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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Milan, Italy, yesterday addressing the third edition of the Tanzania-Italy Business Forum. He was the chief guest. Photo: PMO

FAO to back BBT project

The registration process will be extended to fishermen, breeders and all land users

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has expressed its satisfaction with the design and execution of the "Building a Better Tomorrow" (BBT)

FAO director general, Dr Qu Dongyu made this affirmation yesterday in a meeting with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the organisation's headquarters in the Italian capital of Rome.

The premier stood in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the four-day World Food Forum (WFF) agri-food systems conference, where he explained the grand plan to empower educated youths by active participation in commercial agriculture.

FAO will extend support for the project to widen to help fulfill the goal of raising young people to gainful employment in agriculture, the top executive

noted, saying the matter will be on the agenda at the FAO executive meeting later.

He praised the president for efforts to develop the agricultural sector and improving relations with international partners, affirming that he would visit Tanzania next year to see agricultural sector progress at close range.

The visit would also enable him to expand the scope of discussions with the government on how to further facilitate agricultural sector growth and the blue economy.

The premier asserted that the government has started getting away from

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EAC launches council for media regulators

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) yesterday launched the East Africa Press Councils (EAPC), an umbrella body bringing together media regulatory authorities within the region.

Dr Irene Isaka, the EAC Secretariat director of social sectors, standing in for secretary general Dr Peter Mathuki, said that the EAPC draws its membership from media and press councils in the EAC Partner States.

It will promote free, independent, professional and accountable media in the sub-region, raising hope that the institution will contribute to promoting the tenets of democracy, social justice and respect for human rights.

Independent and professional journalism is the cornerstone of democratic dispensation, without which freedom of expression is jeopardised, and so are the basic rights of members of society, the secretary intoned.

"A vibrant media is essential for the attainment of social justice, rule of law, accountability, equality and protection of hu-

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WFP: Sorghum farmers have vast global markets

In the semi-arid region of Dodoma, most smallholder farmers rely on the sorghum they grow to feed their families, but low yields have regularly pushed people into hunger

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SORGHUM farmers in the central zone need to increase production to meet rising

market needs in the region and the global grain market as a whole.

William Lasway, the World Food Programme (WFP) country monitoring officer,

issued this encouragement here yesterday, addressing a forum for sorghum crop stakeholders including farmers, buyers, seed producers and input distributors.

Rosemary Senyamule, the regional commissioner, officiated at the forum tailored to enable the participants to brainstorm over the development of the vital agricultural sub-sector.

The WFP official said the UN agency plans to purchase at least 200,000 tonnes of sorghum locally each year, noting that WFP needs the produce as part of its relief activities among refugee communities and strife torn countries.

He said Tanzania has favourable agroclimatic zones and suitable soil for the cultivation of the crop, but efforts are needed to assist farmers to engage into vast and professional production of sorghum.

WFP has for a long time collaborated with the government to assist local farmers to increase production in the crop sub-sector, while Meshack Panga, the Farm Africa project officer, affirmed that the NGO was running a project to scale up production of sorghum in all Dodoma Region districts.

"Through the robust project, we have so

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WFP: Sorghum farmers have vast global markets

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far managed to reach out to 30,000 farmers across the districts and the initiative continues to support the farmers until 2028 where it will phase out," he expressed.

Improved quality had also enabled prices to increase substantially to 800/- per one kilogram, nearly four times the price less than a decade ago, he said.

Patric Byeshulilo, an officer from Apeck International Ltd linked with producers in several countries in the region, told the forum that his company was working to search for vast markets for the crop in different countries, saying they have so far managed to get a market for at least 6,000 tonnes in Burundi.

Mwanahamisi Msangi, the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) quality assurance officer, said the board is the major buyer of local sorghum.

During the 2020/21 harvest season upwards of 1,000 tonnes were purchased rising to 3,000 tonnes during the 2021/22 season.

The board has expectations for at least 10,000 tonnes to be purchased next season, she elaborated, while Ezekiel Noah, the Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) agricultural and marketing officer, said

the agency has in stock 200 tonnes of improved seeds for assisting the farmers. ASA indicative prices specify a price of 3,000/- for one kilogram of the seeds, he said.

In her closing remarks, the RC said each district has been directed to set aside 2,000 hectares for professional cultivation of the crop, to meet market demand.

Dan Collison, the Farm Africa CEO at Farm Africa is implementing a robust project to help introduce 100,000 sorghum farmers in the region to climate-smart agriculture techniques.

With the generous funding packages from Irish Aid, the Mastercard Foundation and the World Food Programme, by enabling the farmers access to better seeds and improved post-harvest practices.

"Despite facing dry conditions in 2023, through the project, the beneficiary farmers have achieved an incredible 300 percent increase in sorghum production. And they're now selling their sorghum for up to 780/-per kilo this year, from 250/-per kilo three years ago," he said.

In the semi-arid region of Dodoma, most smallholder farmers rely on the sorghum they grow to feed their families, but low yields have regularly pushed people into hunger, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan bids farewell to Tabora Region residents yesterday after wrapping up a three-day working visit there. Photo: State House

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By Getrude Mbago

THE government is readying regulations for the introduction of cable transport to boost mountain tourism.

Habibu Suluo, the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) director general, made this affirmation to the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that a study had been conducted for potential areas for cable cars transport.

Final procedures are being awaited before the Minister for Transport approves the regulations, he stated, underlining that to ensure that the area performs well, LATRA is setting up a cable transport unit to ensure that the required conditions are observed, to provide tourists and other users an attractive experience.

He said many countries worldwide are now adopting innovative transport to attract tourists keen on pleasure rather than taxing climbing efforts when visiting various attractions, citing South Africa, Algeria and Nigeria as providing cable transport services.

Some French investors had signalled interest in the area, he said,

LATRA readying cable transport regulations

expressing the view that starting cable transport will attract more investors to provide such services from within and outside the country.

He said this policy shift is complementary to efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in boosting the tourism sector, as innovative services such as cable transport widen the breadth of potential visitors.

"We are going to put regulations and guidelines to ensure that our investors operate smoothly, but also customers have a brilliant experience," he asserted.

Those seeking to be involved in the recently reintroduced 24-hour upcountry bus operations are required to sit for a special test prepared by the regulator to be granted with the permit.

"We want to ensure that public transport remains safe regardless of the hour," he said, noting that the

test will have 100 questions which drivers need to sit and pass before being certified to do the running.

A digital monitoring apparatus will be installed for those obtaining the permit, to enable tracking their driving conduct on the road, he said, noting that so far 1,617 upcountry drivers have passed the test, with 615 drivers presented with the digital monitor tied with the permit to operate at night time.

Passenger buses were banned from travelling at night in 1992 following notorious incidents of bus hijacking, passengers being robbed and humiliated, along with numerous bus accidents.

This spate of deaths and permanent disabilities, property loss and damage to other parties led to rescinding the permit for passenger buses to operate at night.

LATRA seeks to boost its information and communications tech-

nology (ICT) outlays for enhanced monitoring operations, coming after e-ticketing, vehicle tracking system (VTS) and speed governors for upcountry buses.

The agency needs a unified digital system for optimal services to passengers, operators as regulatory needs where movement of buses, fares and other issues will be put in one application for all concerned people to access, he said.

Various measures taken by LATRA brought in revenue during fiscal 2022/23 amounting to 34.17bn/- from 28.53bn/- recorded during fiscal 2021/22.

Hanya Mbawala, the LATRA director for railway services, said the government is also developing regulations for private operators in the state-run railway infrastructure. This will greatly stimulate the provision of quality services and increase the national income, he added.

EAC launches council for media regulators

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man and peoples' rights. The wider society loses out when media cannot do its work independently and professionally as channels of free expression are strangled and public interest information is stifled, including through deterioration of investigative journalism," it further noted.

"Without robust, independent journalism, society, more so the weak, including women and youth, lose out as they have neither means nor relevant information to hold leaders to account and to demand what they are rightly entitled to," it elaborated.

Media regulation should therefore aim at enabling effective and accountable media in the service of the people. It should not lead to the strangling of media through undue control and over-regulation, it asserted.

"When media regulators understand this, and they come together in solidarity to champion the promotion of accountable and independent media, then a great stride has been made," the secretariat emphasized.

The regional integration process is supposed to be people-centred and market driven so the media is key in taking the message of integration to the people at the grassroots who are the actual owners of the process, it remarked.

It is crucial that the media as a stakeholder in integration understands the process fully to unpack it in simple language for ordinary people, thus empowerment of me-

dia organs on matters of integration is essential, it explained.

"It is our position in EAC that media should undergo training on EAC integration purposely to improve their understanding of the process and build their capacity to report more objectively and accurately on integration," the inaugural address intoned, focusing on media training workshops on EAC integration and engagement with responsible media executives.

Mohbare Matinyi, the Information Services director and government spokesman, urged the media to take advantage of new technologies to inform the people on key issues, be it cultural, political or economic.

Kajubi Mukajanga, the EAPC chairman and outgoing executive director of the Media Council of Tanzania, said that EAPC would work to strengthen independent media regulatory bodies, to create awareness on the concept of self-regulation.

David Omwoyo Omwoyo, the EAPC secretary and Media Council of Kenya CEO, said that the universalisation of media standards across the entire EAC region was critical if the media industry was to grow at a uniform pace and play its watchdog role effectively.

Emmanuel Mugisha, EAPC treasurer and Rwanda Media Commission executive secretary, disclosed that Rwanda was using media literacy to ensure that youth and members of the public are adequately prepared to use media space, especially social media, responsibly.

62 injured after trains collide head-on in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

SIXTY-two people have been injured in an accident involving a passenger train and freight train collided head-on in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

In the accident involved a Dar es Salaam commuter train popular as "Mwakembe train" and the cargo train that was carrying copper involved in head-on collision, leaving two people more seriously.

According to the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), in the incident, the freight train collided with a commuter passenger train, resulting in the injury of 62

persons where the two with serious injuries have been hospitalized at the referral hospital.

TAZARA head of public relations, Conrad Simuchile said 60 of the casualties got minor injuries and have since been discharged from the hospital. He said preliminary investigations indicate that the accident occurred when two trains were erroneously allowed onto the same track leading to the head-on collision of the commuter and a copper-carrying freight train.

The authority announced the temporary suspension of services of the Dar es Salaam commuter train until Monday, October 23, this year.



Industries and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (2nd-R) and the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging documents on commercial bargaining agreements between the two countries. Looking on (R) is Confederation of Tanzania Industries executive director Leodgar Tenga. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

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rain-fed agriculture and taking up irrigation farming, with budget outlays raised to 900bn/- in the current financial year.

Affirming that in Tanzania agriculture is everything for food and cash crops, he said that with irrigation the government wishes to ensure that hunger is no longer a nationwide phenomenon. The government also aspires to make

FAO to back BBT project

Tanzania a food basket in the sub-region, he declared.

The government was working to improve agriculture systems to enhance productivity and quality of produce, produce enough food for domestic consumption and considerable surpluses for export, he said.

The government was encourag-

ing farmers with extension officers present in the villages, to oversee quality from initial stages of farm preparation to the search for markets, he said.

The government has started to register farmers in a digital system to know their number, the size of the fields they hold and types of

crops they grow, to facilitate extension services on time and the delivery of inputs, he stated.

The registration process will be extended to fishermen, breeders and all land users, he further noted, expressing gratitude for the UN agency for its resolve to support the government in the BBT programme.



A person with disability who showed up at a meeting on land-related disputes held in the national capital, Dodoma, yesterday airs his grievances before the city's director, John Kayombo (R, in specs). Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

TATO joins UNWTO in positioning Tanzania as top tourism destination

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) 25th General Assembly has approved the admission of the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) officially becoming a member of the UN-affiliated agency. TATO, is Tanzania's leading members-only group advocating for over 300 private expert tour operators in Tanzania, the home of the number one safari destination in the world.

"I've the pleasure of welcoming Tanzania Association of Tour Operators to the UNWTO, as your admission has been approved on 18th of October 2023, during the 25th Session of the General Assembly, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan" announced UNWTO Director for Affiliate Members, Ambassador Ion Vilcu.

Ambassador Vilcu added: "Consequently, hereinafter, you are considered a UNWTO affiliate member, benefiting from all the services and rights inherent to your membership to the organization".

He said that the UNWTO considers the private sector as an important partner in fulfilling its general mandate for the promotion of sustainable tourism development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

"Within this context, we recognize the great potential of the collaboration with your entity to contribute towards the creation of a more ethical and responsible tourism industry, for the benefit of the international community and we are delighted that your entity has decided to join the over 400 already existing UNWTO affiliate members" Ambassador Vilcu explained.

"Joining as affiliate member allows your entity to achieve local, regional, national and global visibility through the network and channels of UNWTO. The affiliate member is a fundamental tool in increasing competitiveness of the private sector actors in the tourism industry," reads a UNWTO document.

The UNWTO networks serve as a venue for active collaboration where UNWTO member states and affiliate members can interact, share and access relevant information.

TATO would benefit from the platform to generate, disseminate and apply specialized knowledge in order to take advantage of the great potential to address pressing tourism-related issues of common interest such as skills transfer and access cutting-edge technologies from a variety of sectors.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Angellah Kairuki congratulated TATO for qualifying to be the affiliate member of the global tourism body.

"I wish to commend Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) for bringing Tanzania private sector to be intertwined into this key global tourism intergovernmental body," Kairuki who is the Vice-Chairperson of the 25th UNWTO General Assembly.

"I'm so excited for TATO being embraced as affiliate member of UNWTO. This is a major step forward to position our country as the best tourism and investment destination in the world map" said TATO Chairman, Wilbard Chambulo who led a high-profile delegation at the key UNWTO meeting.

Chambulo told the dollar-billionaires attending the UNWTO investment forum that Tanzania has competitive advantage when it comes to natural and cultural attractions as it boasts to have highest concentrations of wildlife per square kilometers than anywhere else in the World.

TATO provides its members a platform to stay connected in a travel field that is also directly linked to the conservation of endangered wildlife, threatening climate change and cultural preservation.

After attending the 25th UNWTO, TATO's mission will continue out to Turkey to perpetuate its promotion of Tanzania as the best safari destination to woo tourists and investors, TATO CEO, Sirili Akko said.

Tanzania, US seal pact on commercial dialogue

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA and the United States of America (USA) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for a commercial dialogue between the two countries.

Speaking at the signing ceremony yesterday, Minister for Trade and Industries Dr Ashatu Kijaji said the signing was the continuation of the efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to open doors for business.

"Trade between Tanzania and the US is still small and does not reflect the kind of opportunities that Tanzania has to the American

market through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)," he said.

The minister said in the year 2022, Tanzania's exports to the U.S. were \$74.5 million while imports were \$93.7 million saying more efforts are needed to expand it even more.

Among the key areas agreed upon in the MoU include digital Economy, market access, regulatory and business climate reform, and trade mission.

The minister called upon the private sector to use the opportunity to identify areas that challenge them in doing business

with their counterparts in the U.S. US ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle said the MoU marks the beginning of a new phase in the economic relationship between the two countries.

"This commercial dialogue is a demonstration of the importance that governments of the two nations place on the trade between them, at the heart of this dialogue is the commitment by both governments to build a stronger, more robust, and equally beneficial trade relationship," he said.

He said the MoU underscores the pivotal roles of the public and

the private sector in deepening the trade relationship between Tanzania and the US noting that the agreement also ensures that companies from both countries play a significant role by providing input and advice on how the two governments can better prepare, assist, and bolster the private sector to expand and to conduct trade.

The envoy said bilateral relationship between Tanzania and the US is broad and varied adding that the US invests in the people of Tanzania through engagements on health and education among others.



Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) officers in Mbeya Region pictured on Wednesday demolishing houses in Mbalizi in Mbeya Urban District said to be standing in road reserve reportedly while their owners have reportedly already been paid compensation and ought to have relocated. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Tanzania collects 900 agricultural seed types for future preservation

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE World Vegetable Centre in association with the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) has managed to collect 900 types of endangered agricultural seeds from both the mainland and isles, kernels that will be kept in special storage.

The centre's Director General, Dr Gabriel Rugalema said here yesterday that the project involves collecting and storing seeds and is being undertaken to prevent these important farm inputs from becoming extinct. "We have dried the kernel for long-life preservation," said Dr Rugalema, adding that the consignment of the collected seeds is quite big and requires ample time for their treatment.

The move comes just as the country is also working to establish a proper national kernel storage facility.

The development comes at the time when there is raising concern regarding the disappearance of variety of vegetable and plant seeds, many going extinct due to effects of climate change among other reasons.

Dr Rugalema was speaking at the closing session of the recently held training workshop on germ-plasm conservation and quality management.

The course gathered more than 40 delegates in person, and another 100 participants who attended virtually online, representing national gene banks from more than 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The sessions were held at the World Vegetable Center's Eastern and Southern Africa regional office in the Usa-River area of Arusha.

The event took place at the time when the World Vegetable Center is preparing to commemorate the organization's Golden Jubilee.

The World Vegetable Center operates four regional centers, with projects in more than 50 countries worldwide.

It was discussed during the Arusha training that most plant breeders around the globe have now discovered the importance of having access to an extensive set of germ plasm for their breeding needs.

The World Vegetable Center is the only global entity that works exclusively on vegetable research and development.

The Center is helping to overcome malnutrition and poverty, and is improving the health of both rural and urban people by increasing the production, quality and consumption of nutritious vegetables.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Queen Geoffrey, CEO, takes over BackLite, Dar es Salaam – a surprise move within Dar es Salaams media world!

Queen Geoffrey, the CEO of BackLite Media takes over a principal stake in the high quality outdoor advertising company and changes the name to Starlite Vision Limited. Starlite will continue the company's successful installation and marketing of exclusive backlit signs in the capital.

- "I am delighted to take over and continue the business with high quality advertising signs at the JNIA International Airport and in the city centre of Dar es Salaam, Queen Geoffrey said yesterday, when the news was published."

- "I have been 15 years within this field of business and I have seen the growing demand of quality signs from clients."

Queen Geoffrey was before the General Manager in BackLite and she is now the CEO of Starlite Vision:

- "We plan to build another 4 signs at the International Terminal III, where we now can see a growing demand after the hard pandemic years.

- In the city centre we have two Double Decker signs at Bagamoyo Road and the region's largest high quality digital sign at Uhuru Park, The Prime Digital.

- We will also start the installation of another Double Decker sign at foot of the Tanzanite Bridge.

For further information contact Queen Geoffrey on +255 687 206 226 or via email address queen@starlitevision.tz



eastafrika RADIO

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

EAST AFRICA TELEVISION LTD, the number one youth channel that has grown to a regional with vigor content of educating and entertaining programs. EATV is looking for suitable and qualified people to fill in the following vacancies:

JOB TITLE : PRODUCER (NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS)
Job purpose : Conceptualize, plan, develop, coordinate and execute (LIVE OR RECORDED) program/s to achieve maximum viewer interest, audience following, ad-sales profits and rating results.

As a news producer, you will oversee the editorial content of the news, collaborating with news editors, reporters, and anchors, while also supervising the overall content and flow of news distribution to the public.

Responsibilities

- Gather information, stories and pieces from team members throughout the day and Produce content for TV, Radio and Digital platforms
- Collaborate with Head to select and prioritize content
- Add creative elements that will make the broadcast more attractive
- Select footage and sound bites to include in broadcast to ensure consistency
- Liaise with the production team to keep technical standards high
- Communicate with the studio crew and anchors while on-air and ensure broadcast is within time limits
- Produce breaking news reports
- Conduct marketing and promotional activities for the program while liaising with marketing section for needs and requirements.
- Perform research on local, national and international affairs to stay updated with current events
- Meet the periodical performance set target
- Perform any other related duties as assigned.

Skills:

Excellent Communication Skills, fluent in English and Kiswahili

Qualification:

- Diploma in TV Production, Mass communication/Journalism
- Two years working experience as Producer
- Excellent Leadership, organizational and time management skills
- Solid experience with digital technology

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria should send in their applications enclosing a detailed CV addressed to the:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
EAST AFRICA TELEVISION LTD
P.O. BOX 4374
DAR ES SALAAM – TANZANIA
Or by Email address: jobs@eatv.tv

Deadline 27th October 2023, Shortlisted candidates will be notified.

NGO inaugurates regional youth advisory committee in Tanzania

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

SAVE the Children Tanzania has launched a children youth advisory committee (CYAC) which will play a crucial role in promoting participation of the groups in initiatives and decisions that impact their lives.

Speaking during the launch ceremony at its Headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Save the Children's Country Director Angela Kauleni said, "We are introducing the Children and Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC), "Save the Children is very happy to have you as our Advisory committee members and we warmly welcome you to be part of our team and our work in Tanzania," she said.

She further noted: "As a woman, a mother myself, I am so happy to be part of the organization that allows children to represent the children we serve."

Kauleni noted that her organization is driven by a fundamental belief that every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the right to be heard.

This principle is embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that, "Every child shall be afforded the right to be heard in matters affecting them, and for those views to be given due weight. This right is at the heart of our mission, and we are committed to upholding it in every aspect of our work."

"Children and youth participation in decision-making at all levels is not just a slogan but a fundamental prerequisite for realizing children's rights and their full potential. This commitment is not just about ticking boxes; it's about creating a culture of respect, inclusion, and empowerment for the children we serve."

She said child participation is paramount to Save the Children. "We believe in the right of all children to participate and are committed to removing barriers that often prevent them from meaningfully participating in decisions that impact their lives," she added.

This commitment is not just about words but about actions that reflect our dedication to the children and youth we serve.

She said to ensure maximum participation of the children and youth Advisory committee, Save the Children will use various forms, including: Consultative participation to seek children's views to understand their lives, experiences, and concerns.

"We will also use collaborative participation

where children will be involved in specific programs and activities; and child-led participation to empower children to initiate activities and advocate for themselves," she said.

She added: "As the country director I commit to ensure Save the Children will provide the following to all of you as our Advisors: Safe Participation in all relevant events: Ensuring the safety of children and youth in CYAC activities is paramount."

The organisation will provide a secure environment where youth and children will be able to express views and ideas without fear.

"We will provide you with the knowledge, skills, and support necessary to carry out this role effectively. This includes coaching, mentorship, and opportunities for internships when available, allowing you to grow and develop as advocates for children's rights here in Tanzania."

Kauleni urged fellow staff to support the Children and Youth Advisory Committee, and together, let us pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for the children of Tanzania.

Save the Children's Regional Director East and Southern Africa, Ian Vale said that CYAC was a pivotal initiative that reflects their unwavering commitments to ensuring children's voices are at the forefront of their work.

Save the Children Tanzania is dedicated to being accountable to children and youth by actively involving them in decision-making processes.

"The CYAC is at the heart of this commitment, working tirelessly to promote child participation within our organization's governance system. In doing so, we stand firmly by the best interests of children, in alignment with Save the Children's mandate as a child rights organization," he said.

Vale said the organisation was committed to ensuring that children who face discrimination and rights violations have the opportunity to be heard.

Their voices are integral to the solutions we seek to implement, and we are determined to overcome the barriers that often prevent their meaningful participation.

The regional boss further commended the launching of the Children and Youth Advisory Committee, making Tanzania the first country in the region to take this significant step.



Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee chairman Selemani Kakoso chairs a meeting in Dodoma city yesterday discussing a Works ministry report on the achievements made - and challenges faced - by the state-owned Tanzania Buildings Agency between July and October 2023. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Insure your motorcycles, TIRA tells rural-based motorcyclists

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) in Lake Zone has embarked on a special awareness programme to furnish owners and operators of motorcycles in rural areas with essential information and skills on the importance of insuring their vessels.

TIRA acting manager in Lake Zone, Richard Toyota said that yesterday here when speaking to journalists on the importance of insurance to people.

Toyota said that a programme to

educate the groups of people in rural areas was sustainable, noting that there is a challenge of motor vehicles owners in the areas of not insuring their vehicles especially motorcycles.

He pointed out that if a vehicle or motorcycle is insured; the insurance will cover loss or harm that will occur in case of an accident.


He said that insurance is a security for any investment, noting that when investment is done without having insurance it is like losing the properties as they cannot be recovered in case of any

loss caused by accidents.

He said that insurance covers only the object that has got damaged or someone that has got harm in the accident but not the owner.

"This education will significantly help to increase understanding on insurance among owners of vehicles, drivers as well as operators of motorcycles in rural settings," he added.

Toyota further said that they are planning to reach more groups of people in rural areas to educate them on the importance of insurance in development.



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INVITATION FOR BIDS

upply of fiber glass boats, outboard boat engines and life jackets

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity;
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF TCO through Marine Programme is implementing a three-year project titled **"Sustainable use of mangroves in the Western Indian Ocean project"** with funding from the BMZ (Germany) which effectively started in March 2023 and ends in March 2026. WWF TCO intends to support the coastal communities within project areas in Kilwa and Pemba to achieve their conservation and management objectives through implementation of Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance (MCS) WWF Tanzania Country Office now, invites applications from eligible registered local suppliers to supply the fiber glass boats, engines and the protective life jackets to be verified by Marine Programme Dar es Salaam prior delivery as summarized below:

Item supply	Items	Specifications
Patrol Fiber Boats Delivery Place – Pemba & Kilwa	Quantity	Two (2)
	Hull	Fiber glass boat hull
	Length (L.O.A)	23ft (7M)
	Beam	2M
	Draft	0.3M
	Depth	0.76M
	Width	1.76M
	Material	Fiber glass high quality
	Design	open deck without canopy/shade
	Capacity	8 persons
Boat Engines Delivery Place – Pemba & Kilwa	Engine mounting	-Outboard -Console with sterling systems
	Engine	Power: Four stroke 40HP YAMAHA: Originated from Japan and verified through serial number Starter system: Electric
Life Jackets Delivery Place – Pemba & Kilwa	Quantity	Thirty (30)
	Safety application	General application and full weather clothing, turns an unconscious person into a safe position in less than 5 sec.
	Life span	High quality, durable, releasable buoyant, and heavy -duty plastic buckle.

Detailed advert and other drawing/images as part of this tender are available on WWF website at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/ Interested parties should submit softcopy electronic tender application through procurement email box at procurement@wwftz.org to reach WWF not later than 0500pm, Monday 6th November, 2023, for easy retrieving tender heading should read "Tender for supply of outboard boats, engines and life jackets"

Addressed to;
Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
White Star Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikochei
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077
Website: <http://www.wwf.or.tz/>

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

Late applications, portion of applications shall not be acceptable for evaluation irrespective of circumstances (please remember that only electronic applications will be accepted).

Evaluation will be done based on WWF procurement procedures.



George Simbachawene (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), has an audience with pupils of Korogwe District's Bungu Primary School yesterday. He was on inspection tour of projects implemented in the district with Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) support. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mining firm workers in special health walk to promote mental and physical well-being

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

AS part of the observance of the Mental Health Awareness Month, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) Managing Director Terry Strong led employees in a special health walk to promote mental and physical well-being.

More than 30 GGML employees and contractors took part in the walk, which covered a distance of 5 kilometres around the mine site.

Speaking during the event, Strong said the company firmly believes that a healthy and engaged workforce is fundamental to our success as a responsible mining company.

"Our core values reflect this

belief and we are committed to maintaining a healthy and supportive workplace culture. Our commitment to mental health is not just for this month; it's a year-round promise," he said.

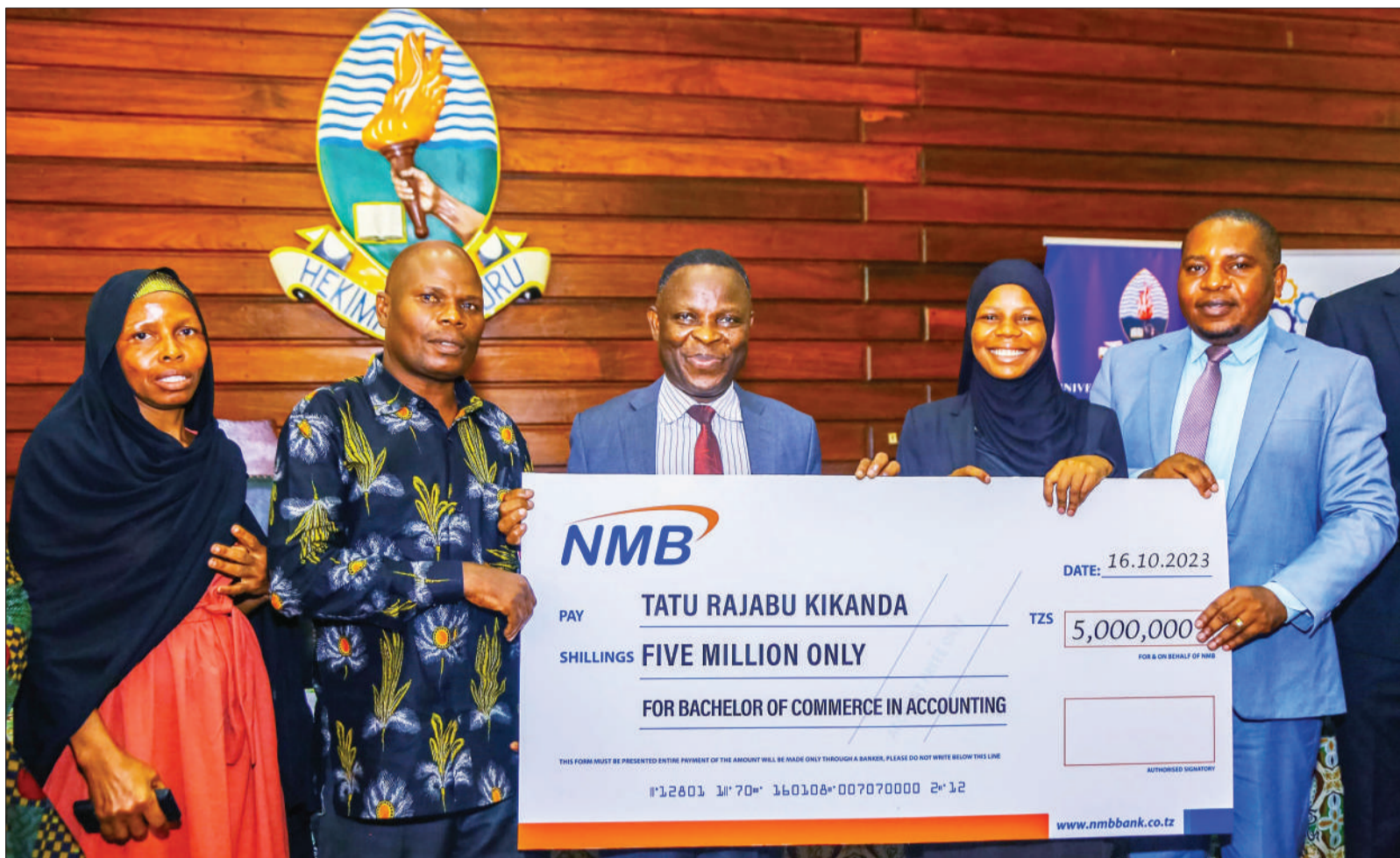
He said GGML took a significant step towards improving wellbeing with the Health Walk in order to remind of the profound significance of wellbeing in everyday lives.

"Under the clear Tanzanian skies, the Health Walk was a fun and interactive way to promote physical activity, social connection and mental wellbeing among staff, fostering camaraderie and embracing the rejuvenating power of nature," he noted.

Strong said AngloGold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has always prioritised the wellbeing of its employees.

He said: "This month, as we renew our dedication to establishing a workplace where everyone is valued, engaged and mentally resilient, we take pride in participating in this worldwide movement and endorsing the mental wellbeing of our employees."

He further said: "Mental health affects a lot of people; it's a very important issue and I'm delighted to be here to support it. I wish all of you and your families well and encourage you to look after your mental health."



NMB Bank's head of human resources, Joseph Ngalawa (R), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for 5m/- to Tatu Rajabu Kikanda (next to him). The recipient is one of four University of Dar es Salaam students said to have performed outstandingly in Business Studies. Witnessing the event are the university's Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisye (C) and the student's parents, Hadija Sultani (mother) and Rajab Kikanda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwanza RC orders payment for woman who gave up land

By Guardian Correspondent, Ilemela

MWANZA regional commissioner Amos Makalla has issued a one-month ultimatum to Ilemela Municipal Council to pay Rahel Mkoma 22m/- who gave a plot for the construction of Bujingwa Secondary School in the district.

The Regional Commissioner gave the ultimatum during a meeting to listen to people's grievances which was held at the district commissioner.

The RC said it was the right of the woman to be paid the money which was offered to pave way for the construction of the public entity.

"Many people who are requested by the government to offer their plots for other public use, they usually agree but I realised that they are delayed to be paid, therefore I direct you the mayor to ensure that she is paid," he said.

During the meeting, the RC received grievances with land

conflicts taking as the department of lands also took in complaints.

He issued 14 days for the department to ensure it works on the grievances raised against by the general public saying the government wants to come closer to the people by listening to them.

On people who invaded Mwanza airport, Makalla said he has formed a taskforce which will carry out an evaluation to see how many people are supposed to pave way for the expansion of the airport.

In another development, Makalla called upon residents of Ilemela to come down as the government was working on addressing the construction of water drainage system and the Butimba water project which will produce 48 million litres a day.

"The Butimba project is a game changer in addressing water challenges, I have inspected the project and it has started operating and soon the water challenge in the area will come to an end," he said.

Cultivate habit of protecting wild birds for healthier environment, Nature Tanzania executive pleads

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

NATURE Tanzania has called on Tanzanians to develop a habit of protecting birds and their habitats as they are an important species in promoting the health of environments.

The agency Executive Director, Emmanuel Mgemwa, made the call here at a special event to introduce the bird of the year at the College of African Wildlife Management-Mweka (CAWM-Mweka).

According to him, many communities have parted away from initiatives to protect birds in their surroundings thus making the species safety to be at risk.

He said Nature Tanzania, a national conservation Non-government organization (NGO) with interest in biodiversity conservation is implementing a conservation programme aimed to address illegal killings of birds (IKB) using White Storks as flagship species.

The Conservationist further explained that Tanzania is rich in biodiversity and therefore very important for conservation.

"The country has recorded over 1,200 species of birds. We are using birds as indicators of ecosystem health and a tool for biodiversity conservation. We are working with communities, the private sector and the government in areas identified as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)," Mgemwa explained.

He said that this year they competed five different birds namely Lesser Flamingo, Grey Crowned Crane, Lappet-faced vulture, Common Barn-owl and the African Spoonbill to get the 'Bird of the year 2023' and the Grey Crowned Crane won through public votes.

"We have selected five birds this year to compete in the birds

of the year campaign that aims at promoting protection and conservation of our natural resources including birds, and among them, Grey Crowned Crane was voted as the 'Bird of the year 2023,' he explained.

He said during the event, the awareness raising campaign had a presentation on the importance of protecting the Grey Crowned Cranes and other birds in general.

Children's activities were there, taught on how to create insect hotels and how to use them, bird education, dance of the Grey Crowned Cranes and drawing.

"Nature Tanzania is partnering with Birdlife International and our mission is to conserve and restore key biodiversity habitats that are identified as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations," Mgemwa explained.

He said the programme also focuses on the conservation of resident and migratory birds, sustainable development, conservation education and habitat restoration.

He further said the organisation is also preparing a special symposium which will attract conservationists, academicians, community members and local leaders to discuss and emphasise on the importance of protecting and conserving natural resources for its sustainability.

"We have selected five birds this year to compete in the birds of the year campaign that aims at promoting protection and conservation of our natural resources including birds, and among them, Grey Crowned Crane was voted as the 'Bird of the year 2023'"



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WASCO ISOAF Tz is a Tanzania -incorporated company with its head office in Dar es Salaam and its plant in Nzega District, Tabora Region. The Company has been contracted by the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project as a Thermal Insulation Contractor.

POSITIONS: SENNEBOGEN OPERATORS-(15)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Understanding and performing all written and verbal instructions issued by the supervisor.
- Operating a variety of heavy machinery that perform functions like stacking, lifting, loading, and moving.
- Coordinating with other crews like waste disposal teams.
- Using tractors to transport materials and heavy machinery.
- Performing manual labor as required.
- Ensuring all materials are secured before transporting them.
- Observing health and safety regulations, which includes wearing the appropriate gear at all times.
- To transport materials.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

- Proven experience in heavy machine operations
- Valid class F license or higher licence qualification
- Experience of working for construction projects will be an added advantage.
- Knowledge of HSE standards and practices will be a plus.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

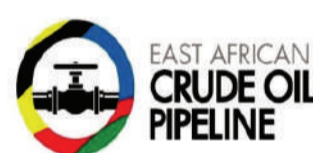
- Certificate in Crane operations from VETA and other recognized institutions.
- At least ordinary certificate of secondary education will be an added advantage.
- Fluency in English language will be an added advantage

APPLICATION MODE:

Apply to: recruitment-t@isoaf.com

Deadline: **3rd November 2023**

Please note that, should you not be contacted for more than two weeks after the deadline consider your application unsuccessful



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POSITIONS: TRACTOR OPERATORS-(15)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Understanding and performing all written and verbal instructions issued by the supervisor.
- Operating a variety of heavy machinery that perform functions like stacking, lifting, loading, and moving.
- Coordinating with other crews like waste disposal teams.
- Using tractors to transport materials and heavy machinery.
- Performing manual labor as required.
- Ensuring all materials are secured before transporting them.
- Observing health and safety regulations, which includes wearing the appropriate gear at all times.
- To transport materials.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

- Proven experience in driving /operation tractors.
- Valid class G license or higher licence qualification
- Experience of working for construction projects will be an added advantage.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

- Certificate in machine operations from VETA Specifically in tractor operations
- At least ordinary certificate of secondary education will be an added advantage.
- Fluency in English language will be an added advantage

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Increase productivity, WFP advises sorghum farmers in central zone

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SORGHUM farmers in the central zone have been urged to increase productivity in order to meet the increasing market in the region and the demand for grain in the world market.

William Lasway, Monitoring Officer at the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) made the call here yesterday when speaking at the special forum which attracted stakeholders in the country's sorghum crop, including the farmers, buyers, seeds producers as well as those involved in the fertilizer sector.

The gathering was graced by the Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC), Rosemary Senyamule, and was tailored to provide a useful podium for the participants to brainstorm over the development of the vital agricultural sub-sector.

Lasway said that his organisation alone plans to purchase at least 200,000 tonnes of sorghum from Tanzania per season.

He said WFP has been purchasing a huge quantity of sorghum with an eye to roll out humanitarian support to the population in need into different countries across the continent, especially in Sudan, Somalia and Burundi.

"Tanzania has been endowed with a favourable agroclimatic zone and suitable soil for the cultivation of the crop, but much efforts are needed to be put in place to assist the farmers to engage into vast and professional production of sorghum," he observed.

Lasway noted that the WFP has for a long time been working collaboratively with the government to assist the local farmers to increase production and productivity in the sub-sector, being in efforts to enable them getting the needed tonnes in each season.

Meshack Panga, Farm Africa's project officer informed that the international organisation was running a specific project to scale up production of sorghum among the farmers in all districts of Dodoma Region.

"Through the robust project, we have so far managed to reach out to a total of 30,000 farmers across the districts and the initiative continues to support the farmers until 2028 where it will phase out," he expressed.

Apart from assisting the sorghum farmers, according to him, the vital initiatives also work to capacitate the seeds producers.

"When we started the project, the price of sorghum ranged between 200/- and 250/- per kilogram but we sensitised and assisted the farmers to improve their production quality to the good extent that currently, the prices have substantially increased to 800/- per one Kg," he informed.

Patric Byeshulilo, an officer from Apeck International Limited told the forum that his company was working to search for vast markets

for the crop in different countries, saying they have so far managed to get a market for at least 6,000 tons in Burundi.

The Quality Assurance Officer at the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB), Mwanahamisi Msangi, said the state-owned Board is the major buyer of the sorghum produced by the local farmers.

She briefed that during the 2020/21 season CPB bought a total of 1,000 tonnes, while in the 2021/22 season they purchased at least 3,000 tons.

"During 2022/2023 we purchased a total of 3,000 tonnes and our expectation is to purchase at least 10,000 tonnes come next season," she expounded.

Agricultural and Marketing Officer at the Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA), Ezekiel Noah said for the current season, the Agency has in stock a total of 200 tonnes of improved seeds for assisting the farmers.

He detailed that, as per the Agency's indicative prices, one kilogram of the seeds will be available to the growers at a patriotic price of 3,000/-.

In her closing remarks, the Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC), who chaired the forum expressed that the government in the region has directed that each municipal council to set aside a total of 2,000 hectares to support professional cultivation of the crop in order to meet markets demand.

To further improve performance of the sector, FARM Africa is implementing a robust project to help introducing at least 100,000 sorghum farmers in Dodoma region to Climate-Smart Agriculture techniques.

With the generous funding packages from Irish Aid, the Mastercard Foundation, and the World Food Programme, the ambitious project gives the farmers access to better seeds and improved post-harvest practices, among others.

"Despite facing dry conditions in 2023, through the project, the beneficiary farmers have achieved an incredible 300 percent increase in sorghum production. And they're now selling their sorghum for up to 780/- per kilo this year, compared to just 250/- per kilo three years ago," Dan Collison, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Farm Africa expressed during his special tour of the farmers.

He expressed that, in the semi-arid region of Dodoma, most of the smallholder farmers rely on the sorghum they grow to feed their families, but low yields have regularly pushed people into hunger.

"During 2022/2023 we purchased a total of 3,000 tonnes and our expectation is to purchase at least 10,000 tonnes come next season"



Police officers nearing retirement age pictured in Dodoma city yesterday participating in training organised by NMB Bank meant to prepare them accordingly. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

BMH awards four sections for excellent performance

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) has awarded its four sections for excellent performance, as the Central Zone Referral Hospital marked eight years of service at the weekend.

BMH Executive Director Dr Alphonse Chandika said over the weekend that the awards were meant to motivate members of staff at the hospital. The awards included a special plaque plus cash.

"BMH rewards the best-

performing sections every month to motivate members of staff," said Dr Chandika during the 8th anniversary event of the BMH. The public hospital started providing services in 2015.

In 2019, BMH became the second health facility in the country to introduce kidney transplant service, but it remains the only hospital to perform the lifesaving operation by using its local medics.

Dr Chandika mentioned the best performing sections as paediatrics, which became the best in

documentation and Urology ward (customer care), while laboratory emerged as the best hospital section in the clinical audit category.

Dr Chandika named the best hospital section in IPC category (Infection Prevention and Control) as Urology ward. "Hospital will continue to reward its best sections every month in order to motivate members of staff to efficiently serve the people," he said.

According to Dr Chandika, Tanzania is placed fourth in the world on the sickle cell disease

burden and ranks third in the African continent.

He said since the inception of Bone Marrow Transplant services to patients suffering from Sickle Cell complications, already three children have been treated and their health was progressing well.

He said already, the hospital had received over 40 patients who were on the waiting list. Medical experts say, life expectancy of people suffering from Sickle Cell shows that 50 to 90 per cent die before the age of five.



Cardiac and cardiovascular surgeons at Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) join hands with visiting colleagues from India yesterday in performing minor heart surgery on a patient. They were out to replace a valve in a large blood vessel without opening the chest - procedure known as trans-catheter aortic valve implantation. Photo courtesy of JKCI

SEACJF members arrive in Arusha for crucial meeting

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MEMBERS of the Southern and Eastern African Chief Justices' Forum (SEACJF) yesterday started arriving in Arusha for the preparation of the general meeting of the forum, which is to be held on October 22, this year.

Prof. Elisante Ole Gabriel, SEACJF chairman, unveiled this here yesterday when briefing journalists ahead of the important regional meeting.

The forum clocks six years since its establishment and draws members from 14 countries—Angola, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Botswana and Malawi.

Prof Ole Gabriel, Tanzania's Chief Court Administrator said the forum provides a platform for members to share experiences

in the member countries in the way that the executives conduct judicial activities such as rule of law as well as increasing the sharing experiences happening in those countries.

The next week's meeting will have three main programmes, which are amendments and improvements to the forum's constitution, improving the network of the forum and setting a strategic plan for financial sources to increase the scope, he said.

He said that a country that becomes a member gets great benefits including the opportunity to gain experience from other countries, increase the internet and get relief from some of the fees that are paid.

Prof Gabriel said that Tanzania has the honor of getting chairmanship of the forum as well as being the host of the meeting.

VPO impressed by land conservation project execution in Lake Nyasa Basin

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), Khamis Hamza Khamis, has expressed his satisfaction on the way the Land Conservation Project in Lake Nyasa Basin has been executed as it has started improving people's livelihoods.

Khamis made the observation yesterday when made a visit to inspect the Land Conservation Project in the Lake Nyasa Basin in Kyela District, Mbeya region.

Khamis visited a biogas production plant, which reduces the use of wood and charcoal, the production of quality palm seedlings as well as a machine for breeding fish fingerlings.

At Ibanda ward, the deputy

minister met a farmer and herder, Donald Sanga and lauded him for producing and using alternative energy such as biogas, which is friendly to the environment and is in line with the government's endeavour of promoting clean energy which in turn deter deforestation for cooking energy.

"I really congratulate this man for supporting the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been encouraging the use of renewable energy to protect the environment," he said.

Khamis also called on Kyela District's public institutions—schools and colleges to learn and use the technology of renewable energy production including biogas which enables you to cook without using wood or charcoal.

He also congratulated leaders

and experts for making good use of the project funds provided by the government by effectively implementing the required activities.

He praised the efforts made by the council to plant and distribute the seedlings for free to the citizens and thus preserve the environment while calling for increasing the speed of the production of the seedlings so that they are planted in large numbers.

At the fish pond and fingerlings' breeding machines, the deputy minister encouraged fish farming education to be given to the people because doing so would help the people to abandon illegal fishing and start fish farming activities at home.

Dr Paul Deogratius, national coordinator of Land Conservation

Project in the Lake Nyasa Basin said it is being implemented in Makete and Ludewa (Njombe), Mbinga and Nyasa (Ruvuma) Councils.

Dr Deogratius said the project is being funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) at the tune of 2bn/- with the aim of enabling the community to do alternative activities to deal with environmental challenges.

He said that the project enables citizens to get various trainings that help citizens to develop technologies to protect the environment and that it is expected to expand in other councils.

