

Geothermal firm drilling first well at Lake Ngozi

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

THE Tanzania Geothermal Development Company (TGDC) has started drilling the first well for geothermal power generation along Lake Ngozi in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region.

Mathew Mwangoba, the TGDC general manager, told members of the defence and security committee here yesterday that upon completion the project will generate 70MW of electricity, to be added to the national grid.

The firm has all the required machinery, with the drilling work likely to take up to 45 days to complete, he said, affirming that to make the project a success, the government has provided 20bn/- to procure a modern well drilling plant, and conduct further surveys.

"The government is determined to conduct research that will enable the country to start producing electricity from geothermal sources," he said, pointing out that this is one reason for the 20bn/- grant.

Lake Ngozi thermal generation will start by producing 5MW next year, gradually raising generation capacity use up to the 70MW level, he stated.

Fatumat Mzava, the project manager, said the company plans to drill three wells at the area, the first well being drilled at Isongole ward while the other two are slated for Swaya and Nsongwi wards in Mbeya District.

Jaffar Haniu, the district commissioner, said the project is beneficial to the residents, urging them to protect it. The government has invested a lot of funds to ensure that more people have access to electricity, thus the need to ensure the projects last long, he stated.

Residents in areas surrounding the project site need to cooperate with TGDC to ensure it is successfully implemented, he said, while Isongole ward councillor Mwalingo Sote said that community participation was among the key elements in implementing the project.

Villagers are aware of each of the projects being developed in the area, as the villagers have started to benefit from the project. Isongole primary school has been provided with clean and safe water services from company outreach activities, he added.



DC Jaffar Haniu

LATRA hiking bus fares, gives time for objections



Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule goes up the ladder to inspect a newly built three-million-litre water tank in Dodoma Urban District's Nzuguni administrative ward yesterday. Left is Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority engineer Aron Joseph. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

The board of directors met on October 25 and reviewed the newly proposed transport fares submitted by the management...

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has provisionally increased upcountry and commuter transport fares billed to start applying 14 days from yesterday, on December 8, in case appeals on the move fail.

Ahmed Mohamed Ame, the LATRA board chairman, said the decision was reached after working on recommendations from transport stakeholders.

He said the newly proposed fare will be applicable after the agency has evaluated any objections within the space of 14 days.

The agency reviewed the current transport fares in the wake of pressures arising from fuel price hikes as well as investment costs for vehicle maintenance, changing tyres, insurance, income tax, municipal levy, regulatory levies and vehicle inspection fees, aside from operational costs on drivers and conductors, he said.

He listed other factors as including vehicle capacity, types of tyres used for each of the specific vehicles and the number of trips of a specific vehicle in a regular way, while also considering the possibility of further hikes in fuel

TURN TO PAGE 2

Pupils set to learn English from Std I

By Guardian Reporter

PUBLIC schools will now be teaching the English language right as pupils start schooling, the government has directed. Dr Charles Msonde, the Regional Ad-

ministration and Local Governments permanent secretary for Education in the President's Office, told journalists yesterday that public primary schools will start implementing the move when schools reopen in January after the end

of year festivals. Speaking after opening an international conference on the quality of education, he said the shift is part of efforts to

TURN TO PAGE 2

Wildlife census targets leopard, cheetah levels

Serengeti has an estimated 184 wild dogs while other canine packs can be found in Ruaha and Mkomazi national parks

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CONSERVATION authorities here have started to conduct a census to determine the number of leopards and cheetahs in various reservations. Dr Julius Keyyu, the director of re-

search at the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), said the census is expected to take several months, being carried out in the Nyerere and Ruaha national parks.

The two are the biggest parks countrywide, located within the southern

tourism circuit, with experts say the two parks account for the largest number of the big five species, and a welter of other species.

The leopard, together with its spotted cousin the cheetah, is among major wildlife species that global conservation agencies consider to be highly endangered, while it has traditionally been taken as a high value species in tourism.

The director said that over 75 percent of incoming tourists visiting the various national parks want to see the leopard,

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS



SIMBA SC'S NEW HEAD COACH UNDERSTANDS TASK AHEAD OF HIM

Page 20



SAUDI-BACKED NEWCASTLE FACE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE REALITY CHECK

Page 19



LATRA hiking bus fares, gives time for objections

FROM PAGE 1

The board of directors met on October 25 and reviewed the newly proposed transport fares submitted by the management. The board saw the necessity to increase transport fares for commuter and upcountry buses for the business to remain sustainable," he said, noting that the increase will encourage people to invest in transport services.

Passengers travelling less than ten kilometres by 'daladala' will have to pay 600/- from the current 500/- while those travelling between 11 and 15 kilometres will pay 700/- instead of 500/-.

Those travelling between 16 and 20 kilometres now paying 600/- will

now pay 800/- while commuting 21 to 25 kilometres will fetch 900/- from the current 700/-.

Distances of 26 to 30 kilometres will be charged 1,100/-, up from 850/- while those travelling between 31 and 35 kilometres will be charged 1,300/- from the current 1,000/-, he elaborated.

Upcountry buses using tarmac roads that are now charging 41.29/- per kilometre will increase fares to 48.47 per kilometre while buses using rough roads will charge 53.32/- per kilometre from 51.61/- at present.

Semi luxury buses that are now charging 56.88/- per kilometre will from December 8 by charging 67.84/- per kilometre, he added.

Pupils set to learn English from Std I

FROM PAGE 1

start implementing the new education policy by an early introduction of English as a subject.

He said the government expects that this will help pupils to grasp the language more conveniently than at present, such that it will be possible for pupils to properly express themselves in English at the end of primary schooling.

This would ease their learning ability in studies as they go higher and take up other opportunities after school, he said, noting that seminars have started being organised for teachers on how to teach the subject to the young learners.

The language change will invite alterations of the curriculum from standard one to three. Much of what is taught later will remain in place, he affirmed.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete said there is a need to ensure that the education system fits the growth of science and technology globally.

"The world is changing, technology is also growing, we also need to change our system to match the changes otherwise we will be left behind," he said.

Ochola Wayoga, the national coordinator for the Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET) said that among key issues raised at the meeting are changes in Africa's education systems and how they reflect the global industrial revolution.

Another debate is policy and education links, plus how technology supports learning and access to quality education, the teachers available and how they are trained.

The conference will discuss existing investments in education on the basis of needs in each country participating in the meeting, he said.

This meeting is going to align anticipated areas of improvement in the education system in member countries to ensure that education delivery reflects the current life demands for youths, he added.



George Simbachawene (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), in tete-a-tete with Public Service College Tanzania's Board of Trustees chairman, Dr Florens Turuka, at a PSC graduation held at the college's Tabora Campus yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Wildlife census targets leopard, cheetah levels

FROM PAGE 1

confirming its special position in the tourism attractions value chain.

The country's parks host over 10 percent of global conducive habitats for the leopard, he stated, noting that while the animal is an endangered species worldwide, Tanzania still boasts a substantial population of them.

The other globally endangered species are chimpanzees and wild

dogs," he stated, noting these species are also threatened in world sanctuaries. Serengeti has an estimated 184 wild dogs while other canine packs can be found in Ruaha and Mkomazi national parks," he stated.

Gombe and Mahale national parks are best known as chimpanzees' abodes, with the latest wildlife census showing that Tanzania has 2600 chimpanzees, 700 of them being found in Mahale and 90 oth-

ers in Gombe. The others were roaming in open areas especially around Mpanda and Tanganyika zones linked with Katavi National Park.

Dr Ernest Mjingo, the TAWIRI director general, said that some wildlife species disappear due to loss of habitat due to encroachment of human activities such as farming, settlement and urbanisation, apart from invasive vegetation species.

Human-wildlife conflicts, blocked

corridors passages, poaching, zoological ailments and other negative impacts from effects of climate change propel the diminution of wildlife species in a selective manner, he stated.

The institute is working on solution packages for conserving habitats of strategic species like leopards, cheetahs and chimps, including protecting biodiversity and seeking remedies to emerging zoonotic diseases, he added.

Grazing land invaders in Kiteto urged to leave

By Guardian Correspondent, Kiteto

THE government has issued a seven-day ultimatum to people who invaded livestock feeding farms which were set aside under the proper land management programme in Kiteto district, Manyara region to leave.

The director for livestock feeds development in the ministry of Livestock and fisheries Gabriel Bura issued the directives yesterday during a meeting with leaders of the Maasai community and livestock breeders association which was held in the district.

He said those who will not abide by the order, the government is set to launch an operation to vacate them by force and take them to court for further legal actions.

Bura said the feed farms were set aside through legal means, adding that all those who have invaded them and are using them for other activities must leave immediately.

"I am issuing a seven days ultimatum to ensure that they move out of the farms, those farms have been set aside for grazing and not otherwise," he said.

He said the proper land management programme was being implemented in regions of Manyara and Arusha saying it was the role of all stakeholders to protect them from invaders.

Chairman of the Maasai leaders in Kiteto Emanuel Sinogoro called upon the government to take serious measures against some pastoralists who are refusing to move out of the farms.

He said that this situation will help to get rid of the problem of grazing areas in the district which is causing long-term conflicts between herders and farmers.

Sinogoro, said that one of the reasons contributing to grazing areas being invaded is due to the herd-

ers themselves inviting people for agricultural activities in the areas demarcated for pastures.

"Therefore, we ask that a commission be formed to find out all the people who invaded so that they can be removed as we agreed," she said.

The Vice Chairman of the Tanzania livestock Breeders' Association Kusundwa Wamalwa, said immediately after the seven-day period, they will ask the relevant authorities to take strict action against those who will disobey the order.

"Once the period of one week is over, we will have to write to the chairman of the defense and security committee to carry out an operation to remove the people who occupied the grazing areas," he said.

However, he said that in order for the community of herders in the country to be successful, they should collaborate in everything, including opposing acts of abuse by some government officials and forest officers.



Aziza Khamis, a blood transfusion technician with the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital, attends to staff from RYTHM (Raise Yourself To help Mankind) who donated blood at the hospital on Sunday. RYTHM is a foundation carrying out its activities through strategic partnerships, community service and employee volunteering. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Relief as Makuyuni health centre acquires ambulance

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO South East MP Shabani Hamis Taletale has handed over an ambulance worth 100m/- to Makuyuni health centre to facilitate transportation of patients referred to Morogoro regional referral hospital.

The ambulance is part of the 50 vehicles which have been provided by the government to various health centres across the country.

Taletale said the Mkyuni health centre serves a big number of pa-

tients from six villages, thus the presence of an ambulance would improve provision of medical services.

Addressing villagers, The MP said plans are under way for construction of the Bigwa - Kisaki road as all the contracts have been signed.

Innocent Bashungwa, Minister for Works told the residents that the government has already completed a feasibility study of the 78 kilometres road which will be constructed at tarmac level. He said

the ministry is in the final stages to sign a contract with the contractor.

Mkuyuni Ward Councillor, Bui Mwinyi said the ambulance will bring relief to the residents as they were experiencing challenges to take patients to the regional referral hospital. He said at times, relatives were required to contribute money to purchase fuel, the thing that resulted in delayed medical treatment to patients.

Doctor in-charge at the Mkyuni health centre, Dr Anthony Delima

said the facility serves residents of Makuyuni and neighbouring villages. He said at least 110 babies are born at the hospital each month compared to previous years, when only 30 babies were born monthly.

Mwajuma Jeilani, a resident of Makuyuni commended the legislator for efforts to improve health care services.

She said the health facility faces various challenges including shortage of workers, limited number of beds in labour ward and essential drugs.

Morogoro District Chairperson, Lucas Lemomo said the district needs eight ambulances. He said that four of the health centres operate 24hours, adding they are finalizing processes to launch the other six health centres.



Husna Nyange (R), a zonal manager with the Tanzania Revenue Authority, presents a certificate to Aga Khan Health Service Tanzania chief financial officer Tumaini Thabiti in recognition of the agency as an exemplary taxpayer. This was at a TRA award-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

BRELA moves to stamp patents onto products to protect inventions, ideas

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MANY Tanzanians have been inventing technology and new products that are capable of solving global problems, but the fact that their conceptions were not patented; many of the creations could have been stolen by clever impostors elsewhere.

To remedy that, the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), is setting out on special mission around the country to raise awareness among Tanzanians that it is high time their new ideas, inventions and products get patented before being disclosed to the public.

Speaking in Arusha, the Registration Officer at BRELA, Juliet Kihwelo explained that intellectual property listing can be processed through the agency's Online Registration System

(ORS) portal, in addition to using the main or regional offices.

"We have experienced cases of inventors who take their creations for display at exhibitions or trade fairs before patenting them, they have no idea that people, who visit their pavilions, steal their ideas, taking them for registrations and applications elsewhere," pointed out Kihwelo, adding that BRELA is now setting out to educate the mass on the issue.

BRELA officials are currently in Arusha, holding training sessions to that effect for the residents and business persons in the six districts of the region, including Meru, Arusha Urban, Arusha Rural DC and Longido.

Benedickson Wilson Byamanyilwowa, the assistant registration officer for BRELA explained that a patent is a type of intellectual property ownership that grants its holder the

legal right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention for a certain period of time.

"Usually people invent things to solve certain problems, which means such creations could be in high demand, therefore if not protected chances are they will be stolen from original authors and even smuggled out of the country," said Wilson.

One of the people undergoing training in the City include Charles Makoi a representative of the Arusha Chapter for the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Trade (TCCIA) who admits that awareness on Business and Trademark Registrations is very important.

"We have had cases of businesses that have been operating successfully for more than ten years only to have their names or identities taken by newcomers resulting in lawsuits," said Makoi.

Korea govt pledges further support to statistical system

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

KOREAN government has pledged further support to strengthen the statistics system in the country, considering the possibility of translating the recently launched Tanzania Statistics Integrated System (TASIS) to Swahili.

The promise was made here by the Republic of Korea Ambassador to Tanzania Dr. Kim Sun Pyo at the launch of the TASIS held in Dodoma recently.

He said Korea and Tanzania worked together to prepare the database, noting that such efforts can be extended to other countries but there was need to further the cooperation to ensure many Tanzanians use the data.

The ambassador argued that statistics is numbers and numbers are very important, statistics is knowledge and knowledge is power for Tanzania.

Dr Pyo acknowledged the fact that Tanzania is rapidly developing more than many countries in the continent, thus the need to integrate the statistical system is very important.

"A lot of statistics in Tanzania are written in English but the majority of the population are more conversant with Swahili, therefore Korea will see how to assist in translating the integrated system" he said.

The ambassador maintained that statistics is very important and that Korea knows how to integrate the data and can help in capacity building.

He recalled that within the past three years some statisticians from Tanzania visited Korea to learn how their counterparts work.

His statement followed a request by the Chief Statistician Dr Albina Chuwa, who appealed to the Korean government to see how they can support the translation of the system, being part of the continued long-lasting cooperation.

She applauded the Korean government's support saying, "supporting a country's statistical system means supporting its development and this is a great milestone in cooperation".

She said the system serves as the backbone of a national statistical system aimed to empower governments, organizations, and citizens with accurate, reliable, and comprehensive data for effective decision-making, policy formulation, and sustainable development.

According to Dr Chuwa, by providing a unified platform for data storage and analysis, an integrated database system plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of a nation.

It will guide our investments, drive innovation, and, most importantly, improve the lives of our fellow citizens. "With this power comes the duty to use it responsibly, ethically, and with the utmost integrity", she added.

TASIS, she argued, is not just a technological milestone but a tool that will empower our nation with insights and knowledge critical for informed decision-making.

The data it provides will be the compass guiding us through the complexities of policy formulation, resource allocation, and sustainable development.

In a world that is rapidly evolving, where challenges are complex and interconnected, the role of accurate and timely statistics cannot be overstated.

The System is a catalyst for progress, a mechanism that will enable us to navigate the intricacies of development with precision and foresight.

In her vote of thanks, NBS's Acting Director for Population Census and Social Statistics, Ruth Minja thanked the Korean government.

She said their technical support and skills imparted to the NBS team is highly appreciated. "They have consistently provided support and guidance to the NBS Team at all stages of the project implementation," she observed.

They have always been generous with their time when NBS needed their technical support, regardless of other big commitments they have back home, noted Minja

She argued that NBS as the national coordinator for production, storage and dissemination of official statistics in the country, the partnership was relevant and it came at an opportune time when the government is striving to enhance availability of real time data to respond to unprecedented demand for data to accelerate development programs at all levels.

"It is our hope that this partnership will continue to fill other existing gaps and to better inform joint development agendas for sustainable development." she added.

SALE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.

The Embassy of the state of Qatar in Dar es Salaam, announces the sale of office equipment and surveillance cameras. Interest buyers can view the Equipment between 9:00 am-15:00 pm at the Embassy located at (6) Masasani Road.



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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-11-02	DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTING OF A RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN (RAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultants specialized in RAP, must have proven experience with RAP development and Implementation. Experience working with similar works in the last 5 years. Competence in RAP and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in the Mining industry. List of equipment - Resource list - specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment). Team with multi-discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health and safety acts.

