspective," said Dr Rob Grujters, assistant professor in the education faculty at the University of Cambridge, during an online seminar on school segregation in post-apartheid South Africa on Monday.

Grujters, one of the authors of an unpublished, preliminary study, joined research specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and co-author of the study, Dr Vijay Reddy, and professor of education at Stellenbosch University, Prof Jonathan Jansen, to discuss the results.

The study examines patterns of school segregation using data from the Department of Basic Education's 2021 Annual School Survey and data from the 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Based on the findings, Grujters and Reddy argued that the "political settlement that emerged around the democratic transition in South Africa facilitated the hoarding of educational opportunities by the white minority and other socioeconomically advantaged groups".

Grujters explained that the research found that while "many, but not all, former white schools are now racially diverse to varying degrees, they are not representative of the population – mostly because white students remain overrepresented in these schools and black children, in particular, remain underrepresented in the country's best schools".

Ramaphosa likely to win ANC elective conference and lead a coalition government in 2024 – research reports

The research showed that in 2021, the average white student attended a school that was 68.5% white, 3.3% Indian, 8.5% coloured and 19.6% black.

"White students attended schools that were

68.5% white, even though white students only constituted 3.8% of the overall population of children who attended school in 2021," said Grujters.

Conversely, the average black student attended a school that was 0.9% white, 0.7% Indian, 2.0% coloured, and 96.4% black in 2021.

"The vast majority of black students' classmates were also black, and that's not surprising given that black students constitute a large majority of the school-aged population," said Grujters.

Similarly, the research indicates that Indian students and coloured students are quite highly exposed to other Indian and coloured students, "so these figures are indicative of quite high levels of segregation", added Grujters.

Additionally, former white schools now admit 54.4% black learners, while 29.4% of learners at those schools are white, 12.5% are coloured and 3.6% are Indian.

"Although many former white schools now admit learners from other groups, there is a lot of variation across schools in how many black learners are admitted," said Grujters.

However, very few white children attend former black, Indian or coloured schools.

Formerly black schools – the majority of all schools – remain almost exclusively black – "a main reason for this is that a lot of these schools are located in townships and rural areas where there is very little racial diversity," said Grujters.

Grujters said that the research indicates that many South African schools may be racially diverse, but not integrated; they are not representative of the population.

"Former white schools are, on average, the most racially diverse, but they also contribute most to segregation, because white and Indian children remain strongly overrepresented in these schools, relative to their share in the population," he said.

In the study, the researchers also examined the demographic composition of the 30 most elite public schools and the 30 most elite private schools in South Africa, based on their 2021 fees.

According to Grujters, the research indicates that most of these elite public and private schools remain



Research shows that in 2021, the average white student attended a school that was 68.5% white, 3.3% Asian, 8.5% coloured and 19.6% black. File photo

"white dominant". "It's immediately clear that there are only a very small number of elite schools where black learners constitute the majority – in most schools they make up a relatively small minority of the student body," he said.

The research shows that white students – who make up 3.8% of the overall population of children who attended school in 2021 – occupy 62% of the spaces in elite public schools and 55% of the spaces in elite private schools.

Indian students (1.5% of the population) are also overrepresented in public schools (6%) and

elite private schools (13%). "However, black students, who make up 87.2% of the population, remain vastly underrepresented in elite schools, and occupy only 20% of the spaces in elite public schools, and 27% of the spaces in elite private schools (27%," said Grujters.

Previous research has shown that the integration of former white schools in South Africa is often limited to more socioeconomically advantaged children from other racial groups, according to Grujters.

In line with this, the HSRC study found that

when white students have exposure to black classmates, they are generally from the most socioeconomically advantaged backgrounds.

The research also found that South Africa ranks very highly in terms of socioeconomic segregation between schools.

"In fact, South Africa has the second-highest level of socioeconomic segregation between schools among the 41 TIMSS countries, exceeded only by Turkey," said Grujters.

DM

West pushes for higher oil exports as Gulf states give cold shoulder

CAIRO SAUDI Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, key members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), have remained hesitant to increase oil and gas exports, though the United States and the European Union (EU) are urging the Gulf states to do so.

The West's move is aimed at stabilizing the global energy market, as energy prices remain high with the U.S. and EU ban on Russia's energy exports following the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Analysts say that the Gulf states are trying to strike a balance between the United States and Russia, as their relations with the United States are tested by the impending revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which may pose a threat to them, while they are unwilling to cut off ties with Russia, as the military and energy ties with Russia have become stronger in the past few years.

The United States recently sent a large shipment of Patriot anti-missile interceptors to Saudi Arabia, which the kingdom had requested since late last year to counter drone and missile attacks by the Houthi militia in Yemen, according to U.S. media.

The move came as the Biden administration tries to convince Riyadh to pump more crude oil to help contain soaring prices spurred by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Prices of fuel oil and gas have skyrocketed in the EU after the United States and some EU countries imposed sanctions on Russia's exports. Senior British and German officials recently traveled to the Gulf countries to persuade the oil-rich nations to expand their spare energy capacity to fill the void left by Russia's import ban.

On March 16, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited the UAE and Saudi Arabia to discuss the stabil-



ity of the global energy market. Johnson's tour to the Middle East was followed by Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck, who visited Qatar and the UAE last week to search for alternatives to the Russian gas supply following the U.S.-led sanctions on Russia.

Although leaders of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have reiterated the importance of global energy security and energy market stability, they have not increased output.

On March 23, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan once again emphasized that "the UAE is keen on global energy security and the stability and

balance of the energy market." On March 24, the Saudi government said in a statement that the OPEC+ agreement has an essential role in maintaining the balance and stability of the oil market.

Neither country, however, has increased its output. "It is in the Gulf states' interests to keep energy costs high," said Sun Xia, associate researcher with the Institute of International Relations at China's Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Since 2017, the Gulf states and Russia have forged a stable energy alliance under the umbrella of OPEC+.

After their successful collaboration in stabilizing oil prices, the Gulf states no longer want to be led by American politicians and financial elites, Sun noted.

The Biden administration has been disregarding the Gulf states' biggest security concern – Iran's Shiite-dominated government, Sun said. If Washington and Tehran clinch a nuclear deal, Iranian oil will return to the international market and compete with Gulf oil.

Moreover, expanding Iranian influence in Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria would pose a severe danger to the Sunni sphere of influence, Sun added.

The Gulf states' strategy to strike a balance between the United States and Russia reflects their attitudes toward the two countries' dominance

in the Middle East, said Zou Zhiqiang, researcher of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at China's Fudan University.

The United States retains a great influence in regional politics in the Middle East with the help of its allies.

However, its recent strategic withdrawal from the Middle East, as well as a series of irresponsible behaviors, has made some of its allies nervous and start to question the U.S. capability to ensure their safety, said Zou.

The U.S. geopolitical retreat has stood in sharp contrast with Russia's active involvement in the Middle East, said Zheng Rong, associate researcher of the Center for Arab Studies at China's Zhejiang International Studies University.

Russia has carried out cooperation with the Gulf states in oil and gas exploitation, military equipment technology, use of nuclear energy and other fields, and has also become an indispensable force to solve the crises in Syria and Libya, making it a strategic partner for several countries in the Middle East, Zheng added.

When it comes to financial interests and vital national interests of oil and gas, the Gulf states won't budge easily, Sun said.

The Gulf states will not cooperate with the United States in a meaningful way if the Biden administration does not change its Middle East policy, Sun added.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Retired Ugandan has his way with bamboo farming after acquiring Chinese knowledge

By Special Correspondent

HAVING taught at Uganda's prestigious Makerere University for decades, retired Andrew Tumusiime made a bold decision to enter forestry business in his hometown in the south-western part of the country.

Returning to Kabale, Tumusiime planted a bamboo nursery bed, hoping that people would buy the seedlings from him. However, finding clients was challenging, so he decided to plant the seedlings himself.

"At first, I took it as a joke, but then I realized it was good business. I turned my energy to researching until I landed on websites which explained the impact of bamboo growing in China," Tumusiime told Xinhua in a recent interview.

To obtain further information about bamboo planting, Tumusiime joined the Uganda Bamboo Association, some of whose members had acquired knowledge about bamboo farming from China.

The association, according to one of its leaders Flavia Munaba, brings related organizations and community members together to share information, resources and technology in growing and adding value to bamboo.

Munaba, who joined the bamboo industry after a trip to China in 2011, said the association has more than 300 members.

The association organizes dem-

onstrations for members on how to plant bamboo and also sensitizes them about the economic benefits of the plant. "This association of bamboo growers has great people. They are not selfish when it comes to sharing the great knowledge they learnt from China," Tumusiime said.

After a decade-long endeavor, Tumusiime's bamboo business has thrived. He was one of the exhibitors at the Harvest Money Expo 2022 in Kampala, one of Uganda's largest agricultural exhibitions.

During the expo, Tumusiime's booth showed various bamboo products such as toothpicks, chairs, tables, mortars and pestles.

He said many customers who came to his exhibition stand were awed by the products made out of bamboo.

"This is amazing. The toothpicks I have known all my life are made in China. I like innovation and maybe in the future I will consider planting bamboo," Ritah Nanyonjo, one of the customers said after visiting Tumusiime's stall at the expo. "I have also seen some liquid soap and other herbs made out of bamboo. This is great news for our country," Nanyonjo said. James Kariuki, a Kenyan national who attended the exhibition, said he was inspired by Tumusiime's work.

"He has told us that once you plant bamboo, you can start harvesting after three to four years. This harvesting goes on for the next 20 years and



even more," Kariuki said.

"I will definitely use part of my land to grow bamboo.

Tumusiime has also referred me to some websites which

talk about the importance of bamboo and how the Chi-

nese have done wonderful things out of this plant," Kariuki added.

Kenyan handicraft outlet providing new lease of life to poor single mothers

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

WHEN Jane Nasimiya's friend alerted her about a job opening at a bustling handicraft outlet located on the northern edge of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, more than a decade ago, the single mother decided to give it a try.

Previously working at a flower farm in central Kenyan county of Kiambu, Nasimiya had grown used to toiling in order to meet basic needs of her young family, and venturing into a different vocation was a strategic move.

Now an accomplished painter at Kazuri beads factory, a renowned handicraft brand nestled in the picturesque Karen suburb

of Nairobi, Nasimiya said she was proud of an occupation that was in the past underrated but has become an enduring symbol of Kenya's rich culture and heritage.

"My job at Kazuri (Swahili word for 'small and beautiful') involves making beads from clay, painting and grading them in readiness for clients who are mainly local and foreign tourists," Nasimiya said.

Founded in 1975, Kazuri beads factory has become a haven for poor single women in Nairobi and adjacent rural villages, providing them vocational skills and well-paying jobs.

Nestled in a neighborhood that is renowned for its greenery, scenic attractions and ambience, the

indigenous handicraft maker employed 340 poor single mothers before the pandemic.

In 2010 when Nasimiya joined Kazuri, its ceramic beads, jewelry and pottery had already resonated with a wide clientele base, thanks to their crisp and exotic appearance.

Soon after three months of rigorous training, Nasimiya found herself immersed in sorting and adding fresh paint to handicraft destined for local and international markets.

She said that besides improved income at Kazuri beads factory, she has also benefitted from mentorship, training and exposure to the outside world, boosting her

confidence and self-esteem.

Nasimiya said she is on an annual renewable contract, enabling her to feed, clothe and educate her children with minimal struggle. She said that though COVID-19 pandemic had taken a toll on the handicrafts business, there was some light at the end of the tunnel as orders gradually resume.

Her sentiments were echoed by Eunice Akoth Oyoo, a painter at Kazuri beads factory who joined the outfit in 2007 and has never regretted venturing into a vocation that has provided new lease of life to Kenya's urban poor and single women.

Prior to joining Kazuri workshop where she also received

training for three months to pave way for her use of brush to paint ceramics and beads, Oyoo had a stint at a local organic food chain.

The single mother, who was born and raised in one of Nairobi's largest informal settlements, said her day job involves use of small, medium and large brushes to paint beads enhance their beauty.

"At the beginning, I found it hard to paint beads, but gradually, I have gotten used to this job. The salary is better, I am able to pay rent, provide food, shelter, clothing and education to my three children," said Oyoo.

She said that before securing the well-paying job at Kazuri beads factory, she had struggled

to pay household bills and often resorted to casual jobs like cleaning people's homes and working at construction sites to make ends meet.

Oyoo said that her workplace has earned accolades from poor single mothers from Nairobi's informal settlements thanks to provision of decent wages and free healthcare.

"So we are grateful for this job, despite the challenges triggered by the pandemic. Our hope is that tourism recovery will make our work profitable again," she said.

Since its founding more than four decades ago, Kazuri beads factory has symbolized the resilience, beauty and uniqueness of

Kenya's cultural heritage, its wild-life and physical attractions.

Philip Mutunga, a supervisor at the factory, said the hand-made ceramics, beads, plates and cups made of clay are designed and painted in a manner that reflects the country's aesthetic beauty and splendor.

According to Mutunga, Kazuri has six active outlets in Kenya and export over 60 percent of its products through a network of distributors across the globe.

Training and providing jobs to single and poor mothers is in line with the Kazuri's founding motto of being at the center of transforming livelihoods in Kenya, he said.

Africa's water security perilous but statistics point to surprise

By Laurie Goering

LITTLE of Africa's wastewater is treated, water for drinking and hand-washing is scarce for hundreds of millions of people, and water-related disasters like flooding are on the rise, particularly in West Africa.

But a first effort by UN University researchers to look comprehensively at the continent's water security - something done in few regions of the world so far - suggests a more surprising and nuanced range of water risks and opportunities.

Egypt, for instance, which is predominantly desert, was ranked as the most water-secure country in Africa, despite its concerns about water availability from the Nile River due to construction of a major Ethiopian hydroelectric dam upstream.

Nearly all Egyptians - 99%, according to the World Health Organization - have access to basic drinking water services, said the U.N. researchers, who studied indicators ranging from water infrastructure and governance to water availability and quality.

"We weren't really expecting that," said Grace Oluwasanya, a Nigerian water scientist and lead author of a report published this week by the UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

In Central African Republic, by comparison, located in the region with the highest water availability per person on the continent, just 37%

of people have basic drinking water services, researchers found.

Oluwasanya said how water was managed in different countries was as much, or more important, than its availability.

