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New NMB platform eyes Z'bar youth with financial inclusion

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

NMB Bank Plc has debuted a 'Go with NMB' platform in Zanzibar to empower young people through a digital finance platform.

Ruth Zaipuna, the bank's chief executive officer, told Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, that the platform will be used for lending and financial literacy programmes, using its vast network and innovation to ensure that Zanzibar youths are competent in handling cash flows. The banking solutions platform was launched at Forodhani in Unguja, with the chief guest expressing the feeling that the investment was a game changer in addressing development



This platform is in line with our vision of promoting self-reliance through entrepreneurship

challenges. Profiling the new initiative, the CEO said the product can make a huge difference in the lives of young people across Tanzania, as an empowerment platform and a networking avenue. The platform is specifically designed to serve the youth, who account for 64 per cent of the country's population, an invaluable growth asset that must be enlightened on money matters to engage digitally, she stated. The platform offers young people abundant empowerment opportunities like motorcycle loans, boat credits, financial education and literacy in using the bank's digital services, focused on rapid lending facilities

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Unanimous praise as MPs approve 'historic Budget'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

BUDGET estimates that a breadth of stakeholders qualify as 'historic' were approved by the National Assembly late last week, setting the tone for the first term of the sixth phase presidency.

The second budget prepared under President Samia Suluhu Hassan surprised analysts for its innovative reach, underlining that if fully implemented it will have far reaching economic and social impact.

The budget that takes effect July 1 was praised for new recommendations responding to long term public complaints, including unnecessary costs for vehicles, tasking qualified public officials to buy vehicles with official loans.

Similarly, meetings by government agencies involving officials in different regions be conducted by video link or online instead of officials travelling for such meetings. Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba had explained to a hushed chamber.

The salary bill will also be trimmed by assigning suspended or demoted officials to salaries they earned before entering the post from which they were suspended or demoted. Up to 200 individuals were still obtaining salaries equivalent to permanent secretary, despite that they aren't more than 50, he said in illustration.

Public service and parastatal appointments will be open for application and interviews to find the best people, halting the use of direct nomination, with employees in the private sector also permitted to apply for top public sector positions, now open for director general of the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) and the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB).

Operating allocations will be increased for the Office of the Controller and Attorney General (CAG) to closely audit public institutions for compliance with the measures set out in the budget, especially in relation to altering public procurement to reflect actual market prices, not the lowest bidder system.

Construction of a new bridge over the Msim-

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Govt drafts new private sector minimum wages

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NEW minimum wage levels for the private sector will be announced soon, the government has declared.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment

and Special Groups), made this affirmation here yesterday when closing an annual general meeting of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and high level workshop.

The new rates will be made public soon, she said, noting that

agreement has been reached with ATE on the new rates and the drafting and approval process was at an advanced stage, with the proposed rates submitted to the wage boards for endorsement before being made public.

She commended ATE for its

contribution in the process to revise minimum wages for the private sector to meet increasing needs and demand, expressing assurance that workers in the private sector should expect good news on improved



Wolfgang John Pisa is ordained a Bishop of the Catholic Church Lindi Diocese at a ceremony held Lindi municipality's Ilulu Stadium yesterday, with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in attendance. On April 9 Pope Francis accepted Monsignor Bruno Pius Ngonyani's resignation from the pastoral care of the diocese. He subsequently named Pisa (56), since 2020 Assistant Priest for Arusha Region's Kwangulelo Parish and Lecturer at St. Augustine University in Arusha, as bishop of the same diocese. Photo: PMO

Ruaha river, Lake Rukwa to get \$75m for basin uplift

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A TOTAL of \$75.5m will be spent to restore the natural ecology in the Ruaha River and Lake Rukwa basins, with \$11m provided by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the government has announced.

Dr Damas Mapunda, the project's coordinator with the Vice President's Office (Environment) explained the project in a workshop for officials of seven local councils drawn from five regions involved in the project.

The five-year project is meant to restore the ecology of the two water basins, which were extensively degraded through farming and herding activities, especially Mbarali District, he said, noting that

"The project will cover areas destroyed

by farming, herding, and over-fishing," he said, explaining that the intention is to rescue water loss and restore the natural vegetation, with the project expected to rescue the Usangu Plains in Mbarali district.

The zone has been reduced to 84 square kilometers from 322 sq. km in less than a decade, from 1999 to 2006, he said, showcasing the project as part of the fight against environmental destruction. The government has laid out strategies to construct irrigation schemes in the project areas, to stem adverse economic effects for communities depending on water sourced from the two basins for irrigation.

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NMB platform eyes Z'bar youth in new financial inclusion drive

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by mobile phone application or through bank agents. Mobile app lending goes up to 500,000/- with agency banking service creating hundreds of jobs for youths them by engaging in easing cash transfers, deposits, etc. Financial inclusion training, free mobile phone insurance and attending networking events like college student conferences and entrepreneurship training are all part of the platform's innovations, she stated. The bank's initiative will complement government efforts to enhance financial inclusion for youths. Vice President Abdulla said this initiative is a noble idea that augurs well with Zanzibar government plans to address challenges encountered by the youth in being constructively engaged in national building efforts. Its introduction was timely and a worthy investment as empowering young people helps to address the huge unemployment burden in the Zanzibar economy, he stated, noting that financial education in Zanzibar stands at less than 30 per cent. The platform will equally help to address the challenge of sources of capital for the youth to create jobs for themselves and their peers, he asserted, applauding NMB for its initiative to mould the youth into a financially disciplined generation.

"This platform is in line with our vision of promoting self-reliance through entrepreneurship," he declared, noting that youth unemployment is a worldwide problem, with a large part of youths not engaged in formal jobs and lack start-up capital for usable business ideas. The Zanzibar government under President Hussein Ali Mwinyi is committed to enhance financial literacy right at the grassroots level, to create more jobs and broadening the revenue base, he further noted.

Rashid Simai Msaraka, the Zanzibar Urban district commissioner, said the platform comes at a time when many Zanzibar residents are exposed to malicious pyramid schemes and loan sharks who charge unwarranted interest rates on loans.

"NMB has finally introduced products that can offer financial solutions at slightly cheaper interest rates without going through traditional banking systems," the DC enthused.

The platform was first launched in Dar es Salaam last year, with Patrobas Katambi, the Prime Minister's Office deputy minister handling youth affairs, officiating.

Ruaha river, lake Rukwa get \$75.5m for basin uplift

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he stated. Up to 15 per cent of Ruaha River basin water is earmarked for power generation at the Julius Nyerere Hydropower project, compelling restoration of ecology to make sure the water is protected, to make the hydropower project sustainable. Saidi Madito, an assistant regional administrative secretary handling economic issues, said implementing the project shall involve officials from village to ward level for optimum results. The local councils must fully supervise the project, and educate people on protecting the environment, especially regenerating its ecology and natural vegetation, he emphasized.

Faraja Ngalageza, assistant director for the environment at VPO, said the grand project will do a lot to restore land destroyed by human activities. He added that the project anchored at the VPO Environment Department takes up portions of Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Katavi and Rukwa regions.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (gesturing, in dark blue suit) pictured at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma city yesterday having a word with Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) executive director Sally Chalamila (2nd-R) at exhibition booth set up by adolescent girls and young women supported by HJFMRI through their DREAMS programme. To the minister's left is Kyela legislator Ally Mlaghila. Story on Page 6. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt drafts new private sector minimum wages

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welfare now being finalised.

The move is in line with the call by President Samia Suluhu Hassan that private sector workers have wage uplift in like manner as the recent wage review in the public sector, referring to the minimum wage rise by 23.3 per cent for public servants.

Following the change, the government budgeted 9.7trn/- for fiscal 2022/23 salary bill for public servants in central and local government, state institutions, parastatals and

agencies, an upward increase of 1.59trn/- from the previous year.

Increased salaries for public servants was subjected to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) indicators, along with domestic revenues projected for fiscal 2022/2023, with the minister underlining compliance with wage bill taxes for economic development efforts.

The government will ensure a conducive business environment for investments, enabling the fast growth of the private sector and improved welfare of employees, she

said, extolling private sector contribution to national development as key actors in economic growth, among other avenues.

Employers need to timely remit workers' contributions to pension funds, she emphasised, vowing that the government will be tough against offenders, intimating a course of action against employers failing to remit such contribution, as this places employees in serious difficulties upon retirement.

ATE chief executive officer Suzanne Ndomba-Doran said employers were

committed to work with the government in collectively solve workplace challenges to facilitate private sector growth, lauding the review of taxes and levies paid by employers.

Financial policies in the recently adopted Budget estimates provide hope as the measures will stimulate more rapid economic growth, she said.

The workshop was also attended by representatives of the Trades Union Congress (TUCA) and officials of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).



Irene Witteman makes remarks in her capacity as a special guest at yesterday's inauguration of Montessori Primary School's library at Bububu in Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

Unanimous praise as MPs approve 'historic Budget'

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bazi valley linking Kariakoo shopping zone with Magomeni suburb to stem disruptions when floods occur was also received with satisfaction, similar to the setting aside of 100bn/- to build VETA colleges in districts lacking such facilities.

Abolition of school fees for Forms V and VI in government secondary schools was equally positive for low income earners, along with a provision for extending loans for small traders (marching

guys), while allocating 400.9bn/- for the Population and Housing Census.

Value Added Tax (VAT) was similarly removed on unprocessed logs along with gas cylinders to stem price rises for those commodities, in line with removing VAT on edible oil, yoghurt, milk packaging, smartphones and laptops. with charges on mobile money transfer capped at 4,000/- per transaction.

Processed edible oil levy was reduced from 30 per cent

to 25 per cent, while import duty on artificial wigs was hiked from 25 per cent to 35 per cent as a luxury item, plus hiking import duty on cigarettes and alcohol. Tax on packaging materials for cashew nuts was reduced.

The Tanzania Association of Transporters (TAT) praised President Samia and the cabinet for listening to their concerns and working on their recommendations.

TAT chairman Mohamed Abdullah said the 2022/23 Budget did a good job in

involving the private sector on various issues budget items, especially taxes.

"We are thankful for the reduction of tax on trailers and truck cabins for transportation of goods to zero per cent, and the road tax from \$16 per 100 kms to \$10 for the same distance," he stated.

TAT has more than 200 members engaged in transporting goods and bulk oil, thus facing challenges in the transport sector more acutely, he added.

UK hails Tanzania's presence at COP26

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE British High Commission in Tanzania has commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan's presence at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) as a successful and iconic example towards implementation of agreements.

COP26 was a climatic change conference held in November last year in Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK) that involved 120 country's Heads of State and Prime Ministers with over 40,000 registered participants.

Janet Rogan, UK's Climate and COP26 Envoy to Middle East and Africa, gave the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam as she briefed journalists on her three days visit that aimed to learn the progress that Tanzania has made to deliver on its international climate change commitments and exchange views on global climate efforts of the summit.

"I am delighted to be here as COP26 Ambassador for Africa and the Middle East. President Samia attended the conference with a strong delegation. It was a star delegation and the new National Determined Contribution (NDC)—Tanzania's plan to make adaptation and mitigation for climate change," she said.

The envoy also met with Energy minister January Makamba, Permanent Secretary of the Finance and planning Ministry, Emmanuel Tutuba, and the acting Permanent Secretary at the Vice President's Office, Abdallah Mtawi, on clean energy and the country's vast potential benefit from carbon markets linked to certified forest conservation projects and steps that need to be done.

She said that at global level, COP26 made an agreement to protect forests and better land use and that Tanzania is making a difference on the ground.

"If you preserve the forests you swap it with countries that pollute the environment and you get income so the people in the villages who are preserving the forests, certified in good condition can get an income from it and that is happening in the northern part of Tanzania. There is a company called Carbon Tanzania which is already engaged in that and the government has already made initiatives to ensure that this is done on a bigger scale."

The two resolutions made on the summit based on climatic finance where developed countries had to pledge and contribute \$100bn to developing countries to help on climate whereas \$84millions have been reached.

The other raised agenda was mitigation and adaptation that aimed at reducing the greenhouse gases and changing people's behaviour called NDCs meaning the determinations as a country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Government tables bill to amend laws including Anti-Trafficking of Persons

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has tabled in the Parliament a bill which proposes amendments to three laws including the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act Cap. 432 and the Drug Control and Enforcement Act.

Tabled for first reading, the bill is aimed at plugging the existing loopholes as part of wider efforts to combat human trafficking as well as strengthen the fight against drugs production, supply and use in the country.

Another law set for amendment under The Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (no. 2) Act, 2022 is the Public Leadership Code of Ethics Act, Cap. 398.

The Bill proposes amendment of the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act, cap 432 whereas sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8A and 13 are amended in order to enhance punishments provided for under those respective sections.

The purpose of increasing such punishments is to deter people from further committing offences relating to trafficking in persons.

"The principal Act is amended in section 4(5) by deleting the words five million shillings but not more than one hundred million shillings or to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years and not more than ten years" and substituting for them the words "to imprisonment for a term of not less than twenty years but not exceeding thirty years provided that, the court may, in addition to imprisonment, order the convicted person to pay a fine of not

less 50m/- but not more than ten hundred million shillings."

The Drug Control and Enforcement Act, section 2 is amended by adding on the list of prohibited substances precursors chemicals and a mixture of such precursor chemicals. The purpose of this amendment is to regulate the chemicals whose use can be diverted to prepare psychotropic substances which are prohibited by this Act.

Furthermore, section 32 is repealed and replaced with a robust provision that gives the employees of the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority the same powers as police officers under Criminal Procedure Act or Custom Officers under the Customs (Management and Tariff) Act.

The provision stipulates that the officers of the authority may consult and cooperate with other authorities where a need arises. The purpose of this amendment is to vest enough powers to officers of the authority while implementing the provisions of the Act. Further, the section gives the authority powers to establish facilities for keeping suspects before completion of investigation. The purpose of this amendment is to enable the Authority to perform its functions effectively.

The Act is amended by adding a new section 32A which gives power to the Director General or an authorized officer of the Authority to issue search orders. The provision intends to improve the investigative role of the Authority by giving its officers enough powers to issue search orders.



Tanzania Prisoners Hope Foundation CEO, Rev Lucas Mwimo (4th-L), presents 12 cartons of sanitary pads, a television set, eight cartons of soap and baby milk to the head of Dar es Salaam's Segerea Prison, SSP Hamis Lissu, at the weekend. It was meant as assistance to female inmates. Left is the foundation's secretary, Mohamed Majengo. Photo: John Badi

Horticulture redeems Singida and Shinyanga rural women

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

WHAT started as a pilot to encourage rural women and girls in Shinyanga and Singida regions to engage in horticulture farming has yielded huge dividends.

Now, the women and girls are smiling all the way to the bank, reaping the rewards of their labor, as tomatoes, watermelon and passion fruit value chains are blossoming, attracting lucrative prices.

Lumulumu women group chairperson Angelina Jackson Lutego says that her cluster in Msalala district, Shinyanga region with just a little over two acres under tomato, watermelon and passion have been able to make more than 10 million turnover in the last two seasons.

"The project has contributed largely to improving our socio-economic status. We are now earning millions of shillings from zero income enabling us to provide basic needs for our

families, including taking our children to schools to secure their future," confessed Lutego.

The group has also been able to replicate the model to 14 other women groups and 30 individuals within the Shinyanga region who are now engaging in horticulture cultivation, a huge multiplier effect bringing in a critical mass of small-scale farmers.

The project, executed by TAHA in collaboration with UN Women, Ikungi and Msalala District Councils has seen

tremendous productivity and income upsurge for women and girls, thanks to extensive adoption of climate-smart agricultural technologies, best practices, finance and market access.

For instance, Aziza Mohamed Nyuha, the Munyu women group chairperson in Singida region, says her members have recorded incredible income growth, are more able to access education for their children; have improved health and enhanced social status, courtesy of the Project

by TAHA and UN Women.

"Our lives are changing tremendously by just growing tomato and green pepper. Believe me horticulture holds the key to unleash the sleeping rural economy" Ms. Nyuha explained, praising the "Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls project" funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

"Adoption of TAHA's good agricultural practices, techniques and cli-

mate smart technologies as well as market access are the factors behind our high productivity" said Nyuha.

Indeed, courtesy of the TAHA and UN Women project, more than 500 farmers were reached from Ikungi district, Singida region and Msalala district Kahama, Shinyanga region.

Official statistics show that a total of 26.5 acres of land have been put under passion fruits, tomato, and watermelon, onion, mango, cucumber, and cabbage value chains.



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Kiwira river water project now to cost over 300bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 300bn/- is expected to be spent for the implementation of a huge water project that will pump water from Kiwira river in Rungwe district, Mbeya region after the completion of the project's feasibility study.

The remarks were given here at the weekend by the managing director of Mbeya Region's Water and Sanitation Authority, Gilbert Kayange when speaking about the development of the project that will serve the City of Mbeya, Rungwe District and some areas of Chunya District.

Kayange said when completed, the project will produce 125 million litres of water per day and that the aim of the government is to relieve women carrying buckets of water for long distances.

"The project's feasibility studies have already been completed and we expect in September contractors will start construction work that will take two years to complete," he said.

He said the project will help solve long time water shortage and that as for now in the City of Mbeya production of water stands at 51.5 million litres per day while the actual demand is 90 million litres per day.

Kayange further said as they wait for the permanent solution in regard to reliable water supply, they have embarked on strategies to increase water supply, adding that by June 30

this year they will increase water production.

A cross section of traders in the City of Mbeya including Josephat Hobokela said when the Kiwira project starts, it will create an opportunity to get more customers of constructing hence they have mobilised themselves for that.



The project's feasibility studies have already been completed and we expect in September contractors will start construction work that will take two years to complete



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema speaks at a special meeting of the Shinyanga Municipal Council called at the weekend to discuss the report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for Financial Year 2020/2021. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WMA receives new anti-poaching patrol vehicle

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Monduli

IN efforts to curb poaching and reduce Human Wildlife Conflicts in areas close to National Parks and Game Reserves, the Nature Conservancy has donated new patrol trucks to community conservation programmes in Monduli and Kiteto districts of Arusha and Manyara regions, respectively.

The Randileni Community Wildlife Management Area of Monduli in Arusha Region, has received a new Toyota Pickup, to assist in ongoing efforts

of averting Human-Wildlife conflicts in the precinct

The Toyota Land cruiser Series 70 Pickup vehicle, valued at 127 million/- duty inclusive, is fully equipped for patrol with additional solar panels to ensure that electricity outlets continue to provide power even when far away from the grid.

"As you see we have installed power outlets and USB Charging Ports at the back for recharging radio call sets, mobile phones and other apparatus when rangers happen to veer away in the remotest of locations," explains

Alphonse Mallya the Tanzanian Director of The Nature Conservancy.

Mallya says, they will continue to support upcoming WMAs in Tanzania until the time when these entities become fully self-dependent economically, on the fact that the task of conserving wildlife is one expensive undertaking for the villages involved.

Previously, the TNC had sent a similar vehicle to the Makame Wildlife Management Area in Kiteto District of Manyara.

Meshurie Melembuki is the Conservation Manager at the Randileni

Community Wildlife Management Area.

"Our rangers and patrol vehicles are vital forces in ensuring that the wildlife in the area remain protected, but they also work to prevent destruction of farms by animals such as elephants to avert human-wildlife conflicts," explains Melembuki.

He however pointed out that, due to the fact that the area is big and deeply enveloped in a vast landscape dotted with wild vegetation, the WMA needs at least four Patrol vehicles to be able to conduct conserva-

tion duties efficiently.

Mapped within 312 square kilometers within the vast Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem, the Randileni Wildlife Management Area is a conservation and eco-tourism precinct managed under eight villages, including, Lolkisale, Oldonyo, Lengolwa, Nafco, Mswakini, Naitolia, Lemoti and Mswakini-Juu.

The villages have a joint population of 20,000 villages. The Randileni WMA itself was gazetted in 2013. Mzee Leronjo Nangututi, the Board Chairman for the WMA says they have 26

village scouts, serving as rangers to patrol the entire area, which has practically all species of wildlife.

"After receiving this new Land-cruiser from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), we now have two patrol cars, because previously the Honey guide Camp of Tarangire donated a Land-rover to our WMA," he said.

The Nature Conservancy's priority in Tanzania is to strengthen local resource management and promote sustainable projects that help people live in balance with their environment.

VACANCIES

Position : Learning Advisor
Position Type : Long term
Position Location : Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with frequent travel to all regions of Tanzania.

Summary:
ME&A is seeking a Learning Advisor for the anticipated five year Data for Development (MEL) solicitation in Tanzania, funded by USAID. The position will be a full-time, five-year position based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Learning Advisor will provide technical leadership in the areas of organizational learning and knowledge management for collaborating with the USAID Mission in Tanzania.

Responsibilities:
The Learning Advisor will be a learning expert and serve as the overall director of collaborating, learning, and adapting activities. S/he will serve as a facilitator or co-facilitator of high-level discussions and fora among USAID staff and partners regarding learning and adaptive management. S/he is charged with working closely with and coaching USAID staff so that CLA leadership is fully assumed by mission staff by the end of the Contract. S/he will guide USAID/Tanzania staff and senior management team on how to realize progressive, CLA-oriented program supervision practices through USAID's CDCS implementation, primarily by bolstering USAID's evaluation, development and organizational learning practices. S/he will support all aspects of the Mission's CLA activities, such as planning and budgeting for each assigned activity. S/he will identify appropriate staffing levels, secure appropriate qualified staff, and provide relevant technical guidance for CLA task requests. S/he will lead consultations with relevant USAID/Tanzania staff and implementing partners. S/he will identify and execute appropriate agreed upon methodology, field work, research, reporting and deliverables.

Qualifications:

- At least ten (10) years of demonstrated leadership, strategic thinking/planning, and management experience, and a proven track record of programmatic accomplishment, professional achievement, and management competence.
- Strong proficiency in written and spoken English An advanced degree (i.e. MA, PhD) in international relations, statistics, economics, demography, political science, or other social science field is required.
- Thorough technical knowledge in concepts such as monitoring, collaboration and learning, adaptive management, indicator development, data collection, analysis and management, and performance reporting;
- Familiarity with Tanzania development issues; Strong networks within Tanzanian technical experts in learning, monitoring, evaluation, research, economic growth, governance, health, education and environment.
- The individual must have experience in developing and leading knowledge management programs, facilitating communities of practice, and social networking.
- The individual must have experience with a wide range of development issues, such as youth, gender constraints to development, agriculture, economic growth, environment, democracy and governance, health, nutrition, and education.
- The individual must have experience leading or overseeing the work of large teams of individuals with diverse skills and interests.
- The individual must have demonstrated success in mentoring and/or coaching staff in project development, project implementation, and M&E.
- Experience working in Tanzania is required.
- A demonstrative passion for facilitating and creating organizational learning, change and advancing foreign aid effectiveness opportunities.
- The individual must demonstrate conversation and presentation skills that can influence decision makers, foster organizational change strategies, with implementation occurring within a complex organizational setting.
- The individual must have a demonstrated ability and track record in strategic, systems and holistic thinking, managing resistance to change and understanding of organizational culture, learning and change management.
- Resident or citizen of Tanzania preferred.