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

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

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **05th December 2023**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

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No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-11-01	IMPLEMENTING LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant specialized in valuation, must have proven experience with valuation, and must have valuer fully Registration of Valuer with Valuers Registration Board (VRB) of Tanzania Experience working with similar works in the last 5 years. Capability to integrate valuation and RAP. Competence in valuations and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in the Mining industry. List of equipment - Resource list - specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment). Team with multi-discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health and safety acts.

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48bn/- allocated for issuing loans to 8,000 students at diploma level

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has allocated 48bn/- in the financial year 2023/24 for loaning 8,000 diploma level students in various fields of studies. This includes health and allied sciences, education, physics, mathematics, chemistry and vocational training, transportation, energy engineering, mining, earth science, agriculture and livestock.

Jenifa Omolo, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, unveiled this over the weekend when speaking at the 37th graduation of the Dodoma-based Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP).

She said that in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024, the government is determined to increase the experts in order to implement African resolutions on human resources where 48bn/- has been set aside to lend to these students.

Jenifa said the objectives of the loans are to increase the number of professionals in those priority fields in order to implement the Africa's Dar es Salaam Human Capital Declaration 2023.

She also pledged that the government will continue to increase the budget for higher education loans with the aim of enabling many young people to benefit and for the Financial Year 2023/24, the government has increased to 731bn/- that are to be issued to students compared to the 570bn/- that was allocated in the Financial Year 2022/23.

The increase is about 28 percent and also the beneficiaries have continued to increase every year and last year they were 177,777 and this year they are 220,376 students which is equal to the increase of 23 percent.

According to her, the government through the Samia Scholarship has added another higher education loan package to encourage girls to study science and those who do well will be given a 100 percent loan.

"In order for them to study courses in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), the government for the academic year 2023/24 has allocated 6.7bn/- and this programme started in fiscal year 2022/23, the aim is to increase

female professionals in the fields mentioned above," she said.

IRDP Rector Prof Hozen Mayaya said that in the financial year 2022/23 the College conducted long-term training in 26 programmes in various fields.

Prof Mayaya said that the programmes are from Diploma level to Master's degrees in planning and development, planning administration and development management, development economics, planning and project management, environmental management plans, urban development and environmental management, population and development plans.

Other fields are community development, financial planning for development and intensification, planning and management of human resources, business planning and management as well as governance and sustainable development.



In order for them to study courses in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), the government for the academic year 2023/24 has allocated 6.7bn/- and this programme started in fiscal year 2022/23, the aim is to increase female professionals in the fields mentioned above

Execute irrigation project within timeframe, RC for Shinyanga tells contractor

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA regional commissioner, Christina Mndeme has directed a contractor implementing an irrigation scheme project at Nyida ward to complete it within schedule.

Speaking shortly after inspecting progress implementation of the project yesterday, Mndeme said its completion would largely help farmers. The RC was accompanied by Shinyanga District Commissioner, Johari Samizi.

She said the government is now investing on irrigation farming whereas in Shinyanga Region it has disbursed 14bn/- for development of irrigation schemes including the one at Nyida ward which upon completion will cost 11.1bn/-.

"The Nyida scheme is important for rice cultivation; the contractor is moving at a low speed. I want the job completed by July next year for farmers to start benefiting from it," said the RC, noting through irrigation, farmers will be cultivating rice twice a year.

One of the rice farmers, Paulo Shija commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for implementing the project, adding that it will increase productivity.



The Nyida scheme is important for rice cultivation; the contractor is moving at a low speed. I want the job completed by July next year for farmers to start benefiting from it



Former police officers Stella Mashaka (R) and Majid Abdallah (2nd-R) leave the courtroom at Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday heading back to remand prison. They had just appeared before the court in connection with armed robbery charges. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

TRA collects 4.9bn/- in three months in Manyara

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Region has collected government revenue of 4.9bn/- (113 percent) in July to October this year.

Shufaa Mukhandi, Acting Manager of the Revenue Authority (TRA) noted this yesterday while speaking in Babati town, during the launch of the Taxpayers Appreciation week.

She said that they have managed

to collect the income and exceed the target, without using force as it used to do before.

The collections are large, compared to the financial year 2022/23, in which TRA collected 3.83bn/-.

"Taxpayers have had a great contribution and the vision of the President has helped us to collect government taxes well and businesses understood us," said Mukhandi.

Launching the Taxpayers Appreciation week, Babati District Ad-

ministrative Secretary (DAS) Halfan Matipula applauded TRA for implementing the philosophy of President Samia Suluhu Hassan not to use force when collecting taxes and the move has worked.

"Those of us who review the collection reports every month, we see the trend of collection exceeding 100 percent every month, you have reason to thank the taxpayer for paying taxes without force," said Matipula.

Musa Msuya, chairman of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) in Manyara region said their customers haven't complained about the use of force, during income tax collection.

Serapio Luanda, TRA education and taxpayers' service officer in Manyara region said the launch of the taxpayers' week will have a series of events to thank the taxpayers of the region.



Morogoro South legislator Shabani Hamisi Taletale alias Babu Tale (with microphone) pictured yesterday handing over to Morogoro Municipal Council chairman Lucas Lemomo (R) an ambulance the government has issued to Mkuyuni Health Centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

Tanzanian youths told to explore opportunities of working abroad

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIAN youths have been tasked to refrain from fear but rather take advantage of working with foreign companies abroad.

Stanley Kiplagat, chairman of Kenya Business Council made the call over the weekend when speaking at the official launch of the Savannah Recruitment Business Company, which sends Tanzanian youth to work in Romania.

Kiplagat asked those who succeeded to get jobs abroad to be

good ambassadors of Tanzania, and when they return home after their contracts, they should focus on investing in economic projects to uplift others.

"If you go to work there, tomorrow you will be a very good ambassador for other Tanzanians. Young people, don't be afraid to go abroad, there are many opportunities to get rid of yourself economically, use them so that when you return, you invest at home," he said.

He said if young people are excited about the opportunities avail-

able in the country, they will contribute to the national economy and get rid of their families economically, which are still dependent especially on African countries as well as create businesses when the work contracts expire and return home to invest more.

Tudor Nistor, director of Savannah Recruitment Business (Tanzania), said young people from Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC) should use the opportunities available in Romania to invest at home and lift their peers

economically.

He said the youth of the EAC countries are known for their hard work and skills in the arts, including creativity especially in agriculture.

Rares Simedrea, core-director of Savannah Recruitment Business (Tanzania) said that Tanzania and Romania have good diplomatic relations and that is why the Romanian President recently met with President Samia Suluhu Hassan to strengthen economic, business, investment, tourism and blue economy.

Flaviana Chacha, Arusha regional labour officer said that the opportunity is good and has not come by accident, since the film The Royal Tour launched by President Samia has opened opportunities for placement in the country.

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Overhaul customer service centre, govt orders Tanesco

THE government has directed Tanzania Electricity Corporation (TANESCO) to overhaul its customer service centre to reduce complaints from the public.

The Deputy Minister for Energy, Judith Kapiga, issued the directive yesterday in Dar es Salaam when addressing journalists on the challenges facing the national power utility firm.

She said that TANESCO needs to overhaul its customer service centre because of its underperformance, emphasising that they work hard to have strategies in order to improve the service.

Kapiga said that one of the strategies is to venture into partnership with private companies in order to improve the service. She added that despite shortcomings there are some great strides that Tanesco has made. "If you look at the calls that have been made here at the 'core centre' are approximately 40,000 but the number that can be received is 12,000 per day, that makes us think about the best way to improve the service and ensure that all Tanzanians who call are received and get service," said Kapiga.

She added by directing TANESCO to come up with strategies that will make their customers heard on time, and all their problems can be received and worked on short period.

The deputy minister further noted that customer's challenges will not be solved if the capacity to receive their complaints is inadequate. She also said: "These problems should have been solved long time ago, but I wonder as why they still exist."

"It is an issue that is thought-provoking, that is, for a 50 years' old organization to have the same challenges, which are chronic in the organization, we must reach to a point where these troubling issues find amicable solutions. "Because until today we have not found a solution, it means that either we have failed or those we have trusted to do those tasks have failed, if they have failed, it will force us to find a better way by making sure we have the right people," emphasised Kapiga.

She stressed that when a person has a problem within three hours, it must be served, noting that the current statistics show that only 32

percent complaints are served within three to four hours, and 52 percent up to eight hours.

TANESCO's Director of Customer Service, Martine Mwambene said that they have received all the directives given and are working on them, ensuring that they have an alternative solution for customers to present their problems by sending short messages through the WhatsApp mobile application.

Mwambene also said that they will improve the system by making it available on social networks such as Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly twitter), and that they will also improve the TANESCO mobile application, which he explained was connected to the old system which is incompatibility with the current one.

"We are going to work on it quickly to ensure that customers have an alternative way, but also for those who do not have a smartphone, they will be given a 'code' special number, and we will continue to evaluate the station and see where there are challenges so that we can work on them," said Mwambene.



NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (R), and Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Benoit Araman sign an MoU in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the acceleration of the use of liquefied petroleum gas (in the city). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

Hospital to do plastic surgery on 25 women and girls in Dar

DAR ES SALAAM Aga Khan Hospital will conduct a five days plastic reconstructive surgery to 25 women and girls who are victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV), the hospital's Senior Consultant Surgeon, Dr Athar Ali said yesterday.

Dr Ali, who is also the Head of the Department of Surgery at the hospital, told journalists that the free surgeries camp will be conducted in collaboration with Muhimbili Hospital (MNH) and Reconstructing Women International (RWI).

According to him, the women and girls include those with major and severe burns as well as those with deformities.

He said the surgeries aim to restore the mobility of women and girls from various regions across Tanzania who have experienced movement impairment due to burns.

"Surgeries will be conducted from November 28th to December 2nd, this year at no cost," he said, adding the procedures will be overseen by a proficient team from RWI hailing from the United States, Canada, and Europe in collaboration with physicians from AKHD, MNH, Bugando Medical Centre, and Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar.

Sofar, over 60 women and girls with burn-related conditions and who have suffered from complications of violence from across Tanzania

underwent free screening, including those conducted in Zanzibar.

"This program aims to restore physical function to empower and enhance the quality of life of women and girls in Tanzania," he said.

During the last seven years, 2016-2022, a total of 16 plastic surgeons, general surgeons, and resident students from different public hospitals such as MNH, Bugando Hospital, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar and AKH, D) have been trained through this program, said Dr Ali.

He said that as part of the initiative, the international surgeons will actively engage with Tanzanian healthcare professionals, providing hands-on demonstrations of various plastic surgery techniques to enhance local expertise in plastic reconstructive surgery.

On Friday this week, the hospital will conduct a Continuing Medical Education (CME) session to over 100 medical professionals, aimed at raising awareness on plastic reconstructive surgery.

Dr Andrea Pusic, Plastic Surgeon and RWI team leader said: "This is the 8th year of our successful partnership with Aga Khan hospital and MHN. This collaboration has

resulted in a significant increase in local plastic surgery expertise and capacity."

Dr Aidan Njau, Consultant and General Surgeon at The Aga Khan Hospital thanked the philanthropists who have volunteered to conduct the program, screenings and treatments are being offered for free. "Our hospital will once again perform major reconstructive surgeries for patients from all over Tanzania who have suffered serious problems such as burns, accidents, and thus have damaged parts of their body," he said.

Dr Edwin Mrema, Head of Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery at MNH said: "As plastic and reconstructive surgeons, the most satisfying moment of our career is when we help bring back the lost smiles and confidence of women and children."

Sisawo Konteh, Chief Executive Officer at Aga Khan Hospital, thanked donors for their generous financial contributions to support the surgeries. He mentioned some lessons learnt in the past years, including collaborating with the Lady Fatemah Trust that provides mental health support for patients after undergoing surgeries.

SUZA launches project to increase efficiency in Zanzibar energy sector

VICE Chancellor for the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) Prof Mohammed Makame Haji has said that the launching of the 'Development of New Academic Curricula on Sustainable Energies and Green Economy in Africa - (DALILA)' Project at the varsity will help increase efficiency in Isles energy sector.

Speaking at an event to open a symposium for stakeholders at SUZA's Maruhubi college of tourism in the isles, Prof Makame said the symposium was aimed at finding new alternative energy sources apart from hydro.

He said the project will help develop the energy sector through enhancing development of solar together with enabling the youth to learn about programmes to let them

move out of poverty.

He said the project is aimed at supporting the modernization, accessibility and market-oriented of higher education in the partner countries in order to contribute to the development of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth.

"It also intended to answer the growing request of energy in Zanzibar to the new job market opportunities in the renewable energy sector in order to contribute to poverty reduction and to identify solutions and create more access and opportunity for all students," he said.

He added that the project will go a long way into helping fishermen who use solar boats hence enhancing

the growth of the blue economy in Zanzibar.

He called upon the youth, private sector together with the government to work together in promoting the project by using it in their various economic activities.

Project administrator at SUZA Said Bakar said the project will transform the energy sector but also contribute to the economic growth of Zanzibar.

He called upon the government to construct a special laboratory for energy projects so that they are easily implemented for guaranteed energy. The one day symposium involved experts, students and lectures from various universities both locally and internationally including Uganda, Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.



Terms of Reference: Scoping Study/Needs Assessment in Tanzania

1. CAMFED

The Campaign for Female Education, CAMFED, is an international non-profit organisation established in 1993 with a mission to multiply girls' access to education and accelerate the benefits to individuals, their families, and communities in Africa. CAMFED works to tackle poverty and inequality by supporting girls to go to school and succeed, and empowering young women to become leaders of change. CAMFED invests in girls and women in the poorest marginalised communities in sub-Saharan Africa, where girls face acute disadvantage but where their empowerment transforms communities. CAMFED was founded simultaneously in Zimbabwe and the UK in 1993 and currently operates in Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia with offices in each country as well as in the UK and USA.

2. Context

Sexual and reproductive health is closely intertwined with girls' educational attainment, and inextricably linked with social justice, economic development, and climate resilience. CAMFED's goal is to provide a sustainable solution to Sexual and Reproductive Health Education in the most marginalised communities of sub-Saharan Africa, where the current lack of provision has the most profound impact. The WHO-SRHR Infographic snapshot 2021 for Ghana shows that whilst 91.4% of women believe they should have final decisions regarding their own healthcare, only 52% of women aged 15 to 49 are making SRHR decisions. In Tanzania, the WHO Infographic snapshot 2021, shows a similar picture to that of Ghana with 96.8% of women of the belief that they should have the final say in decision making regarding their own healthcare and only 46.8% of women between the ages of 15-49 reporting they are able to make SRHR decisions. This gap in women's beliefs and the actual reality of what they are able to do highlights the need to enhance and increase women's empowerment to enable them to equitably access SRHR services and healthcare.

3. CAMFED's approach

Our unique approach to program delivery commits to identifying what works and embedding and scaling it within government systems at county and community level, in tandem with local initiatives, informed by data, to address the specific needs of marginalised youth in their particular context. In pursuit of long-term sustainable change, CAMFED delivers a bottom-up approach from the outset, engaging community members and government officials at local through to national levels in collaborative program design, implementation, and monitoring, embedding key interventions into existing system practices and leveraging existing government and community structures. This ensures ownership in communities and alignment with government and community priorities, and possible leverage of associated resources. Our current SRHR program is primarily delivered by Transition Guides (locally based young women volunteers), as part of CAMFED's post-school transition curriculum. Content includes HIV and AIDS, STIs, contraception, GBV and safer sex.

4. Introduction

In order to enhance the integration of SRHR awareness and delivery across CAMFED's programme, and research the impact of its program on SRHR outcomes for girls and young women, including boys and young men, living in severe multidimensional poverty, a scoping study needs assessment and out of school pilot study will be conducted. The scoping study needs assessment will map the landscape of SRHR need and demand within and outside schools in rural and marginalized communities, and provision and delivery by governments, CAMFED and cooperating partners in Tanzania. The pilot study will be informed by the findings of the needs assessment and trial the delivery of an enhanced - out of school - SRHR program. The scoping study needs assessment will provide evidence on what is happening and who are recipients, how SRHR is delivered and who are the key actors, how the impact of SRHR is measured, how and what data is collected at government and grassroots level and importantly what are the perceptions of girls and young women of the SRHR provision and accessibility of services. The pilot study will assess the effectiveness of an enhanced SRHR program, including its impact on SRHR knowledge and intent to use contraception among young women.

5. Purpose

These ToR cover the scoping exercise and needs analysis only. The scoping exercise will include a needs analysis of the existing landscape of the SRHR services and delivery in Tanzania. This landscape will include SRHR need and demand within rural communities and SRHR services and delivery of governments, CAMFED and other actors in this space. Key questions to be answered by the needs analysis and scoping exercise include:

- What is the current level of demand for SRHR knowledge, education and service provision among marginalised girls and young women in-school, out-of-school and post-school?
- What is the current level of satisfaction with SRHR education and service provision among marginalized girls and young women in-school, out-of-school, and post school?
- How are SRHR services perceived and how and when are marginalized girls/young women accessing those services.
- What is the current landscape of SRHR provision - including access to contraception - in rural, marginalised communities - who is involved within and outside government, and how is it funded?
- What is the political appetite for SRHR education/provision within and outside schools? How does this affect the provision and accessibility of services and information?
- What is the community/school leadership appetite for SRHR education/provision within and outside schools? How does this affect the provision and accessibility of services and information?
- What data is currently collected on SRHR knowledge/use/referrals among marginalized girls and young women.
- What opportunities exist for strengthening SRHR provision/delivery/access for marginalized girls and young women in rural communities, within and outside schools.