"When you add other conditions - the economy, resilience to hazards, political stability - into the mix, you realise having naturally existing water isn't the only thing you need to be water secure," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The island of Madagascar, with widespread poverty and a fast-growing population, ranks well on water availability, but is also one of the 10 least water-secure countries in Africa.

Lack of investment in irrigation and over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture have left more than a million people facing severe hunger during a lingering drought, scientists and aid agencies say.

In many countries, climate change impacts - from worsening flooding to harsher droughts and stronger storms - are making achieving water security more difficult, Oluwasanya said.

"It's happening right before our eyes," she said, noting problems are most serious in West Africa and East Africa, recently hit hard by both droughts and flooding.

In contrast, southern Africa - also saddled with worsening drought that threatens its staple maize crop - has



been somewhat cushioned by its investment in water storage, particularly large dams, even if those have run low in dry periods, threatening hydro-power production.

Researchers rated water governance efforts as strongest in southern and northern Africa.

Overall, they ranked 19 African countries - home to a half-billion people - as water insecure and lack-

ing basic access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, with Somalia, Chad and Niger having the most severe problems.

Egypt, Gabon, Mauritius and Tunisia received the highest overall rankings for water security.

Of particular concern across much of the continent is wastewater treatment, with no country treating more than 75% of its wastewater and two-

thirds treating less than 5%.

That is expected to become a far bigger health risk as more Africans move to cities and the continent's population continues rising fast, which is also projected to cause "a sharp decline in water availability" in most countries.

Researchers warned the findings should be taken as only a first effort at assessing Africa's water security,

particularly as they faced substantial barriers in accessing reliable data.

They urged greater investment in data gathering and sharing to help the continent prepare for coming water challenges, particularly as climate change impacts strengthen.

"If there's no data, there's no knowledge," Oluwasanya said.

Survivors of violence battling trauma in IDP camps across DRC's Ituri

BUNIA

HUNDREDS of thousands of people, all survivors of bloodshed and militia attacks, are battling trauma and weaving life in camps for internally displaced people (IDP) in Ituri, a northeastern province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), following decades-long conflicts.

For decades, tensions and conflicts have been running high in this part of the country, where hundreds of thousands of people had no choice but to flee their homes and take refuge in IDP camps scattered across Ituri.

According to a report released Monday by the United Nations, some 1.9 million people are displaced within Ituri, accounting for one-third of all people displaced in this central African country. Buma Annie, a 36-year-old girl who has been internally displaced since last year, now resides in the Kigonze camp in Bunia, capital of the Ituri province.

Born and raised in a small village of the Djugu territory, home to the country's largest number of IDP, she recalled the day when she escaped by the skin of her teeth.

"During the attacks in my village, the militiamen first raped me and then massacred the members of my family", she told Xinhua at the Kigonze IDP camp, located on the outskirts of Bunia. In trauma, she managed to crawl his way out despite her legs both brutally amputated.

After months of medical treatment

by humanitarian workers, Buma Annie is now able to move on her two knees, noting that battling the trauma now becomes the biggest hurdle of her life.

"It is difficult for me to live with this trauma that remains permanently in my head after what the militia did to me. I have always felt alone in the absence of my family who has all perished in this situation of insecurity which unfortunately still does not end," confessed Annie.

"The militiamen coldly killed my two children with machetes during the attack. These children meant everything to me," said Bernadette Ngadjo, a 62-year-old mother, who lost both of her children in the attack, adding that she now needs to rekindle the strength to live in the IDP camp.

Since the beginning of 2022, the escalation in violence in Ituri has led to the killing of an estimated 400 civilians and the displacement of over 83,000 people, said Monday the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

As some 80 civilians have been murdered in the second week of March alone, OCHA claimed to have observed an increase in attacks on IDP sites and in areas where displaced people are seeking shelter.

In a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua, Lieutenant-General Johnny Luboya, Ituri's military governor noted that the recent flare-up of violence against civilians mirrors the pressure of the military operations by the DRC authorities, which would last "until



the effective restoration of peace". "It is indeed the results of the pressure that our forces are exerting against the militiamen. This pressure will continue permanently until the

effective restoration of peace," he said, calling on the population to be patient and trust the military operations in progress. Alongside the ongoing military operations in

Ituri, the DRC presidency has also initiated dialogue with the cooperative group for the development of Congo (CODECO), who has been active in Djugu, in an attempt to try to find a peaceful solution.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 255 00--

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

U H U R U F R E E

3 letters: GOD, AOR, ACT, SAD, ARE,
 4 letters: FREE, ROOM, EVEN, AMEN, HIDE
 RARE, ORES, STUD,
 5 letters: UHURU, EVOKE, ASHET, GRAPE
 PLATE, ATTAR, TAMED, REACH
 6 letters: UNESCO, ELEVEN, ENDEAR, SEVERE
 SCREAM,
 7 letters: CURIOUS,
 8 letters: UN EARNED

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

CLUES: Across

- the first black president of S.Africa
- flightless bird in New Zealand
- Islamic canonical law
- the star
- make a bleating sound
- citrus fruit
- a small restaurant
- a minister in charge of a Christian church
- an instrument for writing
- an American
- a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff
- citrus fruits
- celebrity
- an official order or proclamation

Down:

- Russia's capital
- Former name of Malawi
- an open area of grassy
- a woman's loose sleeveless cloak
- Valletta is her Capital
- flie
- gather in or together
- the deep-freezing of the bodies of people who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure
- a barrier enclosing an area
- an act of urinating
- a rich fabric of silk, cotton
- blood that has been shed
- a habitual drunkard

Kenyan handicraft outlet providing new lease of life to poor single mothers

NAIROBI

WHEN Jane Nasimiya's friend alerted her about a job opening at a bustling handicraft outlet located on the northern edge of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, more than a decade ago, the single mother decided to give it a try.

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self-esteem. Nasimiya said she is on an annual renewable contract, enabling her to feed, clothe and educate her children with minimal struggle.

She said that though the COVID-19 pandemic had taken a toll on the handicrafts business, there was some light at the end of the tunnel as orders gradually resume. Her sentiments were echoed by Eunice Akoth Oyoo, a painter at Kazuri beads factory who joined the outfit in 2007 and has never regretted venturing into a vocation that has provided new lease of life to Kenya's urban poor and single women.

Prior to joining Kazuri workshop where she also received training for three months to pave way for her use of brush to paint ceramics and beads, Oyoo had a stint at a local organic food chain.

The single mother, who was born and raised in one of Nairobi's largest informal settlements, said her day job involves use of small, medium and large brushes to paint beads and enhance their beauty. "At the beginning, I found it hard to paint beads, but gradually, I have gotten used to this job."

The salary is better, I am able to pay rent, provide food, shelter, clothing and education to my three children," said Oyoo. She said that before securing the well-paying job at Kazuri beads factory, she had struggled to pay household bills and often resorted to casual jobs like cleaning people's homes and working at construction sites to make ends meet.

Oyoo said that her workplace has earned accolades from poor single mothers from Nairobi's informal settlements thanks to provision of decent wages and free healthcare. "So we are grateful for this job, despite the challenges triggered by the pandemic. Our hope is that tourism recovery will make our work profitable again," she said. Since its founding more than four decades ago, Kazuri beads factory has symbolized the resilience, beauty and uniqueness of Kenya's cultural heritage, its wildlife and physical attractions.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

PAET basks in its natural gas production through 18 years of proud services in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

PANAFRICAN Energy Tanzania (PAET) has completed installation of a natural gas compression system at its Songo Songo Island gas plant.

The installation works done by the contractor China Petroleum Technology and Development Corporation (CPTDC) was handed over to PAET mid-last week at a special event that coincided with a visit by Orca Energy Group officials, the parent company to PAET.

Speaking during the handover ceremony,

Andrew Hanna, PAET Managing Director said in ensuring that reliable LNG delivered from its processing plant meets global standard requirements, over the past six years, PAET has invested US\$150million to rehabilitate several onshore and offshore wells, drill an additional well, it installed a natural gas refrigeration treatment and the new compression systems.

According to him, natural gas projects take considerable time from conception, design, procurement and construction. He said the completion of the compression project, evaluated in 2018 and ap-



PAET's natural gas exploration facility in the Indian ocean

proved in 2019, is ready a full month ahead of schedule.

With the compression system in place, the gas plant's current productive output capacity is expected to increase by 30 percent.

"Producing gas continually for so long requires continuous revision of our reserves and investment to guarantee production of actual volumes of required quality for consumers. Gas field development is technically challenging, that's why the associated project took a long time to completion." He said.

On the way forward, PAET expects to complete drilling three gas wells next month, which will increase production capacity from the Songo Songo field, to the 160+ million cubic feet per day range equivalent to 60 percent increase in productive capacity since early 2022.

The increased productive capacity was developed to better align with the government's planned growth in reliable power generation plans. On the other hand, he said, PAET's compressed natural gas (CNG) distribution system targets at serving the trans-

portation sector for both public and individual vehicles. Jay Lyons, Chief Executive Officer Orca Energy Group, said that the successful delivery of this compression project, is an example of what can be achieved through foresight, careful planning and close cooperation with the Ministry of Energy, TPDC and contractors.

"This compression system significantly increases our production potential to ensure more gas is available for reliable power generation and expanded industrialization.

Although the two current projects represent a significant increase in productive capacity, we cannot rest on our successes, as existing gas reserves are inherently a declining asset," said Lyons.

He asserted that Orca through PAET continues to evaluate additional ways to increase production capacity and develop the remaining potential resources on the Songo Songo licence.

"Working with our partners and with the support of the Ministry of Energy and TPDC, the Company is preparing to conduct a large 200

square kilometer 3D seismic programme over the Songo Songo licence area," he explained.

The 2022 3D programme, he said, is budgeted at \$20million to better define and de-risk the future potential gas development on the Songo Songo licence.

He commended that natural gas production from the Songo Songo gas field has been of immense benefit to the country and its people for almost two decades.

PAET is one of the country's fully integrated natural gas producer, operating the entire gas value chain from the natural gas reservoir on Songo Songo Island to gas consumers. Its power plants generate at least one third of the nation's power. The company has been producing natural gas from the Songo Songo reservoir since 2004.

The project, the brainchild of the government, saw PAET, alongside Songas Ltd., bring private sector expertise to partner with the Ministry of Energy and TPDC, delivering more affordable energy that has contributed to savings of more than \$10 billion against other expensive imported fuel sources.

Suzzane shares her experience as a top woman leader at SBL

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) is capitalizing on its strength as a champion of inclusion and diversity. The company has been trying to set favorable policies that provide more opportunities to women across its value chain.

In this interview, The Guardian sat with Suzzane Kilele, National Spirit Sales Manager at SBL to share insights with the company's operation in Tanzania besides her own experience as a woman leader, excerpts...

Qn: Briefly tell us about yourself and your career before joining SBL

My career journey began in

2011 in a conglomerate corporation named Bibby Group in the United Kingdom, where I was responsible for marketing, strategy, and analytics. Upon returning home, I joined NBC Bank within a new visionary department where I took charge of pricing and analytics relating to products and services. I joined the FMCG industry in 2015 notably at TBL where I undertook numerous roles within sales, strategy, planning and performance management.

My career with Diageo began at EABL Kenya as a Group Strategy Manager in 2018 - 2021, responsible for leading strategic growth initiatives across the East Africa Market comprising

6 key markets and international export markets. I joined SBL in 2021 as National Spirits Sales Manager responsible for leading the total spirits category. This year marks my 8-year journey within the FMCG industry.

Qn: Tell us about your leadership role at SBL

Six colleagues report directly to me and additionally, within my portfolio I have leadership oversight on a team of 100 contracted employees.

Qn: What does it take for a woman to be part of the SBL top brass?

As a woman leader, I believe that all policies which are formulated with a deliberate objec-



tive to empower women in the workplace are vital towards women career progression and the noble cause of gender equality. As an employer, SBL is a great pioneer and advocate of equal opportunity and empowerment of women.

Notably the following policies support women empowerment and career progression at SBL; namely: flexible working policy and 6-month maternity policy. Both allow women to forge strong careers while also maintaining well balanced lives.

Qn: What should organizations do in order to allow women to grow in their careers?

Organizations have come a long way in creating several policies that support women empowerment in the workplace. The journey to gender equality and women empowerment does not end in policy creation. Such policies need to be backed by real transparent actionable commitments to deliver the desired outcome.

As well, organizations have a great opportunity to play a role in transforming our society by tackling unconscious bias and social ills that impede women from career progression, through developing, investing and pioneering different initiatives targeting their staff and society.

Qn: Do you feel any pride working with SBL?

Indeed, I am very happy and proud to be part of the SBL family. The work environment is engaging, inclusive, safe, and dynamic, which encourages collaboration, creativity, and innovation. The company rewards success and encourages employees to take control of their career development.

All I can say is at SBL, we are 'Bold, Progressive & Connected'.

Qn: What does a woman need to observe in becoming a successful leader?

I do believe that any successful career requires three things: purpose, passion & people. The utmost important ingredient is purpose which speaks to why you're doing it and the desired outcome. Secondly, passion refers to the energy and drive you put in the pursuit of what you're doing. Passion yields boldness, creativity, and innovation.

The last ingredient is people. We can't achieve anything meaningful without collaboration and support from those around us, therefore women need to leverage on a strong network for support, coaching and mentoring along their career journey.

DRC promotes its huge trade potential at Expo 2020 Dubai

By Jane Witherspoon

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Business Forum have taken place in Dubai where Congolese ministers highlighted the economic benefits of expanding their trade and development opportunities.

DRC Minister for Foreign Trade, Jean-Lucien Bussa Tongba said: "It's often said the Democratic Republic of Congo is a land of opportunity,"

adding: "The country has immense potential, but it has not yet been transformed and has not been sufficiently explored and exploited."

It came as dignitaries celebrated the DRC National Day at Dubai Expo 2020.

Congolese President, Felix Tshisekedi, was among those marking the occasion and said: "We wanted to bring the Democratic Republic of the Congo with all its assets to Dubai because we know this is a hub

for meetings and that it is possible to present the Democratic Republic of the Congo, like a mirror, providing solutions and assets to help the world overcome the challenges that it faces."

DRC and the French development agency sign a national digital infrastructure development agreement.

The DRC is the second-largest country in Africa with a population of more than 80 million people.