Candidates interested in the position are advised to submit their applications online by visiting <https://meandahq.isolvedhire.com/jobs/>

All applications and CVs must be submitted in English.

ME&A, Inc. is committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, making decisions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or any other protected class. ME&A will make reasonable accommodations in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For our EEO Policy Statement and a copy of our EEO Policy Statement and information on your EEO rights under the law.

216918702

VACANCIES

Position Name : Evaluation Lead
Position Type : Full Term
Position Location : Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Summary:
ME&A is recruiting an Evaluation Lead for the anticipated Data for Development/Tanzania solicitation. The purpose of the Data for Development (D4D) project is to ensure that development programs funded by USAID/Tanzania achieve their intended results through strong performance management of services in an efficient and cost-effective manner, with a focus on improve data-driven decision-making, planning, and implementation monitoring technical services, evaluation of technical services. The Evaluation Lead shall be responsible for overall management and functioning of all evaluations, assessments, and special study activities and staff engaged in such activities.

Responsibilities:
The Evaluation Lead will direct the team, finalize the evaluation design and methodology, coordinate activities, meetings, conduct FGDs and KIs where possible, consolidate individual input from team members, coordinate the process of assembling the key findings, and develop appropriate recommendations. S/he also will lead in the preparation and presentation of key evaluation findings and recommendations to USAID/Tanzania.

Overseeing all aspects of evaluation and special study taskings, such as drafting of brief proposals, planning and budgeting for each assigned tasking, identifying appropriate staffing levels, securing appropriate qualified staff, providing relevant technical guidance, assisting teams with the development of work plans and research instruments, leading consultations with relevant USAID/Tanzania staff and implementing partners, identify and execute an agreed upon appropriate methodology for data collection, overseeing data management and analysis, technical review of reports and deliverables.

Qualifications:

At least twelve (12) years of experience is preferred in evaluation of international development projects, preferably in developing countries; project management; research methods; and project design.

- Master's Degree in a relevant field such as international development, project management, statistics, or economics.
- A minimum of eight (8) years of progressive experience in similar positions is required.
- Demonstrated senior experience in international donor program design and implementation of evaluations both (performance and impact evaluations) of development interventions.
- Demonstrated experience in design and field testing of surveys, questionnaires, and/or other data collection instruments.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis. using excel and appropriate software packages
- Experience in designing questionnaires, focus group discussion guides and interview protocols and conducting data collection.
- Knowledge of USAID regulations and systems, performance monitoring and evaluation guidance, evaluation policy, gender policy, annual reporting etc.
- Professional proficiency in spoken and written English with the ability to produce high-quality evaluation reports that synthesize inputs and triangulates data from multiple sources into a high-quality document is essential
- The capacity to remotely manage activities in a multi-cultural environment and in providing consulting services in helping clients analyze problems, devise, and adopt solutions.
- Fluency in Swahili would be an advantage.

Candidates interested in the position are advised to submit their applications online by visiting <https://meandahq.isolvedhire.com/jobs/>

All applications and CVs must be submitted in English.

Only selected candidates will be called for an interview. ME&A Equal Opportunity Employer and Prohibits Discrimination and Harassment based on race, age, color, religion, sex and sexual preference, national origin, individual with disabilities, veteran status. ME&A is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all applicants.

216918702

TARI to display new farming technology to farmers during Nanenane exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has embarked on preparations initiatives for displaying new agricultural technology, quality seeds and equipment for teaching farmers on modern farming practices during this year's Agricultural Exhibition (Nanenane) to be held in Mbeya at the national level.

A team of researchers from TARI head Office have joined hands with those of TARI-Uyole based in Mbeya for the preparations of the technologies at Mbeya's John Mwakangale Fair Grounds.

The preparations follow the directives from the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe who called on them to make sure modern farming technologies are displayed at the exhibition to enable farmers learn and later utilise them.

TARI Director of Research Juliana Mwakasendo said after receiving the Minister's directives they decided to camp at the John Mwakangale Fair Grounds for preparing various seedling blocks.

She said during the show researchers from all 14 TARI centres nationwide will be present to make sure farmers are taught on better farming practices from early stages to harvesting and storage of crops.

"We therefore advise farmers country-

wide to make sure they visit our pavilion to learn about modern farming practices on various crops," she added.

TARI Technology Propagation Manager, Margareth Mchomvu said the Institute began preparing the technology and seedling blocks since February this year after learning about holding the fair this year.

She said they started seeding blocks for crops that take a long time to grow to go in tandem with the Exhibition's date and so far some of the crops have started to ripen.

"We thank Hon. Bashe for bringing the show to Mbeya because we hope that this zone is important for crops production at the national level and this is biggest food crops warehouse in the country," she added.

For his part, the Director of TARI-Uyole, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said due to this year's Nanenane Exhibition being held at the national level in Mbeya, they have come up with different preparations to what they had been doing in the past and that they will make sure the show is of great success.

He said they have prepared seedling blocks for various crops and by using different technologies for farmers to learn.

He said in the past they used to make preparations in regard to the Southern Highlands Zone only, but now the exhibition is being held in Mbeya at the national level.



Mtumwa Fadhil Hamad of Makangale-Pemba village in Zanzibar decorates a shopping basket she had just made for sale alongside a range of other handmade items, thanks to financial support extended to her by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf). Photo: Rahma Suleiman

'All future women empowerment and equality programmes will engage men'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MINISTER for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima has said that all future women empowerment and equality programmes will heavily engage men so as to create a society that values each other.

Dr Gwajima admitted that the country was doing well in empowering women but the efforts seem to leave men behind something which needs changes as it could rather fuel discrimination and conflicts.

"If we will leave men behind, we will in the future produce more negative impacts, we need to ensure we promote rights of everyone without discrimi-

nating one side, we are empowering women at a stage that men are found not having contribution to the women's development, this needs to change," she said.

She made the statement recently here during the seminar on gender equality and leadership provided to members of the Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group (TWPG) and coordinated by UN Women Tanzania.

She said now the government in collaboration with stakeholders focuses more on implementing plans, strategies that stimulate equal opportunity as well as binding cooperation between men and women.

"We are equipping social workers to ensure that they educate the public on

the impacts of gender violence, promote equality and stimulate cooperation between men and women for both of them to access equal rights," she said.

She further noted that a total of 3,602 women entrepreneurs from various parts in the country have benefited from 14bn/- in loans issued by district councils through the 4 percent of income in 2021/22 fiscal year.

Stella Manda, gender expert at UN Women noted the Social Institution and Gender Index (SIGI) Country Study 2022, reveals several factors limiting gender equality and women's empowerment, including traditional gender roles that largely dictate that men should be the breadwinners and that women should work under the control

of men. It calls on review of laws and eliminates legal provisions that discriminate against women and girls, notably regarding access to agricultural land, inheritance, girl child marriage, violence against women and female genital mutilation.

"The government needs to design, implement and support initiatives that seek to transform discriminatory social norms into gender-equitable norms. More specifically, recognize that the transformation of social norms takes time and consistent commitment, prioritize multi-sectoral programmes alongside structural interventions, leverage existing educational structures such as schools and health centres, engage with all relevant stakeholders at

all levels, include multiple programme components and ensure that interventions are delivered by trained facilitators," she noted.

The study also proposed the integration of gender perspective across all government ministries and sectors, including gender-responsive budgeting.

UN Women country representative, Hodan Addou said they will continue to advocate for gender equality and the inclusion of women and girls' voices in policy dialogue spaces and programming on climate change, as well as all areas that are critical to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

"We have staff and experts in gender issues who have been working tirelessly to educate and support gender equal-



ity," she said.

Moshi rural MP Prof Patrick Ndakemi urged the government to incorporate gender subject in the primary school curriculum so as to enable children to know their rights and be able to value each other once they get older

Kigamboni MP, Fautine Ndugulile wanted review of laws such as the Marriage Act as it affects girl child.

The lawmaker urged women legislators to champion the review of the Marriage Act of 1971 as it is affecting girls to achieve their dreams.

"We will be remembered by the nation by protecting girls' rights and this through amendment of the laws that hinders girls from achieving their dreams," he said.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR
REFERENCE NO. MST-TZ-20220624

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing various services in the description to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

There are two (2) packages planned for Storage Facilities and Terminal as follows:

Package-1: The NDE services for Storage Facilities Project (Ref:MST-TZ-20220615-001)

Package-2: The NDE services for Terminal pipeline Project(Ref:MST-TZ-20220615-002)

Should you be interested in participating any or all of the packages, please provide below minimum requirements clearly specifying the package(s) of interest, including the reference number(s).

Package-1: The NDE services for Storage Facilities Project (Ref:MST-TZ-20220624-001)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Complete daily NDE examination independently as per instruction issued by DOCG; work method is based on project approved documents and DOCG specification, IFC drawing, codes and standards;
- Draw a conclusion to the weld joint according to the applicable codes and standards;
- Issue NDE report in time as per the approved NDE procedures, submit the written NDE report with squad check & official stamp to DOCG and supervisor for review in time as per DOCG requirements;
- Accept DOCG's and supervisor's inspection and supervision;
- In charge of abide by the DOCG's HSE requirements when carry out the any NDE activity on site;
- Be responsible for all logistic supports & construction measures cost which carry out the SOW of activities and project consumable equipment and material.
- Be responsible for providing suitable PPE to employees;
- Be responsible for arranging the qualified NDE operation to carry out NDE activities in time when informed by DOCG.
- Each X-ray film and associated NDE reports has to be digitized (dedicated scanner adapted for Radiographic films scanning).

Minimum Requirements:

- All qualified certification of incorporation; All Valid Business License and Permits
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy
- Proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations,2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

- All qualified certification of incorporation; All Valid Business License and Permits
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy
- Proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations,2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

Package-2: The NDE services for Terminal Project (Ref:MST-TZ-20220624-002)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Complete daily NDE examination independently as per instruction issued by DOCG; work method is based on project approved documents and DOCG specification, IFC drawing, codes and standards;
- Draw a conclusion to the weld joint according to the applicable codes and standards;
- Issue NDE report in time as per the approved NDE procedures, submit the written NDE report with squad check & official stamp to DOCG and supervisor for review in time as per DOCG requirements;
- Accept DOCG's and supervisor's inspection and supervision;
- In charge of abide by the DOCG's HSE requirements when carry out the any NDE activity on site;
- Be responsible for all logistic supports & construction measures cost which carry out the SOW of activities and project consumable equipment and material.
- Be responsible for providing suitable PPE to employees;
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- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy
- Proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations,2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

Proof of registration/application to local supplier service provider (LSSP) database at the time of EOI submission is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to pa@docgi.cn (not exceeding 20mbs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 1st July 2022. Subject of the email should be EOI for MST-TZ-20220624-001/002 - COMPANY NAME.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

216919302

VACANCIES

Position Name : Capacity Building Specialist
Position Type : Full Term
Position Location : Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

SUMMARY:
 ME&A is seeking a Capacity Building Specialist who will support the anticipated Data for Development (D4D) project activities focusing on capacity building of a range of stakeholders in Tanzania that include USAID Mission CORs/AORs, USAID Implementing Partners (IPs), Data for Development Partners and Data for Development Staff, and GOT staff in relevant organizations. The position holder will also assist the other components as needed to link their activities to other stakeholders the project interacts with. This will become increasingly important as the project disseminates its outputs to a wider range of stakeholders.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As the Capacity Building Specialist, you will be responsible for the following functions, tasks and deliverables:

- Assess capacity building skills needs of Data for Development stakeholders.
- Design and implement the capacity building annual plans based on the assessment of needs.
- Support the management and coordination of all activities related to Capacity Building which include training, learning, and skills development activities promoted by the mission.
- Contribute to curriculum development in your area of expertise.
- Support evaluation and data quality assessment activities and report writing as needed.
- Contribute to Annual and Quarterly Report preparation.
- Contribute to the development of publications and communications as needed.
- Contribute to Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MEL) Workshops for USAID Mission, USAID Implementing Partners, and other strategic Stakeholders and Partners.
- Conduct other Capacity Building tasks as assigned
- The position will report to the Learning Advisor in the performance component.

Qualifications:

- A Masters in social sciences or relevant field with at least 8 years of relevant experience, or Masters in similar fields with at least 12 years of relevant experience.
- At least five years of experience working in the development sector with focus on capacity building, preferably in monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) Experience working with international organizations, preferably USAID/Tanzania including coordination and conduct of capacity building and facilitation.
- Extensive experience in strategic Capacity and Organizational Development in cooperation with international development partners in the context of East Africa.
- Experience using and training on computer applications relating to portal-based data entry, verification, aggregation and reporting, as well as Microsoft Office applications
- Excellent organizational, oral and written communication skills in English (a recent writing sample will be required) Ability to work as an integral part of a professional team, set priorities and handle a high volume of activities
- Experience using innovative training and capacity building methodologies is highly preferred.
- Tanzania citizenship required.

Candidates interested in the position are advised to submit their applications online by visiting <https://meandahq.isolvedhire.com/jobs/>

All applications and CVs must be submitted in English.
 ME&A, Inc. is committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, making decisions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or any other protected class. ME&A will make reasonable accommodations in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For our EEO Policy Statement and a copy of our EEO Policy Statement and information on your EEO rights under the law.

216918702



DTB Bank staff and customers donate blood to the National Blood Transfusion Services in Dar es Salaam at the weekend at an event the bank dedicated to the voluntary presentation of life-saving gifts. Photo: Mary Kadoke

Bank employees donate blood to the National Blood Transfusion Service

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

EMPLOYEES of the Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) have donated 33 bottles of blood to the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) as part of commemorating the World Blood Donor Day 2022.

DTB communication and marketing head, Sylvester Bahati, said that along with the commemoration, the event aimed at giving back to the community.

"We all know that on every June 14th the world celebrates World Blood Donor day and that's why we are here today. Our target was to use at least ten hours yearly to give back to the community. We've donated this blood to assist children, mothers and other needy groups in hospitals as part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy," he said.

He said people should see the essence of donating blood since they are the ones expected to curb blood deficiency voluntarily.

He added: "National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) records state that the donation satisfies only 30 per cent of the needed blood, I hereby urge the community to see the need to donate the

remained 70 per cent to save lives."

NBTS Eastern Zone Social and Welfare Officer, Mariam Juma thanked DTB decision to support the government's initiative to curb blood deficiency in hospitals.

"We appreciate the bank employees' decision to support the government initiative in offering safe blood to different categories of patients," she said.

"We acknowledge their input upon this event since the blood is destined to serve lives of many people including delivering mothers, casualties, children and patients attending surgeries. We thank DTB's compassionate and lovely act to the needy patients," she said.

She said DTB sticks on three concepts when it comes to CSR, which are environment, education and health.

Recently this month DTB employees spent one of the weekends cleaning Coco Beach along the Selander Bridge to commemorate the World's Ocean Day 2022.

In 2019, DTB donated mattresses to Dhi Nureyn Orphanage in Iringa municipal as part of the bank's initiative to give back to the community.

Bashe promises support to adolescent girls and young women through the DREAMS entrepreneurship project

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe has committed to support a group of adolescent girls and young women from Kyela District in Mbeya Region by enabling them to set-up a modern cocoa farm that will result in increased yields.

Bashe made the promise over the weekend when he interacting with the DREAMS girls at their exhibition booth at the Parliament grounds in Dodoma. The exhibition was meant to showcase

their great work as well as informing the public on what they are doing in the community to ensure Tanzania has a generation of AIDS-free girls.

The DREAMS initiative is funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and implemented through the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) and local partners in Tanzania.

The program aims to help young women become determined, resilient, empowered, AIDS-free, mentored and

safe through economic activities, education, vocational training and other evidence-based interventions.

"I am touched with your innovative ideas on entrepreneurship and my interest is in the cocoa product you have shown. You told me that you have a Cocoa farm in Kyela for the raw materials. I want to support your initiatives by securing a big farm fully planted only if HJFMRI will also contribute the processing machine for your end products," the Minister asserted.

Bashe promised to consult Kyela Member of Parliament, Ally Jumbe Mlaghila to ensure local authorities in the District are fully engaged in a land securing process for the girls to fully implement their cocoa farm project and benefit more from their innovative entrepreneurship ideas.

He urged the legislator to associate himself with the DREAMS program and champion their plans.

Earlier, HJFMRI Executive Director, Sally Chalamilia said the foundation im-

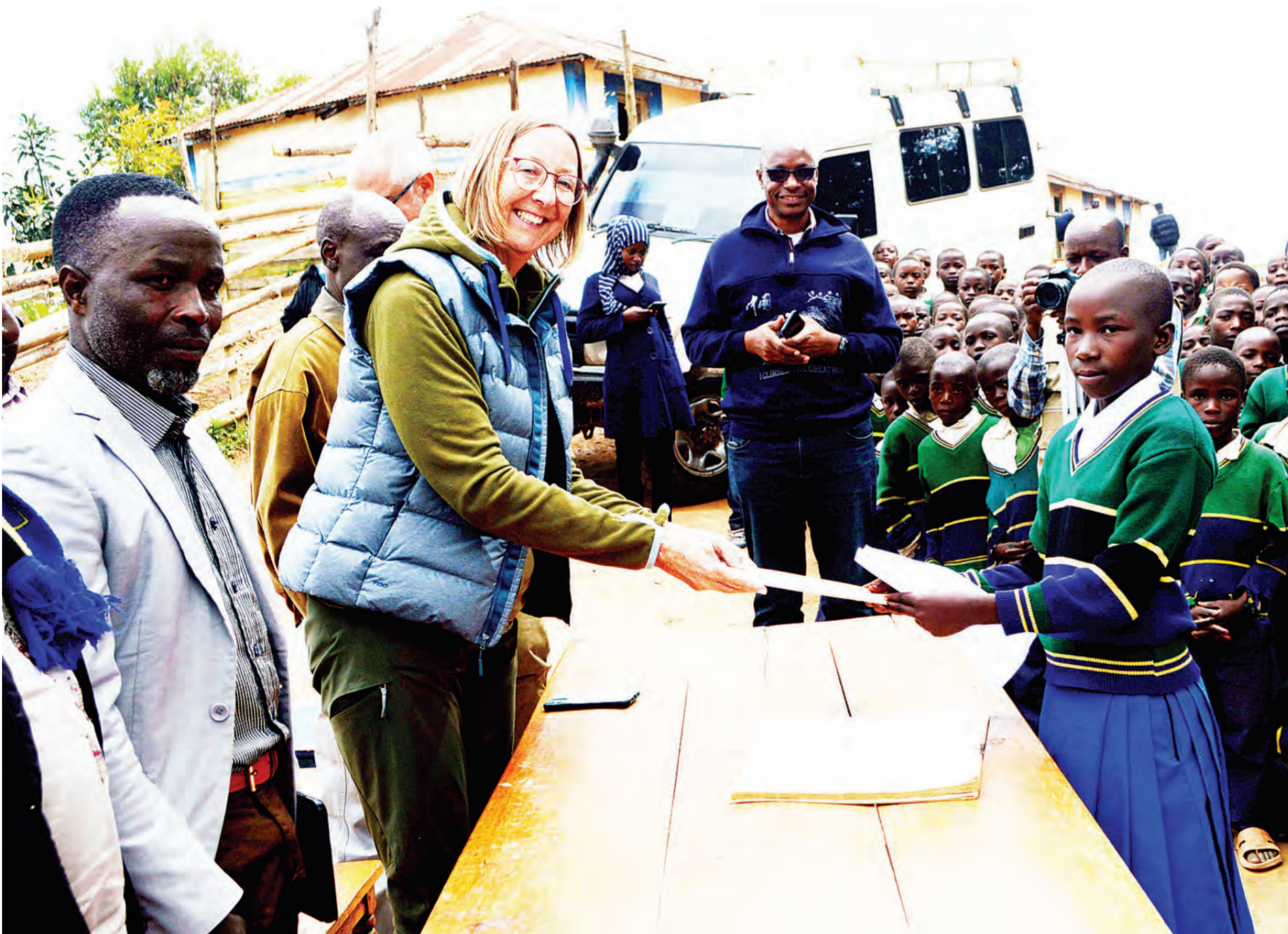
plements the DREAMS program in three councils of Kyela, Mbarali and Mbeya City in the Mbeya Region.

In the 2023 fiscal year, DREAMS will extend to a fourth location in Tunduma Town Council, Songwe Region, he said.

"We have empowered them for social economic activities and on behalf of HJFMRI we are glad for your willingness to support the Kyela based group. To respond on your willingness, the foundation will secure a processing machine for cocoa products to this group," said Sally.

A number of MPs visited the DREAMS booth where girls had an opportunity to showcase and sell their products including rice, oil, soap to mention just a few and also shared their stories, achievements and challenges as young members of the community and self-employed entrepreneurs.

The DREAMS program under the HJFMRI has reached more than 70,000 adolescent girls and young women and has more than 54 graduated DREAMS ambassadors in three councils.



Vivian Opsvik (2nd-L), an advisor and grant manager with the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, receives a report from Standard Seven student Uwezo Kitova of Mufindi District's Kipanga A Primary School yesterday. The school is implementing a fruit and timber tree planting project funded by the Norwegian government through the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

50,000 Kahama residents to benefit from 4.65bn/- L.Victoria water project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

MORE than 50,000 residents of four wards in Kahama Town Council in Shinyanga Region expect to benefit from Lake Victoria water projects to cost 4.65bn/- provided by the government.

The wards include Ngogwa-Kitwana, Mwime-Mwendakulima, Nyashimbi-Muhongolo and Isagehe whose total piping network upon completion will be 96.78 kms long.

This was disclosed here at the weekend by Kahama Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (KUWASA) Technical Manager, Eng Luchanganya Paul during his inspection visit of the water projects.

Paul said so far they have connected safe and clean water service to 320 customers, out of who 120 are from Mwendakulima Ward, 130 from Ntashibi Ward and 70 customers from Kitwana Ward, and added that the exercise was continuing.