The needs analysis will identify the gaps and challenges that exist within the current landscape of SRHR provision within and outside school settings, and how and whether CAMFED's SRHR program or components of it can be enhanced, broadened, replicated, or adapted to address the gaps and challenges that exist. The needs analysis will include fact-finding discussions with key stakeholders at national, district, school, and community level e.g., students and post -school young women, teachers, Community Health Workers, nearby health expert, Head teachers, parents / guardians, school-based committees, traditional leaders, district nurses and district education officials.

The needs analysis and fact-finding discussions will be undertaken in close collaboration with the technical working group (TWG) in Tanzania. The TWG will comprise of national and local-level stakeholders, ranging from cross-sectoral ministry decision-makers and technical personnel, including the voices of young women from the CAMFED Association to form the SRHR technical working group (TWG)

The technical working group (TWG) will work with the research organisation to explore to what extent, and how, current SRHR provision and service delivery (by CAMFED, government and wider CSOs) addresses and prioritises the demands, satisfaction and needs of marginalised girls and young women within rural schools and communities.

Together, TWG members will learn more deeply about the SRHR interventions through in-person visits to schools and communities to conduct qualitative discussions with key stakeholders including traditional leaders, health workers, students, head teachers, learners, youth and young women and parents. The TWG will also engage communities to understand what they envisage as an optimum SRHR intervention and how best it will meet their needs and demands. The TWG will then assess how existing government funding and resources already earmarked for SRHR, could be allocated or leveraged to support implementation of an enhanced SRHR model that meets the needs of marginalised girls and young women. TWG will also contribute to research to understand how governments can adopt and sustainably scale an enhanced SRHR program in order to extend wider access to SRHR services for marginalised girls and young women in underserved communities of Tanzania.

CAMFED is looking to appoint experienced researchers who have conducted similar scoping studies and needs assessments within Tanzania and who are conversant in the main languages spoken in both countries.

We expect the researchers to develop a scoping study needs assessment framework and the key discussion qualitative Key Informant, Semi Structured and Focus Group Discussion questions for use with the identified key stakeholders in at least five marginalised districts in Tanzania. The researchers will be responsible for mapping out the sample of key stakeholders to be interviewed in each county through purposive sampling. This will include but is not limited to - in-school, out-of-school and post-school students (male and female), nearby health expert, teachers, parents, district officials, Head teachers, parent support groups, school-based committees, traditional leaders, CAMA members who are expert in SRHR etc.

The researchers will present the overall findings from the scoping study and needs assessment and also produce the data analysis and recommendations in a report. This evidence will be used to inform the TWG understanding of whether an enhanced SRHR program will benefit girls' and young women's education and health in marginalised districts in Tanzania and if so, how that model could be developed, replicated, or adapted in its entirety, or how components of the model will best serve marginalised girls and young women.

6. Key tasks

- To contribute to the development of the needs analysis framework for this scoping exercise and identify the key stakeholders for qualitative interviews.
- To work with CAMFED to develop the key fact-finding questions to be used with key stakeholders.

¹CAMFED Association members are girls who complete secondary school with CAMFED's comprehensive support and are eligible to join the CAMFED Association, the alumni network founded in 1998 by the first cohorts of girls to graduate. The Association is a self-governing network through which young women voluntarily commit to becoming advocates and activists for girls' welfare and education. Having succeeded against the odds, these young women know what it takes to support the most marginalised girls in their communities. There are currently 240,000 members of the CAMFED Association, a number which grows year-on-year as more girls graduate. By 2030, it is projected that the network will grow to over 540,000 members. As more girls graduate and become the supporters and role models for the younger generation. This creates a powerful platform for building young women's leadership and unlocking systemic change.

- To present the analysed findings of the scoping needs analysis clearly to enable informed recommendations to be derived from the evidence.
- To produce a report with the evidence from the scoping exercise with recommendations that will be used by CAMFED and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups; Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability; Ministry of education science and technology and ministry of health in Tanzania to make informed decisions on the next steps in relation to the delivery of an enhanced SRHR program and services for girls and young women.

7. Level of Effort and Time Frame

- We expect a team of up to four researchers to undertake this assignment in each country i.e., Tanzania with one of these researchers being the overall team leader/ project manager.
- We expect the researchers to familiarise themselves with the current landscape of SRHR provision / services in Tanzania.
- We expect the researchers to liaise closely with the CAMFED project lead for this scoping needs analysis and support logistical travel to join if necessary.
- We expect the work to commence in November 2023
- The report will be produced in first draft by June 2024 and finalised by July 2024
- We anticipate this assignment will take 40 days of consultancy time per consultant i.e., 15 days in the field, up to 8 days for travel, 6 days for the overall analysis of findings, 1 day for presentation of findings, 10 days for report writing.

8. Deliverables

- Contribute to the scoping needs analysis framework.
- Contribute to the key question sets for key stakeholders.
- Produce the analysed results from scoping study and needs assessment.
- Produce a high quality but concise report with the evidence from the scoping study and needs assessment.
- Ethical research guidance and safeguarding protocols and procedures

CAMFED has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and exploitation and maintains clear policies and guidelines for ethical research and safeguarding protocols as part of its broader Child Protection Policy and Code of Practice in relation to children, vulnerable adults, and the wider community. Evaluation and Research partners will be required to confirm in writing that they have reviewed and will conform to these policies and will be provided with additional training by CAMFED before travelling to the field.

CAMFED's Child Protection Policy and Code of Practice is included as an appendix to this document. The consultant will assume overall responsibility for the execution of the assignment and ensure data integrity, privacy and confidentiality are adhered to by the entire research team. All research data should be treated in the strictest confidentiality and in accordance with protocols agreed with CAMFED at the outset.

All research data including transcripts of all interviews with respondents will be submitted to CAMFED at the end of the research and be permanently deleted from the database of the consultant/s once the final report has been signed off and all of the assignment deliverables have been met.

10. Credentials

We are seeking a research partner that can bring a strong gender lens and focus to the scoping study needs analysis, that has an understanding of the education system and SRHR services and delivery in Tanzania. The researcher will need to have experience and expertise in conducting similar assignments in the context of marginalised girls and young women in West and East Africa. The researcher will need to apply expert qualitative analysis and insights with a pragmatic approach to inform the overall findings of the assignment.

We are happy to receive proposals from regional research organisations for the delivery of this scoping study/needs assessment, but they must have experienced and qualified national consultants who are based in Tanzania. The regional research organisation must demonstrate their ability to coordinate, manage, deliver and quality assure this multi country assignment.

We are also happy to receive single country proposals from research experts in Tanzania who have the requisite skills, experience, and expertise to conduct this scoping study/needs assessment.

11. Budget

The budget for this consultancy should be presented in USD and include the total fee rate and must include reimbursable expenses for travel, accommodation, and related incidentals for the fieldwork.

Payment will be made against agreed completed assignment deliverables as per signed contract.

Type of contract- The Consultant will be offered a fixed-price contract to include all the activities and agreed deliverables. Fees and reimbursable costs will be paid based on submission of deliverables - 20% on signing of the contract; 30% after the results have been presented and 50% on submission and sign off the final report.

12. Interested qualified and experienced qualitative researchers who have undertaken similar assignments should apply in writing with the proposed budget to kdamian@camfed.org copy ststanley@camfed.org; camfedtprocurement@camfed.org; (contact +2557627167070) by no later than start of business on 11th December 2023.

RC orders three employees to be suspended over theft allegations

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

NJOMBE Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka has ordered suspension of employees from the departments of ICT, procurement and secretary at the region's referral hospital pending investigations on theft allegations.

The employees are alleged to have colluded in stealing 15 televisions worth more than 11m/- and three computers which were stored in a container.

Mtaka gave the order shortly after the regional security and safety committee held a meeting with employees of the referral hospital. The meeting was convened following spreading information on theft of the mentioned items.

The Regional Commissioner gave a seven days ultimatum to security organs to complete investigations.

"Employees in the mentioned departments should not report at work from tomorrow. We will know exactly who was involved in stealing the hospital facilities because no door was broken," he said.

He added: "The hospital's secretary has been guaranteed and trusted to keep office keys; how can you collude with fellow workers to open the container, take televisions and sell them?"

Mtaka said upon completion of investigations, all the government funds must be returned because it is a shame for public servants to be involved in such scandals.

Regional Medical Officer, Wilfred Kyambile said he was informed

by the hospital's secretary of the missing 15 televisions. He said a written statement presented to him regarding theft of the ICT equipment showed that only three TVs were stolen from the container.

Earlier, Procurement Officer at the Njombe Referral Hospital, Aloyce Kavumika told the Regional Commissioner that he received 36 televisions worth 32m/-.

"I received a call from the hospital's quality assurance officer who informed me that the container was open and some televisions had been stolen," explained Kavumika.

The hospital's security guard, Godwin Mtenzi said that the container was not broken, but its doors were opened.

Njombe Regional Police Commander, Mahamoud Banga said they are investigating the incident.



Employees in the mentioned departments should not report at work from tomorrow. We will know exactly who was involved in stealing the hospital facilities because no door was broken



Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera (with microphone) and some Chunya district officials present gifts to twins of the same age at a ceremony that saw the RC launch Sangambi dispensary in Chunya District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Dawasa using online systems to enhance water services delivery

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has joined various joint online systems coordinated by e-Government Authority (e-GA) in an effort to improve the delivery of water services.

Charles Kayuza, DAWASA acting head of the information communication technology (ICT)

Division of the authority, said that they aim to improve the ways of providing services to people especially services available online.

He said that the Authority will benefit from the ICT systems because the security of the systems is guaranteed and will help stimulate efficiency in providing water services to customers.

"Currently, technology has brought great changes, so it is better to use systems with high security so that it can improve customer

service where there is certainty of access to systems at all times," explained Kayuza.

According to him, DAWASA through ICT staff will benefit by gaining great knowledge of how to run these systems efficiently and with quality to improve access to services for all customers.

Recently DAWASA introduced modern pre-paid water meters as part of avoiding accumulations of bill arrears for its customers. The authority has started to install the

meters in the water kiosks in the town of Chalinze Coast Region as a starting point and later will install those meters in its areas of services.

Emmanuel Mwanyamaki, DAWASA ICT officer said that improvement of the modern meters is being implemented by the local experts of the Authority immediately after the completion of the work of designing and designing the technology which was established early in the financial year 2023/2024.

He said the procedure for installing pre-paid meters started in September this year and now the work of improvements is continuing to increase efficiency in providing water service.

Fifty youths in Mwanza Region benefit from financial training

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has offered financial training to 50 youths engaging in agriculture and fishing activities in Mwanza city to equip them with knowledge on how to use the bank so that they can grow economically.

Angelina Nyansambo, bank's senior business development officer unveiled this here over the weekend when speaking to journalists concerning the training held at Nyakato vocational centre.

She said the move came after realizing that there is a gap of knowledge among youths on the operations of the bank

"So, this training can be used to boost their agriculture and fishing activities," she said, noting that youth should have adequate knowledge on bank operations and use it accordingly as it can help them with business loans.

According to her, until now they have offered banking training to over 2000 young farmers and fishermen across the country and the bank is ready to give loans to the youth owing to their needs.

She has appealed to the young people to team up in agricultural and fishing activities and form groups so that they can be easily granted loans by the bank, noting that such sectors are endowed with a lot of economic potential.

"The bank deals with groups and not an individual person therefore it is important the young people form groups so that the bank can work with them", she pointed out.

Business and loan officer of the bank in the Lake zone, Janet Urjo noted that the bank plays a significant role to ensure food security in the country as well as reducing post-harvest loss of agricultural produce.

She pointed out that agriculture is the backbone of the country and is supportive to build the economy and development of other sectors.

"We want the young people to change agriculture into employment therefore we give them financial education so that they can use the bank to get loans to advance in their activities," she said.

One of the beneficiaries of the training, Rafidh Adam praised the bank for offering them financial education and how to add value to agricultural produce such as changing maize into flour for gaining more profit.

"In the past I found it hard on how to process loans in banks for business capital but with the training now I can easily access loan from TADB provided I have reliable markets for my products", he noted.

He called upon young people, who access business loans from the bank to use them for which purposes they have been issued and not direct the money to luxury as that will ruin their future and live in poverty in adulthood.

Another beneficiary, Laila Peter has advised the young people to look for markets of their produce before they engage in business, noting that will help them not run at loss as they will be sure of customers.



We want the young people to change agriculture into employment therefore we give them financial education so that they can use the bank to get loans to advance in their activities



Nchagwa Chacha Marwa (R), a mining officer stationed at Mirerani tanzanite mine, has an audience with tanzanite stakeholders at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Ulega urges financiers: Invest in Lake Victoria zone tourism

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has encouraged investors to tap innumerable tourism investment opportunities in the lake zone including Chato District to massively promote tourism in the area.

Ulega made the call yesterday here when speaking at the inauguration of the 'Chato Utalii Festival 2023' which aims at promoting tourism and marketing investment opportunities available in Geita region.

He said that there lots of tourism

potentials in the lake zone and Geita Region in particular that are yet to be tapped "that's why I'm encouraging investors from all corners of the world to come and in tourism value chain."

He said that the region boasts an array of natural wonders including forests, waterfalls, mountains and savannahs which are home to various species such as elephants, lions, zebras and giraffes.

Apart from Burigi Chato National Park, Ulega also mentioned one of the most popular tourist-relevant sights in Geita as Rubondo Island National Park.

He stated that the festival carries

various investment concepts, especially in terms of agriculture, livestock and fishing, tourism, culture and sports.

Ulega further mentioned various sectors that have investment opportunities in the region noting that the government has injected 1.7bn/- for the construction of a storage facility and a large modern fish market in Chato district which will provide commercial opportunities and increase the value of fish and seafood products.

He added that the government has also injected 1.8bn/- for construction of a large facility to process fish at Rubambagwe

located in Chato district which will enable fishermen to fish in cages in Lake Victoria.

Ulega also said the ministry has built a modern livestock auction in Buzirayombo, which provides an opportunity for livestock keepers to conduct their livestock businesses.

He stated that the presence of a good number of livestock provides another opportunity to build a meat processing plant.

The minister mentioned other areas with opportunities as the construction of hotels of three-to-five-star status, saying plots are available in Chato district.

According to him, the government also intends to practice irrigation, since a large part of the Chato district is surrounded by Lake Victoria and the construction of textile factories due to the presence of cotton.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS FOR CUSTOMS AGENCY LICENSE FOR THE YEAR 2024

Following our earlier Public Notice inviting applications for Customs Agency Licenses for the year 2024, we hereby inform the applicants and the general public that after screening the applications, the following applicants have been shortlisted and are hereby invited for a written interview. The interview will be conducted on 06th January, 2024 at the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA), Mikocheni Industrial Area, Dar-es-salaam.

SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS FOR YEAR 2024 CUSTOMS AGENCY LICENSE

S/NO.	COMPANY NAME	INTERVIEWEE NAME
1	ACTIVE FREIGHT FORWARDERS COMPANY LIMITED	AUDAX .A. ANDREW
2	AFRIQUE LOGISTICS LIMITED	SEVERIA MARCO BANDA
3	AGA SURE LOGISTICS LIMITED	AMANI N FRANK
4	AGABA COMPANY LIMITED	PILI MAULID
5	AIRMARINE EXPRESS (T) LIMITED	PHINEAS RAYMOND SEPTEMBER
6	ALEKA HOLDINGS LIMITED	VIDEN REMMIGIUS CLEMMENCE
7	ALTE LOGISTICS LIMITED	PATRICIA RICHARD
8	AMBILLION INVESTMENT LIMITED	IREN MBURUMA
9	AMLINE COMPANY LIMITED	ISAAC PAUL MWANDIKO
10	ARDIMOL OILING (T) LIMITED	MAINE MALASHI MAYASI
11	ASAZA LOGISTICS LIMITED	ANDREW GODFREY MAHALI
12	ASPIRE LOGISTICS LIMITED	AMINA OMARY MHEZI
13	BAG-M LOGISTICS LIMITED	STADIUS WILLIAM KIIZA
14	BAGMA TRADING CO. LIMITED	GERALD GODIFREY LEINA
15	BALDWIN FREIGHT LIMITED	JACQULINE WILLIAM RENG
16	BALI CLEARING & FORWARDING AGENCIES LIMITED	CAREMA CALIST KILEO
17	BEEMOX COMPANY LIMITED	ISLAM ABDALLAH AHMED
18	BELARUSIAN COMPANY LIMITED	JUMA H.SAID
19	BENAZIR FREIGHT COMPANY LIMITED	FRENK P. NYAMUHANGA
20	BENDIO INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED	PIUS RICHARD MATEO
21	BHANJI TRANSPORT LIMITED	ALLY NUHU SAREVA
22	BIGFISH GENERAL SUPPLIES COMPANY LIMITED	NISAGURWE WILSON MWENDA
23	BIMAN LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	BILE KRINTON MGAYA
24	BLUE OAK FREIGHT FORWARDERS LIMITED	WAISAKA JUMA
25	BLUE WAVE FREIGHT LIMITED	OMARY R KITAMURO
26	BSK COMPANY LIMITED	FREDRICK MKAMI
27	CALLUM GROUP LIMITED	WITNESS JACOB KOMBA
28	CHIVULAMA COMPANY LIMITED	POLYCARP K MOLLEL
29	CROSSBORDER LOGISTICS SERVICES LIMITED	SINDA MWITA
30	DALBERGIA INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED	OGOICHE ALEC OGOICHE
31	DAPHIKA ETERNITY LIMITED	BILALI OMARY RASHIDI
32	DARGATE LOGISTICS LIMITED	DENNIS CHARLES MADINDA
33	DHOW C- F & LOGISTICS LIMITED	KARIM Y. NKYA
34	DREAMS ON DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED	DOREEN BOSCO
35	DRIZZLE CARGO CARE & EXPEDITION CO. LIMITED	MARIA C MWITA
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38	EASY CLEARING AND FORWARDING LIMITED	AVOIDNESS YONA MBUYA
39	EMERALD LOGISTICS LIMITED	SAMIJI ABASI MAHANYU
40	ENATICO PORTPLUS LIMITED	NANCY REGINALAD MARIM
41	ENELIAN CUSTOMS AND LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	ANYELWISYE ANTONY LWESYA
42	ESRY LOGISTICS GROUP LIMITED	IRENE SIMON SHIRIMA
43	EXODUS AGRO EXPORT LIMITED	STEPHEN JOSEPH NDANU
44	FASIMA GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED	EMMANUEL K KIWELU
45	FEHAN TRADING COMPANY LIMITED	BAKARI MWERI TAJIRI
46	FREIGHT ASSIST TANZANIA LIMITED	APRIL CHARLES IGOGO
47	FRENOD AND VIT LOGISTICS CO. LIMITED	FRANK MUGISHA
48	GARNET LOGISTICS LIMITED	MATHEW JOHNSON NZUGU
49	GEMSOL CLEARING & FREIGHT FORWARDING LIMITED	EMANUEL ABEL SOLO
50	GENIUS LOGISTICS LIMITED	MARY FEDRICK MAO
51	GEO86 COMPANY LIMITED	EUGEN APOLINARY THOMAS
52	GIRAFFE INTERMOVERS & LOGISTICS (T) LIMITED	DAMAS EDWARD BAYANGA
53	GLOBAL ULTIMATE COMPANY LIMITED	ABIGAE SYLVESTER MATHIAS
54	GLOBESTONE (T) LIMITED	HARUNA ABUU SEUGATA
55	GOLDEN CLEARING AND FORWARDING COMPANY LIMITED	JAMAL A. KAMUJE
56	GOOD SHINE LOGISTICS LIMITED	DAUDI THOMAS MAUGO
57	GWALU LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	BENSON KENNEDY TOWO
58	HAFASH FREIGHT FORWARDERS LIMITED	SALUM MWINYIHAMISI TUMBO
59	HANKUNGWE. INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED	FAHIMA ABDALLAH KHAMIS
60	HN INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT SERVICES LIMITED	NURU SHARIF ALUI
61	ICHIBAN LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	KHAMIS JUMA MKINYA
62	IGANZI LOGISTICS LIMITED	MUDATHIR WAZIR HAJI
63	ILU FREIGHT COMPANY LIMITED	ERICK SIMON MOLLEL
64	ITC LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	WARDA HASSAN SINGANO
65	IZONE FREIGHT LIMITED	ISHAKA MWENDAPOLE KABAJU
66	J & E INTERNATIONAL COMPANY LIMITED	STEPHEN CLEMENCE BISIMBA
67	JAMKAM TRADERS (T) COMPANY LIMITED	KANUTI BARNABAS SILAYO
68	JAT GLOBAL COMPANY LIMITED	LUCY DONALD
69	JO & JO INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED	ROY GODWIN AZZA
70	JORATRIP COMPANY LIMITED	PHILEMON RAPHEL SABAGA
71	JUER LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	BARAKA WAZIRI
72	KAZENI LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	EMMANUEL JULIUS NGOTI
73	KENEH LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	KAMUGISHA SIMEO CLIZANT
74	KHAMO LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	MOHAMEDI RAMADHANI MWAIMU
75	KIEMBA GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED	POLYCARP KISERIA MOLLEL
76	KILEKINZALA COMPANY LIMITED	ANNAMARIA CHRISANTUS ZAPOKA
77	KLEINS LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED	MWINYI VUTO KAIMA
78	KLIPPE ENTERPRISES LIMITED	ZULFA MUHENE ABDALLAH
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126	QARIAH INVESTMENT LIMITED	ATHUMANI ZAIDU KABELWA
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170	YOSAM LOGISTICS TANZANIA LIMITED	MSINA SAIDI
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CONDITIONS TO BE FULFILLED BY ALL SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS:

- Applicant is required to submit two(2) copies of introduction letter affixed with passport size photograph of interviewee not later than 01st December, 2023.
- Interviewee is required to come with introduction letter signed by the Director of the Company, identity card (driving license, NIDA or voter's registration card), pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.
- Interview will start at 08:30 a.m. and all candidates should report before 07:30 a.m. for registration.

- NB:**
- This notice is also published in the TRA website www.tra.go.tz
 - Applicants who are not appearing in this notice did not qualify for the interview.
 - Unsuccessful applicants who wishes to appeal must submit their request within seven days from the date of this notice otherwise their appeals shall not be processed.

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Juma Hassan
Ag. COMMISSIONER FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

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Intense co-operation in technical training helps in standards uplift

CONCERTED efforts are being made to cultivate wider avenues in Tanzania-China cooperation with 11 technical colleges in China signing up to exchange skills and experience with their Tanzanian counterparts.

It is similarly intended that the Chinese colleges examine the curricula applied in the Tanzanian colleges to see where to make improvements as part of a wider initiative known as the China-Africa Alliance.

A Chinese delegation has been attending a two-day seminar with their local colleagues, mainly to lay the groundwork for stationing.

A top official of the Education, Science and Technology ministry explained that the government was intensifying its efforts in technical education so that more Tanzanian youths have a clear opening in life, or land job fixations upon graduating.

Tanzanian experts see immense reason to tap experience and skills from Chinese colleges boasting longer track records and adaptation to global technological trends, or adapting to changes in plants and machinery for certain tasks over the years.

The fact is that at times we fail to make our minds here as to whether we need new technology or just reactivate old factories.

The top ministry official remarked, among other things, that our colleges need to learn so that they produce experts who can be competitive at local and international levels.

Obviously, the reference is chiefly to the regional neighbourhood especially in that, with greater trade interactions and the removal of visa requirements among member states of the East African Community (EAC), chances are that a series of job openings will assume a regional character.

There are many interactive investment projects, among them the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) now starting to roll out.

Technical cooperation is all the same not a new idea with China and to an extent with other countries, notably the older trading countries once standing as the leading trade partners for Tanzania.

Times change, and at present Asia looms larger than the West in trade exchanges and capital flows with us, apart from higher local trade and investments from within the East African sub-region.

The West is at present more a sphere of civic interactions and multilateral engagements, along with some niche markets including horticulture or agro-produce in the EU market.

This implies that many of the technical problems that the current phase of agro-sector modernisation and the strengthening of industrial sector investments will likely have more in common with the Chinese experience than with Western partners.

Meanwhile, there is plenty of interaction between China and the West, and much of what innovators could think of applying here is already in place. It needs to be identified.

A leading official at NACTIVET, our national council for technical and vocational education, made reference to international standards of training and skills which investors need to see when they set foot here and need to employ technicians to assist them.

This ought to be seen in the background of innumerable complaints from local investors as to the employability or otherwise of university and college graduates.

It clearly calls for broadening reference parameters - from an inward-looking perspective to an international matrix.

It isn't a matter of having an external examiner during final exams and obtaining advice but, rather, seeking synthesis of what is taught here and its replica, presumably, elsewhere. There should surely be no room for mistrust in that regard.

Having more classrooms, scrapping fees not yet enough to get all pupils in school

AN investigative report in The Guardian's sister newspaper has been peering into how life expectations are far from rosy for children in Bunda District, Mara Region.

There, many young boys are put to routine work like tending cows in grazing fields while others go to the lake alongside their seniors to fish.

Much the same applies to girls, as they are also put to work and being placed in the marriage way as their families have plans not just with cattle but as insurance against threats of unplanned pregnancies, which are taboo in village life. No easy way out of it.

Figures of children dropping out of school in the district are rather sobering, showing that during the between 2018 and 2021 upwards of 55 per cent of 13,625 pupils in primary school did not finish school.

The figures are declining as data for last year indicate that 1,717 pupils absconded from school last year, just over 15 per cent of those supposed to be in school, and this year 994 pupils have already sought 'greener pastures' out of school, 9.6 per cent of those expected to have been schooling now.

While the documentary and the policy-making scene finds the situation definitely unacceptable, there is a silver lining to it in relation to traditional thinking on education.

There is something we used to call 'education for self-reliance', which is now translated as finishing all ladders of education (especially for young girls) to avoid taking the route of domestic violence and lack of avenues in terms of supporting their lives out of school.

Skipping school isn't just ignorance. It has to do with personal choices and

mental readiness for what sort of life one expects after school, and these days tens of thousands of university and college graduates are in the streets, looking for something gainful to busy themselves with.

This sends the wrong message to those still at lower levels of school, particularly when families believe that taking up a different path is beneficial.

They don't dwell on official policies and what we often call 'dreams' of young people, as those who have obtained certificates, diplomas and degrees but languish demonstrate that these hopes can easily be identified with pipe dreams, even if many more live well.

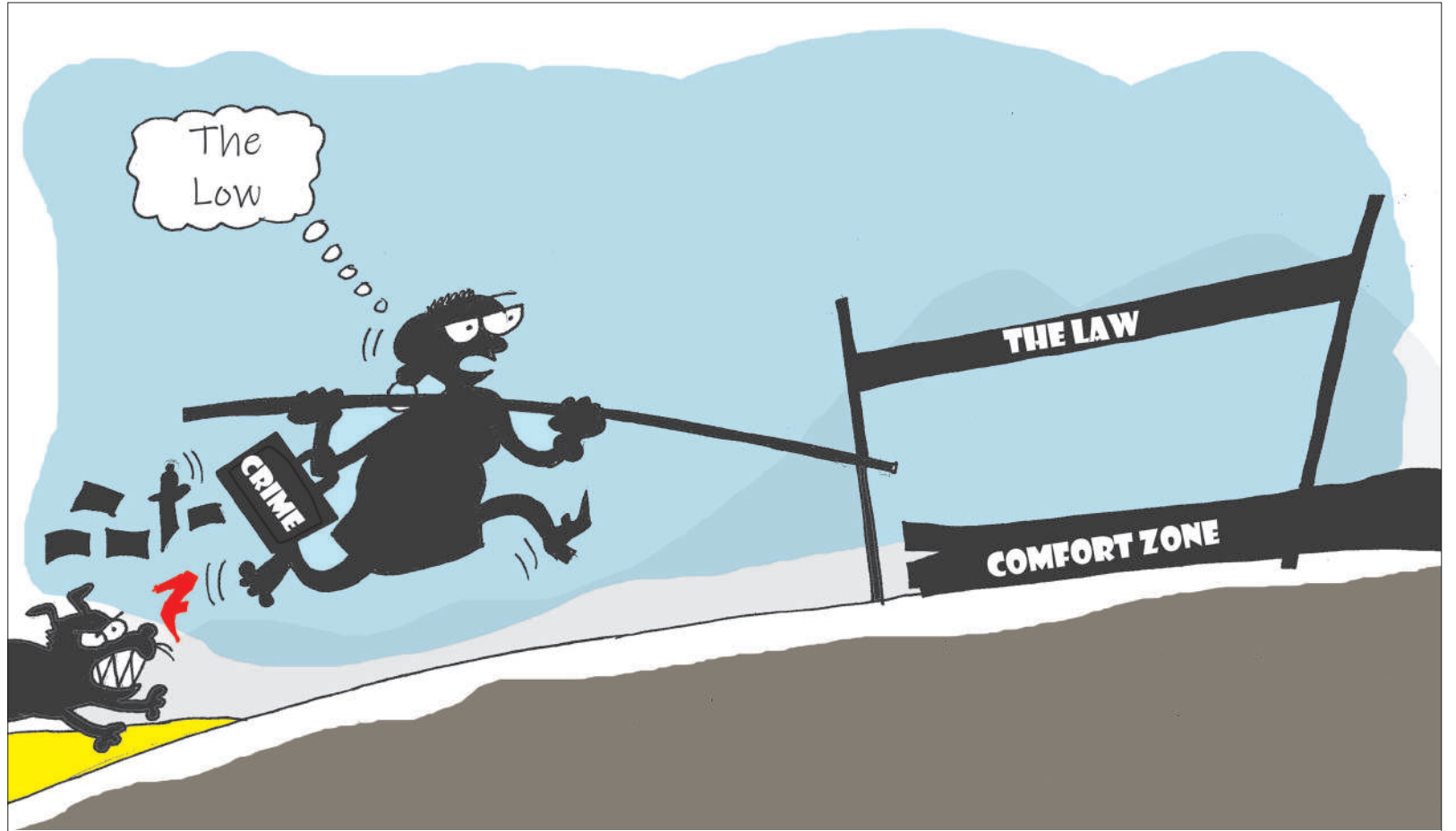
What comes up in the documentary is that numerous economic activities are each day sprouting in villages or close to them, and these openings captivate youths more than the formal schooling and later technical training so that they are able to employ themselves or be employed.

The young men and women - or, rather, boys and girls - dropping out of school do not stay idle at home, a remarkable contrast with their learned brothers with degrees.

Purely traditional ways of life will persist until more and more investments 'sprout' in the likes of agricultural, livestock and mining sectors.

Thus, it promises to continue being difficult to herd all these young people in making lifetime choices - because we want them more in school.

The willingness to learn some traditional craft/role or the other is done at an early age, known as apprenticeship, and it can't be done later. When the worst come to the worst, then, there should be skipping learning some of these skills merely for fear of "ruining schooling prestige".



By Stefan Anderson

AFRICA is home to many of the world's fastest-growing urban centres - and a crisis of air pollution faces the continent's rapidly expanding cities, according to a new Clean Air Fund report released recently.

Africa, home to the world's youngest population, is expected to see its population nearly double by mid-century, reaching 3.9 billion by 2100.

Over 65 per cent of Africa's population will reside in urban areas by 2060, with the continent potentially hosting five of the world's ten largest megacities by the end of the century, according to the report.

The 600-mile (960 km) coastline stretching from Lagos in Nigeria to Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire alone is projected to be home to around half a billion people by 2100.

Africa's rapid urbanisation is providing an engine for its fast-growing economies, but there is a significant hidden cost: air pollution.

"The challenges flowing from rapid urbanisation across the continent are immense, including drastic increases in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which, if unchecked, will bring disastrous consequences for human and economic health," African Development Bank (AfDB) chief economist Kevin Urama explained in a statement accompanying the report's launch.

The study focuses on six major and rapidly expanding African cities - Accra, Cairo, Johannesburg, Lagos, Nairobi and Yaoundé.

Air pollution led to over 56,400 premature deaths across the six cities in 2022, costing a minimum of US\$2 billion, the report found. It said toxic air claimed an estimated 1.1 million lives across Africa in 2019 - surpassing the combined toll of tobacco, alcohol, motor vehicle accidents and unsafe water.

Road traffic is identified as the largest contributor to PM2.5 air pollution concentrations across the six cities studied, accounting for 30 per cent and 40 per cent of PM2.5 concentrations in Lagos and Accra, respectively.

Other culprits include industrial activities, power plants, biomass fuels and waste mismanagement. As the cities grow and their populations rise, emissions from these sources are set to skyrocket. More people will require more cars, energy, and fuels, and create more waste, leading to a spike in air pollution.

If current trends persist, the financial toll of air pollution in Africa's major cities could surge more than eightfold by 2040, according to the report.

The cost will also be paid in over

Air pollution crisis looms all over Africa's expanding cities



one million premature deaths by 2040 - 109,000 of which can be saved by implementing policies meant to combat air pollution.

"On the current trajectory, following a 'business as usual' approach means that air pollution will collectively cost Accra, Cairo, Johannesburg, Lagos, Nairobi, and Yaoundé an estimated US\$138 billion in premature deaths and worker absenteeism over the next two decades," said Urama.