The country is best known for its

mining industry but it is also keen to expand its agricultural sector too. The DRC imports most of its basic products, and although it has 80 million hectares of land, only 10 percent is currently exploited.

Anthony Nkinzo, Managing Director of the National Agency for Investment Promotion, DRC said,

"The DRC is diversifying its investments. We have the mines, of course, but the most important thing is the agro-industry. We have the energy,

we already have some infrastructure and others that are being set up, but also new information technologies, digital; and we have tourism and of course education and health. These different sectors are going to develop the growth of our country."

As well as its trade and industry, the DRC is also steeped in culture and heritage. The country, which is home to the world's second-largest rainforest, is a reservoir of biodiversity. It is also the birthplace of

Rumba.

International Congolese-French singer-songwriter and rapper Gims is one of the DRC's cultural ambassadors. He performed a special gig in celebration of the Expo 2020 national day festivities.

DRC Minister of Communication and Media Patrick Muyaya said: "It was very good for him to show to the world that Congolese musicians can make Arab people and Western people dance."

Huduma Namba cash cut to half in review

NAIROBI

THE State has slashed the Huduma Namba budget by half as Kenyans fail to pick up the controversial biometric identification card.

Parliament has cut the budget for the roll-out of the ID cards to Sh500 million from the Sh1 billion that the Treasury set in the supplementary budget 1 for 2021/22.

The government has spent more than Sh10 billion in the exercise, which in September saw it issue only 7.3 million cards even as it seeks to withdraw the current national identity card in the next few months.

The Huduma Namba Bill 2021 aims to curb unlawful use of information like names, date of birth, postcode and residences.

The proposed law ropes in the provisions of the Data Protection Act in the processing of personal data under Huduma Namba.

Kenya rolled out the mass

distribution of the Huduma Namba card in 2019 in an effort to register citizens under the e-platform.

"Increase Sh500 million for Huduma Namba Cards," says the Budget and Appropriations Committee (BAC) in a report on the Supplementary Budget 1 of 2021/22."

The BAC report did not explain how the Sh500 million will be utilised only indicating it is meant for the Huduma Namba cards

The State is seeking Parliamentary approval to pass the Huduma Namba Bill, 2021 to unlock an impasse in the roll-out of Huduma Namba cards to Kenyans after the High Court declared it illegal for conflicting with the Data Protection Act.

Under the Huduma Namba Bill, 2021 that is currently before Parliament, Kenyan adults will be compelled to have the new ID to access government services, such as getting treatment at State hospitals, marrying or filing tax returns.

The State-backed Huduma



Catherine Wanjiku displays her Huduma Namba card after receiving it from Interior CS Fred Matiang'i at Kiambu County Commissioner's offices in Nairobi.

Namba Bill seeks to have about 3.2 million or 30 percent of Kenyans who applied for Huduma Namba cards and failed to pick up their cards access their documents in the year to June 2022.

Government spokesperson Cyrus Oguna recently announced that only 7.3 million out of 10.5 million people have collected their cards as the government seeks to withdraw the current national

identity cards in the next few months.

The government has been planning to roll out the second phase of registration, giving a chance to those who did not enroll in the first exercise to acquire

the document set to replace the national identity card.

The Treasury set aside Sh1 billion for the second round of registration in the financial year ending June 2022.

BoT out to promote a sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) pledged to continue implementing an accommodative monetary policy for supporting businesses and investment during the remainder of the fiscal year 2021/22.

This follows the 219th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday last week to assess implementation of monetary policy and performance of the domestic and global economy.

According to BoT Governor Prof Florens Luoga, the MPC noted with satisfaction that the conduct of monetary policy in January and February 2022 sustained adequate liquidity in the economy and stability of money market interest rates.

"The performance of the economy was satisfactory in 2021 and projected to continue improving in 2022, owing to normalization of business and investment activities after the pandemic," BoT said in its latest MPC.

The central bank said the prices of goods and services have risen in the recent months, but inflation remained within the target of 3-5 percent for Tanzania Mainland and below 5 percent in Zanzibar, and it's projected to remain within the targets in the near term.

"This will be supported by adequate food supply and sustained prudent macroeconomic policies. Upward risks have been elevated due to rising commodity prices in the world market, attributable to supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Europe," the statement said.

The MPC noted with satisfaction that private sector credit growth was strong, at 11.9 percent in February 2022, owing to improving business conditions from adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic, monetary policy measures adopted to increase bank lending and lower interest rates, and supportive fiscal policy.

The external sector continued to gradually recover and foreign exchange reserves remained adequate, covering about 5.9 months of imports, in line with the country and regional benchmarks.

"Revenue performance in the first seven months of the fiscal year 2021/22 was broadly satisfactory, attributable to recovery of economic activities, improved tax compliance and enhanced revenue mobilization efforts," the MPC statement added.

According to the Central Bank, with the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Europe and global supply chain disruptions, the



BoT governor Florens Luoga

MPC will continue to closely monitor developments in the economy and take appropriate measures when need arises.

BoT in its Quarter IV, Economic Review however noted that Tanzania's economy continued to recover from adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic, owing to re-opening of the global economy and policy recovery measures implemented.

In Tanzania Mainland, the economy grew at 5.2 per cent

in the quarter ending September 2021 compared with 4.4 per cent in the corresponding quarter in 2020, largely driven by construction, agriculture, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and public administration activities.

"As a result, growth was 4.9 per cent in the first three quarters of 2021 compared with the target of 5 percent. In 2022, growth is projected at 5.2 percent," the report said.

Inflation gradually increased during the quarter

under review, but remained consistent with the country and regional targets.

Headline inflation averaged 4.1 per cent compared with 3.9 per cent in the quarter ending December 2020, on account of increase in both food and non-food prices.

The BoT said it continued to implement accommodative monetary policy to support private sector credit growth, conditioned on the level of inflation within the target.

"Extended broad money

supply grew at an average of 14.7 per cent in the quarter ending December 2021, much higher than 5.6 per cent in the preceding quarter," it added.

Private sector credit growth rebounded to an average of 7.8 per cent compared with an average of 4.4 percent in the corresponding quarter of 2020.

The recovery was on account of sustained accommodative monetary conditions, coupled with measures to facilitate recovery from the

pandemic and improved business conditions associated with re-opening of the global economy.

"The level of liquidity in banks was adequate and interest rates remained low and stable. The foreign exchange market was liquid, characterized by substantial increase in supply of foreign exchange from exports of gold, cash crops, horticulture and manufactured goods, coupled with resumption of tourism," according to the Q4 2021 Report.

It added that Loans and grants received by the Government provided confidence to the market which also helped to stabilise the exchange rate.

The Zanzibar economy performed satisfactorily and consistent with projections, owing to recovery of economic activities, particularly tourism and those directly linked with it.

Growth was 8.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2021, significantly higher 3.3 per cent in the corresponding quarter of 2020 with the Zanzibar economy projected to grow 6.4 per cent this year.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest World Economic Outlook earlier this year lowered its global economic growth forecast for 2022, largely because of the spread of the Omicron Covid-19 variant.

It shaved its 2022 forecast for global growth forecast to 4.4 percent as compared to the previous year's 5.9 forecast.

"The global economy enters 2022 in a weaker position than previously expected. As the new Omicron Covid-19 variant spreads, countries have reimposed mobility restrictions.

Rising energy prices and supply disruptions have resulted in higher and more broad-based inflation than anticipated, notably in the United States and many emerging market and developing economies," the Washington-based lender said.

Botswana breaks a new ground in biotechnology

GABORONE

BOTSWANA'S Digital & Innovation Hub has signed an MoU with Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong's California-based healthcare conglomerate NantWorks to establish biotechnology resources in the Southern African country.

NantWorks is focused on healthcare, technology and media by harnessing science, digital infrastructure, super-computing and communication.

NantBotswana will set up a manufacturing plant to conduct research into COVID-19 vaccines, cancer treatment and next generation cell-based immunotherapy, amongst others.

Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe said, "Today we are here to witness the birth of Nant-Botswana and a major milestone in our quest to establish and grow biotechnology capacity as well as related technologies in Botswana."

Dr Letsholathebe said efforts to push

science, technology and innovation can only be enhanced by developments such as NantBotswana. "It is our expectation that the benefits derived from this project will be far reaching as we expect the rest of Africa to benefit. It is therefore in our interest, as government, to ensure that all the scientific processes and technologies to be employed here meet international standards."

Commenting on the development Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi said the investment is expected to support efforts to accelerate the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly advancing the important linkages between SDG3 on Good Health and Well-being and SDG 17 on Partnership for Global Goals.

He added, "Therefore, the plant is well primed to assist Botswana's efforts related to establishing advanced cancer treatment technologies (oncology centre of excellence). We look for-

ward to the positive knock-on effects of transfer of skills and technologies, retaining economic value locally and resultantly, job creation for Botswana and the region."

NantBotswana will transfer the manufacturing technology for COVID-19 and other vaccines as well as the next-generation cell-based immunotherapies to the local health sector, and the intention is to roll out infrastructure to other countries in Africa.



Therefore, the plant is well primed to assist Botswana's efforts related to establishing advanced cancer treatment technologies (oncology centre of excellence)



Britania biscuits maker cited for Sh1bn forgery ahead of takeover

NAIROBI

BISCUIT maker Britania has been accused in court of cooking books ahead of selling the confectionery producer to private equity firm Catalyst for Sh1.2 billion, inflating the buy-out price nearly ten times.

Catalyst says the alleged deception has cost it nearly Sh1 billion from the deal it closed in 2016, derailing the turnaround of the company which the private equity firm argues was valued at Sh126 million when closing the takeover.

The revelation emerged at a time when the biscuit firm, which was renamed Britania Foods Ltd, is facing auction after it was placed under administration last year after defaulting on loans of more than Sh1.3 billion provided by DTB Group and other creditors.

Catalyst said it undertook a forensic investigation into the business and discovered that the previous owners trading as Jambo Biscuits misrepresented the financial health of the business and breached their pre-completion obligations and warranties.

The biscuit firm allegedly inflated its reported revenues, revenue growth and gross margins as well pay-

ment of taxes.

"This was orchestrated through the falsification of financial statements and other crucial documents, which indicated that the true value of the business was Sh1.2 billion as opposed to Sh126 million, and thus the said respondents acted in breach of the agreement," Catalyst chief executive Paul Kavuma said in court documents, without giving further details.

The suit echoes the one where multinational firm Hewlett Packard (HP) won a multibillion-dollar fraud case over its acquisition of a British software company.

Cambridge-based Autonomy was sold to the HP for \$1bn in 2011 before the US tech giant wrote off nearly half the company's value.

The tech multinational accused the former management of accounting improprieties, misrepresentation and disclosure failures, triggering the write-down of \$5bn.

In Kenya, Catalyst's lawyers reckon that Britania Foods Ltd has been reduced to a shell, hurting the private equity firm that has built a brand of investing in high-growth mid-sized companies across Eastern Africa.

Catalyst has scores of investments in the local and regional market including stakes in Tanzania's Chai



Catalyst CEO Paul Kavuma.

Bora, ChemiCotex, Effic Solutions, and Zenufa Laboratories, Kenya's Prime Bank and Orbit Chemical Industries and Ethiopia's Yes Brands Food and Beverages.

Britania, which started out as a small bakery, has been in operation for 34 years, during which time it grew into one of Kenya's biggest local brands.

Court documents show that Catalyst's advisors relied on financial information received from Britania to acquire the business.

The company included fixed assets worth Sh1.8 billion, vehicles (Sh171 million), and stock and intellectual property rights (Sh1100,000).

The private equity firm is now fighting in the Court of Appeal to retain more than Sh314 million that had been placed in an escrow account to take care of unforeseen risks after the buyout deal.

Before the acquisition, the parties agreed that part of the purchase price, Sh281.5 million, be retained and deposited

in an interest-earning account.

It was deposited in the accounts of the law firm of Harit Sheth Advocates and had earned interest to Sh314 million by last December. Catalyst has laid claim to the amount of money with Nitin Dawda's family, which found the biscuit maker, also fighting for the millions.

The row over the Sh314 million prompted the revelations that the confectionery had falsified its books in disclosures that will shift the focus to its auditors.

In the Autonomy deal, HP sued audit firm, Deloitte, which was fined £15m for its audit of the software company that contained "serious and serial failures"

The fight over the Sh314 million was first referred to an arbitrator at the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA).

After hearing the dispute, the sole arbitrator found that Jambo Biscuits had breached the agreement guiding the Sh1.2 billion deal and directed the law firm to release the money to Catalyst Britania Brands.

The Ghanaian arbitrator had also ordered the Dawdas and their affiliates to pay damages and other costs. But attempts by Catalyst to enforce the award through the High Court were initially rejected by Justice Ngeny Macharia.

Justice Alfred Mabeya in December said the millions should be released, within 24 hours, to Jambo Biscuits, Triumph Development Limited, Kilimanjaro Foods Limited, Nitin and Sachin Dawda.

Catalyst moved to the Court of Appeal with claims that the Dawda family presented a misleading picture of the business before entering into the buyout deal. In the insolvency suit, the biscuit maker attributed its downfall to the collapse of retail giants Nakumatt and Tusksys, which reportedly went under while owing it millions.

It also blamed the effects of Covid-19 on its biggest client base - schools and hotels - which suffered extended closures to contain the pandemic.

IFC, European, African partners launch alliance to support private sector growth

By Schalk Burger

AFRICAN, European, multilateral and bilateral partners have launched the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa (AforE) to support a stronger private sector, entrepreneurship and the growth of small and medium-sized businesses across Africa.

AforE will combine and focus the technical and financial strengths of its members to improve Africa's business environment and support the growth and success of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women in business and young entrepreneurs.

Through a private-sector-focused cooperation platform, the alliance will support the roll-out of new initiatives to expand financing options for Africa's SMEs, which cite a lack of access to finance as a major constraint to growth.