Keneth Nzilano, head of agriculture in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries thanked the government for implementing the project at the council level, stressing: "This is a springboard for development."

He said that through the project funds provided, they have been able to build a fish breeding pond and a hatchery where they can produce 300 fish per week.



Serengeti Breweries Ltd managing director Obinna Anyalebechi (L) presents a certificate to Annastazia Koko, one of the beneficiaries of the firm's Kilimo Viwanda Scholarship programme. She is from Saint Maria Goretti College of Agriculture in Iringa municipality, where the event was held yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Namtumbo launches forum to empower women economically

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

NAMTUMBO district Commissioner Ngollo Malenya has launched a forum aimed at empowering women in the district economically.

Speaking at a women forum in the district, the DC said the aim of the forum was to empower women on mindset change to transform their lives and the society at large.

The forum was held for two days where hundreds of women turned up at Agnes Chipole in the district and were trained in various fields to empower them economically.

Speaking at the climax of the forum, the DC said the forum was aimed at ensuring that women are at the centre of mindset change to improve their economic lives.

Malenya commended the President Samia Suluhu Hassan for taking various development projects in the district which she said was going to improve various sectors such as education, energy, health, infrastructure and social welfare.

Special Seats MP, Jackline Msongozispeaking when addressing the forum called upon women to taken into consideration saying if

the women taken the training they got are taken into consideration, their lives will change.

She emphasized that the training will build capacity to the women to develop their families and empower them to bring about benefits to their businesses.

Another special seats MP for the region Mariam Nyoka said this was the first time for such forum to be held in the region saying this was a game changer in ensuring that women are empowered.

She said the forum has connected women not only in Namtumbo district but also in the whole Ruvuma region commending the District Commissioner for using the opportunity to sale tourists' attractions.

The legislator commended the district authorities for organising the meeting saying other districts to emulate what Namtumbo district was doing.

Namtumbo MP, Vita Kawawa commended President Samia for directing 4bn/- to build a girls secondary school in Ruvuma which is located in Namtumbo.

He said the school which has the capacity to accommodate 1000 from from one to six will be a game changer in girls' education in the region.

By Guardian Reporter

New cohort of students sponsored through agric strategy announced

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has announced another cohort of students sponsored through its Kilimo Viwanda Programme, which aims to provide educational opportunities to underprivileged students pursuing courses related to agriculture.

Over the past four years, the programme has supported more than 300 students in their pursuit of agricultural-related courses, creating a sustainable pipeline

of knowledgeable professionals who play a pivotal role in the development of Tanzania's agricultural landscape.

Obinna Anyalebechi, SBL managing director said, "The scholarship is part of our commitment to support agricultural development in the

country. We believe this program will go a long way in strengthening the existing pool of farm experts in the country by helping farmers increase productivity and, ultimately, their incomes'.

He said that this year's intake, SBL will be sponsoring five new promising students who will be

joining the nine students already pursuing agricultural-related disciplines at St. Maria Goretti in Iringa. This expansion of the program demonstrates Serengeti Breweries commitment to supporting the implementation of the agriculture sector development program, whose primary aim is to

increase productivity and farmers' incomes.

Alfred Balkagira, Brewer's director of supply chain also said: "The program encourages local talent, strengthening the capacity for local sourcing of raw materials. This approach not only reduces costs but also significantly

contributes to the growth of surrounding agricultural communities, reinforcing the connection between SBL and the local community."

Moreover, students educated through this initiative are likely to champion sustainable agricultural methods, positively impacting sourcing and production processes. Their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas will enhance efficiency and streamline SBL's sourcing of raw materials from farmers for beer production, such as barley, maize, and sorghum.



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TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT
Requests the submission of Expression of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work package.

Tembo Nickel Corporation Limited ("Tembo Nickel") is an operating company formed via the Framework Agreement (19 January 2021) between Kabanga Nickel Limited ("Kabanga Nickel") and the Government of Tanzania ("GoT") for development of the Kabanga nickel deposits in Ngara District, Kagera Region, Tanzania ("Kabanga Nickel Project"). Under the Framework Agreement terms, Tembo (owned 84% by Kabanga Nickel and 16% by GoT) has been formally established for the mining, processing, and refining of battery-grade nickel with cobalt and copper co-products.

Kabanga is among the world's largest high-grade underdeveloped nickel sulphide deposits, with exploration upside on existing licenses. Once in operation, the Kabanga Nickel project will produce battery-grade nickel, cobalt, and copper refined metals in Tanzania. The mine-to-metal operation will use Hydromet Technology that is significantly more cost efficient than smelting. The Hydromet Technology will reduce the carbon footprint, minimise environmental impact, lower capital, and production costs, and contribute significantly to the economic growth of Tanzania.

Tembo Nickel, therefore, invites "Expression of Interest (EOI)" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Services.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	TEMBO-2023-08-21	Supply and delivery of 630 kVA, 33kVA / 400V mini substations complete with 33 kVA Ring Main Unit (RMU) and Low Voltage (LV) distribution compartments.	i. Must be compliant with the Tanzanian Local Content Legislation and have an approved Local Content Plan. ii. Demonstrate experience and capability of being able to execute Medium Voltage (MV) electrical equipment fabrication and supply contracts. iii. Provide details of all contracts completed in the last 5 years including value, duration, Client contact details. iv. Provide details of current contracts in execution phase. v. Must have a demonstratable quality management system. vi. Confirm key personnel and contact person with contact details.

The above services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Comprehensive company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Business License, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Years of service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project.
- Required equipment or facilities available to perform the specific work.
- Indicate the above reference number and description of your Expression of Interest (EOI) submission.

EOI's from Companies that can provide ALL services detailed in the Scope of Work above will be considered.

Kindly send your response by email to tenders@kabanganickel.com by the close of business on **03rd of November 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the reference number in the subject line of your email. Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of Tembo Nickel Corporation.

For and on behalf of TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION LIMITED: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT
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Tembo Nickel, therefore, invites "Expression of Interest (EOI)" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Services.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/ goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	TEMBO-2023-08-25	Scope of Work: 33kVA OHL Construction. a. Supply of material to provided BOM. b. Construction of 33kV OHL to provided designs. c. Installation of XLPE from OHL terminating structure to Minisubs d. Installation of pole mount transformers	i. Must have a CRB registration of Class 2 or higher in Electrical and active in payment of the board fees. ii. Must be compliant with the Tanzanian Local Content Legislation and have an approved Local Content Plan. iii. Demonstrate experience executing electrical installation contracts on mines in Tanzania. iv. Provide details of all contracts completed in the last 5 years including value, duration, Client contact details. v. Provide details of current contracts in execution phase. vi. Must have a demonstratable quality management system. vii. Confirm key personnel and contact person with contact details. viii. Safety record over the past 24 months.

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Comprehensive company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Business License, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Years of service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project.
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work.
- Indicate the above reference number and description of your Expression of Interest (EOI) submission.

EOI's from Companies that can provide ALL services detailed in the Scope of Work above will be considered.

Kindly send your response by email to tenders@kabanganickel.com by the close of business on **03rd of November 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the reference number in the subject line of your email. Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of Tembo Nickel Corporation.

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Dream of EA monetary union: Any chance, with deeper globalisation?

TALK on the pursuit of an East African monetary union and a single currency is in the news yet again, with the East African Community (EAC) secretary general and a senior executive in charge of preparations for that eventuality having lately discussed the matter.

One view sees that eventuality in three to four years, while the other slates it for 2031 at the earliest. This more removed date has been informally accepted as a more workable projection.

Those especially fervently supporting the formation of an EA monetary union are making an effort to reaffirm the old date of 2024 as the set timeline, although they admit that preparations are inadequate for the matter to be on board.

However, those more skeptical on the subject are not saying that by 2031 they are persuaded the matter will have been concluded. They seem to be suggesting that preparations can be pursued definitely, but the issue won't be of much political relevance before 2031.

Experts have for a whole decade described the "twin" monetary union and single currency ideas as constituting the third pillar in the EAC integration process, alongside the customs union and the common market, some of whose building blocks are just being completed.

By and large, immense political will was needed to bridge the gap traditionally separating the three major actors in the quest for integration, and this is just being brought to a conclusion.

In typical common market spirit, Tanzanian firms are winning major public construction and energy supplies outlays in neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, each partner state is perceived to be making some effort to make its environment attractive

enough to foreign investments.

This would suggest that the states are indeed in some form of competition, which some observers may view as making the quest for an EA monetary union lose much of its vitality.

The thrust of monetary union is two-fold, first to obtain wider unified economic space attracting foreign investments as well as landing greater access to opportunities by regional firms. The firms are otherwise reluctant to set up shop, largely owing to restrictions and obstacles to enter other markets.

This outlook, commonly known as the protectionist spirit, has been in the vogue for decades and partly underlines the customs union protocol - as collective protectionism.

To some observers, the enactment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) before the common market sees the light of day diminishes some of the CM's importance and more or less freezes the monetary union. Global linkages in investments are the rule at present.

The recent initiative where the Bank of Tanzania will be purchasing local gold (and many think other gemstones as well) for a local reserve that can be released to the world market if urgent hard currency supply could also provide useful lessons.

The scarcity of the dollar makes it necessary for each country to prime itself for the best results it can fight for and get - but without easily standing as a recipe for a monetary union.

AfCFTA has vastly changed the situation, reinforcing the likes of the European Banking Authority, the Belt and Road Initiative, and AGOA.

Also of concern here is the impact these and other manifestations of globalisation may be having on our very own aspirations such as relates to the realisation of the much-longed-for East African destiny complete with local firms alive and kicking.

TPA has every reason to ensure a rise in productivity at all ports

THE Tanzania Ports Authority is moving to open offices in various regional trading associates known to use Dar es Salaam Port, this chiefly in response to challenges felt in competing with other service providers.

Port executives appear convinced that this will ease transportation of goods from the port to those countries, namely, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It is widely expected that firms in those countries will find it easier to liaise with local TPA offices than doing so from a distance as currently obtains.

Meanwhile, as Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa was explaining, the office will be working on challenges faced by firms of those countries using Tanzania's major port.

Here it is evident that whenever emergencies or dissatisfaction arises, port officials stationed in those other countries will communicate with the relevant departmental heads without major hitches.

That adds to assurances that both port authorities and the government are mindful of the needs of port clients.

In his remarks, the minister referred to wider opportunities in economic links between and among the respective countries, which technically leads to the presence of value chains including in transporting goods from the port.

It also involves sounding out markets for regional exports, within both SADC (Southern African Development Community) and AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area).

Thus, whichever way the argument runs, port is a key link. As the minister aptly acknowledged, the rise in the use of Dar es Salaam Port by nearby countries makes it imperative for the port authorities to resolve challenges

still being encountered in using the port. Obviously, this leads to some technical initiatives where linkages are needed not just between the particular port and these inland destinations for goods landing at the port but also in respect of where the goods originate.

While it is clear that some solutions aren't easy to take up in terms of partnerships, they can be obtained via a leasing of software at a price and the deployment of advanced inspection technology like scanning in a rapid manner.

That is precisely what neighbouring states want, and it is understandable seeing the port authorities rapidly moving in that direction.

As Tanzanian port officials and higher administrators often admit, or assert for those who are not sufficiently aware of the situation, Dar es Salaam Port serves the needs of neighbouring countries to a considerable extent.

This leads to searching for methods to assure neighbouring countries that everything is being done to improve services at the port, including fighting to resolve challenges as swiftly and comprehensively as resources allow.

For instance, officials point at a major programme to improve services at port 'gates' number 12 to 15 - whose handling capacity and ship anchorage by size are now being widened.

There is also a plan to use dry port facilities placed under the Export Processing Zone Authority, complete with a massive yard for vehicles storage, warehouses and cold storage facilities for perishable goods.

There are also efforts to link the work of diplomatic missions in nearby countries with the TPA thrust, which are seen extending the leverage the all-important facility has on business expectations. In sum, the efforts in progress are well-intentioned, laudable and meriting as much support as practicable.

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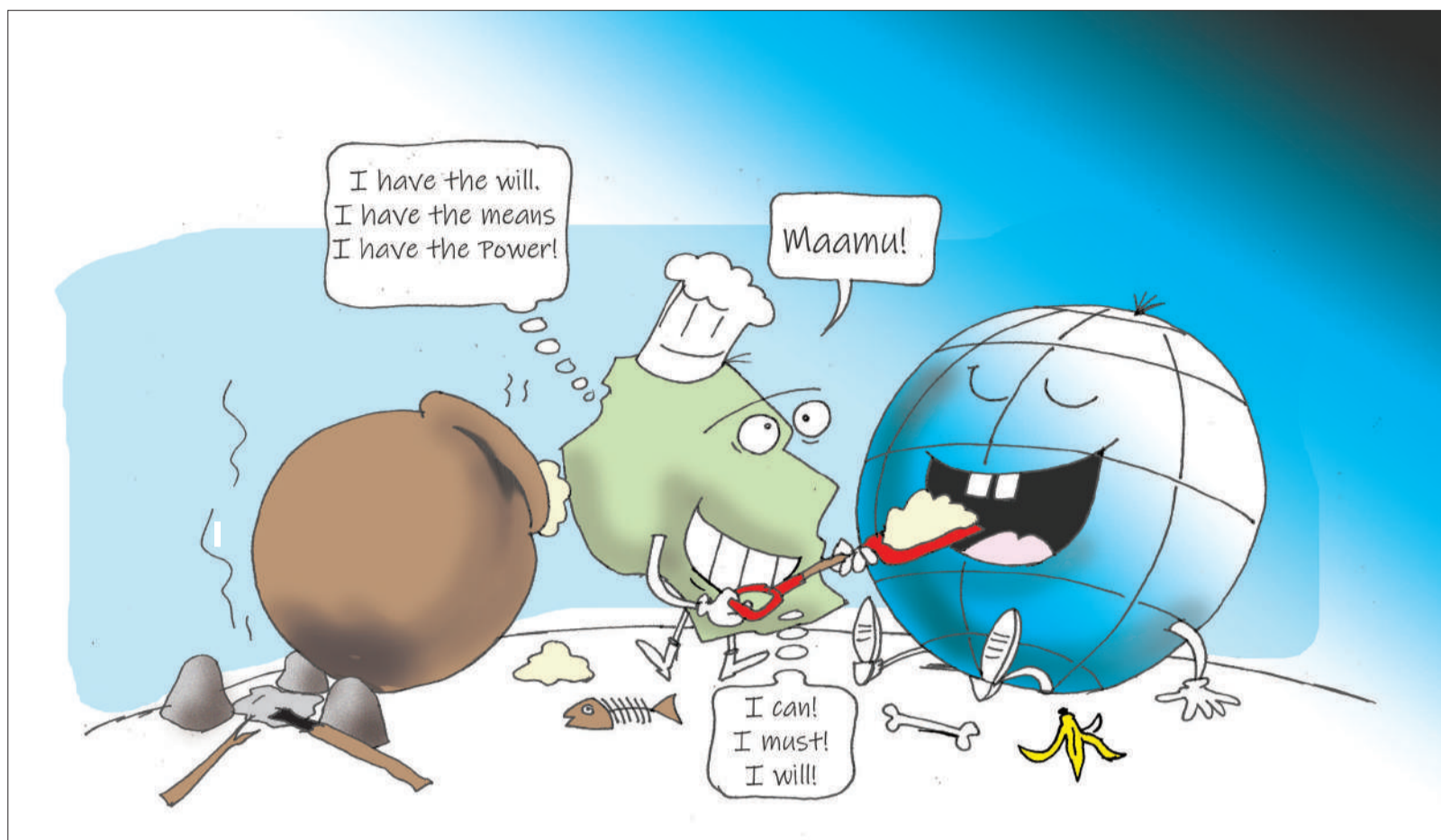
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By Martin Fröhlich

AN independent media is at the heart of a democratic society. But in more and more countries, the media are under pressure. And so is democracy, says Austria Presse Agentur (APA) CEO Clemens Pig. In his recently published book "Democracy Dies in Darkness", he describes the key role of news agencies in the fight for independent media and democracy. Here he talks to Martin Fröhlich, WAN-IFRA's Director of the Digital Revenue Network, in part about the current dangers to media and democracy. Excerpts:

Q: How did you come up with the title for your book?

A: I borrowed the title from the Washington Post, which chose this slogan in 2017 after the election of Donald Trump as US president. The title expresses how important the media are for democracies and that the media are the first targets when autocrats or dictators seize power for themselves. They know about the important role of a free media.

How dark is the current state of democracies?

In recent years, we have seen how the phenomena of disinformation, fake news and conspiracy theories, which until the (Covid-19) pandemic we knew mainly from the US, have spread to Europe. They have been swept from the digital fringes of society into the centre. Let's think of the anti-Corona demonstrations. We, the media, are particularly challenged. We must not only look at the harsh censorship in Russia or other Eastern European countries. If we look at democracy as a whole, as we have experienced it in the global boom since the Second World War, we have to realise that this model is unfortunately no longer in the majority. Democracies are being dismantled everywhere. The media are under massive pressure.

In what way?

They are under pressure from the autocratic states themselves, which are abolishing the media and their free reporting. On the other hand, the difficult economic environment for independent private publishers is also a development that we have to keep an eye on. Free media need an appropriate economic framework to be able to report independently. We are in the midst of a pandemic, disinformation and the question of what AI means for us media companies and journalism.

You talk about economic

'The media are under heavy pressure - as is democracy'

pressures. We are currently seeing a concentration in the newspaper market in Central Europe. In Western Europe and Scandinavia, this concentration has already taken place. It also means less diversity of opinion as several voices become one. How do you view this development?

It has to be viewed critically. In Austria, we are currently witnessing two more newspapers, the Wiener Zeitung and the Oberösterreichisches Volksblatt, shutting down their daily print operations. The mixture is toxic. Advertising money is flowing away to the digital giants. At the same time, media production costs have exploded in the wake of inflation. The third issue is that the delivery of daily newspapers in rural areas is no longer guaranteed. The stakes are high. We are talking about the democratic importance of the media as the fourth estate.

Democracies are not just about voting. In order to establish a constructive, factual and verified formation of opinion, a clean media discourse is indispensable. When the media are under pressure, democracies are also under pressure and in danger.

Is it an opportunity or a threat?

We talk a lot about the threat but, as media, we also have to recognise the opportunity of the century. What we have seen so far in terms of new technologies is at best a teaser. There is much more to come. There will be much more disinformation in digital spaces. That is a potential danger. But if the media and independent news outlets recognise these opportunities, we can strengthen our brand profiles. However, we have to be careful about the economic protection of the content. It must not happen again that we are not compensated for our content. Third-party AI providers must not use our expensively produced content to train their solutions while we look the other way. We in the media must join forces to network better in terms of infrastructure and technology and create protected data spaces over which we have sovereignty. We have to be forward-looking and courageous. So the book is very timely.

As the head of a national news agency, where do you see the key role of these agencies in the battle for the facts and how they

can help media companies in the development of AI?

There are about 140 news agencies worldwide. Only about 20 of them are independent of the state. They are joint ventures owned by the media themselves. There are 11 of them in Europe, in Scandinavia, the DACH (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) region, Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg), the UK and Italy. At the same time, up to two-thirds of all daily mass media information comes directly or indirectly from these news agencies. That's where their power lies. They massively determine media coverage and thus the image we have of the world.

What do you mean?

In the background, there is a battle for the air sovereignty of international news flows. In the Western hemisphere, in North America and Europe, this is done by independent state agencies. In the East, on the other hand, a huge network of state agencies has developed - as in Russia, Turkey and China. The Chinese alone have about 13,000 employees, far more than all the independent agencies in Europe put together. As the arteries of global information flows, agencies are also the transformation heads of digital transformation, because the media are directly connected to them. The agency of the future is a news technology agency. With technology solutions and multimedia content, they will be the Swiss army knife of the media industry.

What do politicians need to do guarantee the framework conditions for the independence of the agencies?

The copyright issue, the ancillary copyright with a view to global platforms, is central. We need remuneration for editorial content. Increasingly, EU legislation is being adopted in national legislations. The next step is to ensure the necessary commercial remuneration. We also need the AI Act. It will come, but it will come too late. We have to keep an eye on the commercial protection of our content, for example through collecting societies. What will happen to our content? We must not let this technological revolution pass us by.

What else can the media do?

We also have to work with quality seals and be able to deliver images and video in a way that allows the end user to check with their own apps whether it is verified material - all the way back to the source. If we want to buy organic food in the supermarket, we as consumers must also be able to trust that the label is true. Clean news, like clean drinking water, is fundamental to democracies. We need easy-to-use technologies for users. It's about traceability to the sources. Where does the news come from?

It has a lot to do with education. There is a backlog of reform in how we expose young people to this issue. And it would be in the interest of the states to provide an appropriate education programme. Yes, it's a marathon, but you have to start somewhere. This book is a contribution to that. Media consumers need to be more in touch with our brands, with our fact-checking and our technologies in the digital use of social media. Then I definitely see the glass as half full, not half empty.

The war of aggression in Ukraine shows how difficult it is to provide facts. The Russian agency Tass and the Ukrainian agency Ukrinform are state-run, or at least close to the state. How important is it to have independent foreign media on the ground here?

I am very grateful that there are agencies that do their international work directly on the ground. Unfortunately, we always have to mourn deaths in the process, such as the recent death of a colleague from the French news agency AFP. We know that in war, truth is the first casualty and propaganda is used at all levels. The credibility and diversity of sources is central to our newsroom and difficult to establish in a war situation. That is why neutral sources on the ground are so important. The factual situation in war reporting is often diffuse. Agency reports often end with the sentence "This source has not yet been definitively verified". As the facts change, so must the reporting. Transparency and the culture of error must be improved. The loss of trust that some people have in the media - we should also report on that, especially when the facts change.

*** A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA)**

Proper procedures of selling mortgaged landed property

A PART from bonds, debentures and various guarantees that have been used for years as security for one to be granted a loan, land has commonly been used too. The use of land as security or collateral is recognized as mortgage.

In this kind of arrangement there are mainly two parties, namely the mortgagor who in simple terms is the one who mortgages property and the mortgagee as the one to whom the property is mortgaged.

Due to the seriousness and necessity of this issue the Land Act has a special part which governs mortgages. This is found under Part X of the Land Act CAP 113 RE 2019 (herein after referred to as Land Act).

Once one has signed the mortgage deeds and the same is duly registered, upon default by the borrower, the mortgagee has several remedies in respect to the mortgaged land. Section 126 of the Land Act provides for four remedies that the mortgagee has against the mortgagor in respect of the mortgaged land.

These are either to appoint a receiver of the income of the mortgaged land, lease or sublease the mortgaged land, enter into possession or lastly sale the mortgaged land.

Even the said remedy of sale of mortgaged land has various ways. One is to



sell it to oneself (mortgagee) or sale it privately or by bid or by way of public auction. This Article touches on vital issues to be conducted while auctioning a mortgaged land by way of public auction and the effect of failure to adhere to the same.

Section 127 of the Land Act provides that once there is a default, the mortgagor must be issued with a 60-day notice of default. This goes in line with section 132 of the Land Act which provides inter alia that sale ought to be conducted after 60 days has lapsed.

The essence of this is to ensure that the mortgagor is given enough time to remedy the situation and if possible regularize the default back to the right track as agreed between the parties.