For his part, KUWASA Manager Eng ALLEN Marwa said after implementing the projects they will embark on the exercise of connecting water service to customers' residences and that in the coming 2022.23 Financial Year, they will receive 3.4bn/- for that purpose.

Marwa also called on the residents of the area to take care of the water infrastructures including making sure they pay their bills in time.

Isagehe ward Councillor Maganga Thomas said there reached a time when the Water Ministry's Permanent Secretary took issue with KUWASA for failing to connect water service to customers, buy added that as for now the exercise was going on smoothly.

He said during dry seasons wells dug in their farms dry up and residents have to walk long distances to fetch water from ponds that are also used by wild animals.

Another ward Councillor, Kamuli Mayunga of Ngogwa Ward said the completion of the construction of the 2.99bn/water reservoir in the ward will help in reducing water borne diseases including cholera in the area including.

For his part, Kahama Town Council Chairperson, Yahaya Bundala praised the government for providing 3.4bn/- in the coming financial year for water distribution to their residences.

Gates Foundation pledges \$140m to fight malaria in Africa

By Stephanie Beasley

THE Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation plans to direct \$140 million over the next four years to "African institutions and leaders that accelerate progress toward ending malaria and neglected tropical diseases," as well as to those working to help the continent recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Melinda French Gates announced last week at the Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases in Rwanda.

The foundation is also launching a new philanthropic fund to support country-led efforts to eradicate NTDs as part of a collaboration

with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and The ELMA Philanthropies, French Gates said at the summit, which is being held on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, where leaders from 54 countries will discuss development and other global issues.

Other plans announced by the foundation include support for a new mentorship program with the World Health Organization for women leaders in NTD elimination efforts. The initiative is named after the late Mwelece Ntuli Malecela, the former director of WHO's Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases who died in February.

The Gates Foundation said the new commitments build on the approximately \$300 million that it has spent on fighting NTDs in the past three years. French Gates urged other donors to similarly increase their funding commitments.

"Funding for malaria and NTDs has plateaued," she said in her prepared remarks.

"Malaria deaths are rising. And while amazing new tools and treatments are emerging, they may not reach those who need them most. We have to do more. And when I say we, I mean all of us," she added. "No nation or organization can do this work alone."

French Gates urged world leaders to sign a

declaration aimed at eradicating, eliminating, or controlling NTDs by 2030 and to increase funding for the three-year replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"Reaching the [Global Fund's] \$18 billion target will reduce malaria cases by two-thirds and eliminate the disease from six more countries by 2026," French Gates tweeted Thursday.

Ahead of the Kigali Summit, the Gates Foundation's Trevor Mundel told Devex that public health programs must get back on track to reach NTD reduction targets after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pan-

demic. Mundel, who serves as the foundation's president of global health, said that additional funding is needed to deploy "transformative tools" such as the world's first malaria vaccine – which was recommended for broad use by WHO last year – as well as drugs and insecticide-treated bed nets.

"African countries are leading the way," said Philip Welkoff, the malaria program director at the Gates Foundation, in a statement Thursday. "Strong partnerships and increased funding are needed to increase access to life-saving tools and bring next-generation technologies and innovations over the finish line, to save more lives and end these diseases."



Lucyana Muro (2nd-L foreground, in blue-&-white dress), an alumna of Bagamoyo District's Baobab Secondary School, has a word with the school's Form Five and Form Six students (to the right) when she and colleagues of hers toured the school at the weekend for a first-hand account of progress made there since her days there as a student. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TUSPO says it's in the process of seeking court interpretation of Article 5 (2b) of Constitution

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Users and Survivors of Psychiatry Organisation (TUSPO) is in the process of seeking court interpretations on article 5 (2b) as it contravenes article 13 of the country's constitution.

TUSPO project coordinator, Jabir Tuji said the two articles 5(2b) is discriminatory as it prohibit a person who suffered mental challenges from contesting for a Parliamentary seat.

Article 5 of the constitution says, Parliament may enact a law imposing conditions restricting a citizen from exercising the right to vote by reason of any of the following grounds of being mentally infirm.

He said article 13 of the republic constitution, says that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination to protection and equality before the law.

The TUSPO Official failed short of disclosing when they will take the matter to the courts, saying there are some techni-

calities which their lawyers are working on.

Tuji questioned as to why survivors of mental health are prohibited from contesting for MP seat while those who survive from other equally serious ailments are not barred.

He said there are many causes of mental problems some of them being childhood abuse, trauma, or neglect.

Social isolation or loneliness, experiencing discrimination and stigma, including racism, social disadvantage, poverty or debt and bereavement among others.

"All these (above) are situations which can occur to any person, if that person receives good counselling and medication, he or she can continue do any other role in the society, as TUSPO we wonder why the country has laws which prohibits survivors of mental challenges from contesting as MP, why survivors of other serious ailments are allowed, is this not discrimination? We will seek court interpretation of Article 5(2b) as it contra-

venes with article 13," he said.

He said time has come for society to embrace survivors of mental challenges, saying some people cannot even greet a mental health survivor.

Tuji said TUSPO has a three year program aimed at financially empowering survivors of mental health in Iringa and Kilimanjaro Regions.

He said the program in which survivors of mental health are involved in Pig Farming ends next year and has benefited 4 groups of ten people each in Kilimanjaro and one group of 7 people in Iringa.

He was speaking this recently at a workshop organized by the Living Foundation.

At the workshop which was attended by officials from Non Governmental organizations which deals with mentally challenged people, Tanzania Association for Mentally Handicapped (TAM) also lamented on the segregation which mentally challenged people face in the society.



Ref: KSL/IOM/239/22

Date: 24 June 2022

LETTER OF INVITATION – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Tanzania, hereinafter referred to as 'client' hereby invites prospective qualified proposers to submit proposals for development of technical design and technical documentation (Architectural and Engineering Designs, Bill of Quantities, Cost Estimate and Construction Schedules in The proposed Makere Resettlement Processing Centre Phase 2 (M-RPC-2), located at Makere in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region in accordance with the General Conditions of Contract and the Terms of Reference as set out in this Request for Proposal (RFP).

Below list of documents are valuable resources to enable you to submit your proposal:

- Section 1: This Letter of Invitation
- Section 2: Instruction to Proposers
- Section 3: Data Sheet
- Section 4: Evaluation criteria
- Section 5: Terms of Reference/Statement of Works
- Section 6: Contract Forms
- Section 7: Proposal Forms

If you are interested in submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, please prepare your proposal in accordance with the requirements and procedure as set out in this RFP and submit it by the deadline for submission of proposals set out in Section 3: Data Sheet – Site visit 14 July 2022 while proposal submission deadline **27 July 2022 (1:30pm – EAT)**.

Request for proposal documents are also available at below sites:

1. IOM website: <https://tanzania.iom.int/do-business-us-procurement>
2. IOM Dar es salaam: Slipway Road, Off Chole Road Msasani Peninsula, **Plot No. 1365, P. O. Box 9270, Dar es Salaam.**
3. IOM Kasulu Sub-Office: Bogwe Secondary Road – opposite Kasulu Teacher's College, **P. O. Box 303, Kasulu District.**

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

Approved by:

Name: Nyararai Kwenda
Title: Head of Sub-Office
IOM Kasulu

216918902



TENDER NO. AE/023/2021-22/HQ/C/11

FOR

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGN OF AN ULTRA-MODERN TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY OFFICE BUILDING ON PLOT NO. 123, 124 AND 265 BLOCK '121' SAMORA AVENUE AND PLOT NO 126 FUR 11 ALONG SOKOINE DRIVE, ILALA DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Expression of Interest

16th June, 2022

1. This invitation for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) which appeared in Tanzania National e-Procurement System (TANePS) on 10th June, 2022.
2. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) during the financial year 2021/22. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for **Design of an Ultra-modern and Iconic Tanzania Revenue Authority Office Building on Plot No. 123, 124 and 265, Block '121' Samora Avenue and Plot No 126 FUR 11 along Sokoine Drive Ilala-Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**
3. The Tanzania Revenue Authority now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services which include Architectural Design Competition. The office building is intended to accommodate 2,582 staff whose spatial requirements is approximately 76,299m² (Gross Floor Area) within a plot size of approximately 6,600m².
4. Interested Consulting Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services by submitting consultant's profile, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc. Local and International Architectural Firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.
5. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 as amended in 2016 and the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016 (hereinafter called Procurement Regulations) whereby the **International Architectural Competition Approach** will be used.
6. Selection will be conducted through the "Quality Based" selection procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations.
7. Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information online through TANePS OR from the office of the Commissioner General, Tanzania Revenue Authority, Postcode:28 Edward Sokoine Drive,11105 Mchafukoge, Ilala CBD, P.O. Box 11491, Dar es salaam, Tanzania from 08:00hrs to 17:00hrs on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
8. Expression of Interest (Eoi) in digital format (PDF) must be submitted through **TANePS** clearly marked "the International Architectural Competition for the Proposed Design of an Ultra-modern Tanzania Revenue Authority Office Building on Plot No. 123, 124 and 265, Block '121' Samora Avenue and Plot No 126 FUR, along Sokoine Drive, Ilala-Dar es Salaam, Tanzania".
9. The Expression of Interest should be submitted at or before 14:00hrs EAT on Wednesday day 6th July, 2022.
10. Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Commissioner General
TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

216914802

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day: Strategic dilemma on industry level to support

SMALL enterprises are generally known as the life blood of national economies, the inner fabric permeating economies and making global economy work as expected. Small firms make the world go round as they seek out goods or services from whatever part of the country or somewhat beyond, so that such goods or services are made available to surrounding communities at affordable prices. Big decisions for instance what is decided in the budget have massive macro-economic impact in the sense of allocation of resources, the reaction of personal incomes and investment outlays to what the government opts to do.

While the literature on marking the days relatively straightforward, there are moments it clearly pauses and talks about small and medium enterprises but in the whole United Nations or International Labour Organisation (ILO) chronicles would appear entirely agreed.

The proper formulation is micro, small and medium enterprises, which makes the anniversary concern almost everyone except the category known at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as large taxpayers. So many other outlays shall scramble for space as medium sized enterprises whose growth must be carefully handled like micro and small firms.

Despite the consensus, there is actually a problem of the spirit of marking the day, with the tonality more or less decided by ILO and kindred organisations, as well as a bevy of activist groups, to favour inclusion of micro enterprises. The commemoration is actually anchored in small enterprises as widespread, organised and cohe-

sive entities, and can by definition be grouped, for solidarity purposes, with either of the two other groups. The difference lies in policy implications of celebrating the day, if it is small enterprises put alongside macro-enterprises or alternatively, if they are put alongside medium sized firms.

The traditional definition during the 1990s was small and medium enterprises (SMEs), involving the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The concern here is creating a positive environment for the growth of businesses, so that many small firms graduate to medium level, implying a business orientation where large firms are the role model that this SMEs train wishes to catch up with. Adding micro-firms created a different scenario, where small firms are the role model, medium firms becoming outsiders.

When celebration of this day is directed at small and medium sized firms, the focus will be on conditions of efficiency and competitiveness, while adding micro-level firms shifts the focus to empowerment and formalization of small businesses that aren't even registered as business units, or real companies. This is what happened after MDGs faded out and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were brought in, with a distinct focus on micro-level activities, as the UN is now focused on resilience rather than pursuing competitiveness. That is why this commemoration is a trade union and NGO event, not really an occasion for reflecting on improving business activity, or comparing notes across the board with peer groups, etc.

CCM adopting new constitution platform isn't about accepting the Warioba Draft

THERE are different ways of understanding the shift on the position of the ruling party, to accept the new constitution goal strongly advocated by a myriad of political groups filing behind the leading opposition party, Chadema. After a top level meeting, the ruling party announced that it has accepted the need for a new constitution, throwing a big portion of its cadres into some confusion, as many have been swearing by other convictions for the past decade or thereabouts. Adapting to a new constitution format of thinking is a testy moment for cadres, and they will definitely be looking for clarifications, and other assurances.

To grasp the new situation, one ought to go to what CCM chairperson and Head of State, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, said when addressing stakeholders at the Tanzania Centre for Democracy, a get together for political parties that's now taking up a new role as a think tank. It has an experts committee examining proposals for changes in the constitution, which is already a different issue from the traditional viewpoint of the new constitution format. It usually meant adopting the 2014 Warioba Draft - bait, hook and sinker.

When such a prospect is curtailed from immediate view of what it means for CCM adopting the format for a new constitution, many cadres will be relieved, knowing it is a matter of discussing what to change, not of swallowing changes already willed by those trying to put the union in

a trap, or driving into the darkness with a weakened presidency, emboldened legislature. The easy meaning of accepting the call for a new constitution would be the idea that CCM - or President Samia as such - was throwing caution to the winds, which is palpably not the case. She said at TCD that all proposals will be elaborately examined.

So those caught up with joy that the Warioba Draft is on the way to being accepted ought to go back to an old revolutionary adage found in the now forgotten 'Quotations from Chairman Mao,' which says 'tell no lies, claim no easy victories.' CCM has not come over to the draft, but is ready to accept changes in line with the spirit of reconciliation that President Samia has been cultivating. It will involve changes in the constitution - for instance forming a commission of experts to oversee elections, as an issue of being fair.

Another area where the current leadership can think of compromising is questioning results of presidential elections in court, similarly pegged on having organized a truly fair election.

Those going to court would merely be fulfilling their duties to stakeholders, with no chance of altering election results. So, yes indeed, when the leadership is ready for free and fair elections, not holding doubts about such readiness, there are quite a few areas it can compromise about in the constitution. That is what can easily be grasped on the new spirit.

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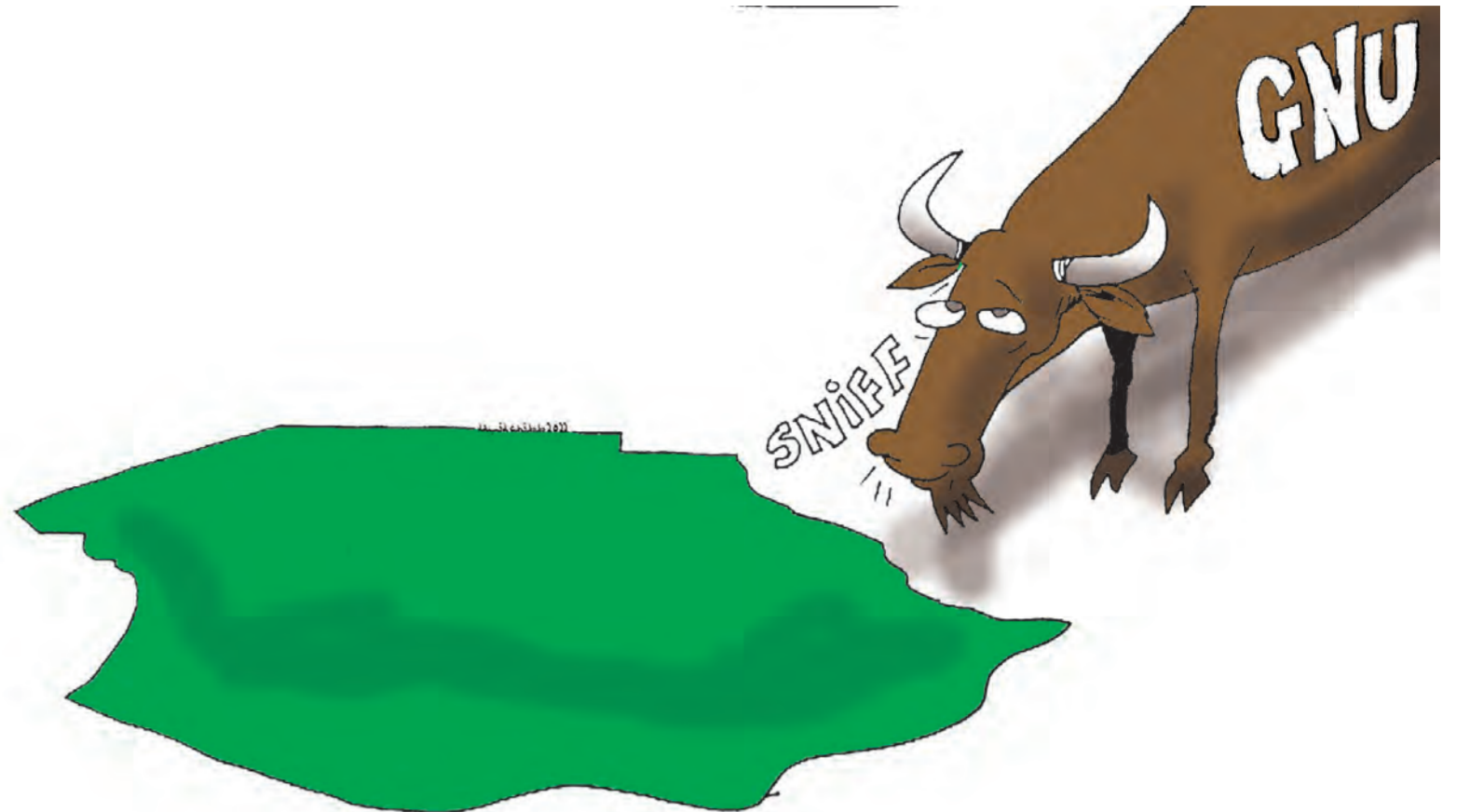
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Why aren't more women angry?

By Joseph Chamie

WHY aren't more women angry about their subordination, discrimination, and unequal treatment in the 21st century? Of course, some of the world's women are angry, but they are comparatively few.

Women represent half of the world's population and clearly play vital roles in humanity's development, wellbeing, and advancement. Yet, women continue to experience discrimination, abusive treatment, misogyny degrading slurs, and subordinate roles in virtually every major sphere of human activity.

Despite their treatment, discrimination, and subordination, most women aren't expressing anger. If the situation between the two sexes were reversed, men would certainly be angry and would no doubt take the necessary steps to change the inequalities.

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted nearly seventy-five years ago applies all rights and freedoms equally to women and men and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Some 40 years ago, the international community of nations adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. And more recently, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Notwithstanding those various declarations, international agreements, conventions, platforms for action, and the progress achieved in recent decades, women continue to lag behind men in rights, freedoms, and equality.

From the very start of life in some parts of the world, baby girls are often viewed less favorably than baby boys. In many societies boy babies continue to be preferred over girl babies. In too many instances the preference for sons has resulted in sex ratios at birth that are skewed in favor of males due to pregnancy interventions by couples.

The natural sex ratio at birth for human populations is around 105 males per 100 females, though it can range from 103 to 107. At present, at least seven countries, including the world's two largest populations, have skewed sex ratios at birth reflecting son preference pregnancy interventions (Figure 1).

China and India have skewed sex ratios at birth of 113 and 110 males per 100 females, respectively. High sex ratios at birth are also observed in Azerbaijan (113), Viet Nam (112), Armenia (111), Pakistan (109), and Albania (109). In contrast, for the period 1970-1975 when pregnancy interventions by couples had not yet become widespread, the sex ratios at birth for those seven countries were within the expected normal range.

Also in some countries, the female sex ratio imbalance continues throughout women's lives. For example, India, Pakistan, and China, which together account for nearly 40 percent of the world's population, the sex ratios for their total populations are 108, 106, and 105, respectively. In contrast, the population sex ratios are 100 in Africa and Oceania, about 97 in Northern America and Latin America and the Caribbean, and 93 in Europe (Figure 2).

In terms of education, while progress has

been achieved in the past several decades, girls continue to lag behind boys in elementary school education in some countries, especially in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. For example, 78 girls in Chad and 84 girls in Pakistan are enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys.

Among young women between 15 to 24 years approximately one-quarter are expected not to finish primary school. In addition, about two-thirds of the illiterate people in the world are women.

With respect to decision making, women do not have political representation or participation levels similar to men. Worldwide the estimated percentages of women in national parliaments, local governments, and managerial positions are 26, 36, and 28 percent, respectively. Even in developed countries, such as the United States, women make up 27 percent of Congress, 30 percent of statewide elected executives, and 31 percent of state legislators.

The labour force participation of women is also considerably lower than that of men. Globally in ages 25 to 54 years, for example, 62 percent of women are in the labor force compared to 93 percent of men. Also, the majority of the employed women, or 58 percent, are in the informal economy earning comparatively low wages and lacking social protection.

In general women are employed in the lowest-paid work. Worldwide women earn about 24 percent less than men, with 700 million fewer women than men in paid employment.

Women perform at least twice as much unpaid care as men, including childcare, housework, and elder care. Unpaid care and household responsibilities often come on top of women's paid work.

Increasing men's participation in household tasks and caregiving would contribute to a more equitable sharing of those important do-

mestic responsibilities. Also, governmental provision of childcare to families with young children would help both women and men combine their employment with family responsibilities.

A global comparative measure of women's standing relative to men for regions and countries is the gender parity index. The index considers gender-based gaps across four fundamental dimensions: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

The regions with the highest gender equality are Western Europe and Northern America with parity indexes of 78 and 76, respectively. In contrast, the regions with the lowest gender equality are South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa with parity indexes of 62 and 61, respectively (Figure 3).

With respect to countries, the top five countries with the highest gender equality are Iceland, Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden, with parity indexes ranging from 82 to 89. The bottom five countries with the lowest gender equality are Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Pakistan, and Syria, with parity indexes between 44 to 57.

In addition to the four fundamental dimensions of the gender parity index noted above, other important areas reflecting women's subordination include misogyny, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, intimate partner violence, and conflict-related sexual violence.

Worldwide it is estimated that 27 percent of women between ages 15 to 49 years had experienced physical or sexual violence by intimate long-term partners, often having long-term negative effects on the health of women as well as their children.

In addition, civil conflicts in countries, such as Ethiopia, Myanmar, South Sudan, and Syria, have all featured alarming reports of

sexual violence against women. More recently, conflict-related sexual violence by the Russian forces in Ukraine is being reported, which has contributed to renewed attention by the international community to the sexual violence women face in conflict situations.

The sexual harassment of women is a widespread global phenomenon. Most women have experienced it, especially in public places, which are often considered the domain of men with the home being considered the place for women. The reported percentages of women having experienced some form of sexual harassment in India and Viet Nam, for example, are nearly 80 and 90 percent, respectively.

In addition to harassment, women in places such as India face risks from cultural and traditional practices, human trafficking, forced labor and domestic servitude. Moreover, the sexual harassment of women at the workplace is responsible for driving many to resign from their jobs.

Again, if men were experiencing misogyny, discrimination, abusive treatment, harassment, and the subordination that women endure, they would be angry, intolerant, and no doubt turn to government officials, legislatures, courts, businesses, rights organizations, and even the streets to demand equality. Women should give serious consideration to the actions that men would take if inequalities were reversed.