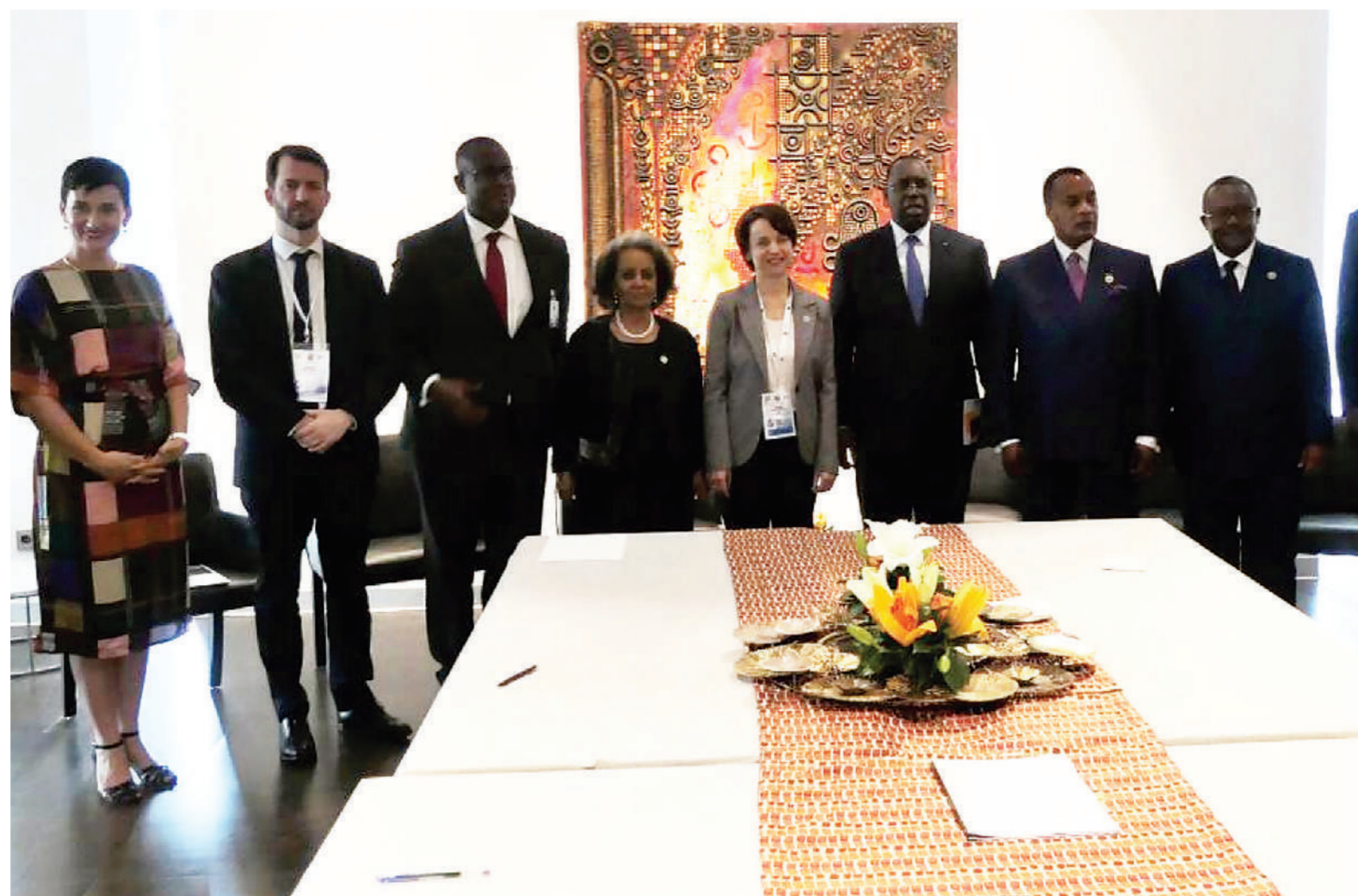
According to global financial organisation the World Bank, SMEs account for up to 90% of all businesses in sub-Saharan Africa and represent 38% of the region's gross domestic product. Prior to Covid-19, development finance institution the International Finance Corporation (IFC) estimated the funding gap faced by SMEs in the region at \$331-billion.

The launch of the alliance comes as African economies recover and rebuild from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with small businesses seen as important drivers of job creation, innovation and the delivery of essential goods and services.

"The creation of the alliance reflects the strong commitment of African, European, multilateral and bilateral institutions, in coordination with the African Union, European Commission and others, to bolster Africa's private sector amid ongoing African and global economic challenges," the AforE members say in a joint statement.

The IFC will serve as the alliance secretariat helping to coordinate the activities and operationalise the initiative in partnership with the French Treasury.

In addition to financing projects, the alliance will support reforms aimed at strengthening the business and investment climate across Africa and facilitate the growth of private sector initiatives in more sustainable



Alliance Management team.

green and digital sectors.

"Banking and non-banking financial institutions, other public and private sector organisations, such as foundations, philanthropic organisations and venture capital firms, and business and innovation training providers, including incubators, accelerators,

universities, may also join the Alliance," the AforE partners note.

The core members of the alliance include development finance institutions the African Development Bank (AfDB); the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the European Investment Bank

(EIB); the European Development Finance Institutions; the French Treasury; the IFC and Proparco, the private sector financing arm of Agence Française de Développement Group, or AFD Group.

In addition to its core members, the alliance aims to bring together multilateral and bilateral develop-

ment banks, bilateral donors and African national development banks.

"Small businesses and entrepreneurs in Africa are drivers of inclusive growth, economic stability and resilience.

Supporting their growth will be critical to creating jobs and helping Africa recover from the Covid-19 crisis. And the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa stands ready to do that. IFC is proud to be part of this initiative, which deepens the partnership between international partners to give small businesses the support they need and deserve," says IFC MD Makhtar Diop.

"Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises are vital to Africa's prosperity. They represent 90% of all businesses and generate more than half of all jobs.

Supporting existing businesses and the ecosystem for entrepreneurs to create innovative new ones lies at the heart of our private sector development strategy," AfDB private sector, infrastructure and industrialisation VP Solomon Quaynor points out.

"The AfDB is committed to the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa. We want to ensure that African entrepreneurs have the means to thrive and can play an important part in solving Africa's development challenges."

"Ensuring that African entrepreneurs and companies can access finance is crucial to accelerate growth and create jobs. Over the last two years EIB has been very active to support financial institutions that help SMEs particularly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are pleased to be a core member of the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa. This initiative combines the financial and technical strengths and local insight of African and international partners and, together, we can ensure a better future for African business," said EIB VP Ambroise Fayolle.

How Rwanda can attract investments in Fin-Tech

KIGALI

THE Financial Technology sector is among the most attractive to invest in on the continent going by recent data. In 2021, out of about \$5B private equity investment in African firms, the sector raked in over \$2B and has been growing steadily over the last decade.

What can Rwanda do to make the most of such opportunities?

Fin-techs have been seen to have impact across multiple markets owing their ability to achieve what traditional banking has often been unable to. Financial technology firms have had impacts such as financial inclusion, mobilizing savings, easy payments, cheaper remittances among others.

Despite the impact as well as potential in mobilizing revenue, the Rwandan Fin-tech sector is still emerging with a few notable firms including a few subsidiaries of multi-nationals. There is an estimate of between 40 and 70 fintech companies registered in the country.

Regionally, sector players say that among the reasons for limited firms include complex processes of obtaining licenses to scale up their activities in different African countries calling for easier processes.

This has often been the issue as governments move to regulate operations which is often interpreted as stifling innovation.

Other challenges cited regionally include limited infrastructure in terms of access to data for instance national data registry or credit reference bureau.

Among ways Rwanda has been moving to improve the ecosystem for Fin-tech firms includes the recent \$50 million fund, backed by MyGrowthFund Venture Partners, will focus on fintech companies with proven technology, operating in Africa.

The fund aims to bring together investments and fintech investment opportunities and has targets to increase African investment in African fintech specially since less than 10 percent of the private equity investment in 2021 came from the continent.

With regard to regulation, Peace Uwase, the BNR Director General for Financial Stability, told The New Times that among ways they have ensured an ideal ecosystem is that they only regulate the underlying business and not the specific institution as a fin-tech firm. With that, they regulate operations such as remittances, payments among others.

"Our regulatory approach is not institutional specific, it follows the underlying business that one is in," she explained.

She added that for new entrants and emerging firms where there is no existent regulation in the sector, BNR has a sandbox regulatory framework. Regulatory sandboxes typically involve temporary relaxations or adjustments of regulatory requirements to provide a safe space for startups or established companies to test new technology-based financial services.

Under the concept, startups and emerging firms are often given a testing approval for a limited time, without having to undergo a full authorisation and licensing process

Uwase added that they will be getting a revised approach to the sandbox environment in the course of the year.

Soraya Hakuziyaremye, the Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda said that through the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, the Rwandan Government is in the process of developing a national Fin-tech strategy which will showcase specific attention to Fintech.

She also added that the Kigali International Finance Centre had identified the Fin-tech sector as one of the sub sectors that they want to develop in the country with aspects such as incentivizing operations.

"To build the ecosystem, as Rwanda we have started partnerships with countries that are already advanced in Fin-tech such as Singapore to understand aspects such as operationalization of sandbox and common challenges," the Deputy Governor said.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE		Capital			
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WORLD

1st 20 fines issued over Downing Street lockdown gatherings

LONDON

BRITISH Police said yesterday they would be recommending an initial 20 fixed penalty notices are issued over breaches of coronavirus lockdown rules at gatherings in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's offices and residence.

Police are investigating 12 gatherings held at Downing Street and the Cabinet Office after an internal inquiry found Johnson's staff had enjoyed alcohol-fueled parties, with the

British leader attending a few of the events himself. "We will today initially begin to refer 20 fixed penalty notices to be issued for breaches of COVID-19 regulations," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement, adding that the fines would be issued by the ACRO Criminal Records Office.

"We are making every effort to progress this investigation at speed and have completed a number of assessments. However due to the significant amount of investigative material that remains to be assessed, further



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson gets out of 10 Downing Street to wait for the arrival of Sweden's Prime Minister in London on March 15, 2022 after attending a meeting of the leaders of the Joint Expeditionary Force, a coalition of 10 states focused on security in northern Europe. AFP

referrals may be made to ACRO if the evidential threshold is made."

Fixed penalty notices are issued to people deemed to have broken COVID rules. The penalty for participating in a gathering of more than 15 people is an 800 pound (\$1,048) fine.

The police said they would not confirm which events the fixed penalty notices referred to as it could lead to the identification of the individuals involved.

Revelations of the gatherings, many

of which took place when people could not attend funerals or say farewell to loved ones dying in hospital due to strict COVID-19 lockdown rules, sparked widespread anger.

The police have said over 100 questionnaires had been sent out as part of the investigation to ask them to explain their involvement in the gatherings. Johnson was among those who received such a questionnaire.

Agencies

US increases presence in South China Sea

FROM massive military drills to record spy plane activities, the United States military drastically intensified its presence in the South China Sea last year, which serves to undermine China's security interests and increase the risk of friction in the region, according to Chinese experts.

A report published on Sunday by the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, a Beijing-based think tank tracking US military operations with open source data, said the US carried out at least 95 military exercises in the South China Sea last year, 10 more than in 2019.

In August 2021, the US, along with Australia, the United Kingdom and Japan, carried out "Large Scale Exercise 21", its largest naval exercise in 40 years, involving around 25,000 military personnel operating across 17 time zones from Europe to Asia.

Hu Bo, director of the think tank, said the US military has maintained a fairly strong presence near China since 1949, but in recent years it has considerably ramped up its operations in the region and made them more public.

These US military drills not only saw expanding scale and frequency, but also focused on preparing for real combat, with China being the clear target, according to the report.

Around 1,200 sorties of maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft conducted close-in intelligence gathering over the South China Sea last year, the report said.

The US set multiple records in November, including 94 sorties, the greatest number in a single month, and 10 flights, which was the highest number in a single day.

In addition, November also saw the US reach its closest surveillance distance to China's territorial water baseline at 15.9



Fishing boats sail across the Qiongzhou Strait as the summer fishing moratorium ended in the South China Sea, Aug 16, 2021. File photo

nautical miles, or around 29 kilometers, said the report. Twelve nautical miles outward from this baseline is China's territorial sea, while water inside the baseline is considered inland waters.

"The US is continuously setting records in terms of the distance between its reconnaissance aircraft and China's territorial sea baseline, which poses increasingly high military risks," the report said.

Meanwhile, US ocean surveillance ships and maritime survey vessels carried out operations for a total of 419 sea days. A sea day is a day spent in transit between port calls.

This meant that there was always at least one of these vessels operating in the South China Sea throughout the entire year, according to the report.

Regarding activities by strategic military forces, the US sent amphibious landing and carrier strike groups to the South China Sea

on 12 occasions in 2021, nearly double the previous year's total. Nuclear submarines also made at least 11 transits through the waters, along with 22 sorties by B-1B and B-52H strategic bombers.

Hu said the US "Indo-Pacific strategy" is deeply related to geopolitics and its desire to maintain maritime dominance in the region. As a result, the US will most likely continue to intensify its military activities near China, such as in the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Taiwan Straits, he added.

Meanwhile, the US is also encouraging and coordinating its allies, including Japan and Australia, to bolster their military capabilities and continue to stir up trouble in the South China Sea, he said.

This trend is already in motion given the fact that Japan took part last year in 61 joint military drills with the US, while Australia announced it would acquire eight nuclear

submarines with help from the US and the UK.

"Japan has become the vanguard of the US 'Indo-Pacific strategy', which will further support US military operations in the South China Sea," the report said. Australia's acquisition of a nuclear submarine capability will "very likely induce a new round of arms race in the region or even across the globe, and cast a shadow over peace and stability in the South China Sea".

Hu said one of the ramifications of Washington's drastically increased military activities is that its military hardware and personnel would be severely stretched, leading to a greater risk of accidents and friction in the South China Sea.

Recent examples include the USS Connecticut nuclear submarine colliding with an uncharted seamount in the South China Sea last year, and an F-35C fighter jet crashing on an aircraft carrier operating in the region in January.

"In an era of peace, if one country maintains such a powerful military presence close to another country, it is hard for the former to convince people that it is doing it for peaceful purposes," Hu said.

Washington's increased military operations pose a serious threat to China's sovereignty and national security, he said. China will therefore be forced to take necessary measures in response.

Xia Liping, dean of the Institute of International and Public Affairs at Tongji University in Shanghai, said that even as the Ukraine crisis unfolds, the US military has not scaled down its activities in the South China Sea, highlighted by frequent transits of its carrier strike groups and drills in January and February.