Despite the grim outlook, the report presents a roadmap to avert the potentially catastrophic consequences of air pollution. It emphasizes the potential for substantial economic benefits - billions of dollars saved, reduced deaths, improved public health, lower emissions, and decreased poverty - of implementing policies promoting green growth.

The report calls upon African governments to review high-emitting sectors at the national level, including energy, transport, industry, power production, agriculture and waste management.

By identifying ways to reduce air pollution in these sectors, governments can simultaneously address climate change and create opportunities for green economic growth.

The report also emphasizes the need to enshrine air quality targets into national and district-level laws, ensuring long-term commitment beyond political cycles.

City mayors and local government leaders are called upon to adopt low-cost, low-maintenance air quality monitoring devices to gather comprehensive data for evidence-based decision-making.

The report says these devices will

enable cities to pinpoint pollution hotspots, track trends and assess the effectiveness of mitigation strategies.

As more governments and municipalities embrace air monitoring technologies, data sharing can also be enhanced across borders and within countries, empowering local and national authorities to formulate evidence-based policies on air quality-related public health matters.

Across Accra, Cairo, Johannesburg, Lagos, Nairobi and Yaoundé, implementing clean air measures such as upgrading public transport and adopting cleaner cook-stoves could save over US\$19.2 billion across the six cities by 2040.

In Accra, which will host the first-ever World Health Organisation air pollution summit in 2024, the economic impact of air pollution - including absenteeism and premature mortality - is expected to quadruple between 2019 and 2040.

However, the city could unlock over US\$25 million in 2040 alone through implementing measures to reduce air pollution.

While the report's financial projections are significant, it acknowledges that the true benefits could be even greater, considering the positive ripple effects on healthcare, agriculture, productivity and the environment.

"The projected benefits from air quality action are expressed in this study in financial terms, but these financialised benefits should not be understood to mean tangible funds raised or costs saved," the report notes.

It adds: "The co-benefits gained from air quality action provide

greater cost-effectiveness that recycles into local economies, strengthening health systems, businesses and government finances."

The report also highlights the startling lack of international and multilateral development funding to fight air pollution in Africa, with only 5 per cent of total aid directed at reducing air pollution on the continent.

In Lagos, a city home to nearly 16 million people, the official development funding directed towards air pollution from 2015 to 2020 amounted to a mere US\$0.25 million. Air pollution claimed 70,000 in the city in 2019 alone.

Between 2015 and 2021, donor governments provided a stunning 36 times more aid for prolonging fossil fuel use in Africa than tackling air pollution, while the continent faced temperatures warming faster than the global average.

The report calls upon international and multilateral development banks to provide increased technical support to assist countries in accessing green funds.

Dedicated funds for financing air quality data monitoring capacities are recommended, acknowledging the critical role such data play in obtaining other climate financing.

"It is well understood that tackling poverty, bringing clean water to people everywhere, and investing in education are all critical to Africa's development," said Urama, adding: "Ensuring that our citizens can breathe the clean air is also a vital, but too often neglected, piece of this puzzle."

* Agencies

Autocracy on the rise, warn civil society groups, seeking UN expert on democracy

UNITED NATIONS

The rise in authoritarianism worldwide has prompted a coalition of over 85 civil society organizations (CSOs) to call on the Geneva-based Human Rights Council to appoint a Special Rapporteur—an independent UN expert—to protect democracy and reverse its decline.

The joint appeal comes ahead of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which will be commemorated on 10 December 2023.

Andreas Bummel, Executive Director, Democracy Without Borders, told IPS the proposed Rapporteur is not necessarily supposed to make general judgements on whether a country is democratically ruled or not.

But it will be useful for the Rapporteur to identify specific democratic shortcomings based on principles the UN has set up thus far, he pointed out.

For instance, the existence of a pluralistic system of political parties is one such principle. Obviously, one party states are at odds with this.

Apart from shortcomings, the Rapporteur should also try to identify best practices, or in other words, where does democracy perform very well and why, so others can learn from this, said Bummel.

“Democracy is a human right and human rights depend on democracy. The UN can no longer look the other way while this right is being denied, undermined and weakened in many countries around the world. A UN Rapporteur on Democracy (UNRoD) is urgently needed”, he argued.

In terms of which countries are facing challenges, the Rapporteur can draw on international assessments like those made by V-Dem or International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), a Stockholm-based intergovernmental organization that works to support and strengthen democratic institutions and processes around the world.

According to International IDEA's latest report, presented earlier this month, the strongest democratic decline in the past years was observed in Benin, Bela-



UN Human Rights Council in session. Credit: UN Photo/Violaine Martin

rus, El Salvador, Afghanistan and Myanmar, among others. Syria, North Korea and China are among the most autocratic countries according to V-Dem, he said.

Currently two of the world's largest democracies are India (population: 1.4 billion) and the US. (332 million)

India ranks 108th in the Electoral Democracy Index of the V-dem Democracy* report 2023. The U.S., described as a flawed democracy, ranks 30th overall in the world. At the top of the democracy index are Norway ranking number one, followed by New Zealand, Finland and Sweden.

Although Joe Biden won the 2020 US presidential election, his rival Donald Trump has refused to concede defeat, making false allegations that the voting was rigged—which prompted an attack by his supporters on the seat of the US government on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021.

The charges of a “stolen election” have also undermined democracy in the US.

In an article on November 21, the New York Times said that Trump, who is currently the leading Republican candidate for the US presidential elections next year, has “used language that echoed to-

talitarian leaders who rose to power in Germany and Italy in the 1930s degrading his political adversaries as “vermin” who needed to be “rooted out”.

The Times said Trump's rhetoric has sounded new alarms among experts on autocracy who have long worried about his praise for foreign dictators and disdain for democratic ideals—all of which will be on full display if he is returned to power.

Meanwhile, the recent epidemic of coups in Africa – including military take-overs in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Gabon- have also triggered the inevitable question: Is multi-party democracy on the retreat?

The Open Society Barometer, an annual global survey from Open Society Foundations, launched last September, reflects the positive and negative aspects of the state democracy worldwide.

The survey finds that young people around the world (Generation Z and millennials) “hold the least faith in democracy of any age group, presenting a grave threat to its future”.

Over a third (35%) of respondents in the 18-35 age group were supportive of a strong leader who does away with parliament and elections.

A large minority of young people surveyed (42%) feel that military rule is a good way of running a country. A similar number (35%) feel that having a strong leader who does not bother with elections or consulting parliament/congress is a good way of running a country.

This compares to 20% that support military rule and 26% that are in favor of a strong leader in the 56 plus age bracket.

According to a statement by the coalition, “democracy is threatened and authoritarianism is on the rise”. In this situation, the UN “needs to do more to strengthen human rights and democracy”, the statement says

The statement points out that the new mandate can be based on UN resolutions that identify and support democratic principles. This includes the “central democratic principle” that “public authority must derive from the will of the people” which is expressed in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At a time when democracy is challenged by autocracies and undermined in many democracies, the proposal for a UN Rapporteur on Democracy deserves urgent and serious consideration. It is fully endorsed by the V-Dem

project and its Steering Committee, said political scientist Staffan Lindberg, Director, Varieties of Democracy Institute* (V-Dem) at the University of Gothenburg.

Natalie Samarasinghe, Global Director of Advocacy, Open Society Foundations, said people believe in democracy. But their hopes are being crushed as states fail to deliver and trample on the rules that protect us.

At a time of crisis and contested narratives, the UN must use every possible tool to empower people: a Special Rapporteur on Democracy would be a good start, she said.

Rebecca A. Shoot, Executive Director, Citizens for Global Solutions said democracy is a fundamental human right that cannot be taken for granted in any corner of the world.

“In recent years, we have seen backsliding, erosion, and authoritarian encroachment that democracy champions have bravely stood against across the globe. They must not stand alone”.

The UN Special Rapporteur system is an invaluable tool for advancing human rights. It is time that this powerful mechanism be deployed in support of democracy, she declared.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Kenya abortions: Women go to backstreet clinics amid legal ambiguity

NAIROBI

Legal ambiguity over abortions in Kenya is pushing thousands of women to turn to backstreet clinics. BBC Africa Eye explores how abortion is shrouded in stigma and misinformation.

Edith is lying on a bed covered in old newspaper in a backstreet clinic in Nairobi.

Her legs are held high by stirrups while a man in a white medical coat explains he is about to put some medicine inside her uterus. A red bucket of bleach containing medical instruments sits on the floor.

The mum-of-three, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, is four months pregnant and is about to have an abortion.

“I had to terminate because I had to go back to work, and I have another small baby,” she later tells BBC Africa Eye.

Abortion is a complicated issue in Kenya.

The penal code, which has its origins in the colonial era, outlaws abortion, criminalising the woman, the person who carries out the abortion and the person who supplies the material required.

However, the 2010 constitution, combined with a wider body of law, does allow abortion when “the life or health of the mother is in danger” or when the pregnancy has resulted from rape or incest.

Edith discovered she was HIV-positive a few years ago. Her partner, after refusing to get tested himself, later left her.

A lawyer told the BBC that having a child while living with HIV meant “her physical wellbeing is probably in danger”. This, as well as other factors, meant that Edith may have qualified for a legal abortion.

But she felt the backstreet clinic was her only choice.



Charles Kanjama, in the white T-shirt, opposes changing the law to make it easier to get an abortion

Few doctors providing legal abortions are willing to talk about the issue openly.

High-profile arrests over the years have made the situation “dangerous for health workers”, according to Prof Joachim Osur, a reproductive and sexual health expert at Amref International University in Nairobi. It is about how the law is understood.

“Depending on how the judge interprets the legality of the procedure that someone has done, it can go either way,” he says.

In 2004, Dr John Nyamu, along with two nurses, was arrested for the murder of two fetuses, a crime that carried the death penalty.

He was held at the Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in Nairobi for 12 months before he was found not guilty.

The media sensation in Kenya around his case eventually led to the formation of the Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance. It was this group that led the debate to help draft the 2010 constitution, which for the first time in the country's history provided a legal, albeit limited, avenue for abortion.

However, Dr Nyamu, who now provides safe and legal abortions, believes that the legal ambiguity over abortion makes it hard for women to access these

services, even when they should be allowed and particularly in public health facilities.

“Unsafe abortion is rampant in Kenya,” he says, arguing that poor women suffer the most as safe terminations are not available in public hospitals because of the uncertainty and lack of guidelines. The unsafe abortions they then seek can lead to health problems.

“The ones who come with the post-abortion complications, most of them are young people.... The women actually start [the procedure] themselves, or they do it with assistance of an untrained person,” Dr Nyamu adds.

According to the global human rights organisation, Center for Reproductive Rights, around seven women and girls die every day in Kenya because of unsafe abortions. Thousands more are hospitalised.

At an unregulated clinic on the outskirts of Nairobi, the man in charge offers women abortions for 2,500 Kenyan shillings (\$16; £13).

“We have girls who are still going to school. You get others who are raped.

“You get someone who is not ready, and they want to terminate it. We do help because they come for help. They need that help from us,” he says, speak-

ing on condition of anonymity.

He charges extra for the safe disposal of the foetus. If the woman cannot afford that he pays someone to throw it in the river.

Anti-abortion campaigners and associated religious organisations in Kenya, many of whom are supported by the anti-abortion lobby in the United States, insist the law is clear: abortion is illegal.

Charles Kanjama, chairperson of the Kenya Christian Professionals Forum, regularly speaks out against abortion and organises rallies in Nairobi.

“For us, we don't think there is any contradiction. We think [the penal code and the constitution] are aligned. I do not support an amendment of our laws to remove the crime of abortion,” he says.

In 2012, the government published guidelines for health workers on legal abortions. A year later they were withdrawn, and training on safe abortion care was suspended.

That remains the case and Mr Kanjama's group wants it to stay that way.

“Our position is that whether abortion is safe or unsafe, first of all, the child always dies. So, it is always unsafe for the child. And number two, you cannot train people to do something that is illegal in the country.”

There are many leading voices in Kenya who disagree.

MP Esther Passaris not only speaks out in favour of abortion but is pushing for improved sexual health and family planning education too.

“Our constitution allows abortion only when the wellbeing of the mother is in question, and the wellbeing is not just physical and biological, it's emotional and economical.

“I think it's about time that we understand the emotional burden of not having access to family planning, not empowering the woman so that she knows that she doesn't have to become a baby-

producing machine.”

Ms Passaris says that while the 2010 constitution legalised abortion in certain circumstances, she argues that the fear around it restricts women's access to health services, particularly for those from poorer communities.

“The rich have an opportunity to take their children to five-star hospitals and procure a safe abortion, silently, without anyone knowing or speaking. But the poor have to struggle,” she says.

In March 2022, Kenya's High Court affirmed abortion as a fundamental right under the terms of constitution and ruled that arbitrary arrests were illegal, but it has done little to allay the fears of some women, like Edith.

Back in the clinic where she is seeking a termination, the man, who says he trained as a doctor and performs around 150 abortions a month, has finished putting the medicine inside her to induce an abortion.

“We have, like, four to five hours before the medicine starts taking action. But later, when hell breaks loose, she's going to experience the same thing people experience when giving birth,” he says.

Edith saved up 4,000 Kenyan shillings for the abortion. It was not enough but the clinic agreed to do the procedure on condition she would pay more later.

A week after the abortion, Edith speaks to the BBC again, describing what it was like to get an abortion in secret.

“I was alone and in so much pain that I was hitting the walls. I was wondering what was going on, if this was a birth. I was thinking: ‘I don't want to die in this house alone.’

“You do it in pain, because you did not expect something like that. You love children but considering the life you live, you have to do that.”

US-China climate agreement: A leap forward in global climate cooperation



UN Secretary-General António Guterres looks across the ice sheet at Frei Antarctica base. Credit: UN Photo/Mark

As promised in the previous article, today's piece continues with powers of estate administrator after being duly appointed by a court of law. The point of emphasis was that parties are required to be careful when proposing who a person to step into the shoes of the deceased.

However, it should be noted that the administrator can be removed from his or her office by court of law through legal grounds listed in section 49 of the Probate and Administration Act although previous transactions before his or her removal cannot be reversed or erased unless fraud is proved on the required standards and the third party such as purchaser should also be an integral part of the said fraud.

Failure to prove fraud to the required standards means allegations of fraud cannot vitiate legal transaction conducted by the previous administrator.

In the case of Mille Alfan Ismail and Zainabu Mzee vrs Sofia Mzaki, Civil Appeal No 75 of 2008, the successor administrator moved to court seeking to nullify all the transactions done by the previous administrator.

The Court of Appeal rejected the prayers and stated very clear that when the first administrator of the estate is revoked, the previous transactions remain intact. Rationale of this is to uphold the office of administrator because otherwise, there will not be an end to administration and no one can be able to purchase properties of deceased persons for fear that the transaction can be set aside by the court of law.

After looking at the general powers of the administrator once appointed, today, let highlight duties. Among the core duties of the administrator once appointed is to trace all claims or debts against the deceased and

properties left behind.

Once the same is done, then filing of inventory and accounts to exhibit the deceased's estate is the next step. This is governed by section 106 and 107 of the Probate and Administration Act.

Inventory is required to be filed on or before lapse of the six months from the date of appointment while accounts should be filed on or before lapse of one year. Extension of time may be sought and granted by the court of law upon showing sound reasons as to why the said statutory task was not finalized within given statutory time.

It is legally important to look at what is inventory and accounts so that one may have good picture on what is required to be filed in court.

An inventory is a list of the deceased's assets which contains its value, liabilities and other related costs while accounts refers to the collection of records about income, gains, losses and distribution of the estate to the rightful beneficiaries.

Accounts part is always available after creation of an inventory. Therefore, there cannot be accounts without having an inventory first. Formant of how inventory and accounts look like is available in the statutes.

Distribution of the deceased's estate to the rightful beneficiaries is supposed to be indicated in the accounts filed by the administrator in a court of law. A pointed earlier, the administrator is not required to consult the beneficiaries on how to distribute the estate but to discharge duties in accordance with the law and good faith.

Among the rationale of exhibiting inventory and accounts is to keep the

beneficiaries informed on the status of the deceased's estate and to have transparency in the administration of the deceased's estate.

Laws which may be used in distribution of estate vary from estate to estate but legal test used to determine which law is the mode of life which the deceased lived during his or her life as decided in the case of Innocent Mbiliyi (1969) HCD No 283.

It was stated that if the deceased lived in accordance with Christian beliefs or in accordance with government rules then the law applicable was supposed to be the Indian Succession Act of 1865 but if he lived in accordance with customary beliefs, then Local Customary Law (Declaration) No 4 Order (GN No 436/1963) was to be applied.

One benefit of applying the Indian Succession Act under section 30 is that it provides more advantage to the wife of the deceased upon proving that she was part and parcel of acquisition of the deceased's properties and children of deceased are treated equally in division of the estate.

Further, it is imperative for our readers to take note, particularly those who purchased properties which are registered in the name of the deceased, that once the administrator is appointed to administer the estate, he or she has mandate under section 99 to sale or to dispose of the deceased's estate.