With women continuing to lag behind men in rights, freedoms, and equality, the puzzling question that remains is: why aren't more women angry?

Joseph Chamie is a consulting demographer, a former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, including his recent book, "Births, Deaths, Migrations and Other Important Population Matters."



The labour force participation of women is also considerably lower than that of men. Globally in ages 25 to 54 years, for example, 62 percent of women are in the labor force compared to 93 percent of men. Also, the majority of the employed women, or 58 percent, are in the informal economy earning comparatively low wages and lacking social protection

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Dons, activists highlight strengths, grey areas in 2022/2023 government budget

LAST week, the National Assembly endorsed 41.46trn/- national budget after three months of debate by legislators in Dodoma. Tanzanians now wait for its implementation to the letter and enjoy the goodies it promises.

Some scholars and activists have commented on it with good words on some aspects as well as cautions on some areas that needed improvement for the betterment and common good of all Tanzanians.

Contributing on economic justice during the post national budget dialogue at TGNP-Mtandao headquarters in Dar es Salaam last week, an Economist and a Lecturer at Mzumbe University Dr Lihoya Anthony applauded the government for tabling a gender-sensitive budget.

She said economic rights can be attained when every citizen gets the opportunity to possess and utilise resources available for their own and national developments and those opportunities need to be equal for women and men so that both can develop.

"This year's budget at least has tried to cover three main objectives namely to build the economy, poverty alleviation and unemployment, especially to the youth," she said.

For instance, she said that the government has increased the agriculture budget from 294bn/- to 954bn/- so as to among others, increase the involvement of many farmers in irrigation and cut over-reliance in rain-fed agriculture.

The academic argued that in order to liberate citizens economically, the government through the agriculture sector aims at increasing over 3 million jobs for youth by 2025 in order to reduce unemployment.

"All these initiatives by the gov-



Dr Lihoya Anthony, economist and lecturer at Mzumbe University, speaks during post national budget dialogue which took place at TGNP-Mtandao headquarters in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of TGNP

ernment are an indication that the government has committed to addressing poverty and unemployment to its citizenry," she said.

On business issues, Dr Anthony said that the government intends to establish eight youth incubation centers starting with 1,000 beneficiaries who will work to fatten cattle and sell the same to the meat processing factories in the country.

"This is an indication that the government wants to ensure young girls and boys get their economic rights through sustainable employment opportunities," she said.

Dr Idd Mziray, Gender and Adolescence Initiative (GAI) Executive Director said that gender sensitive budget needs to establish and respond to the needs of all groups of people in the country.

Commenting on the agriculture sector, he said that 69.9 per cent of the workforce in agriculture is women but since most women in the community don't own land, he suggested that the government needs to ensure women, like men, are enabled to own land because 80 per cent of them work on land. As a way of addressing unemployment in the country, he said that constructing irrigation infrastructure, including the planned construction of dams for harvesting rainwater, is commendable because they will be used in irrigation schemes in regions where there are no lakes and big rivers, Dodoma being one of them.

Dr Respicius Shumbusho, Political Science and Public Administration Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, also commended the government for its strategy for reducing cost of living and strengthening productive sectors, saying this will mostly benefit women, youth and vulnerable groups that are left behind in the national development.

Commenting on the government's plan to improve working conditions for hawkers, popularly known as machinga, Shumbusho said it is a good idea but he was quick to note that the government is currently missing evidence on who is really a machinga. To him, a real machinga does not need a loan.

To get data in this matter, he urged the government to commission the University of Dar es Salaam or any other reputable higher learning institution to do a thorough research to set standards on who is really a machinga and how many are they in the country before injecting that any money into their development.

He cautioned that if boundaries are not existent or blurred, a big businessman can decide to turn into a small businessman or a machinga with the intention of benefiting from the revolving fund set by the government. Tabling the budget estimates, Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the government will scale up small-scale irrigation schemes across the country by constructing irrigation infrastructure, including the construction of dams for harvesting rainwater and use available water bodies like lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa as well as permanent large rivers like Malagarasi, Ruvuma, Rufiji, Mara, Pangani and Ruvu.

"This will be done through expanding the irrigation area to 8,500,000

hectares equivalent to 50 per cent of the total area cultivated in the country by 2030," he said.

Furthermore, Dr Nchemba said that the government aims at increasing the number of large-scale farms from 110 in 2020 to 10,000 in 2030, focusing on commercializing oil palm and sunflower farming.

In this endeavor, the government encourages transformation from small to large scale farming with the minister urging farmers in Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Coast, Geita and Kagera regions to amalgamate their small farms into plantations to ease construction of irrigation infrastructure.

Dr Nchemba said that the government will heavily subsidize agriculture input including fertilizers, farming equipment, pesticides and quality seeds as well as supporting irrigation farming.

The subsidies will increase fertilizer production whereby special treatment will be given to local fertilizer industries with zero rated VAT for locally produced fertilizers. "Government is taking these measures to reduce the cost of living and provide relief to Tanzanians. I urge the business community not to take advantage of the prevailing crisis at the expense of the citizens in order to earn more profit as subsidies are meant for citizens and not companies," he said.

Dr Nchemba added that the government is going to identify, allocate, supervise, protect and enable small scale traders as one of the key drivers of economic growth.

"The government is making all these efforts to implement President Samia Suluhu Hassan's intention to improve the business environment. Further, the government will continue to identify and link them with financial institutions to access affordable loans, and will continue to allocate areas and construct enabling infrastructure for doing business," he said.

The President has pledged 10mn/- for each region for strengthening hawkers' leadership, including construction of their offices.

The minister said that the government has allocated 45bn/- for infrastructure and capital provision to the machinga whereby each region needs to have 1bn/- revolving fund for the machinga.

Digital tools complement organic farming at Islamic school in Indonesia

CIWIDEY, West Java

IT appears to be business as usual at the Al-Ittifaq pesantren, the local term for an Islamic boarding school. Yadi and Rezki, both 18, join the subuh, pre-dawn prayer, in the local mosque. After a session of religious meditation, along with other santri, or students, the two study science in a pre-dawn class for about 30 minutes.

Once the session ends, the students know where to go and what to do. They pick up a hoe, shovel and machete and walk together to the school's farm. The ustadz, or teacher, divides them into groups and issues instructions.

Soon the students no longer look like learners but like young farmers working the land. "This is part of our class lessons. We do this every day," said Yadi, who is busy planting seeds. "I am planting green onion. But my friends are harvesting it in other side of this farm."

The pesantren environment seems ideal for farming. Located in a hilly, mountainous area of Ciwidey, West Java, 170 kilometres or about a 4-hour drive from Jakarta, Al-Ittifaq compound is surrounded by green, in a temperature that hovers between 18C and 22C - cold by tropical standards.

Orange grove – with a surprise

Senior teacher Anwar Mustiawan shows a reporter an area where leafy orange trees with white trunks are growing – and what makes the pesantren unique is revealed. Arranged in neat rows, some trees are over two metres tall, others less than one metre. The soil under each one is covered with a tarpaulin, and under it is a sensor that measures the temperature and humidity of the soil. A water hose is attached to each tarpaulin and connected to an auto-watering machine, which joins a huge water tank.

"The machine decides, based on the soil temperature, when to water the soil," Anwar said. "This is what digital farming technology is all about," he added.

He also pointed out that the auto-watering machine isn't used for all crops. "Our students should know the soil temperature and when it is time to water them," Anwar said.

Also on hand is Aziz Elbehri, the senior economist who leads the 1,000 Digital Villages Initiative (DVI) at the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We are promoting sustainable, resilient and digitalized agricultural and farming practices by assisting policy makers, national and local government to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030," Elbehri told IPS as he visited the pesantren on 27 June.

"This use of technology needs to be spread and replicated to other rural communities," he added.

While Al-Ittifaq is at the heart of a thriving farming community, digitalization is giving its inhabitants a further boost.

Everything produced on the farm goes to the Ittifaq cooperative, where students sort, grade, pack, wrap and label items. The enterprise supplies local supermarkets, malls and wholesalers with vegetables and fruits. It also purchases produce grown by local farmers, who have been its business partners since it was established in 1977.

The organization sends at least five tonnes of various vegetables daily to major cities in Indonesia, said the cooperative's head, Agus Setia Irawan. "The demand is increasing because our product is highly competitive, which suggest that local farmers are capable of producing quality vegetables and fruits."

That Al-Ittifaq practices organic farming is what makes the difference. "It is public



Orange trees growing with the help of a digital watering system attached to the water tank on the right side. Al Ittifaq farm, Ciwidey, West Java, Indonesia. File photo

knowledge that our products are planted, grown and processed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way," Agus added.

Self-financing farm

The proceeds of the business are used to finance the Ittifaq educational operations. "Our syeikh taught us that a good person is financially self-reliant and does not hope for charity. He makes it into reality. This pesantren is financially self-financing," said Rezki, another student.

Al-Ittifaq also employs local residents to work on its 14-hectare farm, so that students and local residents toil together. "There are hundreds of people,

most of them women, working with us in shifts. We are like a big family here," Refky added.

The cooperative also partners with five farmers' groups, each one consisting of 300 farmers who work 70 hectares of land.

Not only has the pesantren made big steps in the agro-industrial business, it has also become the centre of agricultural and agribusiness training for residents, in collaboration with 20 other pesantren in West Java.

And as part of the digitization drive, Ittifaq has started online marketing. Agus said the cooperative has adopted the so-called business-to-business-to-consumer model (B2B2C). By part-

nering with other businesses, its online e-commerce efforts are able to reach new markets and customers.

"Our virtual marketing is made through an online agricultural store called Alifmart, which offers several features, including a catalogue of products, purchasing mechanism and customer service," he said.

FAO Representative in Indonesia Rajendra Aryal said that with more and more people having access to the internet, digital agriculture is becoming a main vehicle for transforming Indonesia's food system.

"Indonesia is an archipelagic country that is struggling to give

its people wider access to economic resources. Digitalization of agriculture is coming into play now," he said.

Target – 104 digital villages

West Java's administration has set the target of digitalizing 104 villages in the province in 2022.

"The villages are selected because they don't have access to the internet yet. But we have been building internet infrastructure during the last two years. Soon, they are not in the blank spot anymore," said the head of the West Java Communication and Information Office, Ika Mardiah. "And soon the villages' potential and products,

will be in e-commerce, online transactions and promotion," she added during a meeting with FAO officials on 26 June.

To date, Mardiah's office has incorporated 4,225 village enterprises in West Java into the digital business network under her management. "This involves more than 400 products, 12.8 million customers and a huge amount of money," she said.

According to West Java Governor Ridwan Kamil, soon more business, job and career opportunities will be available in villages than in cities. "With digitalization the future for the young generation is in villages," he added at the meeting.

By He Yin

China to further deepen, substantiate BRICS cooperation

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will host the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing on June 23.

When changes in the world, our times and history are unfolding today in ways like never before, China looks forward to working with fellow BRICS members to further deepen and substantiate BRICS cooperation, cement the BRICS strategic partnership, draw up a new blueprint for BRICS cooperation, and make greater contributions to safeguarding peace and stability and promoting development and prosperity by hosting the 14th BRICS Summit under the theme of "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development."

BRICS is an important cooperation mechanism that has traveled a glorious path over the past 16 years. It has become a South-South cooperation platform with global influence.

China attaches high importance to the mechanism and always sees enhancing cooperation with BRICS countries as a priority in its diplomacy.

Xi has attended the BRICS Summit for nine consecutive years since 2013 and raised a series of important proposals and initiatives on developing the BRICS cooperation mechanism and enhancing the cooperation among BRICS countries.

In 2017, Xi hosted the ninth BRICS Summit in east China's coastal city of Xiamen and ushered in the second "Golden Decade" of BRICS cooperation, leaving a distinctive Chinese mark in the development of the BRICS cooperation.

China firmly believes that BRICS cooperation should follow the historical trend of economic globalization, multi-polarization and democratization of international relations, reflect an irreversible trend of the times that shows the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries,



The BRICS Forum on Development of Industrial Internet and Digital Manufacturing is held in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian province on May 23 and 24, 2022. (Photo/Chen Bo)

and represent the way forward in the evolution and adjustment of the global landscape and international order. The mechanism will certainly maintain strong vitality and continuously make positive contributions to world peace and development.

The achievements and voices to be made at the

14th BRICS Summit are important indicators under the current international circumstances. As the rotating BRICS chair for this year, China has made steady progress in promoting the BRICS cooperation covering political, security, economic, trade, financial, people-to-people and cultural fields as well as sustainable development and

public health. It has held more than 70 meetings and events so far this year, which have laid a solid foundation for the upcoming 14th BRICS Summit.

China has enhanced the effectiveness of the BRICS cooperation, reaching important outcomes in areas such as global governance, vaccine, food security, supply chain and aerospace, and demon-

strating the firm determination of BRICS countries to tide over difficulties through solidarity.

China has focused the BRICS cooperation on development, actively contributing to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Leaders of BRICS countries, as well as leaders of relevant emerging markets and developing countries, are all expected to attend the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, which will inject new impetus into international development.

China has made the BRICS cooperation open and inclusive. In the spheres of health, environment, development, education and culture, the country has hosted a number of BRICS Plus activities. For instance, the "BRICS Plus" dialogue at the foreign minister level held last month stressed the importance of emerging markets and developing countries in global governance, which effectively enhanced their solidarity and cooperation.

Currently, the impacts of major changes and a pandemic unseen in a century are being combined, and factors of instability, uncertainty and insecurity are increasing in the international situation. Despite it, peace and development remain the unchanging theme of the times, the aspiration of people across countries for a better life remains unchanged, and the historical mission for the international community to pursue solidarity and win-win cooperation remains unchanged.

As a positive, inspiring and constructive force in the international community, the BRICS countries need to firm up belief, grasp the trend and precisely recognize and respond to the changes. They will surely inject stability and positive energy into international relations in a period of turbulence and transformation.

China will work with other BRICS members to act on the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness, cooperation and win-win results, foster high-quality partnerships and usher in a new era for global development, so as to make new contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

Gabon eyes Commonwealth entry to advance economic diversification

LIBREVILLE

GABON, a French-speaking country in Central Africa that has been seeking membership in the Commonwealth, is awaiting the final decision made at the Commonwealth summit currently held in Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

Gabonese Foreign Minister Michael Moussa Adamo affirmed in a recent briefing with the press that Libreville aims to boost economic diversification by joining the Commonwealth while maintaining its relations with France.

LONG JOURNEY

Gabon's willingness to join the Commonwealth is not a decision taken lightly. Gabon's President Ali Bongo, a perfect English speaker who spent part of his childhood in the United States, has never hidden his intention to lead Gabon into the Anglosphere, in order to realize modernization.

"Gabon wants to develop and offer itself the best opportunities. When you leave the

French-speaking zone, if you don't understand English, you are almost handicapped.

It is about ensuring that Gabonese people are better armed," said Alain-Claude Bilie-By-Nze, a former spokesman for the Gabonese presidency. In October 2012, the Gabonese president paid a short visit to Kigali to "examine the experience of English-French bilingualism" in Rwanda, a French-speaking community that also belongs to the Commonwealth.

The president later also sent a group of teachers to Ghana to learn English teaching. His plan to make room for English in schools, however, had failed after the country was plunged into a severe economic crisis following the fall in commodity prices in 2014.

Gabon's process of joining the Commonwealth formally started about five years ago. The General Secretariat of the Commonwealth dispatched several evaluation missions to Gabon to assess several standards, in particular the democratic process, good governance, respect



Gabon's president Ali Bongo

for human rights, and gender equality. "It is the culmination of a long process," said Michael Moussa Adamo in front of the press before his departure for

the Kigali summit Thursday. "It is at the end of this consultation of the Heads of State and Government of the Commonwealth that the decision will be taken.

It is these Heads of State and Government who will decide whether Gabon is accepted or not, or whether it is postponed to a later date."

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

A small Central African country with a population of more than 2 million, Gabon had long been considered an Eldorado in Central Africa because of its enormous oil revenues between the 1970s and 1980s.

In his major announcement in 2021, the Gabonese president said the goal of joining the Commonwealth is to diversify Gabon's economy. His spokesman Jessye Ella Ekogha also said that it was a choice aimed at "sustainable development of the country."

"We are going to have a lot from the Commonwealth, from the Commonwealth countries as they are going to share our experiences as well. And I confirm, and I affirm and I continue to say that the Commonwealth is a vibrant community with a future and values shared by

Gabon," said Michael Moussa Adamo, the Gabonese foreign minister.

Michael Moussa Adamo, who speaks fluent English, served as head of Gabon's diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C., the United States, for seven years. He flew to Kigali on Thursday for the decisive summit to file Gabon's application for membership. Libreville intends to adjust its development choices based on the development models of the English-speaking countries, according to the Gabonese Foreign Ministry.

The option of making Gabon a bilingual country was also in line with the country's ambition to develop the tertiary sector as part of the drive to diversify an economy that is overly dependent on oil, wood, and mineral sectors.

Since 2012, Gabon with Chinese support has invested heavily in the construction of stadiums, hotels, and other infrastructure with the goal of turning itself into a tourism hub. Gabon, a founding member of the Francophonie, has decided

to join the Commonwealth, somewhat to the general surprise of several French-speaking nations.

"We are joining the Commonwealth for Gabonese interests, for sharing," affirmed the Gabonese foreign minister, stressing that Gabon is a sovereign and independent country that cooperates with the whole world. Gabon obtained its independence in 1960.

It has maintained good relations with France as its primary partner in international diplomatic affairs. "We have special and strong relations with France," admitted the foreign minister, while emphasizing "but we are also an autonomous, independent country."

"The Commonwealth and the U.K. are not coming to replace France," said the foreign minister at the press briefing when answering a question raised by Xinhua about the future of relations between Gabon and France pending the approval of Gabon's accession at the Commonwealth summit in Kigali.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Fund in new initiatives to empower girls through boys

By Guardian Correspondent, Bunda

WHAT does it mean to be together? It is more than strength in numbers but putting yourself in the shoes of another person. With this at heart, last Saturday of June 25th, Grumeti Fund conducted a girls' empowerment session through boys' activity at Chamriho Secondary School in Bunda District, Mara Region.

The session that involved over 735 boys from three secondary schools in Bunda District—Hunyari, Paul Tudor Jones and Chamriho was aimed at enlightening the boys on their role in empowering their sisters in all spheres of life, especially with the realization again that for a complete society, all regardless of sex and gender must be onboard.

Grumeti Fund Community Outreach Program Manager, Frida Mollel cited the analogy of a journey of a thousand miles that must begin with a single step towards the endeavor.

Kick starting the session, she applauded the boys for their incredible participation, saying: "What a big day seeing boys ready to stand with their sisters! It is fascinating when educated boys, future fathers, and leaders like you know your role in the community, especially fighting against bad gender-related cultural practices."

Gender issues such as access to education, the right to speak and be heard, and decision-making were some of the noted big challenges in the communities, which require addressing.

In her analysis, she pointed out that girls are not given equal chances to education, and they do not have a seat at the table, when it comes to making decisions, be it at the family up the hierarchy in the society—this results in forced marriages, early pregnancies, and female genital mutilation (FGM).

A close analysis automatically would lead to a conclusion that these problems and other social norms have endured through generations, and the best way forward is to



Secondary school boys in their new jerseys during a girls empowerment session through boys conducted by Grumeti Fund last weekend at Chamriho Secondary School in Bunda District, Mara Region. With them is the Grumeti Fund Community Outreach programme manager Frida Mollel (L), and Bunda District secondary education officer Wandere Rwakatale (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

make boys stand together with the girl child.

Bunda District Secondary Schools Education Officer, Wandere Rwakatale, shared the same school of thought after the boys graced the occasion with their wonderful songs' performance on how to integrate girls into their society's developments.

Equally, the session included a talent show

where boys performed songs that emphasized academic issues and the benefits of standing together with the girl child.

He said: "I will be honest and will hit the bull in the eye. We all came from one brave person—that is a woman. Nobody here, no man anywhere has ever experienced labor pain or is willing to undergo

Cesarean delivery. We owe women respect and love."

Rwakatale thanked Grumeti Fund for the initiative which enables boys to live and stand together with the girl-child. "It is the boys who study with girls, and who live with them at home—the same boys can lift or trample them. These events are cru-

cial in transforming the mindset of the whole community.

"It takes the first step to move on - and we hope that this will go far, and the community will be transformed. There are no girls/boys' chores at home, a boy can also cook and wash dishes - by helping each other at-home children are not only learning to love one another but to protect and care for each other. Everybody has a sibling. Nobody likes to see his/her sister's life being destroyed by another man. They will do all it takes to protect them - and this is out of love.

"Let all of you who are here today be ready to stand for girls, it is us who will change our societies. Being educated means being ready to educate the majority in the community, I mean our parents, brothers, and sisters -we now know that bad gender-related practices in our communities such as Female Genital Mutilation, early marriages, as well as early sexual behaviors are not good, and we can end them together. You need to love, care, and protect girls who are our sisters and mothers."

In the event, it was noted that nothing brings together both boys and girls like sports, and to crown it all-it involved all sorts of entertainments and games, which included football, chasing chickens, rope pulling, running in sacks, and running with a spoon carrying an egg.

Thereafter, the schools were individually provided with full jerseys and balls as a part of recognizing the importance of sports in health and academic performance.

Clerics call on govt to do more to up equality in public service

By Guardian Reporter

CLERICS have suggested the need for the government to correct underinvestment in inequality in public services and social protection and raise minimum wages and enforce labour rights for all.

Speaking during the launch of a report titled 'Leaving no one behind: Policy Interventions and Approaches to Fight Inequality in Tanzania and SADC region' over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Chairman of Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) and Bishop at Tanzania Menonite Church Nelson Kisare said although Tanzania ranks 5th out of 15th in SADC and 39th globally, there are some areas that require significant improvement especially regressive Value Added Tax (VAT) and poor tax collection.

ISCEJIC is the national interfaith platform which represents the major faith community in Tanzania.

Bishop Kisare said Tanzania collects only 22 per cent of the tax it should, the top personal income tax rate is too low, and the VAT is high and doesn't exempt basic foodstuffs.

He said Tanzania does not

perform well on tax policy compared to its peer, ranking 8th of 15th in SADC and 32nd of 46th in Africa.