Agencies

Zimbabwe's opposition wins crucial by-election ahead of 2023 general election

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S opposition party won the majority of parliamentary and municipal seats in a key by-election held Saturday.

The Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) led by Nelson Chamisa won 75 out of 122 council seats and 19 out of 28 parliamentary seats that were up for grabs in the by-election, according to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

The party's overall performance was 64.75 percent. The delayed election was mostly necessitated by recalls from parliament and municipal jurisdictions

by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) due to party fighting after the 2018 general election.

The Chamisa-led faction re-branded to CCC two months ago following disagreements over the party name.

Despite losing most seats to the opposition, the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU-PF), led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa (pictured), retained all the seats it won in the 2018 general election.

The governing party, which has led Zimbabwe since independence in 1980, also maintained its tight grip on rural constituencies



where it enjoys massive support.

The party also made inroads in some traditional opposition strongholds by grabbing two parliamentary seats won by the opposition in 2018.

Voter turnout was also rela-

tively higher in rural areas where ZANU-PF dominates.

The opposition, which is seen as a major challenger to the ruling party, consolidated its historical grip in urban areas.

With the latest wins, CCC be-

comes the third-largest party in the national assembly after ZANU-PF and the MDC-T, which remains the official opposition party. ZANU-PF already controls the National Assembly with a two-thirds majority after winning 145 seats from the available 210 seats in the August 2018 elections.

The highly contested by-elections were seen as a rehearsal for next year's harmonized elections in which Mnangagwa will face off with his main rival Chamisa.

The ZEC in 2020 suspended the holding of by-elections in line with government COVID-19 regulations.

Xinhua

Dedication, team work boost China's COVID-19 research

BEIJING

MANY clinicians have referred to a COVID-19 drug developed by Zhang Linqi as a "miracle medicine" after seeing their patients' lasting fever symptoms diminish quickly following an injection of the drug.

A virologist at China's Tsinghua University, Zhang led his team to create a cocktail therapy of monoclonal antibodies BR11-196 and BR11-198, which cut hospitalizations and deaths by 80 percent in human trials and appears to work well against all existing variants.

It took just 18 months for the Chinese drug to be developed and receive regulatory approval.

"In less than two years, we finished a job that would otherwise take at least 10 years," Zhang said.

His latest research uses a deep learning approach to help his team obtain antibodies that can neutralize the coronavirus and its variants at a faster pace.

Anti-COVID-19 research results from Chinese institutes, universities and enterprises have been published in international academic journals every two or three days since January. Chinese scientists are contributing their wisdom, experience and painstaking efforts to enhance the human capacity to cope with the deadly virus.

While the Academy of Military Medical Sciences presented an mRNA COVID-19 antibody that provided lasting immunity in mice, Fudan University created an adenovirus vaccine candidate designed to give dual protection against both COVID-19 and influenza viruses.

Researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China's top academic institute, are working on an inhalable antibody with low cost and large-scale production advantages, while pharmaceutical companies in Shanghai and Suzhou have commenced global trials of a co-developed oral drug for moderate and severe COVID-19 cases.

Speaking to press at the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress earlier in March, Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang said that China has had fruitful beginning to its development of COVID-19 vaccines and drugs, with several candidates being granted market approval or undergoing clinical trials.

"The more tools to tackle COVID-19 that science and technology can provide, the better our anti-pandemic measures can become," the minister said.

None of this progress has come easily. China's impressive pace of medical research is the result of the long-term hard work of Chinese scientists.

Wang Qihui is a CAS virologist. Since January 2020, when Wang first volunteered to work on COVID-19, she has been racing against the clock to find ways to defeat the virus.

Tasked with finding effective antibodies in a short time, Wang led her team to conduct experiments day and night. She once stayed in her laboratory for two weeks, sometimes forgetting food and sleep.

Five months after the initial outbreak of the novel coronavirus, her team announced that JS016, a COVID-19-neutralizing antibody that they had developed, could be administered to healthy people in clinical trials. In November last year, the antibody was granted emergency-use authorization in 15 countries, including the United States and several European countries.

Lots of sacrifices were made in this process. Right before the results of the COVID-19 antibody study came out, Wang Qihui experienced neurological deafness because of high stress, which led to temporary hearing loss in her left ear.

She was hospitalized for five days after a doctor warned her that, in the absence of timely treatment, she could develop permanently impaired hearing.

The scientist has since recovered and is determined to make greater contribution to the fight against the pandemic. She has resumed her COVID-19 research, working to develop a nasal spray antibody drug and an mRNA vaccine. Wang Qihui attributes her achievements largely to her previous experience in the field of viral infectious diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and the Zika virus.

Zhang Linqi and his team, like Wang, have used their determination and wealth of experience in responding to new pathogens to deal with the pandemic.

Zhang has devoted 30 years to the study of HIV-1 pathogenesis and vaccine development, and to emerging and re-emerging human viral pathogens such as MERS, Ebola and the Zika virus.

"The development of a treatment drug and a vaccine sounded lighting fast, even to me, but it benefited from years of research on antibody drugs and HIV vaccine development," Zhang said when asked how the COVID-19 antibody drug he developed was created so quickly.

Inspired by the "AIDS cocktail," a combination treatment of three or four different medicines for people with HIV/AIDS, Zhang and his team selected 206 monoclonal antibodies and whittled the number down to two, creating their COVID-19 cocktail therapy.

It has demonstrated an improved performance in resisting virus mutations and maintained longer activity in the human body compared to similar therapies consisting of only one antibody.

Xinhua

QR code helps rural residents gain clear understanding of government policies

BY scanning a QR code with mobile phone, Shen Jihong, a resident in Xiaoli village, Liangma township, Anze county, Linfen city, north China's Shanxi province, can check basic information, engagement in industries, income details, contact officials in charge of poverty elimination and other kinds of important information and government policies.

To ensure every household has access to all kinds of information and various policies, the govern-

ment of Anze county has boosted connectivity of information among government departments and promoted the application of a mini program named Yi Ma Qing, which means "the QR code that provides all-rounded knowledge" in Chinese.

In recent years, many cities in Shanxi province have used such QR codes to collect information about people's production and life and help grassroots officials better explain policies and promote the implementation of these policies.

Today, such QR codes are playing a greater role in advancing rural vitalization in Shanxi province.

The essence of the QR codes is that they offer people an innovative and direct way to gain a thorough and clear understanding of information and policies.

Yanggao county, Datong city, Shanxi, attached a QR code to every piece of clean heating equipment during the replacement of coal with electricity, which specifies details about relevant policies and subsi-

dies. Such QR codes serve as a new and effective channel for governments to introduce policies to households and help avoid inadequate explanation of policies.

At present, China is promoting all-round rural vitalization and has set higher requirements for precise public services, which makes it particularly important to have a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the actual conditions of rural areas and update data on rural

development in a timely manner.

The QR codes widely used in Shanxi also focus on scientific management and targeted measures. The QR code of Shen's family shows information about training in tea-frying skills and rural tourism projects participated by members of the family. Such basic information serves as an important foundation for the local government to formulate targeted measures for further improving the quality of local people's lives.

Based on the actual situation of each household, relevant government departments can provide targeted assistance for people. They strengthen guidance for households with skills to help them run business according to industry regulations and rules; organize training in special skills for farmer households with an urgent need for employment according to their age, gender, and strong point; and guarantee timely and adequate food subsidy, medical insurance,

and other forms of assistance in meeting the basic needs of relatively vulnerable households, while maintaining dynamic monitoring of the situation of these households for early warning.

While providing information about rural households, these QR codes test the precision of policies and measures as well as the quality of public services, and witness improvement in governance capability and performance.

People's Daily

Abandoned coal mine in E China turned into prospering navel orange business

"WHY does the earth look like coal?" That's a frequently asked question by many that pass by Peng Huiyun's navel orange orchard.

"Because it is coal." That's what Peng always answers. Peng's orchard, located in Shitang village, Yuannan township, Luxi county, Pingxiang, east China's Jiangxi province, was once a coal mine, which was a source of income for around 90 percent of the villagers in the 1990s, including Peng.

A 2009 national survey of forest resources found that over 90,000 mu, or 6,000 hectares of abandoned mines in Pingxiang needed to be ecologically restored. As the idea of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" gradually took root in the hearts of the Chinese people, the abandoned mines grabbed the attention of the cadres in Pingxiang, who were expecting that the ecological restoration could attract social capital to develop local industries.

"We were planning to contract barren mountains, and an official with the local forestry department told us that there were abandoned mines here," said Wei Yuanzhong, an executive of an eco-farming company in Jiangxi.

By that time, Peng had already quit his mining job for a long time and was serving as the director of the village committee. The message from the company hoping to contract the mines surprised him very much.

Wei later planted navel oranges on the mines. Despite the fact that it seemed impossible, he was quite confident about it. After professional determination of the composition of the soil on the mines, Wei's company found that the soil underneath the coal gangue was still fertile. Therefore, the company flattened the ground, applied fertilizers, and buried straws under the soil to improve its fertility. In the second year, navel oranges were planted there.

Instead of clearing away the coal gangue, Peng just left it there and flattened the ground, because the soil was not polluted by the coal gangue. That's why the earth in his orchard is black. The orchard is projected to yield 25,000 kilograms of navel oranges this year, according to him.

Now, Wei's company has contracted 3,000 mu of abandoned mines in Pingxiang, and the local government of Yuannan township has bought into the company with financial funds. A total of 294 households that have just been lifted out of poverty can receive annual bonus.

People's Daily

No one in Russia is thinking about using nuclear weapons, Kremlin spokesman says

WASHINGTON

NO one in Russia is considering the idea of using nuclear weapons, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told PBS.

The interviewer asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin had suggested in his earlier statement that he would use nuclear weapons if a third party got involved in the conflict in Ukraine and Peskov said 'no.' "I don't think so."

But he was quite bold in saying 'do not interfere, if you do, we have all the possibilities to prevent that and to punish all those who are going to interfere,' he specified.

When asked if he could rule out the use of nuclear weapons in the conflict on behalf of Russia, the Kremlin spokesman said: "No one is thinking about using... even about the idea of using nuclear weapons."

US President Joe Biden's recent remark about Russian leader Vladimir Putin is quite alarming, Peskov told.

"It's quite alarming. First of all, it's a personal insult and one can hardly imagine a place for a personal insult in the rhetoric of a political leader and especially of the political leader of the greatest country in the world, the United States."

So we are very sorry about that," he pointed out. "His statement about whether Putin should not or should be in power in Russia is of course unacceptable. It's not for the United States' president to decide who is going to be and who is the president of Russia, it is the people of Russia who decide it during elections," Peskov added.

Western countries have actually declared total economic war against Russia, Peskov told.

"We have to adapt ourselves to new conditions. And unfortunately, those conditions are quite unfriendly," he said, commenting on



Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov

Western sanctions.

"We entered the phase of a total war," Peskov pointed out. "Western European countries, the United States,

Canada, Australia, they are actually leading war against us in trade, in economy, in seizing our properties, in seizing our funds, in block-

ing our financial relations. And we have to adapt ourselves to the new reality," the Kremlin spokesman stressed. Agencies

West needs Ukraine as 'battering ram' against Russia, says diplomat

MOSCOW

A meeting of the European Council on March 24-25 confirmed that Ukraine remained a territory under the control of Washington and a 'geopolitical battering ram' against Russia, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a commentary on Monday.

"The results of a European Council meeting, held jointly with the US leadership, confirmed once again that the collective West needs Ukraine which is fully under the control of Washington and is gripped by Russophobia only as a geopolitical battering ram against Russia," the diplomat stressed.

According to the diplomat, only the US will benefit from the new anti-Russian sanctions. "While declaring the readiness for new anti-Russian restrictions, Brussels forgets to add that their approval will be advantageous only for the US, that gains on the outflow of capitals from the EU, on an increase in supplies to the European markets of their arms and liquefied natural gas at jaw-dropping prices," she added.

"Through their actions, officials in Brussels are in fact undermining the economy of European Union countries," she stressed. "They doom rank-and-file Europeans to the demolition of a socially oriented economic model, to life in conditions of exorbitant prices for electricity and fuel, cuts in social payments in favor of military budgets, galloping inflation and mass unemployment," Zakharova wrote in her commentary.

The diplomat sees as belated the decision of the European Council on reconstruction of a democratic Ukraine and the establishment of a special fund for that. "Ukraine's evolution towards democracy, as it is known, was suspended in February 2014, when an anti-constitutional coup was staged in Kiev, instigated by Western countries," she said, noting that Ukraine and its neighbors "have been reaping its fruits for already over eight years".

Now, time has come for resolute measures to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine, taken by the Russian Armed Forces, she stressed, expressing confidence that after that "the Ukrainian people will get back to a peaceful and good-neighborly path of the development". Agencies

Biden says budget targets Trump's 'fiscal mess,' raises taxes on rich

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Monday submitted a \$5.79 trillion budget plan to Congress that calls for record peacetime military spending and further aid for Ukraine, while raising taxes for billionaires and companies and lowering government deficits.

The budget proposal for the fiscal year starting Oct 1, lays out Biden's priorities, including campaign promises to make the wealthy and companies pay more tax. It is merely a wish list as lawmakers on Capitol Hill make the final decisions on budget matters.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Congress looked forward to working on Biden's "bold fiscal blueprint," even as some fellow Democrats chafed at Biden's pledge to boost military spending. Biden's plan drew immediate criticism from Republicans, who together with moderate Democrats, killed similar tax proposals in the 2022 budget.

"The budget I am releasing today sends a clear message to the American people (about) what we value: first, fiscal responsibility, second, safety and security, and thirdly ... the investments needed to build a better America," Biden told reporters at the White House.

The Democratic president said he was calling for higher defense spending to strengthen the US military and additional US support for Ukraine's economic, humanitarian, and security needs.

The document, based on economic projections locked in before the crisis in Ukraine, offers fresh insight into Biden's thinking as he prepares for a Nov 8 midterm election that could see his Democratic Party lose control of



US President Joe Biden

Congress.

Biden told reporters his administration is "making real headway cleaning up the fiscal mess I inherited", and will reduce the federal deficit by more than \$1.3 trillion this year with \$1 trillion in further cuts planned over the next decade.

"For most Americans the last few years were very hard, stretching them to the breaking point. But billionaires and large corporations got richer than ever," he said, adding, "That's not fair... Just pay your fair share."