However, some conditions must be met for the administrator to be permitted legally to sale or dispose of the deceased's registered properties. Section 67 of the Land Registration Act, Cap 334 requires the administrator to

be registered as the owner of the deceased's estate instead of the deceased so that he or she can have legal mandate under section 68 of the above act to sale the deceased's properties.

Any transaction which violates the above mandatory provision of the law cannot be protected in the eyes of the law; the court will nullify the said transaction.

In the case of Abbas Asly Athuman Bantulaki & other vs Kelvin Victor Mahity, (administrator of the Estate of the late Peter Walcher) Civil Appeal No 385 of 2019, the Court of Appeal stated very clear that because of the failure by the administrator to be registered with registrar of titles in place of the deceased, he could not have mandate to sale the deceased's estate.

The transaction was nullified due to the above shortfall. Therefore, it is our advice particularly to the purchaser, among other things, is required to be satisfied before purchasing properties registered in the deceased's name to ensure the seller is registered as the owner instead of the deceased.

As pointed in part one of this article, the administrator is required to discharge duties assigned to his or her offices in accordance with the law and in good faith. However, in the event the administrator violates the law in discharging duties, then he or she can be removed from the assigned office.

But mere allegations against the administrator in discharging his or her duties are not sufficient for removal. Rather, section 49 of the Probate and Administration provides guidelines in case the administrator violates the law and the court can remove him or

her from the administration. Such grounds include failure to distribute the deceased's estate, failure to file inventory and accounts among many other reasons.

It is the court of law which has mandate to remove the administrator from the office upon application made by either beneficiaries or any person who has interest in the deceased's estate.

Once the administrator is removed from the office, section 49(2) provides powers to the Judge of the High Court to appoint the successor administrator. There was tag of arguments in the Civil Appeal No 183 of 2016 between Joseph Shumbusho vs Mary Grace Tigwera and 2 others.

In this case, the court held that rationale behind the power vested upon the Judge of the High Court is that the office of the administration cannot be left without a person to administer it. Therefore, once the administrator is removed from that office, then automatically the Judge has mandate to elect any person as successor administrator without having formal application. So, as a matter of procedure, there should be facts as to why a certain person should be appointed because the court cannot act without having facts in place.

Lastly, it is practice of many people's belief that once you are appointed as administrator, then you will be in that office for life. This is not correct because under section 107 and 108 of the Probate and Administration provide that administrator is required to inform the beneficiaries on the inventory and accounts filed in court.

In the Misc Application No 7 of 2021 between Miriam John Mallya & 3 others vs Marian John Mallya (executrix of estate of the late John Kachel Mallya) the court was very clear that probate and administration is closed once a court order is issued.

The same position was also stated in the Court of Appeal case between Andrew G.Mfuko (suing in person) vs George C Mfuko, Civil Appeal 320 of 2021. Therefore, it is important for the administrator to close the office through court order and once the office is closed, he or she cannot sue or be sued through decree unless one opts to sue the administrator personally.

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

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address **Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM.** You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



Rare elephant twins born in Kenya's reserve

By Emma Ogao, Nairobi

AN elephant in Kenya has given birth to a rare set of twins, conservation group Save the Elephants has announced.

The two baby elephant calves - both female - were born to a mother elephant named Alto in Kenya's Samburu National Reserve.

"Yet another set of twins have been born in Samburu National Reserve" Save the Elephants announced in an Instagram post. "Alto from the Clouds has astonished us with her own set of twins. Her two adorable female calves, estimated to be just days old, were first spotted by our researchers in Samburu National Reserve this week."

Described as "amazing odds," the birth is the second arrival of twins in Kenya's Samburu National Reserve

in the span of two years. The birth of Alto's twins follow the recent birth of another set of twin calves - one male and female - from a mother elephant named Bora. The twins from Bora were the first set of twins born in the reserve in decades, Samburu said.

However, born into "one of the worst droughts" experienced in Northern Kenya that led to a shortage of food for wildlife in the region, one of Bora's twins sadly passed away in November 2022.

In this screen grab from a video posted to the Instagram account of Save the Elephants, a set of elephant twins is shown in Kenya.

"Twins are rarely encountered in elephant populations - and from only one percent of births," Save the Elephants said in a statement.

"Elephant twins rarely survive in the wild but we're optimistic about Alto's

twins as there is lots of food in the park following the rains."

"Alto should be able to produce plenty of milk to feed her hungry brood, plus she also has the amazing support of her herd," the group said.

Elephants have the longest gestation period among living mammals, lasting 95 weeks on average in the African elephant, according to scientists.

The news of the "double joy" was met with delight in Kenya. The African savannah elephant species is currently listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

Today, there are an estimated 36,280 elephants in Kenya according to the Kenya Wildlife Service, compared to a population estimated at 170,000 in the early 1980's.

Threats to elephant populations have included "human-induced" fac-

tors such as conflicts over land and resources, poaching and infrastructural developments. Climate change also has posed an increase threat to Kenya's elephants and other wildlife, who have face an increased frequency in "prolonged" severe droughts, KWS said.

However, things have been looking up: The declining trend in the elephant population in Kenya has reversed with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) announcing the national elephant population is increasing by over 5 percent annually.

"Continued monitoring has led to the success," says the KWS. "Elephants are extremely intelligent, social and emotional animals which have a rich culture and history."

KWS added, "They deserve our respect and compassion as fellow inhabitants of the Earth."

Air quality measures could save 100,000 lives in six African cities

By Paul Day

AN updated analysis of six African cities by The Clean Air Fund has found that 109,000 lives and \$19.2bn could be saved by 2040 if new air quality measures are adopted.

Last year we reported on 'From Pollution To Solution In Africa's Cities', Clean Air Fund's report which looked at air pollution issues in Johannesburg, Cairo, Lagos and Accra, and identified its cost in terms of both health and the economy.

The report has now been updated and includes two new cities: Nairobi, the capital of Kenya which is home to 5.3 million people (projected to increase to 8 million by 2035) and Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, where 3.8 million people live. In both cities, road traffic is the primary source of air pollution however in Nairobi the second worst culprit is waste mismanagement while in Yaoundé it is the use of biomass fuels.

The population of Nairobi is exposed to air pollution levels four times the WHO recommended levels and air quality in Yaoundé is nearly twice as bad as that, leading to, respectively, 2,500 and 3,300 premature deaths attributable to air pollution in those cities in 2019.

For each city, the report projects the economic impact of absenteeism and premature mortality between 2019 and 2040 in a business-as-usual scenario and then modified for a scenario in which a series of measures to reduce air pollution are implemented. In Nairobi for example, the introduction

of air quality control measures would benefit the city by around \$192m and save around 2,100 lives.

The report suggests that on a business-as-usual path, the financial costs of air pollution could increase more than eightfold by 2040.

Desmond Appiah, CAF's Country Lead for Ghana, said: 'Air pollution is the second biggest risk factor for premature death in Africa. This is unacceptable. If we address air pollution now, we can reap the triple-whammy of improved health, climate and economy. This is important as Africa will have 50% of the 10 largest megacities by the end of the century. I urge national and city governments across Africa, and global funders, to cease their "business as usual" approach and put clean air at the top of their agendas now.'

The reports concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at African governments, local leaders, donors and citizens. Amongst these is a call to establish national air pollution experts and to seek out specialist training on topics such as climate law, health impact assessment, and air quality monitoring solutions.

City mayors are encouraged to commit to the C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration, while donors are asked to make funding for air quality a stronger priority and not to overlook Africa as a recipient of such funding: Between 2015 and 2021, international development funders committed only \$403.6 million to tackling air pollution in the region, representing 3.7 percent of total air quality funding.

Visa-free travel seen as key to opening up African tourism

By Edith Mutethya, Nairobi

SCRAPPING visa requirements, reducing airfares and improving connectivity could unlock the incredible potential of tourism in Africa, industry insiders and experts say.

This, in addition to improving infrastructure, dealing with security issues and upgrading public-private partnerships, could help the industry become an engine of economic growth and job creation in the continent, they said.

The need for visa-free travel for Africans entering countries on the continent was the subject of debate at the East African Regional Travel Expo held in Nairobi recently.

Benin, Gambia, Rwanda and the Seychelles are the only countries in the continent allowing visa-free access for all Africans. Some other countries are working on following suit.

In East Africa, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda allow cross-border travel without passports. In southern Africa, Botswana and Namibia have a similar arrangement.

Experts say visa-free travel for all Africans across the continent would give a great fillip not only to tourism but also to the African Continental Free Trade Area.

A report published this month by the World Travel and Tourism Council, a forum for the travel and tourism industry whose headquarters are in London, said travel and tourism could add \$168 billion to the continent's economy and create more than 18 million jobs over the next 10 years. The target would be realized by improving air transport infrastructure, facilitating visa issuance and strengthening tourism marketing, the report said.

Joseph Kaluli, a tour consultant with Morningstar Tours and Travel



Crew members prepare a hot air balloon in Maasai Mara's natural habitat, in Kenya

in Nairobi, said not needing visas would obviate the need for travelers to go through complicated application procedures that can sometimes take as long as three months.

Not needing visas would also cut travel costs and enable many people to travel either as a family or as a group, he said.

Ivy Wanjiku of Nature-Surf Africa, a tour and travel company in Nairobi, said scrapping visa requirements would be a big plus for tour operators in the continent.

It would help improve border policies that mean Kenyan tour operators cannot take their clients directly to Tanzania, she said.

"We have to stop at the

border and get a Tanzanian to come and pick up the client. Sometimes there is miscommunication and we are left stranded with the client at the border, so visa-free travel would help us to avoid such issues."

George Mwangane, a tourism officer with the Tanzania Tourist Board, said visa-free entry or making applying for visas easier would greatly boost the sector, and that many tourists complain that getting a visa is their biggest challenge.

However, caution was needed in adopting such a policy, such as having the proper security measures, ensuring that a country can monitor all visitors, he said.

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VACANCIES TO THE COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION'S (CTO).

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is a member of the COMMONWEALTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION'S (CTO) on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania. TCRA wishes to inform the public that CTO invites applications from suitably qualified Tanzanians for the following posts available at the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation's (CTO) as follows:

S/N	Title of Post	Deadline for receipt of applications
1	Manager ITC Development https://prospect-us.co.uk/jobs/186571-digital-ict-programmes-lead/	11 th December 2023
2	Digital Transformation Specialist https://prospect-us.co.uk/jobs/186572-digital-transformation-specialist/	8 th December 2023
3	Manager, Office of the Secretary General https://prospect-us.co.uk/jobs/186573-secretariat-manager/	7 th December 2023

Details on duties, responsibilities, qualifications and remunerations may be accessed on the CTO's website at <https://www.cto.int/about-thecto/working-with-us/current-vacancies-and-consultancies/>.

For those interested please submit your application to CTO through the Email Links provided on the website.

Issued by:
Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O. Box 474,
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CURRENT NEWS

Halotel seeks to champion Tanzania's digital economy

Page14



BUSINESS NEWS

The power of technology in enhancing govt revenue collections

Page14



OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS

Storms ahead if monetary losses turning political

Page15

BIO-FUELS:

New hopes for substituting Tanzania's fuels imports bill

By Mnaku Mbani, just back from Pune, India

The fear of producing bio-fuels as source of energy for transport mobility and household cooking from both food and non-food crops potentially grown in Tanzania has never ended.

The main concern for the 'unjustifiable fear' is that, if production of bio-fuel will be allowed in Tanzania, it will threatened food security; considering that the major crops used to produce the alternative fuels, are also depended as food crops.

Despite of producing sufficient crops such as sugar cane, vegetables, maize and coconut, which are potential for producing cleaner energy fuels, Tanzania seems to be alternative energies 'sleeping giant'.

This has caused the country and other 38 countries in Africa, to continue depending heavily on importation of fossil fuels, include petrol, diesel and kerosene, which result into increasing demands for foreign exchange and climate change concerns.

Data have shown that in 2022, Tanzania imported US\$3.3 billion (7.2trn/-) worth of petroleum products conducted through a Bulk Procurement System (BPS) since 2011, which was equivalent to 15 percent of total national budget.

The Global Bio-Fuel Alliance data show total energy usage in Africa, including Tanzania, will rise by 40 to 60 percent by 2030, and up to 45 percent by 2050, due to projected doubling of the population, which increased oil demands for both

household and vehicle fleet usage. In sub-Saharan Africa, data show, 80 percent of the population cooks with solid fuels wood, charcoal, or coal.

Data also show that 300 to 400 million people in Africa use biomass and kerosene as the main source of energy, with a household average spending on cooking fuel being US\$25 (60,000/-) per month.

Africa's liquids demand driven by transportation and chemicals, expected to grow by 20-30 percent to 2040, as emerging economies continue to advance.

This trend is not only draining foreign exchanges of African countries including Tanzania, but also increasing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, the major global environmental concern.

High energy consumption combined with a large share of fossil fuels will drive the increase in CO2 emissions by 50-77 percent by 2040

Learning from India model

India, the words highly populated country, has established policies and regulation to venture into bio-fuels, as the main solution for reducing foreign exchange spending on importation fossil fuels imports as well as climate change mitigations.

This is being done through blending both petrol and diesel with ethanol, produced from sugar cane.

Anurag Saraogi, chief manager-biofuel, Bharat Petroleum Limited, said the country has set an indicative target of 20 percent blending of ethanol in petrol and 5 percent bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.



Motorists fill their motorbikes with ethanol-blended petrol in Mumbai, India

The target will be achieved through reinforcing ongoing ethanol/ biodiesel supplies through increasing domestic production, setting up Second Generation (2G) bio refineries and development of new feed-stock for biofuels.

Others will be development of new technologies for conversion to biofuels and creating suitable environment for biofuels and its integration with the main fuels.

"The target is to increase the use of renewable and environmental cleaner fuels to reduce fossil fuel dependence, save foreign exchange and boost ag-

riculture production," he said.

He said Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) performance has increased from 1.53 percent I 2012-2014 to 12 percent in 2022/2023.

Researches are also ongoing on sugar starch, cassava, maize, paddy leftovers, damaged grains including wheat and rice. This will also go hand in hand with turning traditional biomass into compressed biogas.

According to him, vehicle manufacturers have rolled out E20 material compliant vehicles from April 2023. E20 is blended petrol with 20 percent of ethanol.

Vehicle manufacturers have

also been directed to roll out E20 tuned engines from April 2025.

Also, he said, the government of India allowed ethanol procurement from agricultural waste materials like rice/ wheat straw, corn cobs, cotton stalk, etc.

Sreejit Basu, senior manager-alternative energy, India Oil Corporation says the target is to increase the use of bio-energy from currently 41 percent to 80 percent by 2050 and wind from 7 percent in 2022 to 38 percent in 2050.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HP) is another major player in petroleum industries playing the major role in spearheading the transformation of India's alternative energy journey.

With its Loni Terminal, based in Maharashtra state, the state owned company supplies blended petroleum product to different retail suppliers across India.

N. Damodran, general manager bio-fuels, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, said the company is committed to ensure what is targeted by the government of India, specifically the energy transformation, is achieved.

Makarand Joshi, head of business development-Africa, Praj Industries, says India is currently moving into ensure bio-mobility for decarbonisation, specifically enabling available cleaner fuels for transport mobility, considering that it contribute to GHG emission.

Through its research and development centre, Praj Industries is ongoing with various researches on maize, cassava and sweet sorghum to determine on whether

they can contribute to production of ethanol, while keeping in mind the prosperity of farmers.

Praj Industries is also championing to produce engineering solutions, which are used in producing ethanol for energy, pharmaceutical industries, brewery, beverages and affluent recycling.

Atul Mulay, President, Praj Industries says India and Tanzania have similarities, specifically dealing with challenges for youth population problem of job creations.

"The number of youth population is growing in Tanzania which requires new jobs, food security as well as skills and knowledge transfer," he says.

Charudatta Deshpande, President of Satara district based Jaywant Sugar Limited, suppliers of ethanol said the factory is currently serving the welfare of 18,000 smallholder farmers in the areas, who are the main suppliers of sugarcane to the factory.

"Our factory creates social-economic impact to Maharashtra and Gujarat states of India," he said.

According to Deshpande, Jaywant Sugar is producing sugar as the priority product, to ensure food security as well as other products including alcohol, ethanol, bio-gas, animal feeds and composite manure to contracted farmers.

Through cane development programme, he said, the factory is also supporting farmers during to harvest and transport their sugarcane to the factory.

He said the factory is also giving incentives to sugarcane farmers including supply them with seeds and fertilizers, which has resulted into higher sugar yield of up to 130 kilogramme per one tonne of sugarcane.

Way forward

Indian manufacturers are willing to transfer technology to Tanzania to enable the country to benefit from increasing energy mix, specifically producing bio-fuel, which will not threaten food security.

However, the Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (Tarea) executive secretary Dr Matthew Matimbwi said lack of policies, guidelines and regulations remain the major concerns for development of alternative energies, specifically bio-fuels.

Therefore, Tanzania also needs to create conducive environment, which will enable investors in bio-fuels to assure the viability and security of their investments

Tanzania, Russia seeking to boost cashew industry

By Carlos Banda

Tanzania's cashewnut exports to Russia are expected to double following fruitful virtual discussions between Tanzanian cashew nut traders and businessmen from Russia.