In the case of Margareth Mukasa vs Akiba Commercial Bank Ltd & 4 others, Land Appeal No. 02 of 2020 at pg. 13, the court stated that it was

improper for the bank to proceed with sale while the statutory 60 days had not lapsed.

Further, in the case of Beatus Issack Asey (T/A Assay Traders) vs EFC Tanzania Microfinance Bank Ltd & 2 others, Land Case No. 267 of 2017 faced with a scenario that notice was not issued among other issues.

The court nullified the sale since the purchaser had not finalized transfer of title process. Section 127 (2) of the Land Act provides how or what issues should be contained in the said notice such as nature and extent of default, intention to proceed with mortgage action to be taken and after lapse of the 60 days then all amount will be due and the property will be liable for sale. These are basic things that ought to appear in the said manda-

tory notice.

Secondly, after one has issued notice and still the mortgagor has not cleared his or her arrears, definitely auction procedures will have to follow, mostly the bank will appoint auctioneers or others to proceed to the next stage.

In this stage, section 134(2) of the Land Act provides that the mortgagee shall have a duty to make sure that before conducting a public auction, the same is publically known. In line with the said section 134 of the Land Act, another piece of status is the Auctioneers Act, Cap 227 which under section 12 provides that in case of immovable landed property; mandatory 14 public notices ought to be issued.

This has the intention to call among others, the mortgagor to redeem his

or her property if he or she wants so and also attract best price from the public. Thus, if the mortgagor appears before the auction and clears the arrears, then the auction ought to be cancelled.

There are some basic things which an auctioneer ought to know while doing the sale by way of public auction. These are under section 133 of the Land Act. The mortgagor while discharging his or her right to auction the mortgaged land shall do the same with duty of care to the mortgagor, meaning they must find the best price in the sale by way of auction.

Secondly, valuation to establish the value of the property is vital since it assists or establishes the market price at the time of auction.

Lastly, the purchase price ought not to be below 25 per cent of the current market price. This is as per section 133(2) of the Land Act as held by the court in the case of Mbaruku Msangi vs Tanzania Women's Bank Ltd, Land Case No. 7 of 2016.

The court has on several times stressed the necessity of notice. In the case of NMB Bank Plc vs Neema Lyatuu & 2 others, Land Appeal No. 98 of 2021, the court stated among other the necessity of 14-day notice to give time to the mortgagor to redeem his or her property.

Failure to abide to the same sometimes can nullify auction. For example, in the case of Andrew Anthony Sindabaha vs Akiba Commercial Bank & 3 others, Land Case No. 56 of 2017, the necessity of notice was stressed as well as in the case of Registered Trustees of the Africa Inland Church Tanzania vs CRDB Bank & 3 others, Commercial Case No. 7 of 2017. All these ruled inter alia that 14-day notice is mandatory. They only differed on the effect of non-adherence to the same.

There are scholars who are of the view that if there is noncompliance of procedures in auction and an auctioneer had been appointed, then the auctioneer is to cover the liability. This approach is used mostly in Nigeria.

But in our jurisdiction, section 134 (2) of the Land Act states that the bank has not been exonerated since it has to make sure that compliance of the law is done.

Further, there has been debate about whether noncompliance can affect the sale. This too depends on how one approaches the court since some judges and justices stand that noncompliance vitiates all sale while for others it depends on whether the purchase was finalized and transfer of land effected or not.

Recently, in the case of Godebertha Rukanga vs CRDB Bank Plc & others,

Civil Appeal No. 25/17 of 2017 the Court of Appeal stated that if there is default and there is noncompliance, that one cannot nullify sale. Rather, the mortgagor is entitled to institute suit against the mortgagee to claim for damages. This position reiterated in the recent case of Margareth Mukasa vs Akiba Commercial Bank Ltd & 4 others, Land Appeal No. 02 of 2020.

In conclusion, both parties to mortgage and loan agreement have to be careful with all the promises and conditions they state and that nonperformance of the same results in disputes which are tinted with complications.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

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By Mark Mapambano

SEEING a sitting president is only easy on television. But physically, and at spitting distance that comes with photo opportunity, many try it for months or even years across the world, unsuccessfully. For, a very strong reason must be provided beforehand through aides and the same carefully examined before access is granted.

This 'difficulty' is important to protect both the person holding the position at the time and the sanctity of the office. In our case, the president serves as both head of government, namely the nation's chief administrator and head of state which refers to the symbolic embodiment of the nation.

Because of the importance of this office, presidents do not make many decisions on their own personal will. What might look like an easy act of just walking into a market is decided after lengthy consultations involving security, political as well as protocol advisors.

That is why as opposed to what many think, presidency is often described as the most difficult job in the world. In one of his many captivating speeches, Father of the Nation, the late Julius Nyerere, described one aspect of difficulty of the job as carrying all challenges of the people on your shoulders.

But on a bright side, president is the consoler-in-chief even in the darkest moments. Presence of an executive president changes heartbeats and facial expressions of people around him or her. This is because a word or directive of a president can bring unexpected goodies, resume stalled projects or see some underperforming officials packing.

Generally, for ordinary people like market vendors, seeing a president is a big thing. Today, some folks in Nzega Township, Tabora Region, are prominent in their own right. This is after President Samia Suluhu Hassan visited their market and rubbed shoulders with them.

For market vendors to appear on TV and front page of newspapers with the Head of State means a lot to them. Presence of a president gives hope when there none and momentum when things slow down. And traders at the market in Nzega are now a happy lot because the president not only pledged to boost their businesses; she did actual shopping for groceries there.

Market visit gives traders rare opportunity to rub shoulders with Samia



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with small traders selling fried fish at a makeshift market in Nzega town on Wednesday while on a tour during which she had a first-hand account of the challenges members of the business community there commonly face. To her left is Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe, who is also Nzega Urban MP. File photo

But meeting ordinary people, especially by charismatic individuals is also a very good leadership strategy. This allows them to utilize their charm and interpersonal skills to inspire, motivate and influence their followers.

President Samia who is in a working tour of the region said

she wanted to talk to the people and hear their challenges. As she walked past the crowd that gathered alongside the road, she was received with rapturous applause from the delighted traders.

The president asked traders questions on the price of food at the market where she was

surprised to hear that fish sell at higher prices compared to meat, with food vendors selling a plate of food at between 1,500/- and 2,000/- while fish (usually Nile Perch) sells at 1,000/- a piece.

She remarked that food prices were just too high as a family of five would need upwards

of 5,000/- just to buy fish, wondering if most families have extra cash to buy the maize flour and spices.

In their response, the traders said they too obtain fish at high prices from a major fish market in the region where a small fish fetches up to 2,000/-.

At a food kiosk operated by a woman, she inquired on the progress of the business and the trader recounted that currently, her business was not faring well as she could not get enough customers.

Perhaps aware that golden chance never comes twice, when the president was bidding farewell to the trader, the food vendor asked for a support of 100,000/- working capital to boost her business and revamp the kiosk.

"I will give you 500,000/- for capital and your Member of Parliament who is here will take care of the improvement of your kiosk," the president said and left the woman awestruck.

She proceeded to another kiosk also run by a woman who sells various groceries. Here, the president bought vegetables and various cooking ingredients before proceeding to fish mongers and had a chat with them on the status of their business and how they can improve the same.

President Samia instructed some of his aides to take note of the needs of the women traders and work on their requests. As I noted earlier, just a simple word from a sitting president can shake up things tremendously.

Transformation of livelihoods requires programmes that seek to root out challenges facing the people. Granted, but if you look at it analytically, the president's gesture was meant to inspire and encourage.

Was it a coincidence that most of her stops were at stalls operated by women? Yes and No. Yes because most market vendors are women. No because as the first female president, she is aware of the plight of women and therefore chose to inspire and encourage them.

Various studies outline barriers to women's economic inclusion in the economy such as unpaid labour (spending so much time on household chores) and lack of landed assets and access to financial services.

The author is a commentator on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

South Asian community health workers say their work is 'work'

By Zofeen Ebrahim

“PROFESSIONALLY, I am still where I was 23 years ago when I started working as a lady health worker (LHW),” said a disgruntled Yasmin Siddiq, 47, from Karachi. “I will probably retire in the same capacity, as a Grade 5 government servant, without any hope for upward mobility.”

The idea behind the Lady Health Worker Programme (LHWP), the brainchild of Pakistan's late prime minister Benazir Bhutto, began in 1994 with the purpose of “training women as community health workers (CHWs) to improve the dismal maternal and child health scores of the country and build a bridge between the village woman and the formal health sector,” said Dr Talat Rizvi, a public health physician with a vast experience in Maternal and Child Health with a particular focus on community-based projects and who designed the programme.

Siddiq's day starts at 9 am, and she must go door-to-door, covering between 5 to 10 homes within the 1 km radius of her home. “Initially, my tasks included making married women (of reproductive age) aware of the benefits of family planning and informing and providing them assistance about contraceptives, ensuring they go for antenatal checkups when pregnant and their tetanus shots. I had to keep an eye on under-five children of that family and get them vaccinated,” she said. Over the years, her workload has expanded.

“We were asked to help fight TB, handle refusals by parents on administration of polio drops, ensure every child under five gets immunised against childhood diseases, which have now increased to 12 vaccines, and recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, we helped with vaccinations,” said Bushra Bano Arain, chairperson of All Pakistan Lady Health Workers Union. “And as if health is not enough, we are asked to carry out our duties on election day,” disclosed Arain, an LHW supervisor.

“Over the years, the focus got diluted from primary healthcare when more and more responsibilities were added to the LHWP's boat, and the boat sank,” said Rizvi.

“The original programme of ensuring the health of mother and child took a backseat,” agreed Dr Shershah Syed, a gynaecologist and obstetrician. “LHW was perhaps started with good intention but had become a politicised entity with many women recruited by MPAs and MNAs as ghost workers, in the Sindh province especially,” he added.

The situation is no better for the over a million Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in India or the 52,000 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) of Nepal, who have, over the years, been lumped with more and more tasks, according to Public Services International, a global trade union federation, which helped the women CHWs in Pakistan, Nepal and India come up with a Charter of Demands to “address injustices and advocate for better working conditions”.

According to Jeni Jain Thapa, PSI's project organiser in Nepa, the FCHVs “have no fixed working hours and must be on standby 24/7”.



Community health workers demand to be recognised as formal workers with pay and benefits to match. Credit: Zofeen T. Ebrahim

The same is the case with the LHWs, said Musarrat Basharat, an LHW and the general secretary of the Punjab LHW's Union. “Whatever time of the day or night it is, we must accompany a woman in labour to the health centre and be with her till she delivers. Same with a sick child. If the baby has diarrhoea and is dehydrated, we must rehydrate and be with the family for six hours until the child is out of danger. We are not shirking from our duty, but at least pay us for overtime or make some provision for it,” she said.

However, of the CHWs in the three countries, over 100,000 LHWs have won significant gains in getting themselves recognised as workers, securing a wage and registering their unions, Kannan Raman, secretary PSI, South Asia:

“In Nepal and India, they are considered volunteers and not offered decent wages or better working conditions.”

“It took us 20 years to get ourselves noticed when the Supreme Court of Pakistan asked the government to bring us into the fold of formal work and make us permanent employees in 2014,” said Haleema Leghari, central president of All Sindh Lady Health Workers and Employees Union, working as a supervisor in the LHW programme.

But even after nine years, they continue working without a job structure or rules that go with that. “We rejected the service structure made for us as it was found to be discriminatory,” said Leghari, adding: “Recognition from the government is mere lip service.”

Even for those who started in

1994, like Arain and Leghari, who have become supervisors, their grades have been marginally improved from Grade 5 (which is for LHWs) to Grade 7 (which is for the supervisor). “While in other sections of the health departments, those who have worked as many years as we and are as educated as we have reached Grade 14; why have we not been upgraded?” Arain asked.

Although their salary was increased by 35 percent in June, Leghari said: “We do not want these ad-hoc increments; we want promotions like other government servants are promoted based on work performance, education and years of service, as these impromptu increments can also be taken back anytime.”

In addition, she said that those

who have retired after attaining 60 years of age, are sick, or have died should be compensated. They or their families should be paid the pension in arrears,” she added. Today, the LHWs want the 20 years of contract work to be accounted for, which they say “everyone seems to have forgotten”.

According to Leghari, in other government departments, when an employee retires or meets with an accident, is sick or dies, a family member gets the job in that department. “We are missing out on these benefits because the rules have not been approved in the absence of a service structure,” she said.

“Their main demand is fool-proof security,” said Mir Zulfikar Ali, executive director of Workers Education and Research Organisation. “You know so many LHWs

have been killed by extremists,” he said. His organisation is working with the LHWs and training them about labour rights, health protection especially during crises and pandemics, and workplace safety and how to lobby effectively with the government to get their demands accepted, coordinating the PSI CHW project in Pakistan.

Siddiq's monthly payment is now Rs 44,000 from Rs 37,000 since June, but given the skyrocketing food, electricity and fuel prices, she said this was certainly not enough for a single mother with two school and college-going kids.

“The provincial health departments have time to meet all the international NGOs and donor agencies, but for holding a meeting to address our grievances, they can never find time,” said Arain.

“The invaluable work community health workers do work that has delivered immeasurable value to communities and public health, is not valued, simply because it is carried out by women, and women's care work is routinely devalued, even when it saves lives”, explained Kate Lappin, the Asia Pacific regional secretary for PSI.

With new climate catastrophes imminent, Lappin said Pakistan will need the services of LHWs even more, as was proved during the pandemic and the 2022 floods that disrupted the already fragile health system. “They [CHWs] are the first line of defence in a crisis.” She was in Pakistan recently and met with LHWs from some remote parts of Pakistan. “It was clear that they are often the only source of support to women in the most underserved areas.”

IPS UN Bureau Report



The idea behind the Lady Health Worker Programme (LHWP), the brainchild of Pakistan's late prime minister Benazir Bhutto, began in 1994 with the purpose of “training women as community health workers (CHWs) to improve the dismal maternal and child health scores of the country and build a bridge between the village woman and the formal health sector.”

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DJUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUJUYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTTI 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 SPOTTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

By Getrude Mbugo

INVESTING efforts to improve reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health in the country is a critical matter which needs combined efforts from the government, development partners and stakeholders.

To complement the government's initiatives aimed to address maternal and child mortality, as well as to improve the overall health and well-being of mothers and children in the country, Marie Stopes Tanzania in collaboration with stakeholders has been backing up efforts by providing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education to health workers and the public in general.

Head of Clinical Quality at Marie Stopes, Dr Selemani Mbyallu said that Tanzania was among countries which have signed a number of various agreements to ensure that reproductive health is managed to reach various people.

"Until Tanzania agrees to an international agreement, it means something that they are committed and will supervise to ensure that goals are reached to ensure that it properly manages their various agreements that they set for themselves as a member country in the aspects of ensuring that Tanzania stands up to the health issues which include ensuring that Tanzanians are accessing family planning," Dr Mbyallu detailed this recently at an interview with this paper.

He said sexual and reproductive health policies are vital to empowering women and the youth, thus constituting a cornerstone of sustainable development, speakers said today as the Commission on Population and Development continued its general debate.

Dr Mbyallu said providing adolescents with evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education is a concrete way to prevent unwanted pregnancies, prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections and foster gender equality.

According to him, through an

'Joint efforts needed to bring a healthy and productive society'



outreach model which serves high impact clients, particularly adolescents and those living in poverty, in difficult to reach areas, the organization works closely with the government to improve access to high quality contraception and sexual reproductive health services and information to people in rural and remote communities of Tanzania.

He said provision of sexual and reproductive health education is aimed at equipping

young women entrepreneurs with self-awareness making them to conduct better decisions throughout their life.

Lack of accurate and adequate information about sexual and reproductive health leads young people to engage in risky behaviours and thus expose themselves to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, teenage pregnancy and other problems," he added.

He said SRH services can help women and girls to make

informed decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and achieve their full potential.

"SRH is critical to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG number three. Quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth will enable achieve goals number four, five and eight."

Marie Stopes will continue to capitalize on its social enterprise approach to expand

access to high quality, affordable registered products and ensure client care quality which in turn creates sustainable programmes using commercial sales, marketing and supply best practices.

The impacts of unintended pregnancies include high maternal death rates and poor child survival rates, especially among the world's most vulnerable. Unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and maternal deaths would drop

by about two-thirds if all women in low- and middle-income countries had access to effective family planning methods.

Recently, Minister for health Ummu Mwalimu said the government has been implementing various international agreements by incorporating SRH in various national plans for a healthy and well-informed society.

She cited some of the programmes as the National Plan for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health & Nutrition-2021/2022 - 2025/2026 (One Plan III), National Accelerated Action And Investment Agenda For Adolescent Health And Wellbeing - NAIA-AHW 2021/22 - 2024/25 and Tanzania's Health Sector Strategic Plan- 2020/21-2025/26, among others.

She said that in the period between July 2022 and March 2023, the government bought and distributed 2,538,247 contraceptive pills equal to 89 percent of the target, Depo-Provera contraceptive injections 2,564,691 doses equal to 94 percent of the target and 552,494 implants equal to 81 percent of the target.

Minister Ummu also said that the government has continued to deliver the services to the people through outreach services to ensure that they reach even those in remote areas.

She said due to the investment, there is an increase in the use of modern contraceptives from 32 percent in 2015/16 to 38 percent in 2022/23, according to the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2022 (TDHS).

"Currently, 38 percent of married women are using contraceptive methods, 31 per cent are using modern methods, whereas 7 per cent use traditional methods, roughly the same as reported in the 2015/16 TDHS," she noted.

Ummu said: "Along with providing family planning services, the Ministry has continued to prepare various guidelines, regulations, policies and laws that promote provision of reproductive health rights."

Xi Jinping announces major steps to support joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation

By Mary Kadoke, Beijing

THE Chinese President Xi Jinping (pictured), has announced major steps China will take to support joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation (BRI) objectively targeted to create an inclusive developed world.

He gave the remarks yesterday as he officiated the official opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation dubbed: Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World for Common Development held yesterday in Beijing China.

He said the BRI is targeted in building a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network that will speed up high-quality development of the China-Europe Railway Express, participate in the trans-Caspian international transportation corridor, host the China-Europe Railway Express Cooperation Forum, and make joint efforts to build a new logistics corridor across the Eurasian continent linked by direct railway and road transportation.

"I wish to announce eight major steps China will take to support our joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation one being on how we will vigorously integrate ports, shipping and trading services under the "Silk Road Maritime," and accelerate the building of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the Air Silk Road," he said.

He also said that BRI is dedicated in supporting an open world economy as it establishes pilot zones for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation, enters into free trade agreements and investment protection treaties with more countries.

"We will remove all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector. In light of international high-standard economic and trade rules, we will further advance high-standard opening up in cross-border service trade and investment, expand market access for digital and other products, and deepen reform in areas including the state-owned enterprises, digital economy, intellectual property and gov-



ernment procurement," he added.

According to him, China will hold the Global Digital Trade Expo annually. In the next five years (2024-2028), China's total trade in goods and services is expected to exceed \$32 trillion and \$5 trillion respectively.

He further stressed on how China will promote both signature projects and "small yet smart" livelihood programs highlighting on how The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China will each set up a RMB 350 billion financing window.

"We are also eyeing on promoting green development. We will continue to deepen cooperation in areas such as green infrastructure, green energy and green transportation, and step-up support for the BRI International Green Development Coalition," he said.

He also noted on advancing scientific and technological innovation that will

continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, hold the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, increase the number of joint laboratories built with other parties to 100 in the next five years, and support young scientists from other countries to work on short-term programs in China.

"We will support people-to-people exchanges. China will host the Liangzhu Forum to enhance dialogue on civilizations with BRI partner countries. In addition to the Silk Road International League of Theaters, the Silk Road International Arts Festival, the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road, the Silk Road International Alliance of Art Museums."

He further strengthened on promoting integrity-based Belt and Road cooperation. Together with its cooperation partners on releasing the Achievements and Prospects

of Belt and Road Integrity Building and the High-Level Principles on Belt and Road Integrity Building, and establish the Integrity and Compliance Evaluation System for Companies Involved in Belt and Road Cooperation likewise strengthening institutional building for international Belt and Road cooperation.

President Xi said when COVID-19 struck, the Belt and Road became a life-saving road. China provided more than 10 billion masks and 2.3 billion doses of vaccines to other countries and jointly produced vaccines with over 20 countries, making a special contribution to BRI partners' efforts in fighting COVID-19. And China also received valuable support from more than 70 countries when it was hit hard by the pandemic.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, also stressed on cementing its ties with China in the business area pledging on the other hand to support the education sector as

they enrol youth in China in different programs.

Kenyan President William Ruto hailed the mutual ties between his country and China perceiving it as a win-win cooperation.

Reacting to the rhetoric that China's aid to Africa is 'deft trap' Ruto said that African countries have been able to negotiate for themselves what they think is balanced and fair for the African people and to China as a partner.

"There is a myth, there is a rumor, there is a perception. The reality is that our largest debt is not to China. We have a huge obligation to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, the United States and many other organizations," he said.

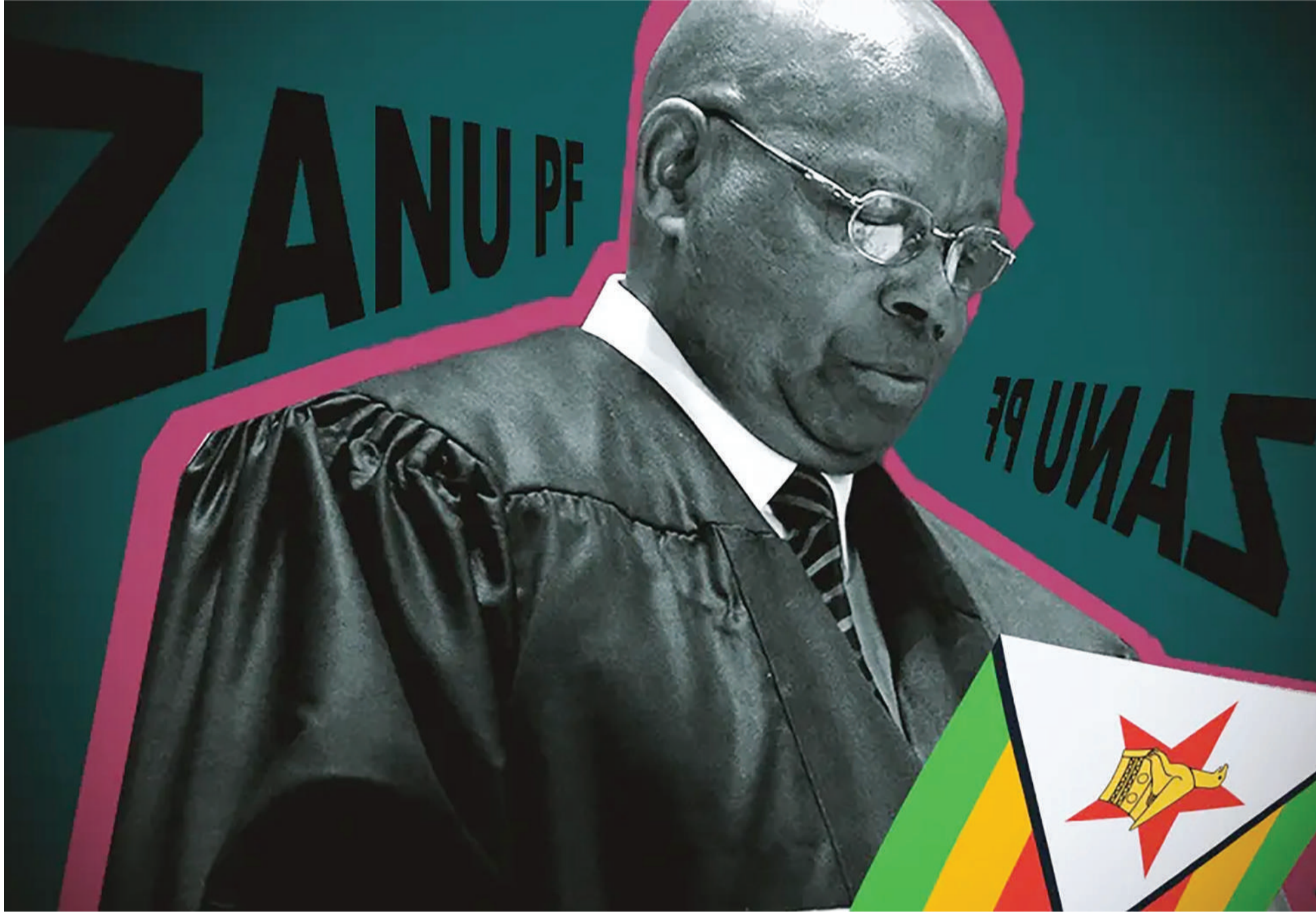
This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by President that has drawn inspiration from the ancient Silk Road and focusing on enhancing connectivity, aims to enhance policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, inject new impetus into the global economy, create new opportunities for global development, and build a new platform for international economic cooperation.