The US federal government, on the hook for rising health-care and social spending, especially for older Americans, has spent more money than it has taken in for each of the last 20 years.

'Contentious' process

House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, a Democrat, predicted a "contentious" battle among Democrats over Biden's call for big hikes in the already mammoth US military budget. Republicans said it didn't raise military spending enough.

With a razor-thin majority in the House, Yarmuth warned that Democrats could lose no more than three to five votes within the party and still pass a budget opposed by Republicans.

Yarmuth said the entire process could drag out again as it did last year, when Congress did not approve a budget until August, long after the House wrote its appropriations bills.

Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, said Biden's tax hikes would harm US workers and the overall economy, while increasing deficits.

Under Biden's policies, deficits would fall to 5.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year and stay below 5 percent over the next decade. That compares to 14.9 percent of GDP in 2020, the last year of the Trump administration, the White House said.

The focus on deficit reduction reflected the concerns of Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, whose stated concerns over rising US debt already thwarted passage of Biden's "Build Back Better" plan last year.

On the home front, Biden's plan boosts spending on policing, efforts to fight gun crime, and invests heavily in crime prevention, while adding some \$50 billion to address the critical shortage of affordable housing.

The plan does not include line items for bolstering climate change, health-care, education and manufacturing competitiveness that featured heavily in the "Build Back Better" bill.

Instead, it has a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow lawmakers to negotiate those items. Shalanda Young, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said.

Billionaires' tax

It introduces a new minimum tax requiring the very wealthy to pay at least 20 percent of their income in taxes, including on the gains on investments that have not been sold.

That tax would apply to 0.01 percent of American households - those worth over \$100 million - with more than half of the new revenue coming from households worth more than \$1 billion, the White House said. It would reduce the government deficit by \$360 billion over the next decade. Agencies

Palestinian president urges to end Israeli occupation

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said on Monday that the conference of foreign ministers between Israel and four Arab countries will become a permanent annual regional forum in future.

Lapid made the announcement after hosting the first conference with the foreign ministers from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Egypt that kicked off Sunday in Sde Boker, a kibbutz in the Negev Desert in southern Israel and the final home of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding father and first prime minister.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also attended the two-day conference, which mainly discussed the emerging agreement on renewing the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and ways to build a regional partnership.

Lapid hailed the conference for "making history," as it marks the first time that Israel hosts a meeting with Arab foreign ministers. He also invited the Palestinians to join the forum in future.

The top Israeli diplomat said the countries are forming a new partnership based on religious tolerance and cooperation in the fields of economy, technology, security and intelligence, adding that the partnership will help "counter threats from Iran." Israel and Gulf Arab coun-



(Left to right) Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdulatif bin Rashid al-Zayani, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Morocco's Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita, and United Arab Emirates' Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, pose for a group photo following their Negev meeting in the Israeli kibbutz of Sde Boker on Monday. AFP

tries share concerns over the possible revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, under which the US eased sanctions in exchange for Iran's curbing its nuclear program. But the previous US administration under President Donald Trump unilaterally quit the pact in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

However, the current US government under President Joe Biden wants to restore the deal through the talks held in the Austrian capital Vienna by Iran and other major signatory parties, in which the US has been indirectly involved.

The Vienna talks, which have been held for eight rounds so far, are reportedly nearing an agreement. Israel, Iran's arch foe in the region, has been steadfast against renewing the deal, fearing that it will enable Iran to obtain nuclear weapons without the burden of the US-led sanctions.

In a bid to soothe the worries of Israel and Arab states, Blinken vowed that the US will continue to work together with its allies to confront "common security challenges and threats, including those from Iran and its proxies."

Blinken also hailed the US-brokered Abraham Accords, under which the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco normalized their ties with Israel in 2020.

He added that the accords cannot be a substitute for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For his part, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry echoed Blinken on the importance of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We did highlight the importance of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the importance of maintaining the credibility and viability of the two-state solution," Shoukry said.

Sudan risks sliding into economic, security collapse - UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS

THE top UN envoy for Sudan warned Monday that the country may risk sliding into an economic and security collapse and a worse humanitarian crisis.

"The stakes are high. The aspirations of Sudanese women and men for a prosperous, civilian-led, democratic future are at risk. Unless the current trajectory is corrected, the country will head toward an economic and security collapse, and significant humanitarian suffering," said Volker Perthes, the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS).

All Sudanese stakeholders will, therefore, need to be prepared to

make compromises in the interests of the people, for stability and prosperity, he told the Security Council in a briefing.

Sudan has been without a functioning government since the military takeover in October 2021. In the absence of a political agreement to return to an accepted transitional path, the economic, humanitarian and security situation is deteriorating, he said.

"Time is not on Sudan's side, and I speak to you today with a sense of urgency, which is also increasingly felt by Sudanese stakeholders concerned about the stability and the very existence of their country," said Perthes.

On March 7, the country's central bank announced the floating of the currency. In the following three weeks, the value of the Sudanese pound has fallen by over 45 percent against the

US dollar. At the same time, there have been dramatic price increases for bread, fuel, electricity, medicine, health care and public transport, he said.

Sudan also risks losing out on billions of external support as disbursements from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other major donors have been paused, and will continue to be paused as long as no functional government is in place.

No foreign investment is coming in and exports have dwindled, he noted. In the absence of a political solution to the crisis, the security situation has also worsened across the country.

Crime and lawlessness are on the rise, and intercommunal conflicts in Darfur have intensified. Farmers have been dispossessed of their land through violent attacks, assets looted,

and villages burnt. Women from all parts of the country report deepening concerns for their own safety, even in broad daylight, said Perthes.

More recently, there have also been disturbing reports of increased tensions between and within the different security forces.

Some interlocutors express concern that if a political solution is not found, Sudan could descend into conflict and divisions as seen in Libya, Yemen or elsewhere, in a region already beset by instability, he said.

The United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have agreed to join efforts to facilitate an inclusive, Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led political process, focusing on a limited number of urgent priorities required to address the current

crisis and restore constitutional order, said Perthes.

The priorities include interim constitutional arrangements, including the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the transition as well as their structure and functions; the criteria and mechanisms to appoint a prime minister and Cabinet; a roadmap for the transitional period and a government program focusing on an achievable set of priority areas, including the type, timing, and necessary conditions for elections at the end of this transitional period.

"We expect to start an intensive phase of talks in the next couple of weeks, fully recognizing that this will be during the holy month of Ramadan. We anticipate that stakeholders will participate in the month's spirit of peace and forgiveness," he said.

Over the last two weeks, the United Nations, the AU and IGAD have been working robustly to agree on a common approach and lay the ground for this process, including holding individual and joint meetings with some of the key stakeholders.

Many of these stakeholders have emphasized the urgency of the situation and the need for a speedy yet sound resolution, he said. If these political talks are to have a chance at succeeding, favorable conditions and a conducive environment must be created.

This will entail primarily three things: an end to violence and ensuring the right to peaceful demonstrations, the release of political detainees, and a firm commitment to phase out the current emergency status in the country, said Perthes. Xinhua

SPORT



Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen

Mainland Tanzania clubs should support Kim Poulsen's vision

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S NBC Premier League is now on break to pave way for the FIFA calendar for international friendly ties.

During this period of the international friendly games' calendar, Tanzania's senior national team, Taifa Stars, has played one friendly match against the Central Africa Republic in Dar es Salaam on March 23.

The senior national team was yesterday expected to confront Sudan in a second international friendly match.

The friendly fixtures aim to test the hosts as part of the preparations for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and the African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers.

Two matches are also dedicated to celebrating the one-year term of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan.

There has been a selection of a large group of youthful players in the Tanzania squad for the two matches compared to the experienced football players who are over 28 years old.

More than half of the players selected for the 29-member Tanzania squad are under the age of 23 and at least five are under the age of 25 and they are players who play in different positions on the pitch.

The 23-year-olds named in the squad are Metacha Mnata, Abuutwalib Mshery, Israel Mwenda, Haji Mnoga, Dickson Job, Lusajo Mwaikenda, Abdulrazack Hamza, Nickson Kibabage, Novatus Dismas, Aziz Andambwile, Kelvin John, Ben Starkie, Tepsi Evance, Kibu Denis and Ibrahim Joshua.

The decision by Taifa Stars head coach Kim Poulsen to select a large group of young players is a sign that the coach and his technical bench are thinking more about the team's future.

Although many of these youngsters will not get a chance to play regularly for the Taifa Stars, their presence during this period helps to build their experience and maturity to play competitive matches which will make them more mentally and physically fit on the field.

What Poulsen is doing is nothing new and has been the catalyst for success for many nations that have done well in major tournaments as they have been preparing and using players who have matured from

youth set-up to senior.

Experienced footballers Mbwana Samatta, Thomas Ulimwengu, Erasto Nyoni, John Bocco, Simon Msuva, Aggrey Morris are set to soon step aside and later retire.

They need people who will fill their positions for a long time and they will not just emerge from the unknown to play for the national team, instead, they need to be prepared in advance for the current period which is right for them as they are old enough to accept what they are instructed to do.

Fortunately, many of the young players called up to the squad have been showing good form in various competitive matches in which their clubs have been participating.

And as if that was not the only evidence, other youngsters have been showing good form in their outfits' league matches even though they did not get called up to the Taifa Stars squad.

The footballers, namely Aziz Andambwile, Abdul Suleiman 'Sopu', Rashid Chambo, Denis Nkane, Jimmyson Mwanuke, and Deogratias Mafie.

However, these good goals for the Tanzania Stars' technical bench, should such plans be successful, require a lot of support from clubs.

The squads should give youthful footballers ample opportunity to play in their squads, unlike the current situation where many young footballers have been playing less frequently.

The future versus the present is the domain of the national team even more than clubs. A club can always spend on players.

That is not possible with international soccer. It is the old developmental conundrum versus results that sees desperate or stubborn national team coaches putting players out of position or using unfamiliar setups.

The push for results drives good coaches to odd choices for club and country, but it is the national team coach carrying with it the weight of an entire program.

If these youthful players are regularly allowed to play at their clubs, they will gain competitive experience and build their confidence as well as their skills, experience, and technical strength as opposed to staying out for a long time. The success of national teams cannot be achieved as the clubs that own the players do not see the need to give young players a chance to play.

There must be a positive partnership between national teams and clubs so that each side becomes the catalyst for success for the other.

SPORTS

What derails Tanzania's footballers' quest for success?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE world is moving very fast, in this age, everything has changed, from ordinary life to football.

Modern football is much softer and simple than in the era of the likes of Pele. Today goalkeepers are protected from the tricks of naughty attackers.

The attackers are protected against dangerous fouls and violent defenders who sometimes put their personalities aside and scare their opponents, much to the point of daring to jump on their peers' necks.

These include defenders who battle it out in NBC Premier League including Pascal Wawa, Aggrey Morris, Kelvin Yondani, and Juma Nyosso.

Nyosso is for one alleged to have been involved in a spate of events.

The mentioned footballers are a very small part of the defenders that had graced local football in the past and others keep on plying their trade.

Those who had the opportunity to witness center back, Salum Kabunda 'Ninja', will say that he was not given such a nickname for the sake of it. He was a real 'Ninja' due to his style of play.

There is a prominent former center back, namely Roster Ndunguru. He played for the now-defunct Nyota Nyekundu FC. He was really good and did not run out of surprises on the pitch.

It should be noted, it is not true that indiscipline and tough tackling players do not exist in modern football. No, there are many, but the rules are strict.

Violent players started a while ago, but laws were enacted to control them, which is why today footballers Sergio Ramos, Diego Costa, Pepe, and others have witnessed their dominance softened.

They are trapped by changes in the rules and regulations of football. There are times when they yearn to do it but they are afraid of punishment.

There are major legal reforms in football. A change that affected the popular player's market.

The player market has also been simplified and greatly expanded. Today players are sold and bought like any other product on the market.

It just depends on its quality. Players also know their value and make good use of their talent to make money.

Although the colonialist paralyzed many by convincing a person that a good education is a key to making a living, the



Simon Msuva

reality is not so. A large percentage of athletes live richer than even those who have read books in school.

Colonialism has blinded many. It developed a system of convincing that if individual studies he or she will be employed but the fact is many are unable.

Even here in the country education has not been a great help to the elite. It does not make the elite self-employed as the colonial curriculum remains as it is, that is, read and be employed. But in football the situation is different.

A lot has changed in football. The more talented a footballer is, the more he can earn millions of dollars and be either sold or bought by anyone!

Living in developed countries and even in Africa, they know football is now a job and a business.

It is a business that pays, which is why the rich have decided to invest in that business and have been reaping enough profits.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of Tanzanians, especially young talented footballers, have failed to grasp that fact.

Many of them have not yet understood the meaning of playing abroad and what a footballer should do to get there.

That is why a football lover may be surprised at what the players do.

An individual can predict top local stars who by looking at their talent and the fortunes they get, will get far in a short time, but the truth is he finds there is no progress the players have enjoyed.

Leave aside Mbwana Samatta or Simon Msuva and others who made full use of the opportunity to leave the country when they got it and opened their minds.

The achievement the football players had because of playing abroad has made them reluctant to come back home.

They are not considering returning to Tanzania. There is no dispute Samatta will one day return home but that is when he and his compatriots will have completed what they pursued out there.

The same can be said of prominent footballers Danny Mrwanda, Henry Joseph, and Abdi Kassim 'Babi'.

But there is still a problem with many local players. They are unaware of the value of their feet.

They do not know whether the feet and the talent they have are gold that can enrich them and lift them out of the abyss of poverty!

These are the ones who go to play professional football abroad, then suddenly come back with flat excuses.

Has a football fanatic imagined how Samatta has succeeded and how some have failed?

It is like they do not know the value of their feet and they probably take it for granted. I want to tease the talented players.

Take a look at Meddie Kagere, Chris Mugalu, David Molinga, and other foreign players on how they are struggling to fight for their places on their sides in the local top flight.

I know planning is a choice, I do not either blame anyone or surprise anyone, especially for those who decided to return home to remain here.

I look at the opportunities they miss out on playing outside the country and its pleasures, though there are challenges including loneliness.

If such footballers like Samatta, Msuva, Kelvin John, and others have succeeded, what fails their fellows?

Simba SC resumes training to solve defensive woes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC is back in camp to prepare for this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Group D match against Niger's US Gendarmerie Nationale to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 3.