The move will also see investors from the former Soviet Union state initiating direct investments for the cash crop in Tanzania.

During an interview with journalists on the sidelines of the virtual trade conference held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Russian Ambassador to Tanzania Andrey Avetisyan said that the meeting was convened to discuss on the potential of increasing imports of quality cashew nuts in the Russian market and rising interest level of Russian investors to invest in Tanzania's cashew nut sector.

"One of the aims of today's roundtable is to find out if there is an interest of Russia to invest in Tanzania's cashew nut production and processing. And during the meeting already, we have learned that the

interest is very strong. What is more interesting for both countries is the need to attract Russian investors into cashew production," the ambassador said.

"As the meeting continues, Russian companies asking questions about the possibilities to invest in cashew plantations to grow cashew nuts and building plants that will process the crop for further exportation into Russia. It is about both trade and investment."

He also highlighted that the goal of the meeting is to promote Tanzanian cashew nuts to Russian companies, retailers and investors and establishing direct contacts with local traders and see the possibility of doubling the import of cash crop with hopes that the product will have a good share in the Russian market.

"So, they promote good quality Tanzanian cashew nuts for the Russian market and we hope that very soon we will increase the volume of import of Tanzanian cashew. This is not the first time that we are having an event like this. A couple months ago we



had a similar roundtable meeting for coffee which allowed Russian and Tanzanian businessmen to establish direct contacts between each other and we are planning to continue on fertilizer and other products of mutual interests," he added.

Russian import of Tanzania cashew last year was very small, about 100 tons and just one company represented from the Russian side, one of the biggest retailers in Russia said they could double this amount.

He noted: "I think that we are aiming at very big numbers. Tanzania is producing 300,000 tons of cashew annually and aims at 500,000 tones.

I hope that a good share of the product will be consumed in the Russian market."

Ambassador Avetisyan also highlighted that his country is intentionally looking forward to extending its trade with Tanzania using local currencies citing an example of its successful trade with China where 90 percent of the trade in goods is done using local currencies.

On his side, Benson Nkini, Investment Officer from Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), said the roundtable meeting is an opportunity for the Tanzania

Investment Centre to promote and showcase Tanzania's cashew nut production and processing as well as encourage foreigners to invest in processing of cashew nuts.

"This is an opportunity for the Tanzania Investment Center and we have been using it very well to promote and state what we have in terms of Tanzania's cashew nuts processing. So, we encourage some of the foreign companies to invest especially in processing rather than exporting the raw cashew nuts outside. We still have opportunities for cultivation of cashew nuts and to improve the existing processing

factories. So, this is an opportunity for Russian investors to see whether they can invest in production or invest in refurbishing the old processing factories," he said.

Domina Mkangala, Dar es Salaam Branch Manager, Cashew nut Board of Tanzania (CBT), commented that roundtable provides an opportunity for traders in the processing sector as the country is keenly focused on building the processing capacity for our products in order to retain the value which were not benefiting from exporting unprocessed cashew nuts.

LETTER FROM ZANZIBAR:

The power of technology in enhancing govt revenue collections

By Godwin Jaha Semunyu

Last week marked a significant milestone for Zanzibar's efforts in digitizing its revenue collection processes, with six key agencies joining forces with NBC Bank, leveraging its extensive network and digital prowess to boost efficiency in revenue collection.

The initiative dates back to June 2022, when NBC Bank signed an agreement with the Zanzibar Electronic Government Agency (e-Gaz) to facilitate seamless integration. Consequently, six key agencies, including the Zanzibar Revenue Authority, Zanzibar Social Security Fund, Zanzibar Bureau of Standards, Zanzibar Electrical Company, Zanzibar Department of Public-Private Partnership, and Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority, joined forces.

Speaking at the MOU signing event, Hon. Dr. Saada Mkuya, Zanzibar's Minister for Finance and Planning, commended the partnership as "transformative and timely," underscoring its importance in modernizing revenue collection systems and eliminating legacy challenges linked to cash payments.

"This strategic collaboration plays a pivotal role in our efforts to enhance revenue collection and align with the commitment to a digitally enhanced and transparent financial landscape."

Central to this collaboration is the Bank's enrollment in Zanzibar's ZANMALIPO platform, a centralized government system under the Zanzibar Electronic Government Agency (e-Gaz), designed to facilitate electronic payments and regulate government revenue collections.

As a key player and the longest-serving Bank in the country, NBC Bank is keen to employ cutting-edge digital technologies to facilitate government payments through its network of branches, "NBC Wakala" agencies, and online platforms such as NBC Kiganjani and NBC Connect, serving as mobile and internet banking platforms, respectively.

NBC Bank Managing Director Theobald Sabi expressed optimism about the partnership's poten-

tial impact, stating, "Electronic revenue collection is a transformative force for both the government and the public. It simplifies payment processes for the public and empowers government financial management. We are proud to be part of this transformative journey."

Beyond this collaborative effort in revenue collection, NBC Bank has strengthened its relationship with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGOZ) by serving as the Mandated Leading Arranger for a USD 200 million syndicated loan issued earlier in the year to finance strategic social projects.

Godwin Jaha Semunyu is a seasoned Market and a Communications enthusiast. He is the Head of Corporate Affairs at NBC Bank (T). He can be reached at godwin.semunyu@nbc.co.tz



Halotel seeks to champion Tanzania's digital economy

By Guardian Reporter

Halotel Tanzania will continue to champion Tanzania's digital economy, through spearheading innovative solutions and services that supply to the evolving needs of a digitized society.

Since its launch, the company has consistently pushed boundaries, delivering innovative services and solutions that have transformed the way people in Tanzania connect and conduct their daily lives.

"In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, connectivity has been at our forefront of providing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions to corporate customers, particularly in the banking sector, NGOs and other more countrywide," said Abdallah Salum, Director of Business, Halotel.

"Recognizing the crucial role technology plays in the modern business landscape, Halotel has seamlessly integrated ICT solutions to enhance operational efficiency, security, and customer experience for its corporate clients."

Salum (pictured) said the company is committed to facilitating digital transformation is evident in its tailored ICT solutions, en-



abling banks and businesses can thrive in an increasingly digital environment.

According to him, Halotel's remarkable achievement is not just a mere thing, this includes extending top-tier telecommunication services to over 18,720 villages, covering more than 18,000 kilometers of fiber cable

infrastructure.

Collaborating with the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF), the company has expanded to 1,002 additional villages, totaling over 20,700, establishing our leadership in extensive network coverage, he noted.

"This solidifies our commitment to the Meaningful Connectivity Agenda (MMA), ensuring even remote communities have access to the internet and communication services. By offering affordable and reliable services, Halotel isn't just connecting people; we're bridging the digital divide and providing communities with the tools for a brighter future," Salum said.

He explained that MyHalo app stands as a testament to the company dedication to customer convenience.

"This user-friendly application provides a centralized platform for subscribers to access a wide range of Halotel services effortlessly. From managing subscriptions to checking account balances, and even purchasing data or airtime, the MyHalo app has become an indispensable tool for Halotel customers, streamlining their interactions with the telecom provider," he further said.

LPG usage payment to be conducted digitally

By Guardian Correspondent

In a bid to accelerate Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) consumption, NMB Bank and Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited (OGTL) have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on digital payment.

OGTL Executive Director, Benoit Araman said during the MOU signing that through the initiatives, the company wants to eradicate the use of biomass.

"Through the partnership, Oryx dealers and exclusive shops will be able to provide digitalized services to final consumers to ensure that clean cooking energy solution is accessible to everyone," he said.

He noted that the energy firm has been coordinating effort to support the government agenda endorsed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who wishes that by year 2032, 80 percent of Tanzanians are using clean cooking energy.

He said that gas distributors and exclusive shops countrywide will provide service to all NMB customers who will be using their bank cards or other merchant services to pay for gas.

The NMB Bank's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said the strategic partnerships with Oryx Gas compliments the Government's strategy for ensuring access to modern, clean and safe energy sources.

Mponzi said the move will help Tanzanians to reduce exposure to unhealthy wood-smoke and decreased pressure on the depletion of forest resources.

He noted that the MoU envisages the bank's sustainability strategy and aligns with SDG 7 that addresses universal access to modern energy services for all by 2030.

"Our collaboration with Oryx Gas will increase the supply of LPG at discounted prices for our customers across the country. As a bank, sustainability of the environment is one of our top priorities and we believe this campaign will act as a pathway to enable people make a quick energy transition," Mponzi said.

He noted that the bank's customers across the country will now purchase complete LPG starter-packs at discounted prices of 150,000/- and 43,000/- for 15kg and 6kg respectively through the bank's digital payment solutions.

Mponzi noted that the partnership with Oryx Gas also seeks to develop the entire LPG value chain through provision of cheap loans to LPG wholesalers, retailers and distributors across the country.

"As a bank, we will provide loans at low interest to people in the LPG value-chain to ensure that their businesses prosper. Our aim is to take center-stage in closing the gap of access to clean cooking solutions for unreached populations in Tanzania," Mponzi said.

He noted that the bank during the 2013/2014 Financial Year set aside 2bn/- that will be used to accelerate the implementation of projects across the country that contributes to reducing carbon emissions.

"We earlier launched an ambitious one million tree planting campaign earlier this year as part of our efforts to reduce carbon emissions across the country and as we speak, the project is progressing well and all indicators show that we will surpass that target," he added.

CURRENT NEWS

Halotel has also played a pivotal role in the financial inclusion landscape by introducing HaloPesa, a revolutionary mobile money service, he said.

Through the HaloPesa app and E-wallet services, he noted, the company has empowered its customers to engage in secure and convenient financial transactions, ranging from money transfers and bill payments to making purchases and accessing a variety of financial services, all from the palm of their hands.

"Our secure and accessible mobile money platform, we've democratized financial transactions for millions. Our solutions contribute to financial inclusion and lay the foundation for a cashless economy, enabling individuals to fully participate in the digital ecosystem" said Mr. Salum.

In understanding the importance of financial planning, Halotel offers the Haloyako a mobile savings service

by which Halotel customers through HaloPesa Mobile service customers can open a savings account, make deposits and withdrawals using their mobile phones.

He said the HaloYako savings account is connected to HaloPesa wallet, which enabled deposits and withdrawals from/to the HaloPesa wallet.

"This service enables our customers to reach their financial goals and improve their day to day lives. With this Service a customer is valued with the little he/she has to make savings for the future. This innovative offering provides flexibility and autonomy to users, fostering a culture of savings and financial discipline. Haloyako is more than just a service; it's a commitment to helping individuals achieve their financial aspirations. This service brings inclusivity of all levels of customers and thus living the motto of Better Together," added Salum.

China investors face losses over embattled Zhongzhi

BEIJING

As China's embattled shadow banking giant Zhongzhi Enterprise Group Co. faces a criminal probe, lawyers and analysts are assessing the damage to investors. One estimate puts that at about \$56 billion.

More than three quarters of investor cash would be lost, with just 100 billion yuan (\$14 billion) being recovered from debt of as much as 460 billion yuan, according to one scenario outlined by Ying Yue, a lawyer at Lequal Law Firm in Shanghai. He expects a slow and drawn out court process, based on the experience of other cases.

Sun Jianbo, founder of Beijing-based asset manager China Vision Capital, said soured assets are typically sold with a 70 percent discount. That means investors may recoup about 13 percent of their money, based on Bloomberg calculations.

Authorities over the weekend said they've opened criminal investigations into the



money management business of Zhongzhi, days after it warned of severe insolvency

and revealed a shortfall of \$36.4 billion in its balance sheet. Investors were urged to

report leads and file their complaints online.

The case is a wake-up call for wealthy Chinese investors who have often sought high returns in products sold by loosely regulated firms like Zhongzhi. The company first triggered concern in August after one of its trust affiliates failed to make payments to customers on high-yield investment products.

Zhongzhi's 200 billion yuan of assets would at best fetch about 100 billion yuan, Ying said in a social media post Saturday. That means investors could only get about 23 percent of their money back, based on the median of some 420 billion yuan to 460 billion yuan total debt Zhongzhi earlier revealed.

The actual ratio could be much lower. The wealth manager said last week liquidity has dried up and the recoverable amount from asset disposals is expected to be low.

Ying noted investment recovery ratios in similar cases are well below 23 percent. A criminal case that involves about 30 billion yuan is still awaiting a second trial ruling

more than four years since the scandal broke out, he added, expecting legal proceedings of Zhongzhi to be much slower given its debt size.

Shadow banks like Zhongzhi often pool household savings to offer loans and invest in real estate, stocks, bonds and commodities. In recent years, even as rival trusts pared risks, Zhongzhi and its affiliates, especially Zhongrong International Trust Co., extended financing to troubled developers and snapped up assets from companies including China Evergrande Group.

Founded in 1995, Beijing-based Zhongzhi has expanded into a sprawling empire that had more than 1 trillion yuan in assets at its peak. The group holds shares in six licensed financial institutions including Zhongrong International Trust, five asset managers as well as four wealth management firms, according to its website. It also has controlling stakes in a string of listed firms across sectors from semiconductor to health and consumption.

Ecobank, AGF sign \$200m risk-sharing agreement

LOMÉ

Ecobank and the African Guarantee Fund (AGF), a specialized pan-African guarantee provider, have joined forces in a groundbreaking US\$200 million risk-sharing agreement, aimed at catalyzing economic growth and supporting entrepreneurial ventures - including women-owned SMEs on the continent.

The two organisations signed a strategic partnership agreement recently on the sidelines of the Africa Financial Industry Summit (AFIS) in Lomé, Togo.

The agreement marks the third renewal of Ecobank's partnership with AGF.

The initial guarantee, provided by AGF in 2013, covered seven countries with a total guaranteed portfolio of US\$50 million.

In 2018, the scope of the guarantee expanded to encompass 14 countries, resulting in cumulative disbursements of US\$230 million since that time.

The renewed partnership now extends to 27 countries within Ecobank's African network, offering 50 percent coverage for qualifying SMEs across all target markets.

Key highlights of the partnership



Ecobank Group CEO Jeremy Awori (L) and African Guarantee Fund Group CEO, Jules Ngankam exchange signed risk sharing agreement documents in Lome, Togo

include enhanced 75 percent guarantee cover for Gender Financing and Green Transactions, favourable terms have been set to ensure more women-led and green transactions are fast-tracked, incorporating reduced pricing.

The facility allows Ecobank to sig-

nificantly boost its lending capacity to SMEs, enabling the Bank to extend more credit facilities to SMEs seeking to expand, innovate, and contribute to job creation.

Through the agreement, AGF will also play a pivotal role in mitigating the credit risk associated with lend-

ing to SMEs, fostering a more conducive environment for financial institutions to support these businesses without compromising their risk profiles. By channeling funds towards SMEs, the collaboration aligns with broader financial inclusion objectives, ensuring that a diverse

range of businesses, including those in underserved and remote areas, can access the financial resources needed for growth.

The US\$200 million risk-sharing agreement is expected to have a ripple effect on various sectors, contributing to increased economic activity, job creation, and sustainable development across sub-Saharan Africa.

Commenting on the partnership, Ecobank Group CEO, Jeremy Awori expressed enthusiasm about the potential impact on SMEs and the overall economic landscape, stating, "Our enhanced partnership with the African Guarantee Fund marks a significant step forward in our commitment to supporting SMEs across Africa with affordable financing. Through this partnership, we are taking bold steps to enhance green financing and gender financing. In doing so, we aim to eliminate the rigorous and restrictive requirements for collateral, particularly hindering women-focused businesses' access to credit."

African Guarantee Fund Group CEO, Jules Ngankam acknowledged the longstanding partnership between AGF and Ecobank Group and its transformative impact on the

SME landscape: "The renewal of our partnership with Ecobank Group to now span 27 countries is proof of the importance of risk-sharing mechanisms that banks should leverage to grow their SME portfolio. This partnership will catalyse close to \$1 billion of financing for SMEs, who are the real drivers of growth in African economies."

"Ecobank's 'Ellevate' program will also largely benefit from our 'AFWA Guarantee for Growth' facility to significantly boost financing of women led or owned SMEs," he added.

The risk-sharing agreement is positioned to become a landmark initiative in the financial landscape of Sub-Saharan Africa, demonstrating the collaborative efforts of key players in driving economic growth and fostering entrepreneurship.

Countries covered in the partnership are Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Storms ahead if monetary losses turning political

By David Marsh

The rise in Europe's populist parties, underlined by this week's far-right election win in the Netherlands, further exacerbates central banks' political and public relations problems over their weakened balance sheets.

The far right's surge, with anti-Islam, anti-euro Party for Freedom leader Geert Wilders favourite to become the next Dutch prime minister, makes life more difficult for central banks for several key reasons. It concentrates the spotlight on policy mistakes by largely independent central banks contributing to an unpopular mix of high (though now diminishing) inflation and high interest rates.