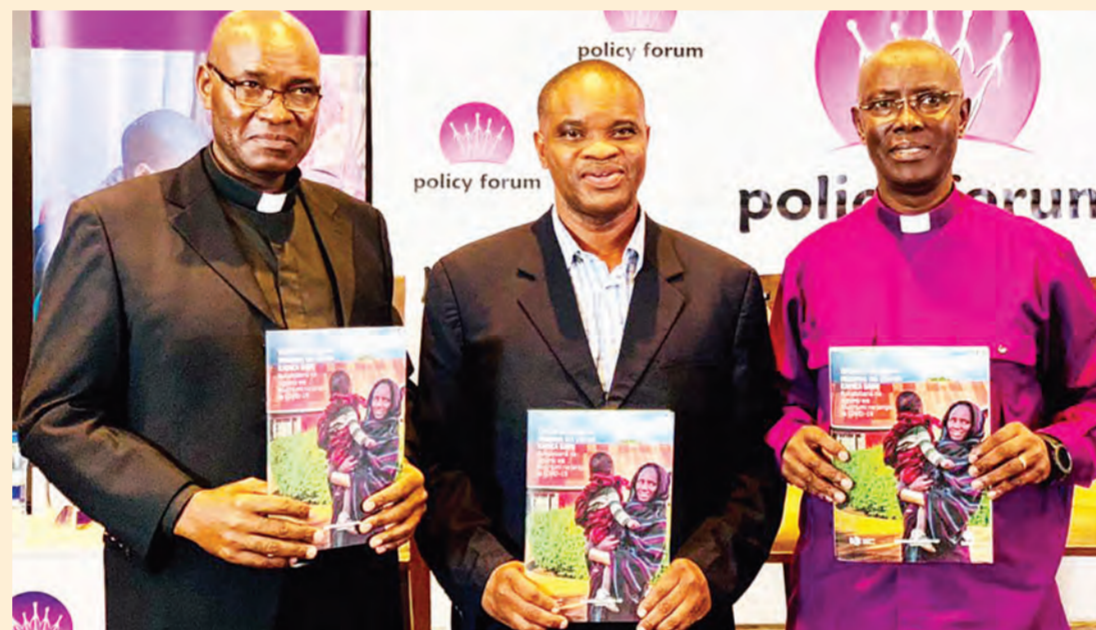
Bishop Kisare added that Tanzania has the second highest rate of VAT and a regressive VAT system which fails to exempt basic food staff to reduce the burden to the poorest.

"To reduce inequality in a society, tax collectors should collect no more than what is required to collect as insisted in a holy bible Luke 3:13—Collect no more than what is appointed to you," he said.

On labour rights, the report states that Tanzania ranks bottom among SADC countries, and 144th globally, it scored low on minimum wages and inequality.

Dr Saleh Abdallah from Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) said religious leaders are responsible of telling actors in the government of what they are supposed to do in order to address inequality and injustice in the society.

"Our job is to refer back to our guideline and advising the government accordingly," said Dr Abdallah, quoting Quran surah 4.135 which stated that 'stand firm for justice as witnessed for Allah even if it is



From left is Father Florence Rwehumbiza from the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, Dr Saleh Abdallah from Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) and Bishop at Tanzania Menonite Church and Chairman of the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) launching the study report titled 'Leaving no one behind: Policy Interventions and approaches to fight inequality in Tanzania and the SADC region generally'.

against yourselves, your parents or close relatives and whether it be against rich or poor".

Father Florence Rwehumbiza from the Pastoral Department at the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) said fighting injustice is part of living out the gospel and holy Quran.

"As far as how we can per-

sonally fight injustice, what we are called to do, each and every one of us, is to live our vocations to the full," Father Florence urges.

He said the Old Testament clearly teaches that God had a special love and regard for the poor, and instructed those who had more to share with them and not to oppress them.

He made provision for the

needy among them as indicated in Deuteronomy 15: 11. "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be opening handed towards your brothers and towards the poor and needy in your land."

Commenting on the report, Anthony Kamande, Inequality Research Coordinator from Oxfam said the index ranks 158

countries on their policy performance to reduce inequality through public services, progressive taxation and labour rights.

In women labour rights the country scores better than some of its peer labour rights ranking 6 of 15 SADC countries.

According to the report, Tanzania's overall level of commitment to tackling inequality is very low with economic inequality increasing, and the full impact of coronavirus is only just emerging.

It stated that there is a strong case for strengthening policies to fight inequality in Tanzania. In recent years, income inequality has increased, as has its concentration into the hands of the wealthiest.

It suggests that Tanzania's overall commitment to fighting inequality needs more effort. It currently ranks 130th out of 158 countries globally, and 12th out of 15 countries in SADC.

The study states that the country's recent records on labour rights and public services are particularly concerning; it ranks second lowest within the SADC region. Minimum wages are inadequate, and there is high wage inequality.

In 2015, the governments across the world including

made a commitment to reduce inequality through the sustainable development goals, therefore since 2020 the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in collaboration with Oxfam and Development Finance International have jointly conducted research to assess countries' Commitment to Reduce Inequality (CRI) with a focus on SDG 10.

Through the report, faith leaders provide updates on the progress realized to date as per pillars of public sector, tax and labour rights used by researchers in the Commitment to Reduce Inequalities Index (CRII).

The study shows that Tanzania performs poorly on minimum wages, ranking 13 in SADC and 134 globally at only 19 percent of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and below the extreme poverty line.

In the health sector, Tanzania is low at just 5.4 percent of the budget; this puts it at the bottom of the ranking in SADC and 37 in Africa.

On education, Tanzania's budget allocation to education of 14 percent ranks the country fourth lowest in SADC and puts it far from meeting the education for all targets.

Nyamwage village raises more than 300m/- from conservation of forest

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

NYAMWAGE village in Rufiji District, Coastal Region has raised more than 300m/- as revenues since 2017/18 when the village started implementing community based forest management (CBFM) in their village.

The forest conservation has supported Nyamwage village communities to reduce deforestation and diversify livelihoods by establishing, implementing and benefiting from sustainable natural forest-based enterprises.

Nyamwage village chairman Ibrahim Said Mboweto said the village has raised the revenues since when it started CBFM for the two village land forest reserves namely Nyamkongo village land forest reserve which has a total of 1292 hectares and Yelya village land forest reserve which has 1136 hectares.

"Our village started forest conservation in 2006 and in 2016 we received training on forest conservation and in 2017/18 we started sustainable harvesting from the forest experts," he said.

He added that the revenues have helped the village establish sustainable projects that has transformed the village livelihoods and strengthened security in the forest reserves.

Citing an example, he said the revenues have financially supported the village build several classrooms and toilets for the village secondary school and Shaurimoyo primary school. The village has also constructed maternity wards and embarked on construction of Village Laboratory.



Nyamwage village natural resource committee show some of the school classrooms built from forest conservation. The villagers have managed to establish several community projects from forest conservation. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Besides classrooms and toilets, the village government has constructed a total of 20 chairs (benches) and some tables which are used during the village meetings.

"We have also established CHIF for all 16 members of the village natural resource committee and purchased some better working tools such as computers and motorcycles. The computers are helping them keep statistics properly and motorcycles are used for patrol purposes.

"The forest conservation has improved economics and governance of the forest products value chains and in fact has contributed to climatic change mitigation and adaptation," he said.

Nyamwage village Natural resource committee secretary Aisha Hemed said CBFM has helped the village buy improved working tools for the office and for conducting regular patrols. We have managed to arrest some invaders who are destroying the two village forests reserves.

Nyamwage village executive officer Ramadhan Omary Mwangia said because of conservation and proper management of the village land forest reserve some rare animals that had disappeared has started surfacing again. He said animals like pigs, Antelopes, zebras, Buffalos and birds can conspicuously be seen in the forest reserve.

"We have put in place good plans so that these natural resources benefit directly the villagers. For example, if the villagers want timbers, logs, construction materials and firewood, they only follow the process and procedures from the village government before they are allowed.

On good governance, the village leaders said the forest stakeholders and other forest experts have trained them to manage the revenues properly and account for every coin that is raised through forest conservation.

Commenting on the achievements, Rufiji district commissioner Major Edward Gowele said the district government has been supporting the village achieve its goal of forest conservation. For example, he said the district has formed a special

task force to support arrest invaders. "The task force is working hand in hand with the village task force. We only need information from the village and intervene. We have set aside areas for pastoralists so that they don't invade farmers fields and forest reserves and we are enforcing this regularly," he said.

He said that his office has directed all the villagers that the village leaders should not accept more pastoralists from outside until when the number of cattle that are currently available are reduced.

"When we see cattle entering our district must be escorted to make sure that they are not stopping in our district. Every vehicle that passes through this district must be noted and escorted to go outside the district boundaries.

He said he has launched operations throughout central government forest reserves such as Ngumburuni forest reserve to arrest all illegal timber and logs harvesters.

He called on the villagers to work together with the district government to conserve and protect the forests saying this is not a one man show; rather it is a collective responsibility of all individuals, stakeholders and the general public.

NAIROBI

Centring gender in the next biodiversity agenda: It's surely a long way to Montreal

"I often hear, 'What do women have to do with biodiversity?' And I want to ask them back, 'What do men have to do (with biodiversity)?'", says Mrinalini Rai, a prominent gender equality rights advocate at the 4th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the UN Biodiversity Convention, which started this week in Nairobi.

Her comment appears to reflect the frustration women activists feel as their demand for a specific target on gender equality - known as Target 22 - shows few signs of progress.

Target 22 was first submitted last September at the 3rd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) in Geneva. The target, when summarized, proposes to "ensure women and girls' equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all levels of policy and decision making related to biodiversity."

The target was proposed officially by Costa Rica, with the support of GLURAC - a group comprising 11 countries from Latin America and West Africa which has been since accepted as a point of discussion by the CBD. The GRULAC members are Guatemala, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Togo, Benin, Cameroon, and Tanzania.

However, this week in Nairobi, when asked by IPS for their comments on Target 22, the co-chairs of the CBD appeared largely dismissive. "We already have a Gender Action Plan," said Basile



Mrinalini Rai, head of Women4Biodiversity and leader of the Women's Caucus at the UN Biodiversity Convention and Cristina Eghenter of World Wildlife Fund for Nature, at a media roundtable at the ongoing UN CBD Working Group 4 meeting in Nairobi. File photo

equality advocates, however, believe it is critical to have strong integration of gender within the Framework itself to anchor and give life to the Gender Plan of Action.

"What we are saying is that this target is not supposed to be seen as something separate from everything in the GBF. When you adopt a standalone target on gender equality, it will guide all the work being done under the framework and to operationalize the framework including the communications, knowledge management, capacity building and financing of the new mechanism", says Rai.

Cristina Eghenter, Global Governance Policy Coordinator at World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) links the currently lacking gender-segregated data and how the adoption of Target 22 could help plug the gaps.

"Women's contribution to biodiversity is often questioned because this contribution is underreported and therefore, undervalued. A standalone target on gender equality would lead to the setting of clear indicators and a monitoring system which would then contribute to the production of gender-segregated data," Eghenter points out.

Jennifer Corpuz leads the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IPFB) - a collection of representatives from indigenous governments, indigenous non-governmental organizations, and indigenous scholars and activists that organize around the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

On being asked her stance on a standalone, specific target on gender equality, Corpuz says that she wholeheartedly supports this. "When the GBF has included target 21, it is a natural progression that there should be a target 22". Corpuz also explains that Target 21 - the only target to mention women in the GBF, emphasizes indigenous communities and therefore, it will be more helpful to have a standalone target on gender equality that goes beyond women and is inclusive of all genders.

"We, therefore, strongly support Target 22 and hope it will be taken up for adoption at COP15," she says. Besides, IIFB and WWF, several other rights and equity advocacy groups are supporting the proposed new target. The Global Youth Biodiversity Network - an advocacy group that is demanding greater focus on youths in the GBF, also has voiced its support for a target on gender equality. Other groups lending their support are the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance (CBDA), and the Women Caucus at the UN CBD.

Expectation VS Reality
As the Nairobi meeting nears its end - the conference will close on Sunday - there are more meetings of the contacts groups which oversee discussing and finalizing the text of the draft GBF with the negotiation in each meeting

comes to Target 22 - the contact group 4, responsible for discussing and cleaning up the text of both targets related to gender, has had only one reading of the Target 22.

According to Benjamin Schachter, Human Rights Officer on Climate Change and Environment at ORCHR, the text of the target 22 is right now 'full of brackets' which indicates there is hardly any agreement among the contact group members discussing the target on its content.

As the GBF is expected to have at least 80% of 'clean text' before it is presented by CBD to the parties for discussion and adoption, the question that most people are wondering is if the draft GBF at COP15 includes a target for gender equality at all? Some are even asking if the draft in its current form (full of brackets) can be rejected by the parties altogether if they feel the task to clean it up is too arduous?

"Total exclusion is 'extremely unlikely,' explains Schachter, explaining the technical process: since the target has been officially proposed by a group of parties and discussed at the contact group, the parties must work harder and get the draft to a shape where it can be considered for consensus building and eventual adoption.

A long way to Montreal

The onus, then, lies equally on parties as well as on groups such as Women4Biodiversity to lobby more parties and gain their support. Already, in the Nairobi meeting, a few more countries including Maldives, Norway, and the EU have expressed their support, taking the total number of supporting parties to 22.

Norway has, in fact, also proposed an alternative text for the Target which reads "Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the global biodiversity framework and the achievement of the 3 objectives of the convention including by recognizing equal rights and access to land and natural resources of women and girls and their meaningful and informed participation in policy and decision-making"

"This language is both cleaner and stronger", says Schachter. Mrinalini Rai of Women4Biodiversity agrees: "Norway proposed and supported by American countries a new way to address the rights of gender equality and rights of women to lands and natural resources which is a fantastic improvement and if this new text comes in, it would be monumental step forward for CBD," she says.

But can the advocates and supporters get 108 remaining countries to read, give input and prepare themselves for an informed discussion in the next five months? Undoubtedly, that remains an arduous task for the nations, requiring manpower, time, and resources.

IPS

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 311 00--

Crossword grid with numbers 1-25 indicating starting points for clues.

- 3 letters NCO, ONE, LEO, URN, MIC, LOW, ORE,
- 4 letters MESS, EVEN, MEAT, EVER, GROT, TRET, MENU, LAIR, OOOZ, MINE, EPIC,
- 5 letters INDIA, ONION, BINGO, BLEAT, LOESS, MOVER,
- 6 letters AERATE, SNATCH, ZEALOT, LEADER,
- 7 letters LUG HOLE, NILOTIC, ENTREAT,
- 9 letters SERENGETI

CLUES: Across

- largest country in Africa
- second largest continent
- country founded by Kwame Nkrumah
- ill-mannered
- ancient kingdom in Nubia
- second happiest country on earth
- country of pierogi and potatoes
- largest country by area in the World
- country with many chinese in Africa
- happiest country in the World
- Overpopulated country in the World
- The genus of primates
- shaba province was her official name
- Spain's Capital
- province with Hunde tribe in DR Congo
- Dakar is her chief city
- help or support

Down:

1. largest country in Africa
2. country founded by Kwame Nkrumah
3. ill-mannered
4. ancient kingdom in Nubia
5. second happiest country on earth
6. country of pierogi and potatoes
7. largest country by area in the World
9. country with many chinese in Africa
13. happiest country in the World
15. Overpopulated country in the World
17. the genus of primates
18. shaba province was her official name
19. Spain's Capital
22. province with Hunde tribe in DR Congo
23. a broad curved inlet of the sea

RADIO One

RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.35 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS 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BUSINESS

Norwegian Embassy team impressed with biodiversity conservation projects in Kilolo, Mufindi districts

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania has expressed satisfaction with implementation of biodiversity conservation projects Kilolo and Mufindi districts in Iringa Region.

The Norwegian government is supporting the improvement of biodiversity conservation in Kilombero and Uzungwa Scarp Nature Forest reserves by supporting the livelihoods of the community through the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) program.

The Embassy Team Leader, Vivian Hilde Opsvik who is also the Counselor Grant Manager said they have witnessed some positive results in the projects.

She said: "We have visited the two districts and saw the good work done by the villagers, but we are also thankful for the good collaboration and support from EAMCEF who organized the field visit."

She said the projects have contributed in enabling people to live a decent life, adding that most of the villagers are motivated to further develop their conservation related activities.

Opsvik said the Norwegian government supports the projects to purposely protect forests so that they contribute to the livelihoods of the community adjacent to the Uzungwa Scarp Nature Forest Reserve (USNFR) and Kilombero Nature Forest Reserve (KNFR) respectively.

Kilolo District Commissioner, Peres Magiri commended the Norwegian government through EAMCEF for

supporting the project since 2011.

Some of the projects include dairy cattle keeping, fish farming, dairy goat production, pig production, biogas projects, soybeans production and tree planting.

He said through implementation of the projects, they have observed some positive outcomes within the community.

Magiri noted that following implementation of the projects, there have been reduced wildfire incidents and improved biodiversity and conservation of water sources respectively.

EAMCEF Director, Francis Sabuni said the fund provides funds for the projects aiming at conserving key biodiversity and water resources, which are located in the mountains of eastern arc.

He said that so far they have nine target areas in four regions of Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Morogoro and Iringa.

Sabuni said that in Iringa Region they are implementing projects in Kilolo and Mufindi districts, where the targeted areas are the USNFR, KNFR as well as the Uzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP).

The Uzungwa Mountains are part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, and are home to a bio diverse community of flora and fauna with large numbers of endemic species.

Sabuni said that the EAMCEF project targets communities located near the Eastern Arc to provide for their needs and income in their areas, through beekeeping projects, tree planting including timber and fruit trees, dairy cattle keeping, fish farming, dairy goats and pigs.

C'wealth targets USD 2 trillion in trade by 2030 as expansion continues

KIGALI

TOGO and Gabon officially joined the Commonwealth continuing an expansion of the group of nations beyond ex-British colonies as smaller states seek to benefit from an association that could bring \$2 trillion in trade by 2030.

Intra-Commonwealth trade already exceeds \$700 billion, Patricia Scotland, the group's secretary general, told reporters Saturday in Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

"We hope to be \$2 trillion by 2030, she said at the closing of the group's first heads of government meeting since 2018 due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Commonwealth is an association that now counts 56 nations representing 2.5 billion people with a collective gross domestic product forecast to rise to \$19.5 trillion over the next five years. The group's roots are in the British Empire, and Queen Elizabeth II, the titular head, sent her son Prince Charles to the meetings.

Today any country can petition to join, and the most recent four members, including Gabon, Togo and Rwanda, have no historic links to the UK.

"In the past, some African countries didn't really have a relationship with countries of the Pacific or English-speaking countries," said Michael Moussa-Adamo, the foreign minister of largely French-speaking Gabon. "We are enlarging and getting new international partners, strengthening our economy."

Heavily forested Gabon, on the west

coast of central Africa, is set to play an important role in the trade in carbon credits to combat climate change.

Scotland, who was re-elected to finish her second term during the meetings, defended the inclusion of Gabon and Togo in the Commonwealth despite the fact that each country has essentially been governed by a single family since the 1960s.

"They can join if they've made a commitment to good governance," she said. "We're better together than we will be apart."

The meetings took place in the shadow of a controversial deal to deport UK asylum seekers to Rwanda and questions about the Central African country's commitments to human rights.

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, who took over as Commonwealth head from UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson for the next two years during the meetings, told reporters Saturday that the agreement was based on Rwanda's history of accepting refugees from countries near and far.

"This migration issue is something that people have different views about," Kagame said. "If they don't come we won't complain. It's not like we are dying to have these people come to us."

Johnson has faced criticism at home for the cost of the deal, which is expected to be about \$150 million.

"Largely it is money to look after these people who are being brought here because they are not accepted on the other side," Kagame said.

Mining firm donates 190 desks, medical supplies in supporting Sengerema development efforts



Sengerema district administrative officer Allan Augustine (L) receives desks from SMCL board member Prof Raphael Chibunda (2nd R) at ceremony held at the weekend in Ngoma village, Mwanza Region. Looking on, right, is councillor Raphael Shibiriri. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Carlos Banda

SOTTA Mining Company Limited (SMCL) has donated 190 desks and 200 litres of methylated spirit in Sengerema District, Geita Region to support the education and health sectors.

Speaking shortly after receiving the donation, Sengerema District Administrative Secretary, Allan Augustine expressed his gratitude for the firm's continued contribution to the community in the district, noting that such efforts place SMCL to be an exemplary corporate citizen.

"We're pleased to be here today to receive these items from SMCL. Through

their numerous corporate social responsibilities (CSR) projects over the years, developed in close collaboration with Sengerema District, Sotta has proven to be exemplary corporate citizens," said Augustine.

The handover ceremony was attended by senior officials from Sengerema District together with members of SMCL's board of directors, including two government-appointed directors Prof Raphael Chibunda, Dr Joas Kabete and Leonard Mususa.

SMCL's general manager and director, Damien Valente stated: "Today marks our third CSR handover event of the year, and we are extremely

grateful to Sengerema District for their participation. We are also happy that today's CSR handover ceremony coincided with a visit to Nyanzaga by SMCL's directors."

SMCL has shown a strong commitment to schools in its local community, having previously constructed three new classrooms at the Ngoma Secondary School, and having already funded the construction of washrooms at the school.

In April 2022, SMCL completed the handover of six lavatories at Chikomero Island Primary School in Sengerema District.

Sotta has also supported the district

healthcare system with its awareness campaign and vaccination drive against COVID-19.

SMCL is a joint venture between the Government of Tanzania (16%) and Nyanzaga Mining Company Limited (84%), a subsidiary of OreCorp Tanzania Limited, to develop the 670bn/- Project south of Ngoma in the Sengerema District, following the granting of a Special Mining License on 13 December 2021.

The project is now on track to be the first large-scale gold mine to be built in Tanzania in over a decade and the first-ever large-scale mine in the Sengerema District.

Strategis Insurance extends its wings to Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

STRATEGIS Insurance has officially launched its Dodoma sales point in a bid to extend its wings and ensure more Tanzanians access insurance.

Speaking at the launch of the firm's sales point, Deputy Minister in the President's Office-Public Service Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi lauded Strategis Insurance for the great initiative and said the new sales point will ensure that more Tanzanians can easily access insurance.

"As we all know, Dodoma is the Capital City of our country and the entire Government has already shifted here. It is quite encouraging to see institutions like Strategis Insurance backing up the government in this move," said Ndejemi.

He also lauded Strategis Insurance for currently being the second largest private insurance company in Tanzania.

"Other insurance companies need to borrow a leaf from you because you have been exceptional in service delivery," he said, noting that it was encouraging how the company has been handling customer's claims within a short period of time and urged other companies to adopt this style as well in order to meet customer expectations.