If Simba SC emerges victorious, the side will qualify for the quarterfinals of the continental tournament.

The Mainland Tanzania football champions' head coach, Pablo Franco Martin, pointed out seven days of preparation for his squad for the final Group D match against USGN of Niger is enough to weave plans to garner three points.

Simba SC's defense has of late made glaring mistakes in many of their matches, resulting in goals of the same type to be scored by their opponents.

Simba SC conceded defeats in the tournament as a result of either crosses or corner kicks that also affected them in their matches in the Premier League.

Martin disclosed: "After returning to camp we have about a week to prepare and I believe it is enough for us, every player should do what is required and do well in the US Gendarmerie Nationale game."

"The main goal is to qualify for the next stage due to the desire to succeed that we have."

"We wanted to get good results in our last game against ASEC Mimosas so that we would not be under a lot of pressure in this last game against USGN, but that was not the case."

"That is over and the big task ahead of us now is to make sure we win the next game and reach the quarterfinals."



Simba SC midfielder, Taddeo Lwanga (L), negotiates his way past ASEC Mimosas midfielder, Essis Aka, when the sides locked horns in CAF Confederation Cup's Group D tie that took place in Benin on March 20. Simba SC went down 3-0 to ASEC Mimosas. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

"We play at home in front of our fans and the fate of the game is in our hands, so we will do everything possible to achieve that because we believe there is no reason to fail."

Simba SC's opponents usually take advantage of the mistakes that are made by left-back Mohamed Hussein and right-back Shomari Kapombe, when they overlap to support their striking force.

The problem comes when their attacks are abortive and their opponents start applying counterattacks through the left or the

right flanks before reaching Simba SC's goal and executing crosses that usually cause trouble to the club's defense and goalkeeper.

Simba SC's midfielders are supposed to make coverage to prevent counterattacks when the two defenders overlap.

Central defenders of Simba are supposed to be very keen on cross-kick balls by their opponents, such balls very often result in goals.

If Franco can deal with these problems in this game there is a high percentage for Simba to win the game and reach the last eight.

Biashara United head coach lauds attacking force

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

BIASHARA United head coach, Vivier Bahati, has said his attacking line-up has shown resilience since he started working for the club, which battles it out in this season's NBC Premier League.

Coach Bahati, who previously worked for Azam FC as an assistant coach, was hired by Mara-based Biashara United to replace Kenyan coach Patrick Odhiambo who left earlier this season.

The gaffer noted: "I have talented strikers like Collins Opare and Christian Zigga. They have all done their job well and are our mainstay on the side."

He added that he is currently confident his squad will garner three points in every game ahead of them due to his attacking line-up's edge.

The Burundian coach pointed out: "At the moment in every match we play I am sure to

be able to notch three points, so we continue to brace ourselves and prepare so that we can position ourselves well in the Premier League standings."

"I know the league is tough, but we also feel that we have a chance to do better at the moment."

Biashara United is sitting ninth in the Premier League standings with 22 points, after playing 18 games.

In the last five outings, Biashara United has notched the victory in three ties and drawn in the rest of the duels.

It notched a 1-1 draw with KMC FC, later commanded a 2-0 win against Azam FC.

Biashara United succumbed to a 3-0 loss to Simba in the following duel, and then managed a stalemate with Ruvu Shooting.

The Mara squad reorganized in the following clash, commanding a 2-1 victory against Tanzania Prisons.

Dunkley, spinners star as England make semi-finals

WELLINGTON

SOPHIA Dunkley's dogged 67, her 72-run stand with Amy Jones, and three-fors from Sophie Ecclestone and Charlie Dean took defending champions England into the 2022 ODI World Cup semi-final with a 100-run win over debutants Bangladesh in Wellington.

Nat Sciver's 40 and Katherine Brunt's lower-order cameo, too, played a pivotal part in England's final league-stage victory as 234 proved well beyond the reach of Bangladesh, who were bowled out for 134 in 48 overs.

With a fourth successive win to rebound from three consecutive losses that rocked the start of their campaign, England will face South Africa in the semi-final next week; South Africa knocked out India in a last-ball finish in the final group-stage match later in the day*.

Bangladesh's canny performance with the ball, a standout feature throughout their maiden ODI World Cup campaign, was the high point of their final game of the tournament, too.

What was the first meeting between the two teams in the format, Bangladesh, the only bowling side in the tournament that didn't concede 250 or more against any opposition, left England reeling 96 for 4 after England opted to bat on the used Basin Reserve surface.

On the slightly two-paced pitch, under a light cloud cover, England copped two big blows in the 37-run powerplay: medium-pacer Jahanara Alam dismissed Danni Wyatt before wicketkeeper and captain Nigar Sultana had the on-field not-out decision of her having caught Heather Knight's edge off Salma Khatun overturned.

Bangladesh kept England on a leash with miserly opening spells from double-change Nahida Akter and Ritu Moni who were introduced after the 11th over.

Sciver then led a rebuild with a 101-ball 60 stand with opener Tammy Beaumont, who struggled against spinners and medium-pacers alike.

After hobbling to a scratchy 69-ball 33, Beaumont chipped a fullish ball from pacer Moni to Fahima Khatun in the 25th over.

England went from 86 for 3 to 96 for 4 in the space of 11 balls as a second successful review overturned a decision in Bangladesh's favour: Sciver trapped lbw by Fahima.

At 112 for 4 with 20 overs to go, England required a steady hand from both Jones and Dunkley, who were on 11 and 10 from 16 balls each at the time. To a great measure, they played their part to perfection, putting on 72 for the fifth wicket.

Dunkley and Jones carted Alam for 12 in the 41st over upon her return for a second

spell.

Nigar dropped Jones on 30 off Akter soon after but the England No. 5 could add only one more run to her name before driving an easy catch to Salma at extra cover. With Lata Mondal providing the breakthrough, England slumped to 178 for 5.

Dunkley took calculated risks with her power-packed aerial strokes to complement her strike rotation with a gallery of easy-on-the-eye shots along the ground.

She struck her fifth four before nudging Akter into the off side to reach her maiden World Cup fifty.

Brunt's arrival at the crease injected urgency in England's run-scoring. She ran hard for her two threes in the 14-run 46th over by Akter.

England's fastest block of 50 runs in the game came off 44 balls, taking them to 200. Dunkley's stumping off Salma, however, somewhat pegged England in their bid to find a flourish in the closing overs.

The tally of 79 in the final 10 overs could have been much higher had Dunkley been in the middle longer.

But the final-ball six - the first of the match - from Ecclestone ensured England took the momentum into their dressing room and firmly plonked a foot on the door leading to the knockouts.

The chase, as expected, suffered from the want of firepower in Bangladesh's batting ranks.

They started off slow, but denied England, who missed a run-out opportunity against Shamima Sultana thanks to a poor throw from Dunkley first ball, any inroads in the 24-run powerplay.

During the first ten overs, Akhter's back-to-back fours broke a six-over boundary-less spell.

Shamima Sultana, too, showed aggression in flashes in her 63-ball 23. But after lofting top-ranked ODI bowler Ecclestone, who had bowled Akhter, for a four, she picked out Kate Cross at mid-off. Ecclestone rounded out that over, the 20th one in the innings, with a wicket maiden.

Bangladesh had no answers for Ecclestone, who finished with 3 for 15, and remained atop the wicket-taking charts of this World Cup with 14 strikes from seven league games.

The 22-year-old left-arm spinner applied the squeeze in the middle overs, her high point of release and ability to vary pace at will too good for Bangladesh to get a hold on.

Dean, who replaced Emma Lamb in the XI, removed No. 3 Fargana Hoque and then chipped away at the lower order.

Freya Davies, the World Cup debutant, slotted in in place of Anya Shrubsole, who was rested, struck twice and sealed the win with Moni's wicket. AGENCIES

Pulisic first hat trick leads US to 5-1 win, World Cup brink

ORLANDO

AMERICAN players unfurled a red-and-blue banner with "QUALIFIED" in bold, white letters, when Christian Pulisic realized what was going on.

"The guys didn't know at all what it said. It was just hand handed to them," the U.S. star said.

"Once we realized - there's no need to show that off because we still have a job to do."

Pulisic's first international hat trick led the U.S. over Panama 5-1 on Sunday night and moved the Americans to the brink of qualifying for the World Cup for the first time since 2014.

Only a loss of six or more goals in Wednesday night's finale at Costa Rica would cause the Americans not to get one of three automatic berths from North and Central America and the Caribbean.

They can finish no worse than fourth, which earns a June playoff, likely against New Zealand.

"We honestly approach it like any other game," Pulisic said. "We're going to prepare exactly the same as we would if we needed a win."

Pulisic converted two penalty kicks during a four-goal burst in the first half that also saw Paul Arriola and Jesus Ferreira score, then boosted the lead to 5-0 on a memorable goal with two brilliant touches that evaded a pair of defenders.

Canada (28 points) secured its first berth since 1986 with a 4-0 win over Jamaica. The U.S. (25) is second ahead of Mexico on goal difference and Costa Rica (22) is fourth.

While the U.S. has never won at Costa Rica, goal difference is the first tiebreaker, and the Americans are plus-13 to the Ticos' plus-three. The



Christian Pulisic

U.S. also has the second tiebreaker of total goals, 21 to 11.

In October 2017, the U.S. defeated Panama 4-0 in Orlando and needed only a draw at Trinidad four days later but flopped to a 2-1 loss. Pulisic and Arriola were the only holdovers from that night.

"I'm not celebrating anything," Arriola said. "I was in this exact position or very similar position four years ago, and we know how that qualification ended."

Pulisic's 21 international goals include 12 in World Cup qualifying. Wearing the captain's armband, he scored in the 17th minute and fourth minute of first-half stoppage time, both after fouls by Anibal Godoy. Pulisic is 6-for-6 on penalty kicks in his U.S. career.

His 65th-minute goal was exquisite. After Luca de la Torre and Antonee Robinson twice exchanged passes, Robinson crossed.

With his back to the goal, a spin-

ning Pulisic took a touch with his left leg, spun around Fidel Escobar and dummied the ball through his own legs.

Pulisic poked the ball with the outside of his right foot through the legs of Andrés Andrade and slotted over the leg of sliding goalkeeper of Luis Mejia with his right foot from 8 yards.

"I just really want to play in a World Cup and so does this team," Pulisic said. "I'm just really happy that we're able to be in a good position to go do that and finish the job off."

Pulisic's fire showed during a showing confrontation with Michael Amir Murillo, and the 23-year-old winger was given a yellow card for dissent in the 69th minute.

"His role involves making special plays and scoring some goals," Berhalter said.

"His defensive work rate, his duels, his second balls, his challenges

passing, dribbling, you name it, he did it tonight."

After reaching the World Cup for the first time in 2018, Panama was eliminated. Godoy scored Panama's goal in the 86th with a header from Eric Davis' free kick that beat Zack Steffen.

Salvadoran referee Iván Barton awarded the first penalty after a video review, concluding Godoy shoved the face of Walker Zimmerman, his Nashville teammate.

Pulisic helped set up the second goal in the 23rd minute, running down a long ball from Zimmerman and dishing to Antonee Robinson, who crossed.

Arriola, all of 5-foot-6, outjumped the 5-foot-11 Davis for his ninth international goal - just the second goal on a header in his professional career.

Fans who repeatedly denigrate Major League Soccer players in online forums have criticized Berhalter for selecting Arriola.

"There's always going to be people that hate and that have their own opinions, and I just try and stay focused on myself," a beaming Arriola said.

"I know how valuable I am and how valuable I can be to this team."

Ferreira made it 3-0 in the 29th minute with a 4-yard right foot shot that beat goalkeeper Luis Mejia goalkeeper.

Ferreira's third international goal capped a 17-touch sequence that involved Arriola (four touches), Yunus Musah (four), Luca de La Torre (two), Pulisic, Tyler Adams and Shaq Moore (four).

Moore was a late addition as the fourth-choice right back after Sergiño Dest hurt a thigh, DeAndre Yedlin was suspended for yellow-card accumulation and Reggie Cannon tested positive for COVID-19. **AP**

Mithali Raj rues missed opportunities after India miss semi-final bus

CHRISTCHURCH

INDIA captain Mithali Raj conceded that they performed below expectation at this World Cup, pinning their failure to advance to the semi-finals on an inconsistent start to the competition.

India lost three of their first five matches before beating Bangladesh and taking their semi-final chances to the last ball against South Africa but narrowly missed out on the knockouts.

Their last-ball loss ended a competition in which they scored the highest total - 317 for 8 against West Indies - were bowled out for one of the lowest - 134 against England - and were involved in two of the most tense matches in the group stage, against Australia and South Africa.

"There's been ups and downs," Raj said in summation at her final press conference of the event.

"We did well against West Indies but we lost against England, Australia and even New Zealand. We didn't really put up a fight in those two games (England and New Zealand). Overall, we could have done better in the initial phase of the tournament."

After an authoritative opening win against Pakistan, India were dismissed for under 200 against New Zealand and were unable to string together successive wins.

Like Sophie Devine, who dissected New Zealand's performance yesterday and identified a lack of awareness in key moments, Raj pointed to similar problems with India when she identified two examples where India could have pressed home an advantage against South Africa but didn't.

"We could have added more runs in the death overs when we batted. With the start we got and the way we built the innings, we could have got many more runs having wickets in hand," she said. "And then the most important couple of overs where when [Chloe] Tyron came in, the asking rate was around nine and she got it to seven. That was the moment that tilted the match in their favour."

The absence of Jhulan Goswami, who was forced out of the match after picking up a side strain in train-



Mithali Raj

ing, doubtless affected India's ability to defend their score but Raj was full of praise for the death-overs' protagonist Deepti Sharma, who nearly pulled off victory.

Sharma had to defend six off the last over, conceded four off her first four balls and then had Mignon du Preez caught at long-on but had overstepped.

"She had a lot of clarity of where she needed to bowling the last over but somewhere these no-balls haven't been working in India's favour," Raj said.

From the sidelines, Goswami looked on, unable to hide her disappointment, fuelling speculation that she has not just played her last World Cup, but perhaps her last game for India. Raj could not confirm that but said she regretted that India couldn't give Goswami a

longer run at this tournament.

"I really wanted to win this game so that we could give her another game to play in the semi-finals but it didn't go our way," she said.