Belt and Road cooperation has extended from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America. More than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents.

It has also progressed from "sketching the outline" to "filling in the details", and blueprints have been turned into real projects. A large number of signature projects and "small yet smart" people-centered programs have been launched.

On the other hand, it has expanded from physical connectivity to institutional connectivity. Important guiding principles for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation have been laid down, which include the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together," the philosophy of open, green and clean cooperation, and the goal of pursuing high-standard, people-centered and sustainable cooperation.

Joke? 70 Zanu-PF legislators recalled after 'imposter' recalls opposition MPs



Illustrative image: Parliamentary speaker Jacob Mudenda announces the resignation of President Robert Mugabe in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 21 November 2017. (Photo: EPA-EFE/Aaron Ufumeli | Wikipedia | Rawpixel)

By Frank Chikore

A little-known Zanu-PF activist has written to Zimbabwe's speaker of parliament, Jacob Mudenda, recalling 70 ruling-party legislators, including recently appointed cabinet ministers, from the august house.

The "recall" list includes Deputy Finance Minister David Mhangwa, President Emmerson Mnangagwa's son.

This comes barely two weeks after 29 legislators of the main opposition Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC) party were recalled by one Sengezo Tshabangu who

claims to be the party's interim secretary-general. This recall resulted in several legislators being injured when chaos interrupted parliamentary business two weeks ago.

However, CCC leader Nelson Chamisa has dismissed Tshabangu as an "imposter", saying his party does not have such a portfolio because it is yet to hold its inaugural congress. Chamisa also accused Zanu-PF of masterminding the recalls - an allegation the ruling party has dismissed.

The move by the Zanu-PF activist, Tafadzwa Manyika, to recall dozens of Zanu-PF legislators means the ruling party will have

to fight it out with the CCC in by-elections to win back the seats and also try to regain the seats it lost to the opposition legislators who have been recalled from parliament - if the speaker accepts the recall request.

In his letter to Mudenda, Manyika, argued that the 70 Zanu-PF ministers - who also include new Information Minister Jenfan Muswere, Health Minister Douglas Mombeshora and Labour Minister Paul Mavima - had ceased to be members of the party.

"Kindly be advised that the following members of the National Assembly were elected under Zimbabwe African National Un-

ion - Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) political party and have ceased to be members of the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front. Kindly proceed in terms of the relevant provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe relating to members who have ceased to be members of a political party which they were elected under," wrote Manyika, who refers to himself as the Zanu-PF interim secretary-general.

However, Zanu-PF acting information director Farai Marapira played down Manyika's recall.

"Zanu-PF is a party with known structures and everyone knows who writes letters on behalf of our

party. I don't know what you are talking about," Marapira said.

'Invidious position'

Political analyst Rashweat Mukundu, who works with International Media Support, says the purported letter recalling Zanu-PF legislators puts Mudenda in an invidious position.

"Well, I guess it's someone putting the Zanu-PF speaker of parliament to a test in his own rules on recalls. There won't be a constitutional crisis as the speaker will likely ignore this letter, but the question is: how will he answer this in court when asked about the CCC recalled MPs? Whoever wrote

this letter wants to expose the silliness of the speaker of parliament who is now a handy tool in Zanu-PF's power games," said Mukundu.

Another political commentator, Rejoice Ngwenya, founder of the Coalition for Market and Liberal Solutions, told Daily Maverick that Mudenda's consistency is being put to the test.

"It's a serious joke! Anyway, if Mudenda is consistent, he will apply the same rule. He doesn't have the mandate to question (the) origin of the letter. If he knows that the Zanu-PF secretary-general is Obert Mpofu, he should have known CCC has no structure there, it has no secretary-general," said Ngwenya.

CCC spokesperson Promise Mkwanzai said his party expected Mudenda, who doubles as Zanu-PF's legal secretary, to act on Manyika's recall letter, adding that the fresh elections that his party was demanding were edging closer.

"A demon of recalls engulfs the country. The speaker now has no option but to remove the Zanu-PF recalled members as per the precedent he has set. At this rate, we are likely to have a fresh election sooner than we expected. With almost 100 MPs recalled, parliament has effectively collapsed. Compounded by the sham of August 23, a fresh, free and fair election is now the only option," said Mkwanzai.

Power plays

The latest political power play comes as Zanu-PF appears to be looking for an opportunity to secure a two-thirds majority in parliament after failing to do so during the disputed elections controversially won by Mnangagwa.

To put pressure on Zanu-PF, Chamisa told reporters his party was disengaging from parliament after its legislators were recalled by the alleged "imposter".

Zanu-PF's political commissar, Mike Binha, said his party would be happy with the recall of opposition legislators because it would give his party a parliamentary majority if it wins in by-elections.

"It is not our agenda to recall [opposition legislators], it is really an internal affair and if it happens (retaining two-thirds parliamentary majority) it happens to our favour and we say thank you so much," said Binha.

Zimbabwe's 23 August elections were criticised by international observers as fundamentally flawed, but Mnangagwa and his party say they won freely and fairly, while Chamisa dismissed the polls as a gigantic fraud.

However, Chamisa abandoned a legal challenge to the election outcome, alleging judicial capture, and embarked on a diplomatic offensive to ratchet up pressure on the international community to help Zimbabwe address the legitimacy question following the disputed polls.

DM

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

TOP AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

NEW YORK

Africa often flies under the radar for investors, but it's a promising frontier for those looking to make impressive returns on their investments. In today's investment landscape, it stands out as a unique opportunity.

The continent's economic landscape is diverse, with nearly fifty countries, but many have undergone economic reforms that make them attractive for business.

Despite challenges such as corruption and transparency issues, Africa provides returns on investment that are hard to find elsewhere. In the first decade of this century, African countries delivered impressive annual returns of 14 percent, outperforming many emerging markets.

Africa's wealth lies in its abundant farmland and natural resources, which will only become more valuable as the global population continues to grow. With rising wages in Asia, Africa remains the last frontier of low-wage labor globally, making it a prime candidate for developing its manufacturing sector. Plus, its strategic location near North America and Europe enhances its appeal.

It's essential to note that Africa's diversity also extends to varying levels of risk, with some regions prospering while others struggle with corruption and instability.

In this context, six African nations shine as promising opportunities for investors seeking outstanding returns. These opportunities are waiting for those who recognize Africa's potential and want to take advantage of them, creating profitable investments in the 21st century.

1. Nigeria

Nigerian real estate emerges as a compelling investment opportunity driven by robust growth. In 2022, the sector contributed over N28 trillion to



Kigali city

the nation's GDP, a testament to its economic significance. Forecasts anticipate structural reforms and consolidation of key agencies, simplifying housing development and ownership processes. Major growth hubs in 2023 encompass Lagos, Port Harcourt, Uyo, and others, with a focus on affordable housing and agro-tech development.

Investors in Nigerian real estate stand to benefit from a burgeoning market poised for expansion. As the sector thrives, the potential for returns grows, driven by urban renewal, job creation, and strategic investments. Despite challenges like production cost spikes, opportunities abound for investors seeking high-growth markets in Africa, making Nigerian real estate a shrewd choice.

2. Kenya

Kenya's thriving real estate sector, fueled by robust infrastructure development, rapid urbanization, economic recovery post-COVID-19, and rising investor confidence, presents a compelling investment

prospect. Representing 13.8 percent of the nation's GDP, this sector reflects remarkable growth, positioning Kenya as a global real estate hotspot.

Looking ahead to 2024, Kenya's real estate market promises continued expansion. Commercially, office spaces and warehousing are in high demand, with a growing preference for serviced offices and international standards. Strategic relocations of industrial parks cater to increased import-export activities. With a soaring population and an annual housing deficit of 200,000 units, the residential market, particularly in rentals, offers immense potential. Kenya's dynamic real estate landscape offers investors resilience, growth, and opportunities, making it a shrewd choice in the African real estate arena.

3. Ghana

Investing in Ghanaian real estate is a wise decision backed by stability and growth. Ghana's impressive Fragile State Index score of 63 underscores its commitment

to democracy and the rule of law, fostering a stable political environment ideal for investors. Furthermore, the government's effective economic policies have bolstered currency stability and reduced inflation, establishing a favorable climate for property investors and businesses alike.

Ghana's real estate market offers compelling rental yields, ranging from 19.3 percent to 22.0 percent, ensuring attractive returns for investors. Additionally, the anticipated 74.7 percent inflation increase over the next five years (according to the IMF) positions real estate as a hedge against economic instability, driving capital appreciation and higher rental income.

For foreign investors, the devaluation of the Ghanaian Cedi presents an opportune moment to enter the market, with favorable exchange rates making properties more affordable and rental income more rewarding in their home currency. In summary, investing in Ghanaian real estate combines stability, growth, and attractive returns—an astute choice in Africa's

flourishing property landscape.

4. South Africa

Investing in South African real estate is a strategic move, driven by several key factors. Urbanization continues to draw more people to cities, boosting the demand for well-located urban properties. Moreover, the rapid rise of smart homes, expected to be a \$31.4 billion market by 2033, offers an innovative edge. Sustainable and eco-friendly building practices are also gaining ground, creating fresh investment prospects.

South Africa's real estate landscape is undergoing a digital transformation. Virtual property tours and blockchain-based real estate tokenization are revolutionizing property transactions. Cities are even selling "sky rights" as they expand upward. However, embracing cryptocurrency as part of real estate transactions remains a challenge. These insights, combined with data, paint a compelling picture for smart investment in South African real estate.

5. Morocco

Investing in Moroccan real estate is a savvy choice, given the country's stability, with a Fragile State Index of 70.1, and its anticipated economic growth, projected at 3 percent in 2023 and 3.1 percent in 2024. This stability, alongside a growing population, ensures a steady demand for housing, making Morocco an attractive destination for property investors. While rental yields range from 3.1 percent to 5.8 percent, indicating moderate income, the forecasted inflation rate of 12.0% over the next 5 years suggests potential property value appreciation, making early investments strategic.

Morocco's real estate market of-

fers an enticing proposition, driven by its economic resilience and the recovery of its robust tourism sector. Tourist arrivals and revenues have rebounded significantly, aligned with the government's initiatives to attract more visitors, aiming for 17.5 million arrivals and the creation of 200,000 new jobs by 2026. As the country continues to thrive economically and as a tourist destination, Moroccan real estate emerges as a compelling opportunity for investors seeking stability and long-term returns in North Africa.

6. Rwanda

Rwanda's real estate sector is an alluring investment opportunity, underpinned by robust statistics. The nation's 9.2 percent Q1:2023 GDP growth, particularly in the services sector, underscores its economic vitality. In real estate, Q1:2023 witnessed a remarkable 9.0 percent growth, showcasing its potential as one of Rwanda's fastest-growing sectors. Factors driving this progress include increasing urbanization, rising demand for housing and commercial spaces, and the government's investments in infrastructure.

Investing in Rwandan real estate aligns with a transformative growth story. The statistics reveal a sector on the rise, bolstered by urbanization, population growth, and infrastructure development. With an anticipated decline in inflation and a strong middle class seeking quality spaces, Rwanda offers a strategic landscape for real estate investment, providing potential for attractive returns. This opportunity arises within a politically stable environment, showcasing Rwanda's vision for economic prosperity through real estate development.

Dar city to turn household waste into cash

By Jenifer Gilla

THE Dar es Salaam City Council in partnership with Mazingira Plus Institute and Tanzania Alliance for Climate and Sustainable Society (TACSS), have launched an Inclusive Climate Action project (ICA) that aims to turning household waste into business opportunities.

Through the project, waste pickers will be educated on how to add value into household wastes by turning them into livestock foods and decorations, for improving their lives economically.

Speaking at the launch of the project yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the city Mayor Omary Kumbilamoto, said the goal of the project is to reduce or curb accumulation of wastes in landfills, which results in to generation of methane, the major source of greenhouse gases.

The project will involve foods and other solid waste generated from households.

He said 60 percent of the waste produced at home can be reused; so they have thought it is good to provide education to groups of street waste pickers at the local level that will enable them use the opportunity to earn incomes.

He said they have chosen to work closely with the group in recognition of their great contribution to keeping the city clean by collecting waste from houses, despite the challenges they are facing.

"Dar es Salaam recognizes the importance of working and empowering informal communities and informal workers to collectively create policies and sustainable plans for waste management," he said.

He thanked the Global Community of Mayors (C40's) for funding the project through the ICA fund to achieve



the implementation of the project, which will also strengthen cooperation with waste pickers and achieve the goals they set for themselves.

The city council's Chief Environmental Officer, Monica Masha, said the project will be implemented for one year, starting at Vingunguti ward before rolling out to other areas, depending on the availability of the funds.

Monica, who is the coordinator of the project, said that they have started with the Vingunguti ward because

it has informal settlements whose infrastructure is not easily accessible by large waste collection contractors, which is resulting into delays in collection of waste.

"We are also expecting to conserve environment, because when it is clean, there are lots of benefits such as clean air, prevention of diseases like cholera," said Monica.

The Operations Manager of TACSS, Dativa Asemwe, said they will participate on project by providing education to waste pickers on how

to use the opportunity to generate income and make the city clean.

Waste picker, Elizabeth Ndungu, said the project will give them an opportunity to learn on turning waste into cash, something she was not aware of before.

She is also expecting to get modern equipment that will facilitate the performance of their work and prevent them from various diseases they face from time to time by using poor equipment in collecting waste.

World Bank bans Vietnamese construction firm over 'fraud'

WASHINGTON

The World Bank has announced the 41-month debarment of Vietnam based HTC Construction and Advanced Technology Joint Stock Company (HTC), a construction firm, in connection with fraudulent and obstructive practices under the World Bank-financed Coastal Cities Environmental Sanitation Project; the Da Nang Priority Infrastructure Investment Project; the Medium Cities Development Project; and the Irrigated Agricultural Improvement Project, (collectively the "Projects"), in Vietnam.

The debarment makes HTC ineligible to participate in projects and operations financed by institutions of the World Bank.

It is part of a settlement agreement under which the company acknowledges responsibility for the underlying sanctionable practices and agrees to meet specified corporate compliance conditions as a condition for release from debarment.

According to the facts of the case, at the time of bid submission, HTC misrepresented its financial statements and inflated the values of its past contracts in order to mislead procurement officials into awarding the company contracts under the Projects.

Furthermore, during the inves-

tigation conducted by the World Bank's Integrity Vice-Presidency (INT), HTC consistently denied the applicability of the World Bank's inspection and audit rights and refused to provide INT with evidence, thereby materially impeding the investigation.

HTC's conduct constitutes fraudulent and obstructive practices under the World Bank's 2010 and 2011 Procurement Guidelines.

The settlement agreement provides for a reduced period of debarment in light of the company's admission of wrongdoing and voluntary restraint from bidding on World Bank funded Projects. As a condition for release from sanction under the terms of the settlement agreement, HTC commits to implementing integrity compliance measures that reflect the principles set out in the World Bank's Integrity Compliance Guidelines.

In addition, any affiliate that the company controls, directly or indirectly, will be required to similarly implement appropriate integrity compliance measures. The company also commits to continue to fully cooperate with INT.

The debarment of HTC qualifies for cross-debarment by other multilateral development banks under the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions that was signed on April 9, 2010.



DUBAI TOWER SELLS OUT IN THE FIRST HOUR OF LAUNCH

DUBAI

Maya V, a residential tower by real estate developer London Gate, sold out within an hour of its official launch on Wednesday. The 102-unit tower, coming up in Jumeirah Village Triangle, is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of next year.

London Gate revealed plans for its flagship ventures including Marina 106, Nadine I & II and Maya V, which will be situated in coveted Dubai locations.

Recent studies from the UAE real estate market suggest that by 2026, there are 1,800 new units expected in New Dubai, while Central Dubai will see 1,900 upcoming units in the same time-frame.

"Dubai is an unparalleled destination for top-tier real estate ventures. At London Gate, our vision is to redefine and revitalize the city's iconic skyline and property landscape, thereby establishing new thresholds that transcend industry standards. Our

unwavering commitment lies in not only meeting but exceeding the ever-evolving demands of the market. Our developments will cover Dubai's prominent hotspots and will deliver one of the tallest buildings overlooking the Dubai Marina, one-of-its-kind branded residences, along with extraordinary residential spaces across Dubai land and Jumeirah Village. We aim to create an enduring legacy through our relentless pursuit of exceptional quality, unparalleled style, and a culture of continuous innovation. London Gate is poised to become synonymous with excellence, setting a new paradigm that reshapes the narrative of luxury living in Dubai," said Eman Taha, CEO of London Gate.

The upcoming projects by London Gate promise exceptional features and amenities, exemplifying the company's commitment to excellence. Marina 106, situated in Dubai Marina, will soar 434 meters high, offering 649 luxurious living spaces, including one to four-bedroom apart-



ments and deluxe duplexes, with breathtaking city views. Nadine I & II, inspired by the architectural wonders of Venice and Rome, will

create a vibrant community in Al Furjan, while Maya V in JVT will provide interconnected living spaces designed for families, of-

fering 1, 2, and 3-bedroom homes. A surge in the demand for quality residential properties in Dubai is evident, with a strong momen-

tum fuelled by growing interest from both developers and buyers in the esteemed luxury and premium brands.

A surge in broker interest was witnessed at the launch event, with close to 1,200 brokers attending the launch. "Ultimately, the developers can't keep up in terms of delivery right now. So as long as the demand continues to outstrip the supply, this market will continue," a London Gate spokesperson said.

The project is currently targeting end-users. "We're launching starting from Dh1,000 per square foot which is why we've gained so much interest," the spokesperson said, adding that the prices are pushing towards Dh1,250 per square foot.

With the superstructure at Maya V completed, the tower is close to 50 per cent ready. "Currently most launches are being scheduled for delivery in 2026 or 2027, but this project will be delivered next year, so that has added to the interest for end-users," the spokesperson said.

By Guardian Correspondent

Halotel Tanzania has injected a total of 590.9bn/- into the government coffers, through taxes, since the telecom company launched its services eight years ago.

Halotel Deputy Managing Director Bui Van Thang (pictured) said on Wednesday that funds generated through these tax contributions have a direct impact on the country's development and progress.

"The funds have enabled the government to invest in critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and public transportation, which enhances connectivity and accessibility for citizens across the nation," said Thang.

He said this ahead of the company commemoration of 8th anniversary, with a remarkable journey of growth and significant contributions to the Tanzanian community.

The deputy MD said in 2023, Halotel experienced a transformation by rebranding its logo, color, and slogan to signify the company's growth and commitment to the telecom industry.

Halotel also launched a pioneering University Program to provide free communication supplementary services to higher education students in Tanzania. The program aims to support 2 million students using Halotel network during their university years.

"Halotel has been a dedicated participant in Corporate Social Responsibility, spreading hope and love among children in numerous orphanage centers," he stated.

The company actively supports government initiatives in the fields of healthcare and education, making meaningful contributions to the Muhimbili National Orthopedic Institute (MOI) through impactful blood donation campaigns.

These efforts incorporate providing essential medical and basic ne-



Halotel pays govt 590.9bn/- through taxes in eight years

cessities to children and their caregivers who are receiving treatment at MOI for conditions like Hydrocephalus and Spinal Bifida.

"Halotel's commitment to the well-being of these children while they undergo medical treatment at the hospital is a testament to its dedication to their care and support," he said.

"Alongside other investors, Halotel remains steadfast in its commitment to contributing to the overall development of Tanzania and supporting its communities. To date, the company has generated over 800 direct employment opportunities for Tanzanians, and it continues to actively promote and create additional employment opportunities within the country," Thang notes.

According to him one of Halotel's notable achievements is the transfer of managerial positions to locals, empowering them to utilize their skills for the company's development.

"Our journey of 8 years has been marked by consistent innovation, customer-centric services, and a strong commitment to the Tanzanian community. We are proud of our

achievements, and we look forward to continued growth, contributing to the development of this great nation," Thang Stated.

Halotel is excited about the future and remains dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality telecommunications services to the people of Tanzania while continuing to make a positive impact on the community, he further said.

Thang explains that over the past eight years, Halotel has consistently evolved and achieved several milestones, solidifying its position as one of the largest coverage telecom operator in the country. Since 2015, Halotel made history by launching its brand in Tanzania.

Notably, this launch event became the first enterprise launch to be broadcasted live on national coverage TV, demonstrating Halotel's commitment to transparency and innovation and its strong infrastructure investment especially in rural areas and business strategy.

Halotel reached an impressive milestone of 5 million subscribers in 2021, exceeding its growth targets, which were completed one

year ahead of schedule.

In 2022, Halotel celebrated another major achievement by surpassing the 8 Million subscribers mark, showcasing the company's continued commitment to providing quality services and expanding its network reach.

Halotel's commitment to excellence earned International recognition.

In 2017, the company was honored with the prestigious Stevie Awards as the "Fastest Growing Enterprise in the Middle East and Africa."

In 2022, Halotel was recognized as the "Most Innovative Company of the Year."

The company also achieved recognition as the operator with the fastest internet speed in the market for three consecutive quarters, based on speed test market analysis by Ookla.

An exceptional network performance has been achieved through Halotel's dedicated and substantial investment in more than 1,730 4G sites across Tanzania.

Halotel has also won its three consecutive awards as the "Most Affordable and Consumer-Friendly Telecom of the Year" for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

S.Africa's state rail network close to the brink

JOHANNESBURG

The 20,000km of railway that criss-cross South Africa once symbolised the nation's mining might, carrying trains loaded with coal and iron ore destined for India, China and other markets under the state's Transnet freight monopoly.