He welcomed the move by Strategis Insurance to venture more into non medical line of insurance so as to reach more customers who are in need of various insurance services as well and noted that Strategis is the number one private medical insurance company with the largest market share.

He also made a special appeal to the public to buy insurance at all times and avoid waiting until when disaster



The Deputy Minister for Public Service Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi (2nd L), and Deputy Commissioner for Insurance Khadija Issa Saidi, third right, launch Strategis Insurance's Dodoma sales point. Looking on are the insurance firm's officials Jabir Kigoda, left, and Dr Malav Manek, right, and Group CEO Dr Flora Minja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

strikes as this way they would avoid getting losses after disasters.

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) Deputy Commissioner Khadija Issa Saidi pledged more support to Strategis Insurance saying the company has been collaborating well with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) in ensuring customers get the best service.

"We've had no complains about your delivery and this goes to prove your maturity in the industry as you continue to grow and extend all over the country," she said.

Strategis Insurance Group CEO, Dr. Flora Minja said that they have every

reason to be proud of their growth over 20 years in the insurance business hence the need to open more branches countrywide so as to reach more Tanzanians easily.

"At the moment we have sales points in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Zanzibar, Arusha and now Dodoma. The Dodoma point will be used to reach out to customers in the neighboring regions and we will continue to extend further as per demand," said Dr Flora.

She said that the insurance company is committed to invest further in technology in order to increase efficiency especially in handling customer claims. Apart from offering insurance ser-

vices, the CEO also noted that they have been giving back to the community through their corporate social responsibility initiatives which include supporting cardiac operations to underprivileged children, environmental awareness, supporting people living with disabilities and donation of medical equipment to healthcare providers.

Strategis Insurance is one of the first private insurance companies in Tanzania which started in 2002 and has recorded a steady growth year after year as it aims to provide appropriate and affordable insurance plans to all Tanzanians and clients across the border.

Tembo Nickel allots 207.8m/- this year for CSR projects

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TEMBO Nickel Corporation has allocated 207.8m/- this year to assist in health and educational projects in its social corporate responsibilities (CSR).

Firm's country manager Benedict Busunzu unveiled this here over the weekend when he paid a courtesy call to the National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson with the aim to brief her about the project and its progress to date.

At the meeting, Busunzu was accompanied with Tembo Nickel Head of Finance Frank Kiula and Public Relations and Communications Manager Sauda Simba and Ngara MP George Ndaisaba.

The firm's country manager said: "The company is already investing a significant amount in the community in the project area, prior to production, recognizing that community is a key stake holder of this project expected to have mine life of 30 years plus."

He said that Tembo Nickel is targeting to start first Nickel production by the end of 2025 or first quarter of 2026 to produce Nickel in Tanzania.

He also informed the speaker that Tembo Nickel was the operating company that was formed as a joint venture between Ka-

mba Nickel limited, a private company based in the UK and the Tanzanian government, which has 16 percent free carried interest in the project.

According to him, Kabanga Nickel has been able to attract global mining giant BHP back into Africa after more than 10 years of absence, through Tanzania with an investment of \$100million, after being lured by the conducive environment for doing business in the country.

Busunzu explained that Tembo Nickel received its Special Mining License in October 2021 and is now focussed on the land and asset survey and ultimately relocation of those currently living in the project area, to locations that have been chosen by the community themselves in order to make way for the project to commence.

"The mine and processing plant will be located in Ngara. The concentrate produced will be taken to Kahama where a refinery using a new greener technology will be located. This refinery process is known as hydrometallurgy which uses water as opposed to Pyrometallurgy or smelting which uses heat," he said, adding:

"This technology with significantly reduce the amount of power to only 20 percent of what is normally consumed in traditional smelters. It will cut the production of sulphur dioxide to zero and Carbon di-

oxide emissions will be reduced by 75 percent. A huge advantage to the country is that the refinery can also be used by other metal miners in the country and region."

It was noted that there are several studies on going in the background including an update of the bankable feasibility study in a desk stop process.

"Following this there will be other support activities to kick the project off."

Ngara MP George Ndaisaba said: "Nickel ore overlaps between Burundi and Tanzania, so there is a need for government engagement between the two countries so the refinery can benefit both Burundi and Tanzania."

He appealed for tarmacing of roads to allow for ease of transport of concentrate trucks from the mine to the smelter, saying that he was encouraged by President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to try and secure financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for infrastructure upgrade and development in Ngara District.

He further appealed for the government to build the road at tarmac level from Ngara town to the mine site.

Dr Tulia expressed her satisfaction on the progress of the project, noting: "I'm so encouraged by the project progress and I look forward to further reports along the project timeline."



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) listens as Tembo Nickel Corporation country manager Benedict Busunzu (3rd R) briefs her on the project's progress in Dodoma over the weekend. Others are firm's head of finance, Frank Kiula (2nd R) and public relations and communications manager Sauda Simba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Viungo project crucial in creation of employment, says Zanzibar minister



Zanzibar's Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock minister Shamata Shaame Khamis, right, presents a new bicycle to one of the SACCOS leaders in the Unguja North Region, Halima Makame. Saccos groups' members are part of the European Union-funded Viungo project executed in Unguja and Pemba islands. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources, and Livestock Shamata Shaame Khamis has said that the presence of the Viungo project in Zanzibar is a significant contribution to the development of the people in the islands.

Minister Khamis made the statement over the weekend when handing over 30 brand new bicycles worth 7.5m/- as well as 80 special boxes for Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOS) worth 8m/- at the ministry's grounds in Unguja.

He said one of the government's responsibilities to its citizens is to provide 500,000 jobs through implementation of the project which has helped to provide income generating activities to young people who have employed in the agricultural sector.

He cited an example of the job opportunities created by the project including construction of a new spice market that also stores vegetables at Darajani area in Unguja. He said the project has gone to liberate many people and

boost government coffers.

Khamis urged savings and loan management team managers who have been specially trained on the project implementation to ensure that they make good use of the bicycles in their villages and eventually be able to increase development and become a catalyst for change.

Viungo project manager, Amina Ussi Khamis said the project is being implemented by the People's Development Forum (PDF) with the aim of improving the production of vegetables, fruits, and spices under the auspices of the European Union (EU).

"This will be done through the introduction of climate-smart horticulture and good agricultural practices to help increase the production and productivity of quality horticultural products," she said.

The project manager also cited a lack of education on leadership skills, lack of financial professionalism and sustainable business planning, as well as lack of financial resources and support for running such groups as a challenge.

She added that through the project they have made various efforts and have tried to help in solving a number of challenges including reaching out to 114 groups in Unguja and Pemba, and providing education and training for the management of such groups, including good leadership training, management excellent business and financial, as well as entrepreneurial techniques in the concept of agriculture.

According to Amina, 32 groups of farmers have been linked to financial institutions including NMB Bank and Boresha Maisha Sacoss, 61 groups have already been provided with stockpiles for storing their funds.

The project plans to support the savings and loan groups by providing them with grants to help them invest in sustainable and profitable projects in their communities and the country as a whole.

VIUNGO project means "Zanzibar Value Web, Horticulture, and Income Growth project", and it also integrates agricultural, gender, financial inclusion and nutritional development efforts to improve

smallholder farmers' productivity and profitability within the horticultural value chain in Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba).

It's a four-year project implemented from June 2020 to June 2024 in Unguja and Pemba Islands and the PDF Community in partnership with the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), Zanzibar) and Community Forest Pemba (CFP).

The project is implemented in nine districts of Zanzibar—four in Pemba and five in Unguja focusing mainly on the vegetable, fruit, and spice sub-sectors.

The VIUNGO project aims to reach 57,974 direct beneficiaries which include horticulturists, processors, agro-dealers and horticultural smallholders), while among these beneficiaries, at least 55 per cent are women, 33 per cent are young people and 12 per cent are men.

The project is also meant to unlock the potential of the horticulture value chain, increase the value and volume of high-quality products in markets and promote inclusive economic growth in Zanzibar.

Horticulture is one of the fastest-growing sub-sectors in Tanzania. It is dominated by smallholder farmers, providing opportunities to strengthen the country's national economy while directly and immediately improving the incomes of a large segment of the population.

Zanzibar is a unique area in this national context and the VIUNGO project is designed to overcome the specific local challenges of this sub-region, such as its limited land base, by taking advantage of its particular advantages. Advantages include a long-established spice-growing tradition and relative proximity to high-end markets and major seaports.

The project also focuses on improving horticultural products and the incomes of smallholder farmers

It also enhances food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers and their families through the establishment of permaculture vegetable gardens, as well as value addition and local business development with a focus on fair trade partnerships and women's economic empowerment.

Cabo Verde risks food scarcity as a result of drought, Covid-19 and the crisis in Ukraine, WFP, FAO warn

PRAIA, Cabo Verde

THE number of people affected by food insecurity in Cabo Verde is set to spike with more than 46,000 women, men and children - almost 10 percent of the population - facing an acute deterioration in food security between June and August this year.

This represents a threat to the country's hard-won gains in food security over recent years forcing the Government to declare a social and economic national emergency on 20 June. If not urgently addressed, this will severely disrupt food access and agricultural production, putting more lives at risk as the country depends largely on imports to meet its food needs.

The current situation results from a combination of factors including years of drought which have led to significant drops in food production and grazing land losses, and the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to its heavy dependence on tourism - a sector accounting for more than 60 percent of its gross domestic product and providing employment to almost 70 percent of the population - Cabo Verde's economy has been upended by the pandemic. In only two years, the country experienced a 78 percent drop in tourism revenues - with severe consequences on its national economic performance.

This has been further exacerbated by the ripple effect of the crisis in Ukraine which is causing an upheaval in global food and energy markets, disrupting food supply chains and sparking sharp food prices rises, which disproportionately affect the poorest.

"The current levels of food insecurity are unprecedented. Unless appropriate measures are urgently taken, the local agricultural production, livestock and

the livelihoods of rural communities are under severe threat", said Dr Gouantoueu Robert Guei, Sub-Regional Coordinator for West Africa and FAO representative in Senegal.

In April 2022, a joint FAO, WFP and Cabo Verde Government assessment mission in the Archipelago found that vulnerable families in some rural areas are reducing the number of meals and eating less, from three meals a day to sometimes one meal a day, as food stocks are dwindling, and food prices reach record highs in the country. Furthermore, farmers are selling off their livestock, reducing milk and cheese production - and in turn reducing the consumption of these important foods among children. With a 34 percent rainfall deficit last season, the country recorded the highest drop in cereal production in the region in 2021, with a worrisome 93 percent cut in production.

"The current situation in Cabo Verde highlights the fragility of the food and social protection systems in coastal countries of West Africa. It is critical that we come together now to support the government in maintaining essential social safety net programmes and meeting the immediate food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable communities," said Elvira Pruscin, WFP's Deputy Regional Director for West Africa.

West Africa's first ever nationally owned school feeding programme in Cabo Verde is also at risk of being put on hold due to the government's inability to supply all required goods. The programme supports vulnerable families at risk of food insecurity and helps to prevent a reversal in school enrolment and attendance rates. With the world facing a year of unprecedented humanitarian needs, the Government is now calling on all partners for immediate support.

WORLD

Boris Johnson seeks to stay in power until the mid-2030s

KIGALI

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Saturday he aims to remain in power until the middle of the next decade, despite calls for him to quit, which would make him the country's longest continuously serving leader in 200 years.

Earlier this month, Johnson survived a vote of confidence by Conservative lawmakers in which 41 percent of his parliamentary colleagues voted to oust him, and he is under investigation for intentionally misleading parliament.

On Friday Conservative candidates lost two parliamentary by-elections held to replace former Conservative incumbents who had to step down, one after being convicted of sexual assault and the other for watching pornography in the House of Commons.

The by-election defeats suggest the

broad voter appeal which helped Johnson win a large parliamentary majority in December 2019 may be fracturing after a scandal over illegal parties held at Downing Street during coronavirus lockdowns.

Under Conservative party rules, its lawmakers cannot formally challenge Johnson for another year, but overwhelming dissatisfaction or resignations by a series of senior ministers could make his position untenable.

Britain is also in the midst of its deepest cost-of-living crisis in decades, with inflation at a 40-year high.

Former party leader Michael Howard said on Friday it was now time for Johnson to go, and Conservative party chairman Oliver Dowden quit after the by-election losses.

However, Johnson said he wanted to serve a third term in office and remain as prime minister until the mid-2030s



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson addresses a press conference during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at Lemigo Hotel in Kigali on Saturday. AFP

to give him time to reduce regional economic disparities and make changes to Britain's legal and immigration systems.

"At the moment I am thinking actively about the third term and, you know, what could happen then. But I will review it when I get to it," Johnson told reporters in Rwanda on the final day of a visit for a Commonwealth summit.

Asked what he meant, Johnson said: "About the third term ... this is the mid-2030s."

Johnson must call Britain's next national election by December 2024, and would need a third election victory by 2029.

If he was still in office beyond early 2031, he would beat Margaret Thatcher's record as the longest continuously serving British prime minister since Robert Banks Jenkinson, the Earl of Liverpool, who was in office from 1812 to 1827.

No challenge, no change?

Johnson told reporters that he did not expect to have to fight another internal challenge from within his party, and blamed the by-election defeats partly on months of

media reporting of lockdown parties at the heart of government. "People were fed up of hearing about things I had stuffed up, or allegedly stuffed up, or whatever, this endless - completely legitimate, but endless - churn of news," he said.

Earlier on Saturday, Johnson told BBC radio he rejected the notion that he should change his behaviour. "If you're saying you want me to undergo some sort of psychological transformation, I think that our listeners would know that that ... is not going to happen."

Johnson refused to comment on a report in The Times newspaper that he had planned to get a donor to fund a 150,000-pound (\$184,000) treehouse for his son at his state-provided country residence.

The story comes months after his party was fined for failing to accurately report a donation which helped fund the refurbishment of his Downing Street apartment.

"I'm not going to comment on non-existent objects," Johnson said when asked if he planned to use a donor's money to build the treehouse.

Ghana repatriates 1,320 Nigeriens over street begging

ACCRA

THE Ghanaian government has repatriated 1,320 Nigeriens who beg in the streets to their home country, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

The repatriation, through the collaboration of the Ghana Immigration Service and the Embassy of Niger in Ghana, included 300 adult males, 400 adult females, and 620 children.

"The returnees were found under bridges, traffic lights intersections, street pavements, and other places begging for alms or loitering on the streets of Accra," the statement said.

The exercise, according to the government, is part of measures being taken to deal with the menace of streetism in the West African country. "Streetism is a social menace that has wreaked havoc on the nation's social and economic life

Xinhua

'Russia will not join Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons'

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will not join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday.

She made this comment following the completion of the first conference of states-participants of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

According to her, assertive advancement of the treaty deepens disunity between states and undermines the regime of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

"In connection with the desire to put on a permanent basis the efforts to universalize the TPNW, as recorded in the final documents of the conference, we emphasize: Russia does not intend to join this agreement and believes that the treaty does not establish any universal standards: neither now nor in the future," she said.

According to Zakharova, Moscow continues to firmly adhere to the position that the development of the TPNW was premature, erroneous and, in fact, counterproductive.

This agreement does nothing to reduce the growing nuclear risks and does not bring humanity one step closer to the goal stated in it, and the approach laid down in the TPNW only leads to an increase in contradictions between nuclear and non-nuclear states, she stressed.

"It does not take into account the military-political and military-strategic situation and runs counter to the principle that nuclear disarmament should be carried out in such a way that it would lead to "an increase in the level of security for all." We do not see realistic ways to implement any - or practical measures to directly reduce nuclear weapons," the diplomat continued.

"Russia, like all other states with military nuclear potential, did not take part in the conference of states-participants of the TPNW and does not intend to do so in the future. We also do not plan to build joint work with auxiliary structures created as part of the interaction of the participants of the TPNW to implement it," she said.

Multi-country monkeypox outbreak not public health emergency - WHO

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday said the latest monkeypox spread in over 50 countries does not constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the highest level of alert the WHO can issue.

However, "a risk of further, sustained transmission into the wider population" should not be overlooked, said some members of the WHO Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak in a report, following a meeting on Thursday.

The report also said that monkeypox virus activity "has been neglected and not well controlled for years in countries in the WHO African Region." "The convening of the committee itself reflects the increasing concern about the international spread of monkeypox," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Saturday in a statement, adding that the committee is available to be reconvened as per the development of the outbreak.

Xi 'speaks mind of developing countries'

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has spoken the mind of the developing countries by putting forward proposals to maintain world peace and boost global development at the BRICS Summit, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters on Friday night.

Wang's comment came after Xi attended a series of BRICS-related meetings, the most important diplomatic event hosted by China before the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China later this year.

Xi hosted the 14th BRICS Summit and the High-level Dialogue on Global Development in Beijing via video link, respectively on Thursday and Friday. He attended the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum virtually on Wednesday.

"It is of great significance to jointly uphold international justice, revitalize global development, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind,"

Wang said.

During the BRICS Summit, President Xi further elaborated on the Global Security Initiative, which he first raised at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022 in April, Wang said.

President Xi stressed that as important emerging markets and developing countries, the BRICS countries should take responsibility to contribute to world stability by promoting fairness, justice and solidarity while opposing bullying, hegemony and division, Wang said.

President Xi said the BRICS countries should advocate true multilateralism, safeguard the international system with the UN at the core as well as the international order based on international law, according to Wang.

At the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, President Xi said it is important that we put development front and center on the international agenda, deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Wang said.

He pointed out that the North



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers remarks titled "Fostering High-quality Partnership and Embarking on a New Journey of BRICS Cooperation" at the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing, China, on Friday. XINHUA

and the South need to work in the same direction to forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership and in this process, no country or individual should be left behind, Wang said.

He pledged China will take pragmatic steps to give continued support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by allocating more resources for global development cooperation, accord-

ing to Wang.

Apart from the BRICS countries, leaders of G20 rotating chair Indonesia, APEC rotating chair Thailand, ASEAN rotating chair Cambodia, Egypt, Iran and other emerging economies and developing countries also joined the dialogue, demonstrating its wide representation and international influence, Wang noted.

President Xi called for efforts to steer globalization toward healthy

development, increase the representation and say of emerging markets and developing economies in global economic governance, Wang said.

He urged the major developed economies to take responsible economic policies to avoid negative spillover effects of their policies and to prevent severe shocks for developing countries, according to Wang.

The BRICS countries, accounting for 42 percent of the world population and 25 percent of global economy, represents the trend of the collective rise of major developing countries, Wang said.

The BRICS mechanism has become the most influential South-South cooperation platform, Wang said, adding that President Xi said BRICS membership should be expanded to allow like-minded partners to join at an early date.

The BRICS consists of five major emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Xinhua

Zimbabwe ruling party women's wing endorses Mnangagwa as presidential candidate for

HARARE

THOUSANDS of delegates attended Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party's 7th Women's League Elective Conference which concluded on Saturday in Harare to elect new leadership as the party prepares for a crucial general election next year.

The conference, which was officially opened by Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Friday, saw the powerful Women's League adopting resolutions that include endorsing Mnangagwa as their

sole presidential candidate for next year's election.

"As the Women's League, we endorse President Emmerson Mnangagwa as our sole Presidential Candidate for the 2023 elections," said Cecilia Bhebe-Ndubiwa, ZANU-PF Women's League's newly appointed Secretary for Legal Affairs.

Regional and international party delegations, women's organizations, government ministries, and women in business were part of the delegates that saw the selection of new leadership for a five-year term. The

positions that were being contested are from the Deputy Secretary for Women's Affairs and below as the National Secretary is appointed by the President. Senate President Mabel Chinomona was reappointed as the Secretary for Women's Affairs.

Speaking at the highly attended conference, Mnangagwa, who is the ruling party's First Secretary and President, called for a mass mobilization of support for the ruling party which has led Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980.

Mnangagwa said women play a crucial

role in matters of the party and national development.

"The women of Zimbabwe must be the key architects and builders of their own destiny and indeed builders of our beautiful country, brick by brick and stone upon stone," he said.

In addition, Mnangagwa said in face of illegal sanctions imposed on the country by the West, it was imperative that women participate in strengthening the country's resilience.

Xinhua

Biden signs gun safety bill into law, takes swipe at Supreme Court

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed into law the first major federal gun reform in three decades, days after a decision he condemned by the Supreme Court expanding firearm owners' rights.

"God willing, it's going to save a lot of lives," Biden said at the White House after signing the bill with his wife Jill by his side.

The bipartisan bill came together just weeks after mass shootings in Uvalde and Buffalo that killed more than 30 people, including 19 children at an elementary school.

The law includes provisions to help states keep guns out of the hands of those deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

The reform came the same week as the Supreme Court expanded gun owners' rights, saying on Thursday for the first time that the US Constitution protected an individual's ability to carry a handgun in public for self-defense.

"The Supreme Court has made some terrible decisions," Biden told reporters after that ruling, and another on Friday that eliminated the right to abortion nationwide.

Gun control has long been a divisive



President Joe Biden signs into law S. 2938, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act gun safety bill, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington on Saturday. First lady Jill Biden looks on at right. AP

issue in the nation with several attempts to put new controls on gun sales failing time after time.

Biden, who is looking to improve sagging public approval ratings ahead of Nov 8 midterm elections for control of Congress, made securing victories on gun control a part of his campaign pitch to voters.

The new law blocks gun sales to those convicted of abusing unmarried intimate partners and cracks down on gun sales to purchasers convicted of domestic violence. It also provides new federal funding to states that administer "red flag" laws intended to remove guns from

people deemed dangerous to themselves and others.

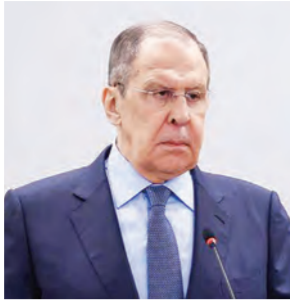
It does not ban sales of assault-style rifles or high-capacity magazines. But it does take some steps on background checks by allowing access, for the first time, to information on significant crimes committed by juveniles.

"At this time when it seems impossible to get anything done in Washington, we are doing something consequential: If we can reach compromise on guns, we oughta be able to reach compromise on other critical issues," Biden said before traveling to Germany for the Group of Seven rich nations summit.

Europe's coalition against Russia and Kiev's EU candidate status - Lavrov in Baku

BAKU

THE European Union and NATO are building a coalition against Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference following talks with Azerbaijani top diplomat Jeyhun Bayramov in Baku on Friday. However, in Lavrov's words, Russia doesn't see any risks in Ukraine and Moldova getting EU candidate status though there are no illusions that the EU will abandon its Russophobic policies anytime soon. TASS has put together the key remarks that the Russian top diplomat made.