Similarly, there are whispers around Raj's future also doing the rounds. While she announced that the 2022 World Cup would be her last ODI tournament, she has not confirmed if or when she is stepping away.

"It would not be appropriate for me to comment on that, considering the game we just played. The emotions are still there. It needs to settle down before I can have clarity on that," she said.

She did, however, indicate that changes are inevitable, especially after a World Cup.

"They will be generations of playing coming and going. After every

World Cup, there is always a change in the team and the dressing room. There will be fresh faces in, there will be some experienced players in, every team has to go through this process of rebuilding after the World Cup, especially the one-day World Cup, so that they prepare for the coming World Cups in another four years," she said. "We are no different. We will also go through the same transformation."

I really wanted to win this game so that we could give her [Goswami] another game to play in the semi-finals

Asked if she thought India's result would have an effect on the progression of the women's game in the country, Raj indicated that she hoped not and that the board would continue to support the development of the sport.

"The BCCI has done a great job to give us series last year against the best sides. They've done their bit of giving us preparation that would be ideal," she said.

"It is disappointing for all of us but moving forward we have very talented youngsters and I am sure the coming tournaments we will have a strong side. We look forward to building and rebuilding and trying to give our best whenever we compete in the next big event."

"Every ICC event is an opportunity for the team to do well because these events are followed by everybody around the world, an opportunity for cricket lovers to look up to women cricketers to play the best standard and it's our job as players to put our best standard out there so that many young girls take up the sport. We look forward to doing our best in these events."

AGENCIES

PCB announces calendar for women's cricket, revives U-19 domestic tournament

LAHORE

PAKISTAN are set to host SL, tour Australia, and play Ireland home and away as well as feature in the Commonwealth and Asian Games

The PCB has chalked out a year-long calendar for women's cricket, comprising extensive international and domestic cricket including home series against Sri Lanka and Ireland and Pakistan's participation in the Commonwealth and Asian Games this year.

The board has also revived its Under-19 tournament after eight-and-a-half years.

The Women's PSL is not part of this year's calendar, though ESPNcricinfo understands the PCB is working out the feasibility of the tournament and, under chairman Ramiz Raja, has ambitions of organising the event in March 2023.

The series against Sri Lanka, which was postponed last year following a change of leadership in the PCB, is now scheduled to be played from May 18 to June 7, with the series falling under the ICC Women's Championship cycle.

Following this, Pakistan are set to tour Ireland in July for a triangular series that also includes Australia as the third team.

This will be immediately followed by the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July-August. In September, Pakistan are due to travel to Hangzhou, China, for the 2022 Asian Games, before returning home for a three-ODI, three-T20I series against Ireland in October-November.

The year is then set to end with the Women's T20 Asia Cup, which is due to take place in December, though further details are still awaited.

The Women's T20 World Cup is set to be played in South Africa in February 2023, and Pakistan's preparations for the event will conclude with a tour of Australia from January 4 to Feb 1, comprising three ODIs

and three T20Is.

The year-long calendar - the first one the PCB has announced for women's cricket - includes a blueprint for the domestic circuit

The national youth-level tournament was disbanded in 2013 due to a policy shift and a change of leadership in the PCB. Before that, there had been a national Under-17 event that took place from 2004 to 2008, which was replaced by a regional Under-19 tournament that was a regular event from 2009 to 2013.

A Pakistan A team was formed thereafter, comprising players from the Under-19 circuit and those on the fringes of the senior national side.

The pathway to the national team, however, had always been vague, with no solid link between the grassroots and the top 30-35 women players in the country.

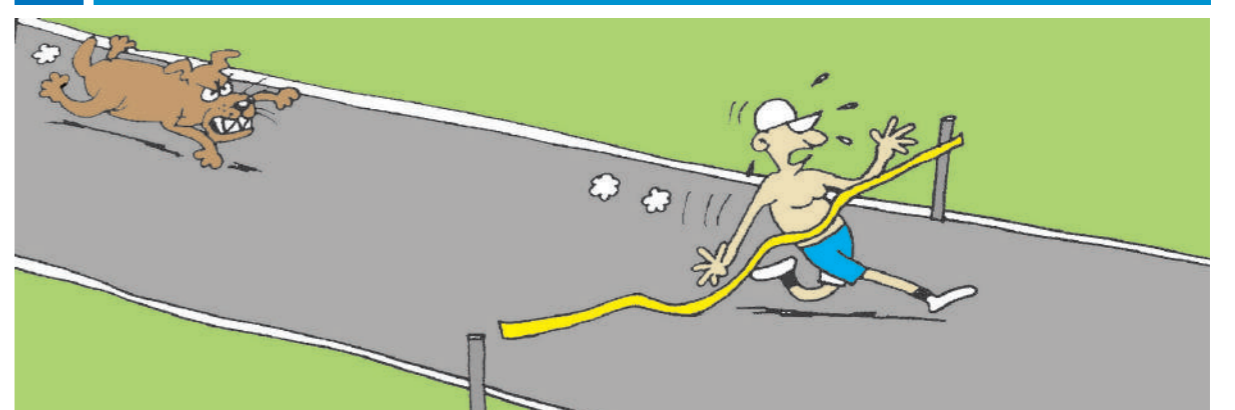
The investment in women's cricket had narrowed down to two major tournaments, with three teams playing the National T20 and ODI Challenge Cups.

Seeking to expand the talent pool in women's cricket, the PCB has announced a new T20 tournament featuring six provincial Under-19 teams, which will take place in August 2022. The best players from this level could go on to feature in the senior domestic season.

The senior season will begin with a two-phase T20 tournament in September-October. The first phase is a four-team event featuring the best players from the six provincial associations; the top performers from this phase will play alongside the best international players in the second phase of the championship, a three-team tournament.

The women's domestic season will conclude in April-May 2023 with a 50-overs tournament featuring four teams playing each other in a double-round-robin format.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Pulisic first hat trick leads US to 5-1 win, World Cup brink

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Zanzibar's Sauti za Busara Festival gets three-year sponsorship

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has promised to continue supporting festivals to ensure they thrive because they contribute significantly to the economic growth and development of the tourism industry in the country.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Youth Culture and Sports, Khamis Abdallah Said, pledged when speaking soon after Blue Amber Zanzibar sealed a three-year pact on how it can sponsor Zanzibar's Sauti za Busara Festival.

"We're shocked to hear that the popular annual festival has been suspended its operations with effect from March 31, this year, lack of sponsorship, but today we're relieved to see that other donors have come forward to promote this important event," the Deputy PS said.

He however said: "The time has come for the Sauti za Busara festival to prepare a work plan in partnership with the government to be self-sufficient rather than relying on donors."

According to him, the Sauti za Busara festival contributes significantly to the development of the tourism industry, cultural development, youth employment as well as the promotion of Zanzibar culture.

He added: "There are many opportunities to build self-reliance in partnership with stakeholders who benefit from the concerts taking place in Zanzibar, especially at a time when the government is in the process of implementing the blue economy plan."

Blue Amber Zanzibar's chief executive officer Grant Anderson said that his firm decided to shut down the festival for three years after reacting to reports of the festival being in danger of dying due to a lack of sponsors.

"When we received the news that the festival is closing its doors due to lack of sponsorship we're moved to take responsibility for saving the festival and now we are officially announcing a three-year term," he said, noting that the annual event is the biggest festival in Africa.

According to Anderson, next year they will celebrate their 20th anniversary of Sauti za Busara and have done a great job of uniting African music and bringing fame to Zanzibar and helping hundreds of businesspeople, and developing the Isles' tourism industry. It has been a source of income for many locals and increased the number of visitors coming from different countries to witness the festival.

"The company has put in place a strategic plan to assist sound producers to develop themselves and urge the public to remove the concerns because the festival of sensible voices will not close but will continue to grow further," he said.

Blue Amber company's founder, Saleh Muhammed Said, said they had decided to fund the festival after hearing reports that it was in danger of terminating its operations this year.

"The festival is a great expression of cultural development and has been a major contributor to Zanzibar's economic growth and development in the tourism industry," he said.

He said that after receiving the personal information he was moved to start looking for senior festival officials and start talks with them before reaching an agreement to sign a three-year fund that will cost \$360,000.

However, Saleh said the time has come for the festival beneficiaries to work with the former ministries to create an environment that will help reduce the cost of running the festival as well as create an independent environment for the festival.

"If stakeholders contribute to the running costs of the festival it will be able to stand on its own as it still contributes significantly to the development of the Zanzibar tourism industry, providing employment," he said.

Director Sauti za Busara, Yussuf Mahmoud, thanked the Blue Amber Company for coming forward to sponsor the festival, which came

into existence 19 years ago, with more than 3,000 visitors from various countries.

He said the annual event has boosted the number of tourists to 40,000 tourists and benefited the aviation, marine, tourist hotels, and property entrepreneurs, and showcased the talents of artists.

Sauti za Busara festival is an African music festival that offers an exciting line-up of talented artists from east and southern Africa, with a special priority on women artists from Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, and Congo-Brazzaville.



NBC Bank CEO, Theobald Sabi (seated R), Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia (seated L), signing agreement on new insurance services for NBC Premier League players, their outfits' technical benches, and their families provided by the institution in partnership with Britam and Sanlam insurance companies during the brief launch of the service held in Dar es Salaam yesterday and attended by various football stakeholders in the country. Witnesses include Sanlam Insurance Chief Executive Officer Hamis Suleiman (L) Britam Insurance Chief Executive Officer Ramond Komanga (2nd L) along with other football stakeholders. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

NBC offers insurance services to football players, families

By Guardian Correspondent

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC) Limited, the main sponsor of this season's Premier League, has launched a new sports insurance service for players, the technical bench, and their families to ensure better health care for players participating in the league, especially in the event of a health crisis.

The service sponsored by Britam and Sanlam insurance companies includes health insurance and life insurance will include 640 players participating in the NBC Premier League, technical benches, and their families.

Speaking during the launch of the service held in Dar es Salaam yesterday and attended by various football stakeholders in the country, NBC Bank CEO, Theobald Sabi, said among other benefits, the insurance would help provide players the freedom to showcase their talent without fear of going through a difficult time in the face of a catastrophe on the pitch including injury.

"This service will give players the ability to get the best treatment locally and even abroad when needed. Through this service, players will as well receive income benefits if a player suffers permanent damage or loss of life and other benefits include the players receiving a spinal benefit when they have an accident and fail to continue playing football," he said.

He said that as the main sponsor of the league, NBC Bank is committed to ensuring that the sponsorship touches every area of the game's development, including the whole issue of players' well-being, including their health.

The move by NBC Bank has been supported by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Services and Development under the Chairman, Stanslaus Nyong'o.

Nyong'o congratulated the stakeholders for the important service said it will help improve the quality of the league as the players will play freely and peacefully thus showing the best standards.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia congratulated the NBC Bank, and Sanlam and Britam insurance companies for the service.

Karia said the move is historic and that the action of the stakeholders supported the federation's strategy and the government's in promoting the sport in the country.

The TFF leader revealed: "At this stage today I would like to say that NBC Bank is not only a sponsor of the Premier League but also an important partner in promoting this sport. For a long time, we have been experiencing health challenges for our players and the whole issue of treatment has been a challenge due to various reasons including financial difficulties facing many clubs in the country."

"Through this service, we are going to end this challenge... we are very grateful to our NBC colleagues for achieving this," he said.

The Chief Executive Officer of Sanlam Insurance Company, Hamis Suleiman, and the Chief Executive Officer of Britam Insurance Company, Ramond Komanga, explained the importance of insurance services to players in the country, promising to provide better services to the beneficiaries so that they can fulfill their responsibilities when they are on the pitch without risking the health of themselves and their families when they face health challenges on the field.

Representatives of clubs participating in the league including Frank Lukwaro, the spokesperson for Polisi Tanzania, and Masau Bwire, Ruvu Shooting information officer, said the move is going to inspire more players in the league.

The officials disclosed that many clubs participating in the Premier League have been spending lots of money on the treatment of injuries so the service is a saviour for them.

"We have been waiting for this service a long time and now it has come as a saviour for us and our youths."

"Most of our clubs are not able to provide the best treatment for our players, especially when they need to be transported abroad for treatment. NBC has been a saviour to this, we are very grateful," he said.

Azam FC, Simba, Yanga quarterfinal dates for Federation Cup confirmed



Azam FC left-back Paschal Msindo (R) negotiates his way past Baga Friends FC footballer during this season's Federation Cup round of 16's tie played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Competitions Committee has confirmed the dates and venues for the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup quarter-finals fixtures.

Matches will kick off on April 10 through to April 13 2022 at three venues across the country.

The draw kept alive the possibility of another Dar es Salaam derby between Simba SC and Yanga in the semi-finals while Azam FC was handed what looked a friendlier route to the final.

Last season's runners-up Yanga will take on Geita Gold FC in the first quarter-final meeting on April 10, with the fixture scheduled to kick off at 7:00 pm at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The Yellow and Green who last won the trophy in 2016 after walloping Azam FC 3-1 are aiming for a domestic double as they are top of the league table with 12 rounds of matches to go.

They will fancy their chance against Geita Gold FC

who they have beaten 1-0 home and away in the league this season.

Coastal Union is to host Kagera Sugar on April 11 at Mkwakwani Stadium at 4 pm while Azam FC, winners of the Federation Cup in 2018, will host Polisi Tanzania at Azam Complex on April 13.

Azam FC and Polisi Tanzania will be clashing for the third time this season in one of the eagerly awaited matches lined up at this last eight stage after law enforcers managed to beat Azam FC home and away this season.

To reach the quarter-finals, Azam FC eliminated Coast Region's Baga Friends in the round of 16 while Polisi Tanzania knocked out Prisons in the round of 16.

Defending champions Simba will go head to head with sur-

prise package Pamba on April 13 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Pamba is the only non-top flight surviving team having eliminated Dodoma Jiji FC in the previous round.

The 2021/22 Federation Cup began in October 2021 with the qualification phase getting started at that point involving teams from the regional level.

The first round proper kicked off in December, with 64 teams with Premier League and Championship clubs involved at that stage.

The 2021/22 Federation Cup final is scheduled to be played in June 2022 and it will be held at a neutral ground as is tradition.

The winner of the competition earns a direct ticket to represent the country at the CAF Confederation Cup.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kati Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 SSPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Plane! Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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