But the volume of cargo carried by Africa's biggest rail network has collapsed by a third in the past five years, in a crisis described by President Cyril Ramaphosa as of "catastrophic proportions" and highlighting the dysfunction at the heart of some of the country's most critical state-owned companies.

In a mirror of the disarray at the Eskom power monopoly, officials and business leaders are working to turn around the management turmoil and alleged corruption that has left Transnet beset by train line vandalism, cable theft and blockages at ports. The crisis has throttled crucial commodity exports in the continent's leading industrial nation, threatened thousands of mining jobs and hit badly needed tax revenues.

One symbol of the dysfunction, according to people familiar with the network, are so-called ghost or unscheduled trains that operate without proper tracking of revenue. Transnet has said it is investigating the claims.

In an effort to tackle a threat to the economy rivalled only by Eskom's rolling blackouts, Ramaphosa this week announced that his government was finalising a plan to "enable greater public and private investment" in Transnet, which is burdened with R130bn (\$6.9bn) of debt. The reforms, which still need cabinet approval, would not privatise the rail operator altogether but shift the state's role to owning and managing infrastructure.

"We've been clear that South Africa's port, rail and electricity infrastructure are strategic national assets and will remain in public ownership," Ramaphosa said at a meeting of the ruling African National Congress.

Transnet was also seeking government support for a short-term turnaround plan, its board said last week. The monopoly's chief executive Portia Derby and its head of freight rail – the biggest division in an empire that also spans ports and pipelines – have both resigned in the past month. The ANC's union allies joined business calls for their departure after miners warned of job losses because of missed export opportunities. Transnet's board was replaced in July, and its chief financial officer has also quit.

Lower mining taxes and royalties caused in part by the Transnet crisis have contributed

to an increase in South Africa's budget deficit to nearly 6 per cent of GDP in the past 12 months, ahead of initial projections.

Transnet's growing losses and debt are further risks for Ramaphosa's government, which is already juggling higher borrowing costs and bailouts for Eskom.

"We are losing a billion rand a day because of where we are. The fact that Transnet lost over R5bn [in the last financial year] is absolutely nothing compared to what our treasury has lost in terms of revenue," said Jan Havenga, professor in logistics at Stellenbosch university.

Ahead of national elections likely to be held next April or May, balancing plans for private investment with government ownership of infrastructure will test the ideological bedrock of the ANC, which has long favoured state companies such as Transnet and Eskom.

At the same time, Transnet's crisis has exacerbated the mining industry, including some of South Africa's biggest black-owned businesses. Exports via one key coal rail line last year dropped to their lowest since 1993, and analysts estimate the route could deliver only 50mn tonnes this year, far below its 90mn tonne capacity.

Companies say they are missing opportunities, such as last year's rush by European power operators to replace Russian coal following Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Exports to Asia are also under threat.

"It's all well and good for me to say that Japan needs my coal, China needs my coal, India needs my coal," said Mike Teke, chief executive of coal miner Seriti Resources. "I need to be able to know if I mine the coal... a train will pick it up tomorrow and take it to the port."

Coal miner Exxaro has forecast it will ex-

port less than half of its 10mn tonne capacity during its 2023 financial year, and said it was also being hit through a stake in iron ore operations that depend on a separate Transnet line.

"That is a huge loss of opportunity for us," said Exxaro chief executive Nombasa Tsengwa. There was scope for more private sector involvement on critical lines, she added.

Transnet's outgoing management blamed a lack of locomotives for the decline in its service, particularly since the collapse of a Chinese supply deal that was marred by corruption under Jacob Zuma, the former president.

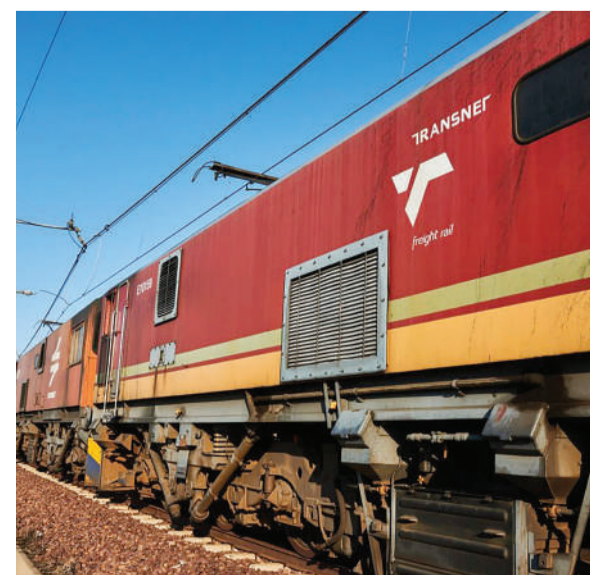
But this was not the full story, Havenga said. "It's the turnaround time of the locomotives that's the problem. We don't sweat them enough." The "ability to run trains properly" had been lost, he added.

Miners say efficiency gains and other basic measures, such as satellite tracking to halt the ghost trains, are vital alongside long-term plans for private sector involvement.

However, Transnet's recent experience suggests marrying private capital to South Africa's failing state monopolies was easier said than done. Last year the company offered several trial slots for private companies to operate trains on two container corridors. Of 19 interested bidders, only two submitted proposals and just one received a slot.

Many investors were put off by slots being available only on short-term contracts despite requiring rolling stock investments that might take decades to pay off.

Mesela Nhlapo, chief executive of the African Rail Industry Association, a business group, said any planned reforms would need a strong regulator to ensure Transnet negotiated future private access in good faith.



CONSTRUCTION

MINISTER URGES PRODUCERS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL EXPOS

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

The government has urged local investors and producers to use effectively and participate more on international exhibitions as the best way to engage with foreign investors and create market deals for raw materials produced in the country.

The call was made by the minister of Industry and Trade minister, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji when officially opening the 24th East Africa International Trade Exhibition 2023 in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

She said that by taking advantage of international exhibitions, where foreign and local investors meet, the country can also benefit by creating job opportunities because they are platforms where local investors explore their business potentials, while foreigners get motivated to invest.

"Tanzania is a blessed country with about 80 percent of raw materials of which needed in various manufacturers. Therefore, by participating in such exhibitions, it will help local producers and investors to know who and where to sell their raw materials in the world," said Dr. Kijaji.



Industry and trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (C) cuts the ribbon to opens the 24th East Africa International Trade Exhibition 2023 in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Second left (front row) is the Indian High Commissioner for Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, and right is the ExpoGroup EA's managing director Duncan Njage. Photo: Miraji Masala

The minister said that from such exhibitions, more factories have been established in the country by foreign investors because of available raw materials.

"By attracting more foreign investors

with our raw materials that we have, means we can attract more capital and more Tanzanians benefit from jobs created by factories to be built," said Dr. Kijaji, citing an example of Kioo factory

which was launched recently in Kibaha where by foreign investors realized the raw material Tanzania have through international exhibitions and hence creating 12,000 job opportunities for locals.

Dr. Kijaji said that the government has opened borders and welcomed foreign investors and business people in the country, something which local raw materials producers should take advantage of the move to learn, exchange business ideas and seal deals.

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said that India continue to become the largest export market of Tanzania and many Indian companies participation at the exhibition, is one way of shoaling their commitment towards investments in health, education, water, mines and agri processing.

Pradhan said that the on bilateral ties between the two countries is advancing and by many Indian companies participating in the exhibition is an evident that economic dimensions and that the bilateral trade has risen to USD 6.4 billion solidifying India's position as Tanzania largest export market.

The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) Investment Promotion Manager, Panduka Yosia, said that manufacturing sector is the major contributor to the country's economy.

He said the government through its institutions such as EPZA has created conducive investment environment for investors in the country and it's a right time for them to investment in various sectors.

"We have made EPZA as one stop center and conducive for all investment requirements. Therefore, we do welcome fresh and new investors in the country and benefit with various business opportunities" said Panduka.

Expo Group East African managing director, Duncan Njage said that the exhibition is the milestone for many local and foreign investors and business people because each year the number of exhibitors' around the global has been increasing.

Njage also said that at total number of 120 foreign and 30 local companies are participation, presenting various goods and services they offer among them are technology, food and beverage, plastic,

Zanzibar current account deficit widens to \$419m

By Carlos Banda

The external sector performance for Zanzibar during the year ending August 2023, registered a deficit of \$419.3mn/- from the deficit of \$314mn/- in the corresponding period of 2022, according to the Monthly Economic Review for September issued by Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

The report further states that the development was largely associated with an increase in import bill coupled with the decrease in exports.

According to the central bank report, the Zanzibar's imports of goods and services rose to US\$ 634.6 million from US\$493.9 million recorded in the year ending August 2022.

All major categories of goods imports increased. In particular, imports of capital goods increased to US\$67.8 million from US\$34.1 million, largely associated with ongoing infrastructures projects.

The major items that recorded increase were machinery and mechanical appliances;

industrial transport equipment; and electrical machinery and equipment.

Likewise, imports of intermediate goods rose by 17.2 percent to US\$ 389.0 million, with the main items being refined white petroleum, food and beverage for industrial use and motorcars for households.

Meanwhile, exports of goods declined to \$63.2mn/- during the year ending August 2023 from \$77.1mn recorded in the same period in 2022, due to decrease of exports earnings of all goods category with exception of seaweeds.

The performance of Cloves export, the main exports earner, declined to US\$63.2 million, from US\$77.1 million recorded in the corresponding period in 2022, due to the cyclical nature of the crop.

On a month-to-month basis, exports of goods and services worth US\$15.9 million were registered in August 2023, compared to USD 18.6 million in the corresponding month in 2022.



Zanzibar port

Non-traditional exports like manufactured goods experienced a decline after earning US\$7.53mn/- in 2023 against the previous earnings of US\$11.1mn recorded in the same period last year.

Fish and Fish product exports saw a slight increase in earnings amounting to \$2.2mn/- in August 2023 from \$1.5mn/- recorded in the same period 2022.

Seaweed export saw a steady increase in earnings standing at

\$8.2mn/- in August 2023 from \$6.8mn/- recorded in the same period last year.

For traditional exports like Cloves, the earnings amounted to \$38.5mn/- in August 2023 a decline in performance from the previous year's \$50.6mn/- recorded in August.

Tourism sector performed well with earnings amounting to \$202.8mn/- in the year ending August 2023 compared to \$175.6mn/- recorded in the same

period in 2022, a performance driven by increase in service receipts particularly tourism related activities.

The report shows that service receipts rose by 41.8 per cent to \$139.6mn/- following an increase in tourist arrivals in the isles during the review period.

This year's earnings was 37.9 per cent higher than \$104.2mn/- recorded during the year ended in August 2022.

Ambani's UK real estate gets HSBC financing

LONDON

HSBC Holdings Plc has nearly doubled the size of a loan arrangement to part of Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's (pictured) business empire, bolstering its bet on Asia's richest person.

The London-based bank originally provided a £60 million (\$73 million) loan facility to a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd. shortly after it acquired the Stoke Park estate in southeast England for £57 million in 2021, according to UK registry filings.

It has since extended the arrangement three times, with the latest disclosed increase in December taking it to £115 million, the filings show. HSBC has been involved for more than a decade in financing arrangements for Stoke Park, a roughly 300-acre (121-hectare) Buckinghamshire leisure property that includes a championship golf course and has provided a setting for two James Bond films.

Ambani's conglomerate is now carrying out a major refurbishment of Stoke Park, a marquee asset in its shift away from the energy sector that has underpinned the billionaire's fortune. Reliance's renovation plans include replacing the roof of the property's Georgian-era mansion that is now a luxury hotel, erecting seven-star villas and removing surface-level parking.

Ambani, 66, is the world's 11th-richest person with a fortune of \$87.8 billion through his major stake in Reliance, India's most valuable company, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

A representative for HSBC declined to comment. A representative for Mumbai-based Reliance didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

HSBC and Ambani's companies have a history of working together, spanning blockchain-enabled transactions and other ways of speeding up business in India. In June, they executed a form of derivatives contract the day after India allowed banks to offer enhanced currency-hedging opportunities to customers.

HSBC is betting on India to expand its business worldwide and has joined rival firms in boosting wealth-management operations in the country. A steady stream of senior HSBC executives have visited India during the past few years including Chief Executive Officer Noel Quinn, who met with Ambani and other members of Asia's richest in 2022.



China's property stocks drops to lowest since 2009 on rise in stress

BEIJING

Chinese property stocks tumbled to close at the lowest level in 14-years, as weak home sales and rising debt woes for major developers deepened.

A Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of developer shares fell 2.5 percent Wednesday, with China Evergrande Group and Times China Holdings Ltd. leading the decline. The gauge has plunged 44 percent so far this year, outpacing major benchmarks onshore and in Hong Kong.

Pressure is mounting after Country Garden Holdings Co., China's former top builder, signaled it is headed for a first-ever default as a grace period to meet an interest-payment deadline ends. Weak property investment and sales, which was a laggard during an otherwise upbeat Chinese economic data release, highlights the need for stronger measures to contain an unprecedented housing crisis.

"The market is turning more bearish with Country Garden's potential dollar bond default," said Patrick Wong, a



Bloomberg Intelligence analyst. The future of the industry "really depends on any further easing measures to support the housing market."

Country Garden, which is at the center of China's property crisis, must pay \$15.4

million coupon on a dollar bond by the end of a 30-day grace period Oct. 17-18 or a default can be called. The company hasn't clarified which day marks the official end of the period, given the initial missed deadline of Sept. 17 fell on a Sun-

day.

Meantime, Evergrande faces the unthinkable possibility of asset liquidation on Oct. 30 when a key court hearing takes place. A ruling to wind up the firm would wreak havoc on the struggling real estate giant that's trying to finalize a restructuring plan to pay back creditors.

Latest data showed that China's property slump remained a drag on the economy in September despite several steps taken by authorities in recent months to bolster the sector.

Property investment, a key driver of economic activity, contracted 9.1 percent in January-September from a year ago, a bigger drop than the 8.8 percent decline in the first eight months of the year.

Home sales continued to slide, falling 3.2 percent year-to-date, while construction of new homes plunged almost 24 percent in the period.

In more bad news for cash-strapped builders, funding for property development dropped 13.5 percent on-year in the first nine months, after plunging 12.9 percent in the January-August period.

WORLD

US vetoes UN Security Council resolution on Gaza

UNITED NATIONS

THE United States on Wednesday vetoed a Security Council resolution that would have called for humanitarian pauses in Gaza.

The Brazilian-drafted resolution won the support of 12 of the 15 members of the Security Council. The United States, which has veto power, was the only council member that voted against it.

Britain and Russia abstained. Before voting on the Brazilian draft, the Security Council voted separately on two amendments to the Brazilian draft submitted by Russia.

The Russian amendments - on a call for an end to indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian subjects, and a call for a durable humanitarian ceasefire, instead of humanitarian pauses contained in the Brazilian text - were unable to pass as there was not enough support by council members.

The US was the only council member that voted against the Russian amend-

ments.

In an explanation of vote, US ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield said her country "is disappointed this (draft) resolution made no mention of Israel's right of self-defense".

French UN ambassador Nicolas de Riviere told reporters after the vote that his country does not see any contradiction between supporting Israel after Hamas' attack and protecting civilians, granting humanitarian access, calling for full respect for international humanitarian law and Geneva Conventions, which were basically the Brazilian draft all about.

Russian UN ambassador Vassily Nebenzia blasted the US for its "hypocrisy and double standards".

Brazilian UN ambassador Sergio Franca Danese regretted the fact that his country's draft resolution was vetoed.

"Sadly, very sadly, silence and inaction prevailed - to no one's long-term interests," he said. "While we deeply regret



People hold up a banner during a demonstration calling for a ceasefire in Gaza near the Capitol in Washington, on Wednesday. AP

collective action is made impossible in the Security Council, we do hope that efforts by other actors will yield positive results. Hundreds of thousands of civilians in Gaza cannot wait any longer. Actually, they have waited for far too long."

China's UN ambassador Zhang Jun said his country was shocked and disappointed at the result of Wednesday's voting.

Certain countries voted on Monday against a Russian-drafted resolution, which would have called for a humanitarian ceasefire. Those countries said they wanted more time to seek consensus on the basis of the Brazilian-drafted resolution. Brazil and many other council members showed a constructive attitude and agreed to postpone the voting for 24 hours, and again till Wednesday, he

said.

In the past 40 hours, those countries have neither commented on nor expressed opposition to the Brazilian draft, making people believe that the council would be able to adopt a resolution on Wednesday. The final result is unbelievable, said Zhang.

"Certain countries talked about the importance for the council to take the right actions. However, the way they voted only makes us question their willingness to let the council take any actions and their sincerity to find a solution to the problem," he said.

The Security Council on Monday failed to adopt the Russian-drafted resolution. The draft resolution failed to win enough votes in favor of adoption. The US, together with Britain, France and Japan, voted against it.

Xinhua

Sisi, Biden agree on aid delivery to Gaza via Rafah crossing

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi and his US counterpart, Joe Biden, agreed on the delivery of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing "in a sustainable manner," the Egyptian presidency said in an overnight statement yesterday.

In a phone conversation, Biden appreciated Egypt's efforts toward achieving peace and stability in the region, according to the statement.

Relevant authorities in the two countries will coordinate with international humanitarian organizations under the supervision of the United Nations to secure the arrival of aid, it read.

The talks came hours after Biden wrapped up a visit to Tel Aviv.

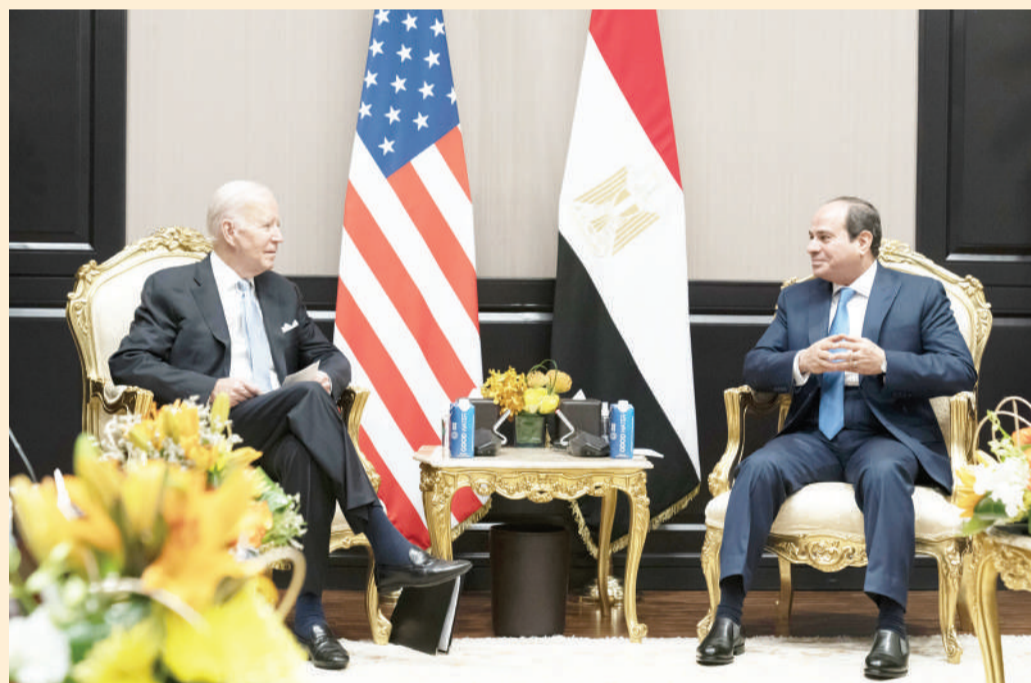
Earlier on Wednesday, Sisi

expressed Egypt's firm support for the Palestinian people and its strong rejection of any attempt to relocate them to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

On the same day, Israel's wartime cabinet decided to allow basic humanitarian aid from Egypt into the Gaza Strip, a development that Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry described as "positive."

Over the last few days, tons of humanitarian aid supplies from Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye and the World Health Organization have been waiting near the Rafah crossing to be delivered to Gaza but blocked by Israeli bombardments.

On Oct 7, Hamas showered Israel with thousands of rockets in a rare surprise attack, to which Israel responded with massive airstrikes on Gaza and punitive measures, including a siege on the enclave with



US President Joe Biden (left) speaks during a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at the COP27 UN Climate Summit, Nov 11, 2022, at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. File photo

supplies of clean water, elec-

tricity, fuel, and other necessi-

ties cut off.

The ongoing Israel-Hamas

conflict has killed more than

4,000 people on both sides.

India extends sugar export restrictions until further orders

NEW DELHI

INDIA has extended the restrictions on the export of sugar beyond October 31, 2023, and until further orders, according to a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued on Wednesday.

The raw sugar, white sugar, refined sugar, and organic sugar are under export restrictions.

The restriction is, however, not applicable to sugar being exported to the EU and the US under the concession (CXL) and TRQ quota as was announced last year.

Initially, the restrictions were imposed starting June 1 to October 31, 2022, and

later extended by a year till October 31, 2023. A tariff rate quota essentially is a quota for exports at relatively low duties. Once the limit is exhausted, a higher tariff applies to additional shipments.

The idea behind the sugar export restriction initially was to make prices of sugar stable domestically.

Earlier, in July, India prohibited the export of non-basmati white rice to check the domestic prices and ensure domestic food security. While amending the export policy, DGFT maintained that the export will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the government to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their government. By that virtue, India

has allowed the export of non-basmati white rice in varying quantities to Nepal, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, Seychelles, UAE, and Singapore.

West African country Benin is one of the major importers of non-basmati rice from India. Other destination countries are UAE, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Senegal, Guinea, Vietnam, Djibouti, Madagascar, Cameroon, Somalia, Malaysia, and Liberia. In late August, India also introduced additional safeguards by way of imposing a minimum floor price on exports of basmati rice so as to prevent exports of non-basmati white rice, which was already under the prohibited category since July.

Last week, the central government extended the 20 per cent export duty on parboiled rice till March 31, 2024, an official notification said. Rice which is partially boiled with husk is called parboiled rice.

Initially, the duty was introduced on August 25, 2023, and was due to remain effective till October 16, 2023, aimed at maintaining adequate domestic availability and checking its price.

India in September 2022 banned the exports of broken rice and imposed a 20 per cent duty on exports of non-Basmati rice, except for parboiled rice amid concerns about low production due to a fall in area under the paddy crop. It later lifted the ban in November. ANI

China, Russia agree to advance ties

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping underlined China's readiness to enable a higher and deeper level of regional cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union, during talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday.

The two leaders met shortly after the conclusion of the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. It marked the 43rd meeting between the two leaders since 2013; their last meeting was held in March, when Xi made his ninth visit to Russia.

Xi started the conversation by calling Putin "my old friend", saying that Putin's attendance at the Belt and Road Forum for the third time in a row demonstrated Russia's support for the initiative.

"Our political mutual trust is deepening, our strategic cooperation is close and effective, and our bilateral trade volume has reached a historic high, moving steadily toward the goal of \$200 billion that we jointly set," he said.

Meanwhile, major infrastructure projects, including the China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline, have been put into operation, delivering tangible benefits for people of the two nations, he said.