On coalition against Russia

"When World War II broke out, Hitler united a significant number - if not most - of the European countries under his banner for a war against the Soviet Union. Today, the EU and NATO are acting in a similar way, building a modern coalition of the same kind for a fight and pretty much a war against Russia."

On EU candidate status for Ukraine and Moldova

Moscow does not see any risks to its interests in the European Union's decision to grant candidate status to Kiev and Chisinau: "The EU is not a political bloc like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The development of its relations with any willing countries does not create threats or risks for us."

On EU's possible policy shift

Moscow is under no illusion that the EU will change its attitude to Russia, or abandon Russophobic policies: "The European Union keeps making it clear that it does not - and does not intend to - implement the existing economic, humanitarian and internal security agreements between Russia and EU nations. It doesn't want to carry out the tasks that were outlined based on the lofty goals of creating a common space from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. All this has been left behind, becoming a thing of the past."

On Azerbaijan's position on Ukraine

"We appreciate the Azerbaijani leadership's balanced and responsible attitude to the current developments and its understanding of the circumstances that took years to emerge and led to the current situation not only and not just in Ukraine and around it, but also in the field of European security whose architecture used to be harmonized, but came under consistent attacks by our Western colleagues in recent years."

On Nagorno-Karabakh

The OSCE Minsk Group on resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh issue suspended its activities at the initiative of the US and France and now, the trilateral statements of the Russia, Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders are the foundation of efforts to normalize the situation. "Our European neighbors accept this reality and actively seek to integrate the European Union's efforts into activities to achieve the remaining goals." Another Azerbaijan-Armenia meeting on border delimitation will take place in Moscow, the dates that "will be convenient for both parties" are being set: "I have seen no signals that the parties have changed their mind or would no longer want to engage in this work." Russian businesses are interested in participating in the reconstruction of Azerbaijan's territories following the Karabakh conflict: "We confirm that Russian economic operators are interested in joining post-war reconstruction efforts in Azerbaijan's territories."

On relations between Moscow and Baku

Russia values its partnership with Azerbaijan and expects to boost cooperation "based on the declaration on allied interaction that was signed in February" (during Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's visit to Moscow - TASS). "Several dozen industrial and interagency agreements are being prepared" to reinforce it. The two countries agreed "to take stock of all the existing agreements" that include 200 documents adopted in the past 30 years. Russia and Azerbaijan also agreed to thoroughly work on the project of the North-South transport corridor that will partially pass through Azerbaijan.

Agencies

Turkey: Concerns not eased on Finland and Sweden's NATO bid

ISTANBUL

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that Turkey's concerns over Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO were not responded to with any substantial steps.

Erdogan told NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in a phone call that Finland and Sweden had to take sincere and tangible steps over the harboring of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Syria's Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) within their borders, the Turkish presidential office said in a statement.

The Turkish leader pointed out that the military and industrial sanctions on Turkey should be lifted and not be put back into effect after the accession.

In a separate call, Erdogan told Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson that there was no change of attitude by Sweden regarding PKK and YPG and the Nordic country had yet to take solid steps aimed at quelling Turkey's concerns.

According to the statement, Erdogan also reiterated Turkey's expectations of lifting all sanctions on the Turkish defense and weapons industries.

Ambitions by Finland and Sweden to join NATO were blocked by Turkey, which accused the two countries of hosting outlawed separatists and putting sanctions against their would-be ally.

Agencies

Protesters at US top court decry ruling overturning Roe v. Wade

WASHINGTON/JACKSON

HUNDREDS of protesters descended on the US Supreme Court on Saturday to denounce the justices' decision to overturn the half-century-old Roe v. Wade precedent that recognized women's constitutional right to abortion.

The sweeping ruling by the court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, was set to alter American life, with nearly half the states considered certain or likely to ban abortion.

Conservative Justice Clarence Thomas suggested the court's reasoning could also lead it to reconsider past rulings protecting the right to contraception, legalizing gay marriage nationwide, and invalidating state laws banning gay sex.

As the day progressed, the number of demonstrators outside the Supreme Court increased substantially. The fenced-off area in front of the high court was filled largely with those demanding abortion rights.

Crowds carried posters with slogans such as "Abort SCOTUS." One protester carried a placard that said "limit guns, not women" in reference to another Supreme Court decision this week expanding gun rights.

Earlier in the afternoon, a supporter of Friday's ruling said: "The thing that 'my body, my choice' advocates don't get is that the aborted baby never had a choice."

The man, who identified himself as Adam John, added, "The life in the womb matters, doesn't it."

President Joe Biden, who on Friday expressed his deep disappointment with the court ruling, said on Saturday that the White House will monitor how states enforce bans, with administration officials having already signaled they plan to fight at-



People protest about abortion outside the Supreme Court in Washington on June 25, 2022. (STEVE HELBER / AP)

tempts to prohibit a pill used for medication abortion.

"The decision is implemented by states," Biden said. "My administration is going to focus on how they administer and whether or not they violate other laws."

The White House said it also would challenge any efforts by states to restrict women's ability to travel out of their home state to seek an abortion.

At a rally in western Illinois on Saturday, former president Donald Trump praised the Supreme Court ruling, calling it "a victory for the Constitution, a victory for the rule of law and above all a victory for life." He reminded his audience that in 2016 he made a campaign promise to nominate judges "who would stand up for the original meaning of the Constitution."

Meanwhile, a Vatican official, Andrea Torioli, wrote in an editorial that anti-abortion activists should be concerned with other threats to life too, such as easy access to guns, poverty and rising maternity mortality rates.

For Christian conservatives who had long fought to overturn Roe, Friday's ruling was a cherished win and in part the result of a long campaign for installing anti-

abortion justices to the top court. The ruling had the support of all three justices appointed by Trump.

It is at odds with broad public opinion. A Reuters/Ipsos poll last month found that about 71 percent of Americans - including majorities of Democrats and Republicans - said decisions about terminating a pregnancy should be left to a woman and her doctor, rather than regulated by the government. A majority, however, support some limits.

The ruling will likely loom large in the Nov 8 midterm elections, when Biden's Democrats could lose their narrow majorities in Congress. Some party leaders hope the decision will win over suburban swing voters, though some activists were disheartened over suffering such a defeat while their party held total power in Washington.

"They can ask for votes for more power but don't they already have the Congress and the White House?" said Patricia Smith, a 24-year-old abortion rights supporter who went to the Supreme Court to protest. "They have not been able to pass much in terms of legislation despite the power, so what is the point?"

China's success of remarkable significance for world - former Ethiopian President

"SINCERITY, humility, optimism and vision, those are what I see in Chinese President Xi Jinping, the important qualities as a leader of this great country," said former Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome.

The former leader of Ethiopia still remembers his meeting with the Chinese President eight years ago. "When we started exchanging our views, he listened to me carefully, and he was always smiling warmly. His expression of offering me sincere compliments remained memorable up to this day," Teshome said.

Teshome was elected President of Ethiopia in October 2013. About nine months later, he chose China as the destination for his first overseas visit after he took office. On July 9, 2014, he was received by Xi with a grand welcome ceremony hosted at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

President Xi called Teshome an old friend of the Chinese people and hailed the China-Ethiopia relationship as an example of solidarity and cooperation between developing countries, which made him deeply touched. Teshome told People's Daily.

Ethiopia and China have maintained close cooperation during the past years, Teshome noted. China, always been committed to helping Ethiopia get rid of poverty, is a reliable friend of Ethiopia. China never imposes its own will upon others when dealing with international relations and international affairs, and its economic and investment cooperation attaches no strings.

The government and people of Ethiopia are grateful to President Xi and will never forget the positive changes China has brought to their country, Teshome said.

China is the "second home" for Teshome. After graduating from high school in 1976, he came to China to study Chinese sponsored by the Ethiopian government. He started at Beijing Language Institute, known as Beijing Language and Culture University today, and then went to the Department of Philosophy of Peking University and obtained a bachelor's degree there. Later, he furthered his study in the realm of international politics at Peking University and got master's and doctoral degrees.

"Development" was what deeply impressed Teshome during his ten-year stay in China. Though the Chinese people were not living a wealthy life at that time, the Ethiopian could still see that the country was a land full of hope.



The Chinese government donated 2.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ethiopia in January, 2022. The handover ceremony for the donation to the African country was held at the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and attended by Zhao Zhiyuan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, and Lia Tadesse, Ethiopian Minister of Health. (Photo courtesy of the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia)

"Chinese leaders have drawn a blueprint for reform and opening-up, and the hardworking Chinese people, united together, long for changes. I'm fortunate to have witnessed the growth of China," he told People's Daily.

China's development miracle enhanced Teshome's resolution to lead Ethiopia toward better development. When he served as the President of Ethiopia, the country witnessed rapid economic development. Its GDP was once on double-digit growth.

Teshome attributed the rapid development to Ethiopia's close cooperation with China. "China helped us build the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway and launch two man-made satellites. It also established industrial parks and has offered scholarship programs that sponsor young Ethiopians who want to study in China. Great changes have taken place in my country," he said.

As one who has witnessed the development of China, Teshome is amazed at the country's achievements made since the reform and opening-up.

"In just 40 some years, China has grown into the second-largest economy in the world and the Chinese people's lives have significantly improved. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the country has achieved victory in pov-

erty alleviation, which commands the attention of the whole world," Teshome noted.

Teshome said China's practice has set an example for Ethiopia's economic and social development and China's success is of remarkable significance for the world.

After he read the book Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, he gained a deeper understanding of China's development philosophy and experience. He said the CPC and the Chinese government put people in the center place and are very visionary.

In recent years, China and Africa have further enhanced their cooperation. Both the "eight major initiatives" announced at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the "nine programs" identified at the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC have consolidated China-Africa pragmatic cooperation.

"China has risen into a leading one of multilateralism, openness and cooperation," Teshome said. "China has always been standing with African countries, with a hope to stand with the whole development of Africa. President Xi's vision to build a community with a shared future for mankind is appreciated by African countries. All countries in the world will benefit from Chinese solutions," he noted.

People's Daily

African experts call for new vision to guide protection of endangered species

NAIROBI

THE international community should rally behind a new vision to guide protection of endangered species including giant land mammals and migratory birds that inhabit Africa's pristine biodiversity hotspots, experts said on Friday.

Ken Mwathe, the Policy and Communications Coordinator at Birdlife International Africa, an international conservation group, said that halting the loss of rare species required a bold vision, commitment, and clear implementation timelines from key stakeholders including governments, industry, and donors.

During an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Mwathe said that visionary leadership combined with sustained financing was key to curbing habitats' depletion.

The envisioned global biodiversity framework holds the key to revitalized efforts to save iconic species from extinction due to unsustainable land-use practices and climate change, said Mwathe.

In particular, he called for a shift to nature-positive farming practices to halt the degradation of forests and wetlands that host rare species in Africa besides providing livelihood to indigenous communities.

Mwathe added that governments and industry had an obligation to invest in infrastructure projects that posed minimal threats to vital ecosystems in a continent grappling with climate change-induced vulnerabilities.

While noting that developing countries in Africa were losing wildlife corridors and key biodiversity areas at an alarming rate due to population pressure and haphazard development, Mwathe urged enforcement of laws and community engagement to reverse the trend.

International conservation groups attending the June 21-26 UN meeting in Nairobi to negotiate for a concrete global pact to halt

Democrats' majority in the Senate is so narrow that they have a difficult time overcoming opposition from Republicans who erect procedural barriers to bills.

The abortion decision came one day after the court issued another landmark ruling finding that Americans have a constitutional right to carry a concealed gun for protection - leading them to invalidate a New York state law setting strict limits on concealed carry permits.

The two rulings showed an aggressively conservative court ready to remake American life at a time when Congress is often deadlocked and struggles to pass major policy changes.

During a call with journalists on Saturday, a group of Democratic state attorneys general said they would not use their offices to enforce abortion bans.

"We are not going to use the resources of the Wisconsin Department of Justice to investigate or prosecute anybody for alleged violations of the 19th century abortion ban," said Josh Kaul, that state's attorney general.

Tears, anger at the 'pink house'

The case that led to Friday's decision revolved around a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, before the fetus is viable outside the womb. The Jackson Women's Health Organization, nicknamed the "Pink House" because of its bubble gum-colored paint, was named in the case.

The clinic was operating on Saturday morning, with escorts showing up to the state's sole abortion clinic around 5 am to prepare for the arrival of patients.

Anti-abortion protesters erected ladders to peer over the property's fence and large posters with messages including "abortion is murder."

Coleman Boyd, 50, a longtime protester outside the clinic, incorrectly told women waiting for appointments that they were violating the law. In truth, Mississippi's law will not close the clinic for another nine days.

Xinhua



Pascal Wawa

Wawa leaves Simba SC as most decorated defender

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER serving Simba SC for four seasons, center-back Serge Pascal Wawa will not be part of the squad next season once his contract expires at the end of this month.

Simba has confirmed the departure of the Ivory Coast defender who joined the outfit in 2017 after his stint in Sudan.

Wawa had earlier featured for Tanzanian side Azam FC that had signed him from Al Merreikh of Sudan and he played for Azam FC from 2014-2016.

Wawa turned out for Simba for the last time in last Thursday's NBC Premier League game against Mtwaba Sugar and officially parted ways with his team.

Tanzania football fans will remember Wawa for his ability to play quick exchanges, and long passes, as well as making the list of few ball-playing defenders in the country.

In the 2020/2021 season, the Ivorian defender grabbed his first goal for Simba in the match against the promoted top-flight club, Gwambina FC, now playing in the Championship.

Wawa leaves Simba as one of the most successful players at the club level in the country as well as internationally.

With Simba SC, Wawa has won the Premier League four times, two Federa-

tion Cup titles, four Community Shield honours, and one Mapinduzi Cup tournament title.

In the CAF club competitions, he has helped Simba reach the showdown group stage three times.

The center-back has, out of the three, had an opportunity to participate in the quarterfinal stage of the premier continental showpiece twice and once in the CAF Confederation Cup.

In 2021/22 Wawa did not have a good season compared to the previous three seasons.

The arrival of a defender from DR Congo's Daring Club Motema Pembe, Henock Inonga, made the Ivorian's position in Simba's first team limited and often missing on the bench.

During his time in the squad, Wawa has been playing in the defensive line alongside Joash Onyango, Juuko Murshid, Kennedy Juma, and Inonga.

Wawa is the third player to leave Simba this season after Ghanaian Bernard Morrison was released and Zambian Rally Bwalya sold to AmaZulu of South Africa.

Wawa's departure gives Simba a chance to look for another high-profile foreign central defender to bring back their edge in the league as well as the Champions League.

SBL still committed to supporting sports sector

By Guardian Correspondent

UNLIKE in the past, sports today are more than just physical activities. The situation has been brought about because the sports sector has, with time, morphed into an industry, and with it, a roaring market that involves equipment and clothing, infrastructure, event organization, and endorsements, among others.

Sports are a huge boost to both the developed and developing nations. The sector plays a pivotal role in contributing to economic growth, improving health, hence happiness, and providing employment to thousands of youths and more people across the entire value chain.

In Tanzania, the sports sector has grown and continues to grow exponentially, thanks to efforts by the government and other stakeholders to prop it up.

Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) through its Serengeti Trademark stands out as one of the most visible private sector players that have immensely supported local sports, always chipping in to boost different types of sports whenever it is requested to do so.

Granted, whether it is in football, athletics, or golf, to name but a few, Serengeti Trademark has been visibly present.

It is a testimony to the fact that when called upon to give a helping hand, the country's second beer brewer responds without discrimination.

Taifa Stars, Tanzania's senior men's national football team, achieved an almost impossible feat in 2019 when it qualified, after a 38-year lull, for the prestigious African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals.

It is an achievement that the national soccer governing body, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), and other soccer pundits, attributed



Tanzania Football Federation president Wallace Karia speaks during the renewal of the contract between Serengeti Breweries Limited and Tanzania's national football team, Taifa Stars, with the company committing 3bn/- to support the team.

largely to SBL's sponsorship.

Before the qualification, Serengeti Premium Lager, SBL's flagship beer brand, had bankrolled the hitherto cash-strapped national soccer custodian with 2.1bn/-, becoming Taifa Stars' main sponsor and effectively enabling TFF and indeed the national team to meet their financial obligations.

Suffice to say, due to the team's sterling performance, Serengeti Premium

Lager once again renewed the national team's sponsorship, this time raising the kitty to a whopping 3bn/-.

"We believe that by supporting Taifa Stars, we are contributing to not only the growth of the sports sector but also in reinvigorating local football, a game that Tanzania, and the world in general, hold so dear," SBL's Managing Director, Mark Ocitti, disclosed during the sponsorship renewal event.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, disclosed: "The renewal of this sponsorship is a clear testimony to the confidence that Serengeti Premium Lager has in TFF leadership; we promise that we will not let SBL down."

He noted: "We will, rather, endeavour to ensure that the money is spent prudently to catapult Taifa Stars to even higher altitudes of soccer excellence."

In a similar sponsorship,

one of SBL's most loved brands, Serengeti Premium Lite, accepted to jumpstart the otherwise hitherto 'sleepy' Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League (WPL).

The beer brand once again played a trail-blazer role by funding a league that had previously never tasted a sponsor in its existence.

To this end, Serengeti Premium Lite entered into a sponsorship deal with TFF in 2018, and become the official sponsor of the Women's Premier League, effectively revitalizing the drowsy league and, for its efforts, the brand enjoyed the credit of being the first sponsor of the league, ever.

The gamble has indeed paid off because since then, a newfound excitement in women's soccer is evident, giving rise to 'Malkias' (Queens) clubs across the country such as the league's former champions Mlandizi Queens and JKT Queens.

Other prominent participants are Alliance Queens, Simba Queens, Yanga Princesses, and many others.

SBL also supports other sports such as golf, athletics, and others.

In golf, for instance, SBL, courtesy of its world-class Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky, has been sponsoring the General Waitara Trophy Golf Tournament.

It is one of the biggest golf competitions in Eastern Africa, which attracts a lot of players locally and those coming from abroad.

Johnnie Walker also supports tournaments organized by local golf clubs such as Dar es Salaam Gymkhana, Arusha Gymkhana, and Zanzibar's annual CEOs golf tournaments.

Simba SC has found Bwalya replacement, says official



Simba's Media and Communications Manager, Ahmed Ally

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TBF lauds U-18 basketball teams' feat in Africa Zone Five Qualifiers

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Basketball Federation (TBF) has applauded national U-18 hoops teams for finishing second in this year's Africa Zone Five Qualifiers held in Uganda recently.

The national U-18 basketball squads for both boys and girls took part in the showdown, with winners making it to the 2022 FIBA Africa U-18 Championship finals.

Mwenzu Kabinda, TBF secretary-general, issued a congratulatory message to the two squads, stating they deserved the achievement.

Rwanda emerged as champion in the boys' category while Uganda clinched the girls' category silverware.

He stated: "TBF would like to con-

gratulate our youths for what they have done, they deserve the position."

Seven East African nations of Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya, Burundi, and Tanzania participated in the tournament.

The Africa Zone Five U-18 Qualifiers' winners, for that matter qualified for this year's FIBA Africa U-18 Championship finals set for August 4-14 at the Mahamasina Sports Palace in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

In 2019, Tanzania's U-16 hoops team battled it out in the Africa Zone Five competition which took place in Kigali.

The year as well saw Tanzania's national men's basketball side take part in the Africa Zone Five tournament that took place in Uganda.

He said the club is confident that Bwalya's replacement will fit in the midfielder's shoes but he could not mention the new footballer.

Bwalya, aged 26, is a direct replacement for Kaizer Chiefs-bound Siyethemba Sithebe at AmaZulu.

The midfielder featured nine times for Simba in the 2021/22 CAF Champions League and also turned out for the squad in this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

He scored two goals in the CAF Champions League.

Bwalya has previously been on the books of Zambia's Zanaco FC and Power Dynamos FC before moving to Tanzania in 2020.

He featured three times in the recently concluded FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, turning out for Zambia's senior national side.

WIMBLEDON, England

Djokovic won't get COVID-19 vaccine

NOVAK Djokovic knows that, as things stand now, Wimbledon will be his last Grand Slam tournament of 2022, because he will not be able to play in the U.S. Open – he has not received any COVID-19 shots and can't enter the United States as an unvaccinated foreigner.

"That," the 35-year-old from Serbia said Saturday at the All England Club, "is an extra motivation to do well here."

Djokovic began this season tied with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer at 20 major championships, then

the record for a man. But Djokovic's decision not to get vaccinated led to his deportation from Australia before the Australian Open in January – and Nadal wound up winning that tournament to get his 21st.

Nadal then beat Djokovic in the quarterfinals at the French Open en route to earning his 22nd Slam title this month.

When Wimbledon starts on Monday, Djokovic will have the honor of opening play at Centre Court as the

defending champion. He is seeded No. 1 and will be bidding for a fourth consecutive title at the All England Club and seventh overall.

"Hopefully I can have a very good tournament, as I have done in the last three editions. Then I'll just have to wait and see. I would love to go to States. But as of today, that's not possible," said Djokovic, who has come down with COVID-19 twice. "There is not much I can do anymore. I mean, it's really up to the U.S. government to

make a decision whether or not they allow unvaccinated people to go into the country."

A reporter noted that Djokovic does still have time to get vaccinated before play begins at Flushing Meadows on Aug. 29, and then asked him whether "you've completely closed your mind to that as an option."

Djokovic replied with one word: "Yes."

Meanwhile, Nadal said after winning the French Open thanks to

pain-killing injections to numb the chronic pain in his left foot that he wasn't sure whether he would be able to show up at Wimbledon.

Well, here he is, halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam for the first time, and he said Saturday that some new treatments he had after leaving Roland Garros did help calm the nerve that's been flaring up – even if he pointed out that they didn't "fix the injury."

"First of all, I can walk normally most of the days, almost every

single day. That's, for me, the main issue," Nadal said. "When I wake up, I don't have this pain that I was having for the last year and a half. So quite happy about that."

He said he's been able to practice better over the last two weeks, without facing "these terrible days that I can't move at all."

The two-time Wimbledon champion, whose first match will be Tuesday, did caution: "I can't be super happy, because I don't know what can happen."

Kylian Mbappe: Champions League is PSG's objective

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappe has said winning a first Champions League is Paris Saint-Germain's "clear and announced objective" for the upcoming season.