Furthermore, the two leaders have also established "a good working relationship and a deep friendship" over the past decade, Xi noted.

China hopes that the China-Mongolia-Russia natural gas pipeline project and cross-border tourism cooperation along the Great Tea Road will make substantive progress in an effort to develop the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor into a route of high-quality connectivity and development, Xi said.

He emphasized that developing a China-Russia relationship featuring permanent good-neighborliness, comprehensive strategic coordination and win-win cooperation is a long-term commitment rather than a temporary fix.

With both sides set to celebrate the 75th anniversary of bilateral ties next year, Xi emphasized Beijing's readiness to work with Moscow to accurately grasp the overall trend of history and continue substantiating cooperation based on the fundamental interests of both peoples.

China supports the Russian people in pursuing a path of national rejuvenation based on their own choices and safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, the president said.

He also highlighted the need for the two nations to promote high-quality development of bilateral pragmatic cooperation, actively explore cooperation in strategic emerging industries, and take the upcoming China-Russia Cultural Year as an opportunity to organize more cultural exchange activities.

Xi expressed support for Russia in hosting a successful BRICS Summit next year and is willing to continue strengthening communication and cooperation with Russia within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and G20, he said.

Addressing Xi as "my dear friend", Putin said the evolution of the international landscape fully vindicates Xi's strategic judgment that the world is facing major changes unseen in a century.

If required we will operate more flights from Israel: MoS Muraleedharan on Operation Ajay

NEW DELHI

MINISTER of State (MoS) for External Affairs V Muraleedharan on Tuesday said that if required, more flights will be operated on the basis of the upcoming situation, noting that five flights have already arrived in the last few days.

"As of now, 5 flights have come and if required we will operate more flights on the basis of the situation that emerges," Muraleedharan said.

"During the last, almost 4-5 days, we have flown aircrafts from Israel to India," he added.

Following the Hamas attack on Israel, the Indian embassy issued an advisory and requested the Indian citizens living in Israel to be cautious and to register their names in the Indian embassy.

"Conflict erupted in Israel, the Indian Embassy had issued an advisory, requesting the Indian citizens there to be cautious and also to register their names in the Indian Embassy..." he emphasized.

Moreover, the minister stressed that the Indian embassy is considering the requests of Indian citizens in Israel based on the ground situation.

"The Indian Embassy is taking the call on who all have to travel to India based on the requests of the people and their ground situation there," he said.

The death toll in Israel has surged to over 1400 people, according to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Moreover, over some 200 people have been held hostages in Gaza by Hamas terrorists.

ANI

Why has China achieved remarkable successes in promoting cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative?

CHINA hosted the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing from Oct. 17 to 18. It is reported that representatives from over 140 countries and more than 30 international organizations attended at the event.

Despite the turbulent international situation, China has rolled out the red carpet to welcome guests from all over the world, which demonstrates the country's unwavering commitment to promoting world peace and development.

Over the past decade since Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),

stories of win-win cooperation have continued to unfold along this public road of shared opportunities and common development.

So far, over 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations have signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with China; the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has grown from 57 founding members to 109 members, which account for 81 percent of the world's population and 65 percent of global GDP; and more than 80 routes have been launched for the China-Europe freight trains, reaching 217 cities in 25 European countries.

Experience over the past 10 years has fully proven that the BRI is an open and inclusive platform and a global public good jointly built by all partners.

International analysts have eagerly sought to understand what allowed China to conceive the grand initiative and accomplish significant achievements in furthering its development.

The BRI is the result of China's reflections on the future and destiny of humanity. In March 2013, in the face of the profound questions of "What is wrong with the world?" and "What should we do about it?", which concern the world, history and the times, Xi

creatively proposed the concept of building a global community with a shared future for mankind.

By launching the BRI, China aims to put this concept into practice and build a practical platform and open up paths for creating an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

The BRI stemmed from China's unshakeable pursuit of world peace and development. China unwaveringly follows the path of peaceful development. It safeguards world peace to ensure its own growth, and contributes to world peace through its own de-

velopment.

Taking the path of peaceful development is China's response to international concerns about its development direction, and also a reflection of the confidence and consciousness of the Chinese people in achieving their development goals.

By proposing the BRI, China strives not only to pursue its own development and enhance its capacity to safeguard world peace, but also to benefit the world by strengthening the forces for upholding world peace and development.

In pursuing Belt and Road cooperation, China will not resort

to the outdated geopolitical maneuvering, but will create a new model of win-win cooperation. It will not form "a small group detrimental to stability", but will try to create "a big family of harmonious coexistence".

The success of the BRI represents the success of China's development path and experience. China has achieved the two miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability, resolved its problem of absolute poverty once for all, and realized its first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

People's Daily

Emirates invests US\$ 135 million in new pilot training centre

BRUSSELS

MINISTERS from across the European Union said yesterday that member states must screen migrants and asylum seekers better and expel those deemed a security risk more quickly, after Islamist attacks highlighted persistent difficulties.

Interior and justice ministers were meeting on Thursday in Brussels to discuss what steps to take following deadly attacks in Brussels and France, at a time of heightened security concerns linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"It's important that those individuals that could cause a security threat to our citizens be returned forcefully, immediately," EU migration commissioner Ylva Johansson told reporters ahead of the meeting.

"We need to be more efficient, close the loopholes and be quicker on decisions to carry out returns."

The 45-year-old Tunisian gunman who killed two Swedish football fans in the Belgian capital on Monday was staying there illegally after his asylum request had been denied.

He reached the EU via the Italian island of Lampedusa in 2011 and also lived in Sweden. He was shot dead by Belgian police.

The 20-year-old, Russian-born Islamist Ingush accused of stabbing to death a teacher in northern France on Friday was known before the attack to be a possible security risk but could not have been expelled under current legislation, France said. "We realize there's still a bit naively either in the institutions of some countries or in the EU," French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said as he arrived for the EU meeting, calling for the swift implementation of much-discussed EU migration rules, and for faster decisions on asylum requests.

Proponents of this looming overhaul of the EU's migration policies - expected to be finalised this year - say it would improve the situation, including by facilitating quicker repatriations of foreigners with criminal records.

The attack in Brussels underlined persistent failings of the EU's troubled migration and asylum systems, including security gaps and ineffective returns. Only about a fifth of people whose asylum cases fail in Europe are actually sent away.

Thursday's meeting will also be the ministers' first chance to exchange views in person since the Oct 7 attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas that killed at least 1,400 Israelis, mostly civilians, and to which Israel has responded by bombing Gaza.

Agencies

Conflict in Israel, Palestine may grow into full-scale war, says Medvedev

MOSCOW

THE conflict in Israel and Palestine can grow into a full-scale regional or even global war, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev said in an article for the Izvestia daily.

"The Middle East is seeing another war. A cruel war without rules. A war based on terror and the doctrine of disproportionate use of force against the civilian population. As it is said today, both sides have gone 'berserk,'" he wrote.

"Of course, it is more important for us to achieve success in the special military operation in our fight against the neo-Nazi in Ukraine, but what is going on in Palestine and Israel cannot but cause concern," he stressed, adding that "wars often have close causes and unfold under the principle of interconnected vessels."

"The current conflict between Palestinians and the Israelis is no exception. This conflict has all the chances to grow into a full-scale regional war. Or even into a global war if the situation develops in a bad way," he pointed out.

He noted that the horrible consequences of this confrontation and numerous casualties and damage are reported every day. "The missile strike on the Baptist hospital in the Gaza Strip leaving hundreds of people dead was a horrible tragedy. A lot of people were badly wounded and may remain disabled for the rest of their lives. This happened despite the fact that hospitals and medical personnel are protected by international humanitarian law. This is a barbaric act that must be strongly condemned. But, apparently, this is not the last one in a chain of atrocious developments in the region," he added.

The article titled Endless War is preceded by quotes from Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and Israel's first female Prime Minister Golda Meir.

Namibia defends decision to kill problem-causing lion

WINDHOEK

In a move that has drawn international attention, Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism on Wednesday confirmed the euthanasia of a problem-causing male lion in the Kunene Region that had been responsible for livestock killings.

This came after animal rights advocates sharply criticized the decision, claiming that the incident is indicative of broader issues with Namibia's approach to wildlife management.

However, Namibia has firmly defended its practices, emphasizing the need to balance the rights of its people with conservation efforts. "Our conservation successes are aided by the fact that community members have accepted to co-exist with dangerous predators and animals that at a time cause damage to their properties and, in unfortunate events, loss of human lives.

On the basis of this, we cannot afford to overlook the plight of the farmers to satisfy the emotions of animal rights groups," said Romeo Muyunda, chief public relations officer at the ministry. The male lion, estimated to be seven or eight years old, was declared a problem-causing animal and subsequently destroyed in the Palmwag area of the Kunene Region on Oct. 10.

According to Muyunda, the lion had been collared for monitoring purposes, and had killed 14 goats in July and a Brahman bull in the Plamfontein area. While efforts were made to manage the conflict, with various mitigation measures implemented by the lion rangers, the lion persisted in preying on livestock, causing increasing concerns among local communities and farmers, Muyunda said, adding that the government's decision to euthanize the lion also has an economic aspect.

Animal rights groups, claiming that the trophy-hunted lion was the last black-maned desert-adapted lion, are demanding an investigation into the killing. According to Muyunda, the adaptability of lions to harsh desert environments, often referred to as desert-adapted, is not a result of genetic differences but rather their proficiency in navigating the terrain, exceptional mobility, and physical endurance; these lions are of the same species as those found elsewhere in the country, scientifically known as "Panthera leo." "Strictly speaking, the concept of desert lions is a marketing gimmick which has been used to imply endangerment or imminent extinction of these lions.

These lions are not at risk of extinction at all. In fact, their numbers have increased to the highest level in at least half a century over which aerial surveys were done, or credible estimates were made," he said. Muyunda highlighted the growing concern about human-wildlife conflict and the ministry's continuous dedication to finding sustainable and respectful solutions to address this issue, aiming to safeguard the country's conservation and tourism successes.

China to work with partners to bring stability to world, says Xi

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday called for working together to inject more certainty and stability into the region and the world, when he met with leaders and officials various countries who are in Beijing for the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

During his meeting with Egyptian PM Mostafa Madbouly, Xi said China and Egypt are good friends who cherish the same aspirations and trust each other.

China stands ready to work with Egypt to jointly safeguard international fairness and justice and the common interests of developing countries to inject more certainty and stability into the region and the world, he said.

On the current situation between Palestine and Israel, the Chinese leader stressed that the top priority is to cease fire and stop war at an early date. It is crucial to prevent the conflict from expanding or even losing control and causing a serious humanitarian crisis, he added.

The fundamental way out of the recurring Palestine-Israel conflict lies in implementing the "two-state solution" and establishing an independent State of Palestine, so as to realize the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel, said Xi.

He said China appreciates the important role played by Egypt in de-escalating the situation and supports Egypt's efforts to open humanitarian corridors.

China is willing to enhance coordination with Egypt and Arab countries to facilitate a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue at the earliest possible opportunity, he said.

Madbouly said that Egypt and Arab countries commended China for its consistent and fair stance on the Palestinian issue and look forward to China's more significant role in resolving the current crisis.

More dividends to Cambodian people

President Xi said China stands ready to advance the synergy of the Belt and Road Initiative with Cambodia's Pentagon Strategy and let China's development bring more dividends to the Cambodian people.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia as well as the China-Cambodia Friendship Year, Xi said while meeting with Cambodian PM Hun Manet.

The two sides should maintain high-level strategic communication to chart the course for building a high-quality,



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C) and his wife Peng Liyuan (R) welcome Prime Minister of Egypt Mostafa Madbouly before a banquet for distinguished guests attending the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, in Beijing on Wednesday. XINHUA

high-level and high-standard China-Cambodia community with a shared future in the new era, Xi said.

China-Mongolia partnership

Noting that Mongolia is a natural partner in the Belt and Road cooperation, President Xi hopes Mongolia will play a greater role in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation by leveraging its geographical location of connecting Europe and Asia.

China will, as always, help Mongolia revitalize its economy, promote the construction of related border ports in an orderly manner, and open up new channels for connectivity between the two countries, Xi said during his meeting with Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh.

He also noted that China is willing to expand trilateral cooperation among China, Mongolia and Russia, and make steady progress in the construction of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor.

Khurelsukh said the outcomes of the third BRF will inject fresh and strong impetus into world economic growth.

Mongolia is ready to promote cooperation with China in fields such as economy and trade, connectivity, mineral resources and energy, desertification prevention and control, and green development, as well as step up people-to-people and cultural exchanges, he said.

Highly commending China's important role in world peace and stability, Khurelsukh noted that Mongolia attaches importance to strengthening trilateral cooperation among Mongolia, China and Russia, and it is willing to promote interaction and collaboration with China in multilateral affairs.

The two heads of state witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation documents in fields including green and low-carbon sector and digital economy.

Senior Chinese officials including Cai Qi and

Wang Yi attended the events.

China-Turkmenistan partnership

President Xi also met with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, on Thursday.

President Xi called for enhancing China-Turkmenistan comprehensive strategic partnership, saying it serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and the shared aspiration of the two peoples.

China will continue to work with Turkmenistan to push for sustained steady growth of bilateral relations, Xi said on Thursday in Beijing when meeting with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan.

Xi said that China is willing to strengthen the alignment between the Belt and Road Initiative and Turkmenistan's development strategy to revive the Great Silk Road.

He pointed out that the two sides should expand the scale of bilateral trade, enhance cooperation in medical and health care, sports and tourism, and build the Luban Workshop in Turkmenistan at an early date.

Berdimuhamedov said President Xi's keynote speech at the opening of the third BRF charted the course for future cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides should continue to deepen economic and energy cooperation as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and strengthen multilateral communication and coordination within frameworks such as the China-Central Asia mechanism, said Berdimuhamedov.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of bilateral cooperation documents covering sectors such as economic and technological cooperation.

President Xi also met with Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, President of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso, Mozambican Prime Minister Adriano Maleiane, and Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar in Beijing on Thursday.

Xinhua

Ability to fuse tradition, tech sets India apart on global stage - Jaishankar

HANOI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, on Tuesday engaged with the Indian community in Vietnam and emphasised the importance of blending tradition and technology in shaping India's future.

During his address, the External Affairs Minister underscored that it is India's ability to seamlessly fuse its rich cultural heritage with cutting-edge technology that positions the country on the global stage.

The event, which took place in Hanoi, served as a platform for Jaishankar to reflect on the deepening ties between India and Vietnam and explore opportunities to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

He acknowledged the importance of people-to-people connections and commended the Indian diaspora for their role in strengthening India's global outreach.

Jaishankar began his address by addressing the question of what lies in India's future. He stated, "You know one part of it is tradition, and one part of it is technology. It takes a society like India to be able to fuse tradition and technology and be equally comfortable with both. That's really what will actually give us our standing in the world."



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addresses the Indian community in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Tuesday. ANI

Jaishankar further emphasised the role of the Indian community in Vietnam in strengthening the bilateral relationship.

He said, "There is no question today that in many ways our relationship is a good fit, there is a lot that we can do, but at the end of the day, when we speak about cooperation, it is done by people, and you are the people."

The Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in fostering cultural exchange and economic cooperation between India and Vietnam. Their contributions in various fields, including

business, education, and culture, have helped strengthen the ties between the two nations.

As India continues to expand its global presence, its unique ability to balance tradition and technology is becoming increasingly prominent. Jaishankar's message to the Indian community in Vietnam resonates with India's broader vision of fostering inclusive growth, preserving its heritage, and embracing the opportunities of the modern world.

Earlier today, Jaishankar attended the unveiling ceremony of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Ho Chi Minh

City and highlighted the significance of values and beliefs of Mahatma Gandhi in modern scenarios.

"This is a very symbolic moment of our friendship...Mahatma Gandhi is without question one of the most iconic figures of our contemporary world and his contributions to truth, non-violence, independence and freedom of people have been recognised by the United Nations by proclaiming his birthday, 2nd October as International Day of non-violence," he said.

Prior to that, the External Affairs Minister also met Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City Party Secretary Nguyen Van Nen and appreciated the contribution of HCMC to the India-Vietnam partnership.

The EAM is on an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of his counterpart Bui Thanh Son.

During his visit, the EAM unveiled the bust of Rabindranath Tagore in Bac Ninh province of Vietnam and watched a performance by the Quan Ho Art Theater group. ANI



NGORONGORO QUEENS' NEEMA JUSTINE (L) RECEIVES FROM A NATIONAL CRICKET SQUAD PLAYER WHEN NGORONGORO QUEENS LOCKED HORNS WITH USAMBARA QUEENS IN THIS SEASON'S TANZANIA WOMEN'S CRICKET PREMIER LEAGUE DUEL AT LEADERS CLUB GROUND IN DAR ES SALAAM LAST WEEKEND. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Ngorongoro Queens hammer Usambara Queens in 2023 Women's Cricket Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

NGORONGORO Queens' impressive start to the inaugural Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League has again been put to show as they commanded a 24-run win over Usambara Queens at Leaders Club ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

It was a second victory for Ngorongoro Queens, as the performers opened their quest for the title with a seven-wicket drubbing of Kilimanjaro Queens the same weekend.

Ngorongoro Queens ended with 132/8 in 20 overs after they had taken the crease first in the second encounter.

Significant contribution with the bat was shown by two of the outfit's top-order players and their fellow deployed at the middle order.

Having dropped three wickets within a short spell, Ngorongoro Queens' efforts to end with a better total received a momentous boost given the opening batter, Neema Justine, put in a solid showing and re-recorded 73 runs.

Neema stepped up her game once fellow top-order players, Mwanaidi Ammy, Mwanamvua Hamisi, and Dorice Helmet fell victim to the Usambara Queens bowling unit's skilful deliveries.

Mwanaidi could so far chip in with a mere six runs, as her plan to make her presence felt hit a snag, returning after she was bowled by Usambara Queens' Perice Zakayo.

Tabu Saidi made the most of her experience - notching 22 runs - and Shufaa Hamza also had two digits as the cricketer posted 16 runs.

Perice's four-wicket haul in her four-over stint was the most impressive contribution when her outfit fielded.

Hudaa Mrisho's two wickets in four overs were also crucial in Usambara Queens' plan to prevent Ngorongoro Queens from setting up a challenging target.

Even though they put up a spirited showing when they went in to bat, Usambara Queens could not reach the target given the cricketers notched 108/9 in 20 overs.

Captain Perice and Hudaa got the innings underway with two-digit figures, as the skipper posted 13 runs and Hudaa notched 10 runs.

Usambara Queens' pursuit of the target was still on, with Mwanaidi Amani notching 13 runs and Happy George ending with 11 runs.

Nice George (two runs not out) had an unbeaten stand with Catherine Dominic (22 runs not out), which did little to wade off Ngorongoro Queens bowling unit's pressure.

Impressive bowling figures by Mwanamvua (4-10 in four overs) and Mwachab Hussein's 4-17 in four overs proved to be crucial to a plan by Ngorongoro Queens to tame Usambara Queens' batters.

The four-team showdown has been organized by the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), seeking to step up efforts to raise the standard of women's cricket at the domestic level.

Mount Meru Queens, Ngorongoro Queens, Usambara Queens, and Kilimanjaro Queens are taking part in the Tanzania Women's Cricket Premier League.

Cricketers making Mount Meru Queens include Foide Ezekiel, Mwamvita Mwasiga, Zakia Ally, Lightness Eladius, Bilhuda Salum, Jenipher Gabriel, Farida Amiry, and Gertrude Mushi.

Asha Lugali, Zena Hassan, Sophia Frank, Mwapwani Ally, Aisha Mohamed, Malizia Salum, and captain Monica Paschal are the team's other cricketers.

Ngorongoro Queens' cricketers are Mwachab Omary, Mwachab Matheo, Remmy Mkina, Dorice Helmet, Lonsina Seperatus, Maua Alfani, Mwanaidi Sufiani, and Gertrude Faustine.

Mwana Ushanga, Tabu Said, Shufaa Hamza, Neema Justine, Joan Jackson, Mwachab Salum, and Mwanaidi Ammy are also on the list.

Kilimanjaro Queens are made up of Florida Peter, Halima Ramadhani, Mariam Hussein, Zuhura Masoud, Angel Paschal, Sharifa Rashidi, Mwanaidi Mohamed, and Maimuna Fikiri.

Shania Fikiri, Swaam Godfrey, Saum Deo, Gift Omary, Nasra Hamza, Fatuma Omary, and Maria Joseph also turn out for the outfit.

Cricketers making Usambara Queens are Perice Zakayo, Fat'ha Salum, Nice George, Magreth Patrod, Mwanaidi Amani, Lucy Raymond, Esther Frank, and Fatuma Hatibu.

Zulfa Hussein, Hadija Juma, Sheila Shamte, Hudaa Mrisho, Catherine Dominic, Saum Borakambi, and Happy George also made the team.

Dafa News is the main sponsor of the league which is also supported by Unity Computers, Sports Box, Delaware Investments, Reliance Insurance Tanzania, GI Security, Meru, and General Petroleum Tanzania.

Robertino reveals Simba SC's secrets ahead of AFL opener

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

SIMBA SC head coach Roberto 'Robertinho' Oliveira has revealed that the club will approach today evening's African Football League (AFL) opener against Egyptian giants, Al Ahly, with three vital components of confidence, personality, and talent.

The Tanzanian outfit takes on the 11-time African champions in the opening game of the inaugural AFL at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Oliveira says they are well prepared to bag a win in the first leg and make the return fixture slated to take place in Cairo next Tuesday lighter on their shoulders.

The Brazilian tactician says the three components, that he has instilled in his boys, will be vital, pointing out that one cannot exist without the other.

Oliveira noted: "Confidence in the team, personality and talent. These are three important points for winning one game in football. You have big clubs who on the match day, do not have the confidence."

"I have worked a lot on this because you need to believe in your capacity and with that you have a good chance of winning," Oliveira said.

The Msimbazi Street side has faced Ahly twice in Dar es Salaam, winning both ties with 1-0 margins, but the coach says



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Burju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for various tournaments including the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and African Football League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

history will count for nothing when they face off again today.

"You cannot talk a lot about the result in the past. For me, in football everything is possible. You need a lot of respect in football, for yourself and the opponent," he noted.

Simba SC will come into the duel with a boost of confidence, having started their domestic season with a brilliant push, winning five games in a row.

They have also booked a ticket to the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League after edging out Zambia's Power Dynamos in the Second Preliminary Round.

The coach says the team is well-drilled and prepared and has no fear facing Ahly, who has a massive pedigree in African

football.

"I am satisfied with where we are as a club. This is a good moment for Simba SC (to play in the AFL). Last season we played well with a good performance and we must repeat the same in this competition. At Simba SC, you always have to win with a good performance," Robertinho said.

He added: "Ahly is a good club with a lot of experience playing in the CAF Champions League. Simba SC is also a big club and is now number seven in Africa. We respect our opponents and they need to respect us too."

The gaffer said: "We want to win every game and this is a big moment not just for Simba SC, but Tanzanian football as

well. Our objective is to win and make a good performance as well."

The tactician has also asked fans to come out in their droves, to support the team and bring the noise to enable them to earn a good result.

Already tickets, for the game which will kick off at 1800 hours, are fast selling, with regular and platinum tickets already sold out.

"We want our fans to come out and it is important for us. We will play with heart. I believe in our capacity and strategy for the game."

"It will be a huge advantage for us to play with 12 men, with the fans in the stands pushing us," the coach opined.



The Wanne Star troupe's artists are pictured performing at an occasion for laying the foundation stone for the new paint factory project at the Alaf Limited in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Amrouche calls on clubs to give goalkeepers and strikers opportunities

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national men's football team head coach, Adel Amrouche, has advised the local clubs to provide opportunities to local goalkeepers and attackers to keep up with healthy competition.

Amrouche voiced the issue in his pre-match conference after Tanzania drew 1-1 in a friendly clash against Sudan at King Fahad Stadium in Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

The Belgo-Algerian gaffer said so after his team's attackers had squandered open chances, with the team experiencing a lack of options for the striking force on the bench.

Taifa Stars have the same options in 2023 in Kibu Denis, Simon Msuva, and Mbwana Samatta on the front three, while other strikers have failed to challenge the trio for permanent spots,

with most of the remaining failing to keep up with consistency.

Stars have scored six goals in their last 10 games, which is a low ratio per national team standards, with the last five games ending in 1-1 versus Sudan, and 0-0 against already qualified Algeria.

The team grabbed a 1-0 win against Niger, conceded a 1-0 loss when confronting Uganda, and had earlier won 1-0 against Uganda in AFCON group qualifications.

The tactician noted: "We need more games to test our players but especially we need to learn that we can't develop in the national team. That's the work of their respective clubs which is the same story with our keepers."

"In Tanzania, most outfits are happy to have foreign goalkeepers but we all saw today how challenging it is when you don't

give our goalies opportunities."

"Without competition it is different, we now suffering with my challenges, I hope the federation is working out but it's not about the federation it's about clubs to help the national team because we are not playing for the city team or something like that we are playing for Tanzania," the coach added.

The gaffer queried: "How many strikers do we have in Tanzania that can score? I am not going to develop strikers in a few days, we can play well in the midfield but what about the front areas?"

"I don't see a striker who can score goals as many as possible, if I give an opportunity and no one delivers, I am sorry I will change."

The tactician stressed: "In the national team we should have our players ready, we don't develop players in the national

team."

Amrouche weighed up his concern ahead of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Ivory Coast next year, in which Tanzania has qualified for the third time.

The Tanzania envoys, slotted in Group F, will have to clear hurdles of Morocco, DR Congo, and Zambia, to earn a chance of marching beyond the group phase.

Taifa Stars will launch their Group F campaign with a tense match against Morocco on January 17 and, later on the same day, DR Congo will face Zambia.

On January 21, Morocco will play against Congo DR while Zambia will meet Tanzania. The last Group Stage fixtures have been scheduled for January 24 when Tanzania will confront DR Congo and Zambia take on Morocco.

Jadon Sancho has one last chance to save his Man United career

By James Ducker

THERE are times when Jadon Sancho locks the door of the academy team dressing room, alone with his thoughts, and must wonder how it has come to this.

A £73 million move to Manchester United from Borussia Dortmund in July 2021 was supposed to provide the platform and exposure for the England winger to take his game to the next level.

But, of all the expensive signings who have funneled through Old Trafford in the post-Sir Alex Ferguson era, few have found the going as tough or delivered as little on their promise as Sancho.

Sancho was given three months away by Ten Hag last season to address his physical and mental condition and now, for very different reasons, he finds himself working alone again. This time he is exiled from the first-team squad after a feud with the manager that is about to extend into a seventh week and shows no immediate signs of ending, despite the efforts of team-mates, staff and executives to break the impasse.

Visit United's Carrington training base on any ordinary day and, away from the noise and bustle of the under-18 and under-21 teams, let alone the first-team squad, you will find Sancho working one-to-one with individual coaches.

It is a sad sight and some details, in particular, point to the extent of the separation and isolation, which in itself feels uncomfortable given what Sancho worked through personally last season. Banned from the first-team set-up while he refuses to apologise to Ten Hag over his public outburst at the start of last month, Sancho must change in the academy dressing room.

But because strict safeguarding rules prevent him from sharing a dressing room with those academy players who are still classed as minors, the 23-year-old must change alone and with the door locked so there is no risk of anyone entering.

After a truncated last season and now this, it does not feel like Sancho does what he is paid to do very often these days and the longer his exile persists the more fans may wonder if they will see the player in that famous red shirt again.

There is, it should be said, a route back at Old Trafford for Sancho, or at least the pretence of one.

Ten Hag does not just want Sancho to say sorry in private, he requires a full public apology to mirror the action that saw the player take to social media and effectively accuse his manager of lying over the reasons for his absence in the 3-1 defeat at Arsenal on Sept 3.

According to Ten Hag, Sancho was omitted because of his "performance in training", to which the player reacted by telling his 2.2 million followers on X (formerly Twitter) that there were "other reasons" and that he had been made "a scapegoat for a long time which isn't fair".

There have been other battles with Sancho, not least around his time-keeping, but speak to those with visibility of the situation and they will say such matters have been resolved. It is that social media post and its contents that remain at the crux of the problem.

Ten Hag, determined to enforce a code of discipline and raises standards at a club who have lost their way, is not for backing down.

The problem is that Sancho, so far at least, appears unwilling to do either. In his mind, there have been notable inconsistencies in the way Ten Hag has applied certain rules in relation to him compared to team-mates. Nonetheless, the ball remains in his court. As one source put it: "Jadon can easily solve this tomorrow."

The clocks go back at the end of the month and maybe the impending onset of winter or the prospect of a new minority shareholder, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, taking control of football operations at Old Trafford will spark a change of stance but, until then, the stand-off remains.

There has not been a shortage of people looking to resolve the matter. John Murtough, United's football director, has been heavily involved but other support staff have tried to reason with Sancho, too. Even his United team-mates, including some of his closest allies in the dressing room, have urged him to apologise and end the dispute. Marcus Rashford, Luke Shaw and Harry Maguire, Sancho's England colleagues, are among those who hope the situation can be put to bed, as is captain Bruno Fernandes.

They understand Sancho has his grievances but also recognise that making accusations about a manager in public will have consequences. Plenty in United's squad recognise that discipline had dropped to such a level in the final season before Ten Hag came in that things had to change. Rashford, for example, apologised swiftly after being dropped from the starting XI against Wolves last Christmas after being late for a team meeting and everyone moved on.

Can Sancho and Ten Hag do the same? There is little denying his Old Trafford future is in doubt and, if an apology is not forthcoming, it would be no surprise if United sought to move him on in the January transfer window.

Equally, even if he does apologise, Ten Hag is likely to need a lot of convincing in training and on match days that Sancho is a player who should stay along for the ride beyond the short-term.

THE TELEGRAPH

Benzema, French minister clash over 'Muslim Brotherhood' claim

PARIS

THE lawyer of Karim Benzema has hit back at France's interior minister after he accused the French football star who plays for Saudi team Al-Ittihad of links to the Muslim Brotherhood Islamist group.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin made the accusations after the reigning Ballon d'Or winner and former Real Madrid forward posted a message on social media about the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

"All our prayers are for the inhabitants of Gaza who are once again victims of these unjust bombings which spare no women or children," Benzema wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Hamas on October 7 launched shock raids into Israel, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and seizing about 200 hostages.

Israel has since then launched wave after wave of retaliatory air strikes, killing more than 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza.

Darmanin, speaking on the CNews Channel, alleged that Benzema "has a notorious link with the Muslim Brotherhood", a Sunni Muslim Islamist group with



Karim Benzema

its origins in Egypt that is now banned by Cairo.

"This is false! Karim Benzema has never had the slightest relationship with this organisation," Benzema's lawyer Hugues Vigier said in a statement.

He said that Benzema was expressing "natural compassion" with "what many today describe as war crimes being committed in Gaza, but which does not detract from the horror of the terrorist acts of October 7, something not open to discussion".

The lawyer added that he was planning to file a complaint against Darmanin for his comments.

- 'Intolerable exploitation' -

A source close to Darmanin doubled down on the minister's comments, criticising Benzema over an alleged "drift" towards a tougher interpretation of Islam over the last years.

But his lawyer Vigier said:

"We are once again witnessing an intolerable exploitation of Karim Benzema and the 'symbolic figure' that we like to make him."

Benzema, 35, who was born in France to parents of Algerian origin, has been one of the standout French stars of the last decade.

He joined the Saudi club on a hugely lucrative three-year deal this year after 14 seasons with Real Madrid where he lifted five Champions Leagues, four La Liga titles and three Copas del Rey.

But after a stellar 2021-22 season when he led Real to Champions League glory and was rewarded with the Ballon d'Or for the world's best player, he was troubled by injuries that ruled him out of France's World Cup campaign in Qatar last year.

Darmanin, 41, has carved out a reputation as a hardliner in the mould of his political men-

tor ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy and makes no secret of his own presidential ambitions.

French hard-left figurehead and three-time presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon weighed in on the controversy to back Benzema while admitting: "I don't know you and I don't know anything about football."

"The government and its friends have chosen to demonise you," he said, accusing the authorities of seeing Benzema as "French only on paper".

Meanwhile, Liverpool and Egypt football star Mohamed Salah called for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza on Wednesday as he pleaded for an end to "massacres" in the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Gazans have been facing dire shortages as the territory was effectively sealed off in the wake of the October 7 attacks by Hamas militants on Israeli communities and military posts that claimed 1,400 lives.

On Tuesday, a deadly rocket strike hit a Gaza hospital that Hamas blamed on Israel.

However, Israel denied responsibility, claiming the strike was caused by an errant rocket fired by Palestinian militants.

A Champions League and Premier League winner with

Liverpool, Egypt captain Salah, 31, is one of the most popular athletes in the Arab world.

"It is not always easy to speak in a time like this. There has been too much violence and too much heartbreak and brutality," Salah said in a video posted to his 62.7 million followers on Instagram.

"The escalations in recent weeks is unbearable to witness. All lives are sacred and must be protected. The massacres need to stop, families are being torn apart."

After a visit by US President Joe Biden to Tel Aviv on Wednesday, Israel said it had agreed to his request to allow aid into the besieged Gaza via Egypt due to mounting concern about dwindling supplies and warnings of a humanitarian catastrophe.

"What is clear now is that humanitarian aid to Gaza must be allowed immediately. The people there are in terrible conditions," Salah added.

"The scenes at the hospital last night were horrifying. The people of Gaza need food, water and medical supplies urgently."

"I am calling on world leaders to come together to prevent further slaughter of innocent souls - humanity must prevail."

AFP

How Sir Jim Ratcliffe can reshape Man Utd by addressing pivotal issue

By Richard Jolly

CALL it a belated birthday present, perhaps. Sir Jim Ratcliffe turned 71 on Wednesday. For those who have amassed such riches, it is less a question of what others buy them and more what they buy for themselves. And in Ratcliffe's case, at a cost of £1.3bn, the answer may be a quarter of the club he has supported since he was a child in Failsworth.

There are details to iron out and no deal will be finalised just yet but the Manchester United board will vote - though probably not on Thursday - whether to accept Ratcliffe's offer.

The petrochemicals billionaire has already seen off his main competitor: if there was a widespread assumption - one that may have been shared by the Glazer family - that Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al Thani would dramatically raise a bid that many believed was financed by the Qatari state, it never happened.

Ratcliffe has been a triumph of persistence and flexibility, amending his own offer from a majority to a minority stake, negotiating with the Glazers. It comes to something when a man of his wealth feels like the underdog but the outsider has prevailed.

While Sheikh Jassim also presented himself as a United supporter and while Ratcliffe had attempted to buy Chelsea, the Ineos co-founder has the feel of the local boy made good. And, at points in the past, a place on a football club board would have felt a reward for many who matched that description. Now the sums are



Sir Jim Ratcliffe

so massive that the motivations become most instructive. Thus far, the questions outnumber the definitive answers.

Will United be a trophy asset for Ratcliffe? Perhaps not immediately, given that the Glazers will remain the biggest shareholders, at least in the short term. Is it simply an astute business deal? Not on the face of it, given that Ratcliffe has valued United at around double its market price and Sheikh Jassim felt the Glazers' demands were outlandish. Yet Ratcliffe has proved he can make money: that 25 per cent could yet yield a profit and the Glazers' reluctance to walk away seemed to stem in part from a belief the club will be worth more again in the future.

The most pertinent issue for many supporters, who have long called for the Glazers to go, is whether it leads to a full takeover; and if so, whether the terms

of Ratcliffe's buy-in ensure it, or merely make it optional. Moreover, the new structure, assuming it is improved, does not necessarily promise the investment United require: with other parties holding 75 per cent of the club, Ratcliffe would have less incentive to put his own money in. The presumption at the moment is that the £1.3bn will largely go to

the Glazers, not United. The general sense is the club need the money more than their owners.

Sheikh Jassim's promises will now never be tested but he had pledged to invest more than £1bn; with the need to either revamp or rebuild Old Trafford, any plans to improve the infrastructure the Glazers have neglected will not be cheap. So if Ratcliffe pursues such plans, will the debt - currently at £725m - rise over £1bn? United's current scope for signings is limited more by Financial Fair Play than anything else, but could he bring an improvement in recruitment?

The feeling is that Ratcliffe wants control of the football side of the club, where United's underachievement has been particularly grievous in the last decade. Would that be beneficial? Given United's record, it may be welcomed. Ratcliffe's own record in sport is mixed: Nice are currently second in Ligue Un but their fortunes have fluctuated during his ownership and have been pockmarked by transfer-market missteps. Lau-

sanne have been both relegated and promoted under Ratcliffe's regime. He bought the most successful outfit in world cycling, then known as Team Sky; since rebranded as Ineos, but they have lost their pre-eminence and appear in an identity crisis.

But if his initial emphasis is on the pitch - rather than the commercial side of the business the chief executive, Richard Arnold, oversees - there is an obvious focus on the director of football, John Murtough. Inside Old Trafford, there is already a recognition the team has achieved too little and their record in recruitment has been underwhelming since Sir Alex Ferguson retired. Some nevertheless feel that there is more structure and strategy since Ed Woodward handed over the reins: they can point to a new training centre for the women's and academy teams, the appointment of Erik ten Hag, and a fine season last year.

Yet a stumbling, stuttering start to this season, the struggles of several recent signings and the reality that around

£400m has been spent in the last two summers feels ill-timed. Accusations United have overpaid are scarcely new but will it prompt Ratcliffe to seek change behind the scenes? The initial noises are that, despite the team's slump, Ten Hag is seen as far more of a solution than a problem, though it would be instructive to know if that stance were maintained should the next 10 games bring another six defeats. Shifts in ownership do not always bode well for incumbent managers, whereas the Dutchman has enjoyed the backing of Murtough and the Glazers.

Ten Hag always projects an air of confidence and decisiveness but many at Old Trafford could be forgiven for wondering what Ratcliffe's investment means and what comes next. If it has scarcely helped United that they have lingered in limbo for 11 months, since the Glazers put the club up for sale, a boardroom vote could instead bring about a time of uncertainty.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Benzema, French minister clash over 'Muslim Brotherhood' claim

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Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamis Mwinjuma.

Simba SC, Azam FC and Singida Fountain Gate FC support fight against women and child abuse

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has called upon the teams participating in Mainland Tanzania Premier League and other leagues to engage in social initiatives, particularly in the fight against violence targeting women and children.

Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamis Mwinjuma, popularly known as 'Mwana FA', issued the call when he graced the launch of the 'Piga Mpira, Si Wanawake' campaign initiated by the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Thamani Women Tanzania.

Mwinjuma emphasized the significance of football, the nation's top sport boasting a large following, and urged players and leaders to actively participate in campaigns against violence targeting women and children.

He said that the collective effort can lead to positive societal change. The campaign initially involves Simba SC, Azam FC, and Singida Fountain Gate FC, with plans to include more teams in the future.

"The government expressed its wholehearted support for Thamani Women Tanzania's movement, recognizing the vital role it plays in the country," he said.

Mwinjuma stressed the need to leverage their influence to promote these campaigns, emphasizing the role of players and leaders as mirrors of society. "By uniting in this cause, they aim to achieve their shared goals," he said.

Nafue Nyange, Director General of Thamani Women Tanzania, explained their choice of football as a medium to rapidly disseminate their message, given the sport's popularity among men.

Nafue said their strategy involves players from these teams creating audio and video content denouncing acts of violence against women and children, which will be shared across social networks and radio platforms. The objective is to swiftly reach society and eradicate this behaviour.

"Initially, we have chosen these three teams, and we plan to expand our reach by involving more teams in the future," the official noted.

The Thamani Women Tanzania boss revealed: "I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the leaders of these three teams and all stakeholders for their support in this crucial campaign for the betterment of our society. We believe in our success."

Meanwhile, Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer, Imani Kajula, affirmed their commitment to using their players and social media presence to vigorously oppose violence against women and children.

The Msimbazi Street club's commitment also found resonance with the Chief Executive Officer of Azam FC, Abdulkarim Popat, and Singida Fountain Gates FC's Olebile Sikwane.

Simba SC must value tactical discipline in AFL quarterfinal against Al Ahly



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielders, Clatous Chama (L) and Mzamiru Yassin are pictured participating in the club's training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday in preparation for African Football League's quarterfinal tie against Al Ahly SC of Egypt to be played in the city today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TACTICS are likely to decide Simba SC's tie versus Al Ahly when they meet in the inaugural match of the African Football League (AFL) at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

Here is the tactical breakdown of how Simba SC's head coach Roberto Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho', can exploit Al Ahly's weaknesses.

Despite the quality of Al Ahly, the side has, in recent days, had a big deficit in the defensive area, an aspect Simba SC should use well to get many goals.

Goalkeeper

In competitive games, Al Ahly's Mohamed El Shenawy has stood between the goalposts for a long time now, he has great quality but his weakness at saving long-range efforts by the opponents still troubles him.

The goalkeeper has conceded many goals from long-range shots, especially aimed at far posts, be it acute angle or reverse angle.

Memories show the goal scored by Luis Miquissone, then featuring for Simba SC in a CAF Champions League

clash against Al Ahly at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in February 2021, was scored outside the 18-yard box with a fierce shot that went into the far right corner.

The weakness was seen in the CAF Champions League Group Stage match against Mamelodi Sundowns played last season in a 5-2 victory for the South Africans, two goals were netted outside the 18-yard box.

In the Egyptian Premier League, he has continued to allow long-range shots executed by the away teams, despite his skills between the goal.

If Simba SC is clinical, the squad can get more goals through Kibu Denis, Clatous Chama, and Saidi Ntibazonkiza.

Fullbacks

Al Ahly have the best fullbacks on the continent, they have similarities in style of play with Simba's Mohamed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe because the Egyptian side's defend-

ers are better at attacking than defending.

Simba SC should have a clinical plan exploiting Al Ahly's right side served by Mohamed Hanny as right back and star midfielder, Percy Tau.

In this area, Simba SC ought to line up players that will force Hanny not to play high while Tau engages more in defending from the half zone of the pitch.

Either way, Simba needs Hussein to stop overlapping much if he is paired with a nondefensive winger, if Kibu Denis plays as a left winger then they can exploit the right side because of his defensive prowess.

Al Ahly game tempo

Al Ahly are known for their pace style of play, but those days are gone under the tutelage of Marcel Koller they seem to struggle against teams that play with speedy players.

When the Egyptian big gun came up against Wydad Casablanca in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League

final, despite winning the competition on aggregate, the club had trouble keeping the Moroccan side at bay and also faced the same problem in both legs of Group Stage against Mamelodi Sundowns.

They play at a low tempo with pure accuracy, Simba SC will have to play with more pace and exploit Al Ahly's left side where Tunisian Ali Maaloul, at 33 years, is aging and his speed is not top-notch.

With Kibu Denis' speed and physical attributes, Simba SC will have an advantage in battling Al Ahly's left flank and creating opportunities.

Avoid conceding corner kicks and set-pieces

One weakness Simba SC has to work on is conceding too many corner kicks and committing fouls near the penalty area.

Al Ahly are masters at converting goals from corners and, in Percy Tau, the squad has a dangerous footballer with what it takes to score goals from set-pieces.

Simba SC should have players with height in John Bocco, Sadio Kanoute, Fabrice Ngoma, and Henock Inonga to have a goal ratio in aerial duels.

Simba SC's midfield structure

Simba SC plays in a 4-2-3-1 formation, which is the same formation used by their Egyptian opponent, nicknamed 'Nadi El Shayateen El Homr' (The Red Devils).

To have a smooth flow of football without distracting the rhythm of the team, Roberto Oliveira should maintain the same formation with Ngoma as the focal point of the team, and either Kanoute or Mzamiru one of them can pair with the Congolese.

Simba SC's goalkeeping choice

Aishi Manula has not featured in competitive games for over a year now, so throwing him into this high-profile game, despite his experience, would not be a good choice.

Ayoub Lakred, who has played in Simba SC's CAF Champions League games this season, has earned his spot and, due to his North Africa heritage and experience in a clash like this, he will be useful.

'Na stadium no be library', is a Pidgin English saying in Nigeria where fans are normally seen in burners urging fellow supporters to cheer up for 90 minutes, instead of sitting and waiting for goal celebrations.

It has to be applied by Simba SC fans, the supporters have to be loud for 90 minutes to motivate the outfit's players so they can get the better of Al Ahly players.

Tanzania U-15 team set for CECAFA Championships

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE 2023 regional U-15 Boys Championships will be held in Uganda, the Council of East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA) announced yesterday.

The communication, announced by CECAFA Executive Director Auka Gecheo, indicated that the 14-day tournament will be staged at the FUFA Technical Centre in Njeru from November 4-18.

The tournament will be the second CECAFA event to be held in Uganda, coming after the country hosted the CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zone qualifiers that were won by Tanzania's JKT Queens a little less than two months ago.

"We are excited that the youngsters will have yet another platform to engage at an International level and this will help them prepare ahead of the U-17 AFCON qualifiers to be staged next year," Gecheo told CECAFA Online portal.

All Member Associations expressing the need to participate in the



Tanzania's national U-15 boys squad engages in drills in Tanga recently in preparation for the 2023 CECAFA Championships which will be hosted by Uganda in November. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

tournament, as per the CECAFA Competitions Director Yusuf Mossi, will have to do so by October 23, 2023.

"Only players aged between 11-15 will be eligible to play in the Championship in Uganda," he added.

The CECAFA Zone last held a U-15 Boys Championship in Asmara, Eritrea in 2019, where Uganda defeated Kenya in the final to emerge champions.

Tanzania's U-15 Boys team has been kept under moderate drills at the Tanzania Football Federation technical center, Mnyanjani, Tanga under head coach Maalim Salehe and will participate in this year's edition.

Salehe stated the boys have shown massive improvements ahead of the tournament with various friendly games providing him with a clear picture of areas to improve while recording a clear bill on injuries.

After the U-15 CECAFA Boys Championship, focus will turn to the CECAFA U-18 Boys Championship which will be held in the Kenyan town of Kisumu from November 25 to December 9.

The Pan African Schools CECAFA Zonal qualifiers will crown the 2023 season when it takes center stage in Nairobi from December 10-15 2023.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT FRUIT is YELLOW?



OOH... ORANGE!