Boasting an attacking trio of Mbappe, Neymar and Lionel Messi this past season, PSG crashed out of Europe's elite club competition in the round of 16 at the hands of Real Madrid, having finished runners-up in 2020 and reached the semifinals in 2021.

Real Madrid, the team that Mbappe turned down this summer to continue playing at PSG, went on to lift their 14th European title after beating Liverpool, 1-0, in the final.

"Of course, the Champions League is the goal," Mbappe told French broadcaster BFMTV while on holiday in New York. "This is the clear and announced objective. We don't need to list many more adjectives regarding the Champions League. That's what we want."

For that to happen, Mbappe says PSG must return to being "intimidating" in France, something they have not been in recent seasons, having last won the domestic treble in 2020.

"I think it comes down to that, getting back to the basics and then trying to conquer Europe," Mbappe said. "This past season we weren't as fearsome, we were far less untouchable. We want to go back to being intimidating in France, something we have not done these past two years."

Mbappe, who signed a three-year contract extension with the Ligue 1 club in May, has other aims in the 2022-23 campaign.

Since joining PSG in the summer of 2018 from Monaco in a €180m transfer, the France international has netted 171 goals for the club.

He is 29 goals away from reaching Uruguay's Edinson Cavani, who is PSG's all-time leading scorer with 200.

"It would be something spectacular to be PSG's top scorer," Mbappe said. "I think if I keep going like this, there's no reason why I can't do it." Mbappe, 23, considered leaving last summer for Real Madrid. PSG turned down a €200m offer from Madrid at the time, despite knowing Mbappe would become a free agent this summer.

Mbappe, meanwhile, wanted to make it clear that his commitment to PSG is strong.

"This club means a lot to me, everyone knows that," he said. "So, I may not have had the time to say how important this club is to me... I have always been focused on my work. Maybe I didn't have time to be romantic enough with people or with fans."

"Of course, to mark history, there is this romantic, emotional side. But I always thought that the first base was to be efficient. When you perform, whether people like you or not, you are recognized. It has always been my priority."

(Agencies)

Group asks for living wages, labor rights for 2026 World Cup

By ANNE M. PETERSON

WITH this year's World Cup in Qatar clouded by labor and human rights issues, there's a push for the North American cities awarded games for the 2026 tournament to commit to livable wages, equitable hiring and worker protection.

The Dignity 2026 coalition has brought together groups including the AFL-CIO, Human Rights Watch and the Independent Supporters Council to work with FIFA and the individual host cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The coalition has met several times in the past few months with soccer's international governing body to discuss its commitment to these issues. With last week's announcement of the 16 cities that will host games, the effort has become more targeted.

They say FIFA is listening, but has not pledged to require minimum standards.

"That means looking at fair living wages, targeted local hiring, strong health and safety protections and agreements that make sure workers have a voice on the job. So we have given them about nine points that we would like to see implemented across all of the host cities. Because one of the things we have found is the cities haven't gotten guidance about what the expectations are," said Cathy Feingold, director of the international department at the AFL-CIO. "And so we think the best way to handle this is to make sure there are very clear binding frameworks that unify all of the host cities."

FIFA did not respond to a request for comment.

This year's World Cup starts in November. Critics say the first World Cup in the Middle East is problematic because of Qatar's history of human and labor rights abuses. There have been widespread reports of abuse of the migrant workers who have built the estimated \$200 billion in projects that include stadiums, transport and other infrastructure.

Qatari officials and FIFA have said the World Cup has accelerated positive changes in the nation's laws and society. And indeed, the nation has introduced a minimum wage and dismantled the "kafala" sponsorship system binding workers to their employer.

The U.S., Canada and Mexico bid for the World Cup included a 90-page plan to address human rights. Some of the groups in Dignity 2026 were involved in the plan's formulation.

"We know very well that what's on paper, doesn't always mean what's put into practice. And so what we've come together to do is really translate that document that at this point is non-binding and make sure it's implemented in the host cities," Feingold said.

AP

Serena Williams puts 'Out of office' on for Wimbledon return

WIMBLEDON, England

SERENA Williams joked – or was it a joke? – that she activated the "Out of office" message on her email account so anyone trying to reach her about her many non-tennis activities while she's at Wimbledon would know why no response arrived immediately.

Great as Williams is with a racket in her hand, successful as she's been, her sport has never been the only activity that interested her or occupied her time. All of which might very well be a factor in why, just shy of 41, she is still in the game, returning to singles action for the first time in a year, and was smiling and chuckling occasionally while taking questions Saturday in the All England Club's main interview room during a pre-tournament news conference.

"A little surreal," the 23-time Grand Slam champion said, "sitting here again."

She hasn't competed in singles since she injured – "ripped" was the verb the American used – her right hamstring during the opening set of her first-



Serena Williams of the US ahead of the 2022 Wimbledon Championship at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon, London, Saturday, June 25, 2022. (AP)

round match at Centre Court in 2021. That disappointing exit provided "a tremendous amount of motivation," she said.

"I didn't retire. I just needed to heal physically, mentally. And I had no plans, to be honest. I just didn't know when I would come back. I didn't know how I would come back," Williams said. "Obviously, Wimbledon is such a great place to be, and it just kind of worked out."

No one else knew until recently when, or whether, Williams would play again, a not-insignificant matter, considering what a transcendent figure she is. She wouldn't say whether this will be her last appearance at the All England Club, offering simply: "I can only

tell you that I'm here. Who knows where I'll pop up next?"

The seven-time Wimbledon singles champion made a brief appearance this week in doubles at a grass-court event in Eastbourne, but Tuesday's outing against Harmony Tan will be a much bigger deal. Williams said she decided to play Wimbledon "some time ago," saying she made up her mind before the French Open, which began on May 22.

Williams, a former No. 1 now ranked outside the WTA's top 1,200 and allowed into the Wimbledon field via a wild-card invitation, practiced on Centre Court on Friday. She arrived for her session just as current No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who is on a 35-match winning streak, wrapped up hers. "I was pretty overwhelmed. ... I didn't know how to react perfectly. I wanted to meet her. I saw that she had so many people around her. I don't know her team. It was pretty weird," Swiatek said, likening the feeling to when she was younger and "too shy to say 'Hi' to anybody."

"Just seeing her around is great, because she's such a legend," Swiatek contin-

ued. "There's nobody that has done so much in tennis."

Williams has done plenty outside of tennis, too.

That includes forays into business with investment firm Serena Ventures and entertainment via past acting roles and by joining her older sister, Venus – a seven-time major singles champion not entered in Wimbledon this year – as executive producers for "King Richard," the film about their father that was nominated for five Academy Awards.

"A part of me feels like that is a little bit more of my life now than tournaments. ... I absolutely love what I do. I love investing in companies," Williams said. "And then the Oscars was really fun. ... At best, you think of winning Grand Slams, not being nominated for an Oscar for a film that you produce."

This is hardly her first comeback after time away because of operations, other health problems and having a baby.

Williams also never was someone who entered every possible tournament, even when physically fine.

"I never played as much as the next player through-

out my whole career. I think that was all subconscious, me taking care of myself and knowing how to take care of myself," she said. "A lot of people have to learn that. I think that was something that my parents built into me."

Williams did not answer every query put to her by reporters on Saturday.

She avoided topics such as the U.S. Supreme Court decision Friday that stripped away women's constitutional protections for abortion ("I don't have any thoughts that I'm ready to share right now"), the All England Club's ban on players from Russia and Belarus because of the war in Ukraine ("I'm going to step away from that") or what it feels like to be without former coach Patrick Mouratoglou ("I didn't even think about it").

But ever the competitor, ever the perfectionist, Williams was prepared when someone wanted to know what she would consider a good outcome for her at Wimbledon.

"You know the answer to that," she said, punctuating her reply with a laugh and a roll of her eyes. "Come on, now."

AP

Why Man City value squad happiness over depth

By Rob Dawson, ESPN Correspondent

"A HEALTHY dressing room is worth more than 100 hours of tactics," the legendary Spain and Real Madrid coach Vicente del Bosque told El Pais in 2014.

Del Bosque, who lifted the World Cup and Champions League during his career, knew a thing or two about winning. But so does Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola and, as he prepares to defend his Premier League title next season, he will have Del Bosque's words on his mind.

It's possible that by the start of the 2022-23 Premier League campaign, Guardiola will have lost both striker Gabriel Jesus and winger Raheem Sterling to domestic rivals. Sources have told ESPN that Arsenal, managed by former City assistant Mikel Arteta, are closing on a deal to sign Jesus, while Chelsea's new owner Todd Boehly has made Sterling his top target.

Guardiola will accept it is not ideal to bolster teams so close to home but, as with Del Bosque, the harmony in the dressing room comes before everything else. Jesus and Sterling both have a year left on their contracts and would like to play more regularly than they have been recently. Negotiating an acceptable transfer fee may be an issue, particularly with Sterling, but if they want to go and the club receive acceptable offers of around £50 million to £60m, they will be allowed to depart with Guardiola's blessing.

For the City manager, nothing is worth sacrificing the harmony of the squad; keeping unhappy players is too big a risk, regardless of how good they are. Guardiola is the first to say that his success as a coach at Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City would not have been possible without big budgets and good play-



Pep Guardiola

ers, but it is a myth that he simply stockpiles players to ensure he has a deeper squad than everyone else.

A study conducted by the CIES Football Observatory in February 2022 revealed that City had used 28 players in domestic top-flight matches in the previous 365 days and that, in Europe's top five leagues, only West Ham – with 27 – used fewer.

In discussions over the make-up of his City squad, Guardiola will usually tell director of football Txiki Begiristain that he doesn't want two world-class players for every position. Instead, he wants a smaller group of players who can play in two or three different positions.

If problems arise during the season, his solution is to ask his squad to adapt rather than look for a solution in the transfer market and, since taking over at the Etihad in 2016, he has won trophies with Fabian Delph as a makeshift left-back and Fernandinho as an emergency centre-back. Last season, City won

If he wants to leave, absolutely no disappointment. It's his desire, I'm happy for him."

The same rule will be applied to Jesus and Sterling this summer. Yet letting players decide their own futures is a policy that comes with risk and, after defeat in the FA Cup semifinals to Liverpool in April, Guardiola faced questions about his reliance on a relatively small squad when City are trying to win four trophies each season. After a gruelling week featuring two Champions League games against Atletico Madrid and another against Liverpool, Guardiola made seven changes at Wembley and his team lost 3-2, but afterwards he was adamant he would not ask to sign more players.

"I like to work with not a big depth of squad," he said. "I've lived this situation many years in my life, fortunately, as I have been in top clubs – Barcelona, Bayern Munich and now City – and we arrive in the latter stages, fighting for all competitions many times. I learned from that: that if you want to fight to win, you have to be fit. You need 16, 17 or 18 who you have to have all the while fit, otherwise it's difficult to handle all of the competitions and be ready for all of them in the best condition. This is not an argument, it's a fact, because I lived it."

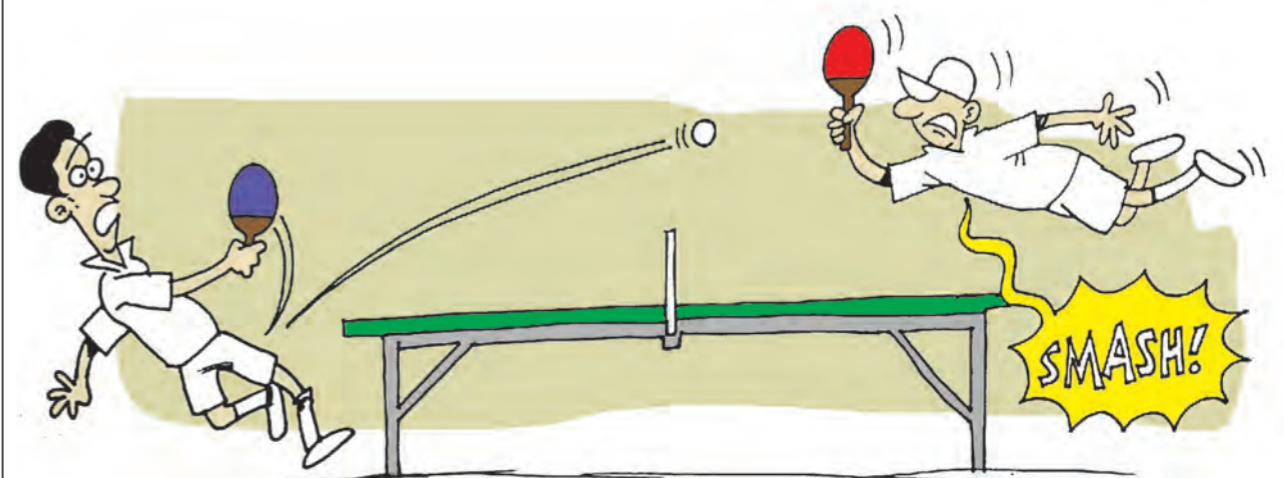
Whether Jesus and Sterling remain at the Etihad Stadium or not this summer, the expectation on City will be greater than ever after the £51.2m arrival of Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland. City already are favourites to win the Premier League and Champions League before a ball has been kicked, and that's without knowing what their final squad list might look like, with sources telling ESPN that they have agreed a £42m deal to sign Leeds United midfielder Kalvin Phillips, as well as wanting to add Brighton left-back Marc Cucurella before the transfer deadline. Though Guardiola won't bring players in for the sake of it, or pay over the odds.

Del Bosque was convinced it was the relationship between players rather than the players themselves which made a successful team – something Guardiola also believes.

"A healthy dressing room is important," De Bosque said in 2014 when asked how he managed star-studded squads at Real Madrid and Spain. "It's good for any business when the employees are happy. In football, if the kids are happy, we win."

Guardiola is aiming to keep City smiling, and winning, too.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Serena Williams puts 'Out of office' on for Wimbledon return

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Yanga crowned 2021/22 NBC Tanzania Premier League champions



Yanga players and the club's officials pose with the NBC Premier League silverware shortly after facing Mbeya City FC in the top-flight match that took place in Mbeya on Saturday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC, alias Yanga, was officially crowned champion of the 2021/22 NBC Premier League season on Saturday afternoon at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

The Green and Yellow side that had wrapped up the title with three games to play last week with a victory over Coastal Union got crowned in its penultimate match of the season against hosts Mbeya City

FC.

The crowning ceremony was presided over by the Tanzania Football Federation president, Wallace Karia, and Minister of State in the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Governments, Innocent Bashungwa, who handed over the medals to the jubilant Yanga players and officials.

The glamorous event

characterized by fan-fare and merry-making saw the crowned champions forced into a one-all stalemate by a 10-man Mbeya City FC to extend the former's unbeaten run to 29 games and is now only one match away from finishing the season without tasting defeat in the league.

Congolese striker Heritier Makambo fired Yanga into a first-half lead before Mbeya City FC

equalized via the spot-kick taken by Uganda forward Joseph Ssemujju four minutes after the restart.

Mbeya City FC skipper Mpoki Mwakinyuke was once again sent off, prompting the side's head coach Mathias Lule to suggest the fullback has mental problems.

Yanga is still in contention to win a double as it is in the final of the Azam Sports Federation Cup whereby the side will face Coastal Union at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium on Saturday.

Elswhere, Polisi Tanzania was beaten 1-0 by fourth-placed Geita Gold FC thanks to Raymond Mwasote's winner in the first half which ensured the visitors will finish at least fourth in their first top-flight campaign.

In Dodoma, visitors Azam FC defeated hosts Dodoma Jiji FC 2-0 to cling to the third spot and take the automatic CAF Confederation Cup ticket battle with Geita Gold FC right down to the wire.

Hosts Biashara United managed to take the outfit's

hope for survival to the last day of the campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at Karume Stadium.

The relegation battle will go down to the wire with Biashara United and Prisons fighting to avoid joining Mbeya Kwanza FC back to the Championship.

In Songea, Mbeya Kwanza FC was relegated from the Premier League as Ruvu Shooting came away from the former's turf, Majimaji Stadium, with a 2-1 victory.

The Mbeya side became the first team to be relegated to next season's Championship. At Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, visitors Kagera Sugar took away maximum points thanks to a sensational 'Olympic goal' straight from the corner kick, taken by left full-back David Luhende in the first half, to beat Coastal Union.

There was little to play for between the two sides that had ensured safety and had little hope of breaking into the top four.

5 EATV MONDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SONGEA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funquka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00
Sports

eastafrica RADIO
04:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Mbeya Kwanza FC relegated after conceding loss to Ruvu Shooting

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MBEYA Kwanza FC has been relegated from the NBC Premier League after the squad's 2-1 defeat to Ruvu Shooting at Majimaji Stadium in Ruvuma on Saturday afternoon.

They knew going into the game that a defeat to Ruvu Shooting and a win for relegation rivals, Biashara United, would send them down to the Championship.

The home loss, courtesy of goals netted by Rashid Juma and Fulgence Maganga, was Mbeya Kwanza FC's 15th defeat of the season and condemned them to the second tier after Biashara United beat Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 1-0 at Karume Stadium, Musoma.

They looked as though they may survive until the last day, as Biashara United had been struggling to beat visitors Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

However, a goal netted by Gerson Kabeja deep into the added-on time before the first-half break turned that game around, and Mbeya Kwanza FC's relegation to the Championship was confirmed.

Mbeya Kwanza FC was comfortably second best against Ruvu Shooting with the performance being indicative of the former's inability to create clear-cut chances and apply sustained pressure.

The results left Mbeya Kwanza FC four points adrift of safety with only a maximum of three points achievable from the club's remaining closing game of the season slated for Wednesday.

They have endured a miserable season, starting the campaign with Burundian coach Haruna Harerimana in the dugout, but he was shown the door in December after an inauspicious start. Maka Malwisi then took the reigns until February before Mwana Makata was installed.

Makata was banned following the controversial decision that resulted in Mbeya Kwanza FC forfeiting its away game against Namungo FC. Renatus Shija was appointed as caretaker tactician until the end of the season.

Any team that wins just five of the outfit's 29 games so far should expect to be relegated.

Earlier in the season, Mbeya Kwanza FC was playing some attractive football and putting in plucky performances to stay in touch, but the reality of the club's thin squad caught it.

So far this season, Mbeya Kwanza FC has conceded a massive 34 goals in 28 Premier League matches excluding the Namungo FC game that was awarded on a boardroom decision.

Although the side is languishing at the bottom of the table with just 24 points, the 2021/22 season has not been all bad for Mbeya Kwanza FC. After all, the club managed to beat Kagera Sugar home and away.

Furthermore, Habib Kyombo is one of few players to score at least six Premier League goals this season despite joining the outfit during the mini-transfer window in the December-January period.

Mbeya Kwanza FC's exit means it is between Biashara United and Tanzania Prisons for the final automatic relegation spot.

Coach Patrick Odhiambo takes his Prisons side to Ruvu Shooting needing to better the result of Biashara United, which takes on Azam FC at Azam Complex Stadium.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Tulia Ackson (R), is presented with a medal by Zanzibar's Minister for Information, Youth, Culture, and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwita, after winning 100m race at the CRDB Bank joint bonanza held at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma last weekend. Others are CRDB Bank's Board Chairman, Ally Laay (2nd L), and CRDB Bank CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela (3rd L). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

CRDB Bank bonanza wins plaudits

By Guardian Correspondent

SPEAKER of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, Tulia Ackson, has commended CRDB Bank for continuing to organize a joint bonanza, known as 'CRDB Bank Pamoja Bonanza', successfully.

Tulia further lauded the bank for encouraging people to participate in sports and building health and promoting solidarity for Tanzanians in development activities.

Speaking at the bonanza, the Speaker said that it has brought excitement and greater awareness compared to previous years.

According to the Speaker, the number of the participants in this year's bonanza has improved, a situation which had made sense of the purpose of the event.

Tulia pointed out that the bonanza has consequently managed to win popularity in Dodoma and the rest of Tanzania.

The Speaker revealed: "This year we have even seen Members of Zanzibar's House of Representatives as well as Bongo Flava artists that have brought a lot of excitement and competitiveness."

"Congratulations to CRDB Bank for having a great vision," Tulia stated.

The CRDB Bank CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela said the bank prioritizes sports, given they are healthy, unifying, and foster love, they bring together the bank's staff and various sports stakeholders in the country.

Nsekela pointed out the bank is using the bonanza as part of moving the institution closer to the government, Parliament and various stakeholders in

the country to get a chance to listen to people's needs.

The official revealed the bank focuses on how to participate in development plans in the country and affirms its motto 'Ulipo Tupo', adding that it is a bank that listens to its clients.

CRDB Bank Board Chairman Ally Laay also thanked MPs and various government stakeholders and people who attended the bonanza.

The bonanza was preceded by a march that started at the Parliament's grounds and included various jogging outfits, college and secondary school students, as well as people recognizing the importance of sports.

The bonanza ended with Parliament sides emerging victorious in football, basketball, netball, and tug-of-war.

Musicians shine in Zege Day festival

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

VETERAN Tanzanian new generation music artist, Chege Chigunda, alias 'Mtoto wa Mama Said', is one of the genre's musicians that won the hearts of revelers at a festival, known as 'Zege Day', which took place at Mwenbe Yanga, Temeke, in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Chege, accompanied by four female performers, sang one of the popular past songs titled 'Nyumbani ni Nyumbani', composed by the musician's former troupe Wanaume Family, to the fans at the festival, with the latter cheering loudly.

Prominent Singeli artist, Suleiman Kasembe 'MC Kinata', attracted more music followers to get closer to the area with his popular track titled 'Si Unajua Singeli Inavyobamba Uswahilini', with the fanatics singing the song along with the musician.

The genre's other musician, Moni Centrozone, also took the stage at the event.

Musician Nedy Music entertained the festival's revelers, followed by Lody Melody, and thereafter dance musician, Joseph Mponezya 'Jose Mara', and his band Mapacha Musica took to the stage to perform.

The artist performed dance music whilst chipping in with 'Bongo Flava' flavour, then other artists including 'Kicheko', 'Kanyumba' and 'Mzee wa Bwax' had an opportunity to perform and made the festival a success.

The festival, which brought together large crowds from around Dar es Salaam and Coast Region, was organized by Clouds Media Group (CMG) and sponsored by Harvest Shamba Fresh HSF, Pepsi, and Double Kick.

Commenting on the festival, CMG's Head of Creativity and Content, Sebastian Maganga congratulated Temeke's people for supporting them in the Zege Day festival.

"Zege' is a fast food that had earlier been mostly eaten in Ilala, Dar es Salaam and it is now eaten by people all over Tanzania, so we have seen the need to value it by organizing the festival," Maganga stated.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