The rise of a new breed of politicians unstinting in their criticism of public sector technocrats will focus attention on central bank operating losses and measures taken to stem them. A landmark report from the International Monetary Fund in July found that losses throughout the euro system were 'temporary and recoupable'. However, following the European Central Bank's further interest rate rise in September, prospects for a medium-term easing of the central banks' balance sheet plight have deteriorated further.

As the IMF wrote, quantitative easing - large-scale, across-the-board purchases of government bonds introduced in 2015 - removed duration risk from the private sector's balance sheet, in an effort to support credit provision to the real economy. In effect, the ECB executed a fixed-for-floating rate swap for public debt. This leaves the ECB and its shareholder national central banks with a large interest rate expo-

sure in the current tightening cycle.'

Deposit rates paid by central banks to commercial banks have increased sizeably in the past 18 months. These outlays hugely exceed the paltry interest rate return on the asset side of central banks' balance sheets, heavily swollen by huge purchases of low- (sometimes negative-) yielding bonds during the past decade.

This imbalance - as well as some more mainstream monetary policy reasons - represents one reason why some euro area central banks have been campaigning to raise much further the volume of commercial banks' non-remunerated minimum reserves held at Eurosystem central banks.

This aim is unlikely to be met, at least in the short term. Increasing minimum reserves might lower banks' profitability and capacity to overpay staff, potentially garnering political applause. But bank executives argue it would impede lending at a sensitive time for European economies.

As the IMF wrote, major euro area central banks seem unlikely to turn to governments for recapitalisation or other forms of overt state support. But an end to a long cycle of paying profits to aid public finances is politically problematic. De Nederlandsche Bank is likely to pay no dividends to the government for the next 10 years. The Bundesbank is braced for a wider public debate over its finances in 2024-25. This will coincide with a probably stormy run-up to the next scheduled general election for Germany in autumn 2025.

The Bundesbank will have used up nearly €20bn of provisions on its balance sheet in covering 2023 losses, to be announced in early 2024. These



balance sheet problems, although soluble through accounting adjustments, will sharpen the debate about the drawbacks of large-scale QE. Many now believe this continued too long in the European Union and the UK. QE has been blamed for exacerbating wealth imbalances and undermining the solidity of public finances - both factors enhancing the appeal of populist parties.

The UK has a different mechanism to the euro area for dealing with central banks' QE-induced losses. The prospective levy on UK taxpayers to stem losses through the Bank of England's asset purchase facility is estimated to be as high as a cumulative £150bn by 2033.

The Bundesbank may see its sizeable gold reserves as an important buffer for its balance sheet strains. For political, legal and accounting reasons, it probably will not resort to direct use of its gold valuation reserves to plug its deficit. But it pointed out in its 2022 annual report that its balance sheet is underpinned by a gold revaluation reserve of €176bn, eight times larger than when the euro started in 1999.

A similar approach seems likely to be followed by De Nederlandsche Bank. Drawing on gold directly might have adverse side effects if politicians opined that the Bundesbank's gold should be diverted to other channels. In view of the political and constitutional imbroglio over German public finances, such speculation would be anathema to the Bundesbank and to Chancellor Olaf Scholz's embattled government.

David Marsh (pictured) is Chairman, OMFIF

Euro zone's sovereign bond yields edge lower

LONDON

Euro zone government bond yields edged lower on Monday, with investors awaiting inflation data due later this week which could affect expectations for interest rate cuts in 2024.

Money markets scaled back expectations for policy rate reductions last week as European Central Bank policymakers warned about "too optimistic" bets on future cuts.

Germany's 10-year government bond yield dropped 1.5 bps to 2.63 percent. On Friday last week, it hit 2.663 percent, its highest level since mid-November.

"Disinflation is now a widespread phenomenon. In addition, although the outbreak of another conflict in the Middle East led to temporary fears of spiralling energy prices, no such thing materialized," said Bruno Cavalier, chief economist at Oddo.

"The hawk's last argument is to highlight the upsurge in wages, but this is the most lagging indicator in the business cycle. There is every reason to debate monetary easing in the Eurozone," he added.

Money markets are currently pricing in 83 bps of rate cuts by December 2024 from 100 bps in mid-November, while pricing an around 55 percent chance of a first 25 bps rate cut in April from about 90 percent chances ten days ago.

Analysts expect an economic slowdown in 2024 that will lead ECB policymakers to ease their monetary policy aggressively.

"The euro area is on course for nearly two years of stagnation

by mid-2024 when the recovery slowly starts," Deutsche Bank said in its 2024 outlook. "The ECB will likely cut 100 bps from June to year-end 2024."

The budget crisis in Germany is also in focus as its outcome might affect the bloc's fiscal policy which European Union member states are currently discussing.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz would ask parliament to lift Germany's debt brake after a constitutional court ruling forced his government to freeze most of its new spending commitments.

"Germany will probably suspend the debt brake for 2023, tighten fiscal policy for 2024 and 2025," said Holger Schmieding, adding he sees a possible reform of the debt brake after September 2025, assuming next government will be a coalition of centre-right and centre-left parties again.

"It remains an open question whether it (the German budget crisis) may affect the ongoing discussions about a reform of the EU's fiscal rulebook."

Some analysts reckoned that easier fiscal rules in Germany could lead to a European agreement more focused on growth than on stability, as Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni urged.

Italy's 10-year government bond yield, the benchmark for the euro area's periphery, fell 3 bps to 4.37%.

The spread between Italian and German 10-year bond yields - a gauge of premium investors ask to hold debt of the bloc's most indebted countries - was at 172.5. It hit last week 169.5 bps, its tightest since Sept. 21.

LONDON/SHANGHAI/HYDERABAD

Drugmakers are seeking to limit their reliance on Chinese contractors who produce drugs used in clinical trials and early-stage manufacturing, a move that is benefiting rivals in India, according to interviews with 10 industry executives and experts.

China has for nearly 20 years been the preferred location for a range of pharmaceutical research and manufacturing services due to the low cost and speed offered by contract drugmakers there.

That relationship largely held firm despite a US-China trade war under the Trump administration and supply chain havoc experienced by other industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. But increasing

Indian drug manufacturing now benefit from Big Pharma interest beyond China

tensions with China have prompted more Western governments to recommend that companies "de-risk" supply chains from exposure to the Asian superpower.

That is leading some biotech companies to consider using manufacturers in India to produce active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) for clinical trials or other outsourced work.

"Today you're probably not sending an RFP (request for proposal) to a Chinese company," said Tommy Erdei, global co-head of healthcare investment banking

at Jefferies. "It's like, 'I don't want to know, it doesn't matter if they can do it for cheaper, I'm not going to start putting my product into China.'"

Dr Ashish Nimgaonkar, the founder of Glyscend Therapeutics, a US-based biotech firm testing treatments for type 2 diabetes and obesity in early trials, agreed. "All of the factors over the past several years have made China a less attractive option for us," he said.

Nimgaonkar told Reuters that when Glyscend issues an RFP later in the development stage of the medicines it has in trials,

Indian contract development and manufacturing organisations (CDMOs) would be preferred over Chinese ones.

Four of India's largest CDMOs - Syngene, Aragen Life Sciences, Piramal Pharma Solutions, and Sai Life Sciences - told Reuters they have this year seen increased interest and requests from Western pharma companies, including major multinationals.

Sai declined to comment on profit growth but said sales have grown 25%-30% in recent years. The other companies said they reported

strong profit growth in the most recent quarter.

Top executives at the firms said some customers want to add India as a second source, in addition to China, for manufacturing. Others are seeking to leave China and even making requests to originate supply chains in India.

The full benefit for these Indian manufacturers will not be immediate, said Peter DeYoung, CEO of Piramal Pharma Solutions.

It will take time for treatments in early development to make it to the market, when contracts

would become more lucrative for outsourcing firms like his, he said.

Chinese CDMOs are established makers of biologic drugs, which require a higher threshold of regulatory approval than conventional medicines, said Helen Chen, Greater China Managing Partner at L.E.K. Consulting in Shanghai.

Hiring a new firm for complex work such as biologic manufacturing can take three to five years, she added. "It's really not something that (companies) just pick up and move like shoes."

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Conference of Youth kicks off in Dubai ahead of COP28

By WAM - Emirates News Agency

MORE than 1,000 of young people from across the world on Sunday gathered for the Conference of Youth (COY18) in Dubai to amplify their voices as they advocate for climate change.

The 18th edition of the COY18, which is running at EXPO City Dubai until November 28, is being held in the lead-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28).

In her keynote speech, Mariam bint Mohammed Almhiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, said the UAE has always believed in the power of youths and has taken the lead in training and up-skilling children and youth activists about so they can be helpful in climate change action.

"Young people are the future generations and agents of change and sharing your stories and your innovative ideas for climate change solutions is vital," said Almhiri.

Almhiri added: "When it comes to empowering youth for a resilient future, our approach is three-fold. The first is to provide young people with opportunities to access climate information and better understand the issues the planet faces. We then provide them with the tools to decide on the best course of action to take, and finally, we build a platform to make their voices heard. I am proud of the work the UAE has done to ensure this at COP28".

"We should work together to take action in the fight against climate change

so as to build a future that works for everyone's dreams and aspirations" said Almhiri.

She noted that young people will be positively impacted by the COY18 and COP28.

Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Chief Executive Officer of Expo City Dubai Authority said the mechanisms of climate change are as complex and change its self.

"This is a critical moment of our history and it's incumbent upon all of us, people of all ages and different backgrounds, nationalities and cultures to listen to one another to learn from one another and act with impact at the interest of one another to ensure that the effects of climate change are addressed," she said.

"Two years ago, the UAE announced its 2050 strategic initiative where we pledged to underpin dynamic economic growth with positive environmental impact. We did this by engaging stakeholders from all sectors including energy and economy," Al Hashimy added.

The opening was attended by Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazrui, Minister of Community Development, COP28 Youth Climate Champion and Deputy Chair of the Arab Youth Center, and His Excellency Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Digital Economy, Artificial Intelligence and Remote Work Applications.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) said June and July were the hottest months of



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the Conference of Youth ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Sunday. (PHOTO / WAM-EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY)

this year. "Youth voices are critical in shaping the climate change and make things happen. Let's fight as one to help the future you deserve," he said.

Amy E. Pope, Director General (DG) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said young people will be impacted by the COP28 "but we need voices of the youth.

"Climate change is one of the greatest issues of our time and for many of you in this room, it will be the defining challenge of your future," said Pope.

"All of the elements of the UN agreement are in place. We have all the information and the tools we need to make tangible change and change isn't happening fast enough."

She noted that this year will probably be the hottest year recorded in human history and that there are already 31.8 million internal displacements due to weather related hazards as of 2022.

COY18 serves as a platform for climate advocacy, capacity building and policy development training to prepare the youth for their participation in international climate discussions and events.

The three-day conference has been organized by the Arab Youth Center, The American University of Sharjah (AUS), and New York University Abu Dhabi's Green House.

The conference offers the youth an opportunity to discuss and support intergovernmental climate change policies and promote change at the local and international levels.

Organized by the Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the event is in line with the work of the global network of children and youth activists and non-governmental organiza-

tions shaping international climate change policies and formally representing youth concerns in UNFCCC processes

On his part, Hassan Khalid Sabt, Chairman of the Dubai Youth Council, said that the Dubai Youth Council is honored to be present at this conference and be part of the COY 18 events before the start of the COP28.

He noted that the Dubai Youth Council will hold a dialogue session to discuss investment in food technology and the challenges facing the world, explaining that all speakers are from the UAE youth who are aware of the importance of food technology in the country.

Haya Aseer - Projects Team Lead - Arab Youth Center, which is participating in organizing the conference, said that convergence of young minds from 170 nations presents a unique opportunity to foster their active participation in COP28, empowering them to transform challenges into catalysts for progress. This is achieved through a series of engaging workshops that solicit their perspectives and aspirations, ensuring their meaningful integration into the formulation of international climate policies.

She added that the center's unwavering belief in the transformative potential of youth fuels its commitment to presenting an exceptional edition of COY18 in the UAE.

This endeavor, undertaken in collaboration with esteemed partners, aims to create a platform that champions the voices of youth and harnesses their boundless energy, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity and empowerment, she noted.

Russia has no imperialist plans in Europe, says Lavrov

MOSCOW



RUSSIA has never had any aggressive plans to expand in Europe, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has pledged.

Commenting on US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's remarks that if the United States stopped supporting Ukraine, Russia would win and go after Baltic countries, Poland and other neighboring states next, Lavrov said, "This comes from a man who holds a high-ranking position and cannot but receive expert views, including of Pentagon specialists who specialize in analyzing relations between Moscow and Washington and who cannot but understand what is going on in Ukraine and that Russia has never had and can never have any aggressive or expansionist plans."

He stressed that Russia was forced to launch its special military operation in Ukraine because the neo-Nazi regime in that country, condoned by the West, has taken to exterminating everything Russian.

"Concurrently, this neo-Nazi regime was used as a tool to incur a strategic defeat on Russia on the battlefield in the interests of the West," he said at the Primakov Readings forum.

"If this is not a direct threat to our interests, our security and to those who have thought of themselves as Russians since the times of their grandfathers, fathers and mothers, then, probably, there are no smart analysts or reasonable people in the West."

TASS is the general information partner of the Primakov Readings international forum and conference.

WHO says delivering vital humanitarian aid despite challenges in Ethiopia's conflict-hit Amhara region

ADDIS ABABA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said it is delivering humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia's conflict-hit Amhara region despite insecurity-induced challenges.

The WHO said in a press statement issued late Friday that it is "living up to its commitments to reach the last mile delivery as over 95,000 vulnerable people can now access emergency supplies for cholera, malaria and conflict-related casualties' management in the Amhara region."

Noting that Ethiopia's second-most populous Amhara region has been facing multiple health and human-made emergencies since mid-2023, the WHO said the situation has made the delivery of procured supplies an ongoing challenging task to accomplish for the WHO team based in the regional capital, Bahir Dar.

"Unfortunately, the WHO is not the only organization delivering in such a challenging environment. As the lead agency of the global health cluster, a coordination mechanism mobilizing partners and harmonizing efforts for efficient use of available resources, the WHO was able to rally partners and resources to deliver the last mile in a coordinated manner in various locations of the region," it said.

"Not every truck makes it to its destination. Sometimes trucks are stopped for an undetermined period of time," the statement quoted Yewuslow Dellelle, operation support and logistics assistant for the WHO in Bahir Amhara, as saying.

"It leaves the WHO with limited options which are either flying the supplies at three times the cost or taking a time-consuming detour. All this has an impact on timely reaching our beneficiaries," Dellelle added.

In addition to drought, cholera, malaria and measles outbreaks, the Amhara region is presently facing an armed conflict causing casualties who eventually turn to health facilities to seek health services, according to the WHO.

Last week, the WHO said nearly 1.9 million people have received the cholera vaccine despite the challenging environment in the conflict-affected Amhara region.

The armed conflicts in different parts of the region are causing a spike in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The region hosts more than 800,000 IDPs, of whom 12 percent are living in 40 collective sites.

In August this year, the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives enforced a six-month state of emergency rule in Amhara amid the prolonged conflicts between the military and local militiamen.

It leaves the WHO with limited options which are either flying the supplies at three times the cost or taking a time-consuming detour. All this has an impact on timely reaching our beneficiaries

Vatican: Pope 'stable', on antibiotic IV for lung inflammation

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis, who is suffering from a lung inflammation, is in "good and stable" condition, receiving antibiotic therapy intravenously, and will limit his activities for the next few days in order to conserve his strength, the Vatican said yesterday.

Spokesman Matteo Brunni said in a statement that a CT scan at a Rome hospital on Saturday excluded pneumonia but had detected inflammation in his lungs that caused breathing difficulties.

"The pope's condition is good and stable, he does not have a fever and his respiratory condition is decidedly improving," Brunni said.

"To facilitate the pope's recovery, some important engagements that were scheduled for these days have been postponed so that he can dedicate his time and energy (to recovery)".

Brunni added that Francis would continue to carry out "easier", institutional tasks, his condition permitting.

One part of one of the pope's lungs was removed when Francis

was a young man in his native Argentina.

On Sunday, the 86-year-old pope appeared seated in the chapel of his residence instead of in St. Peter's Square while an aide read the pontiff's message.

The pope, wearing his traditional white robes, remained seated next to the aide during the reading. When he raised his right hand a bandage holding an IV tube used to administer the antibiotics was visible.

"Dear brothers and sisters. Happy Sunday. Today, I cannot appear at the window because I have this problem of an inflammation in the lungs," Francis said.

Francis introduced the priest, Father Paolo Braidia, who went on to read the pope's Sunday message based on the Gospel. Francis coughed several times during the reading.

The pope delivered a blessing and Braidia read the rest of message, including appeals for peace in Ukraine, thanks for the release of some hostages in Gaza and confirmation of the pope's intention to travel to Dubai on Friday



A giant screen broadcasts Pope Francis delivering his blessing during the Angelus noon prayer, from the chapel of the hotel at the Vatican grounds where he lives, on Sunday. AP

to attend the UN climate change conference.

Francis ended with his traditional closing remarks: "I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Have a good lunch and see you next time."

The event was broadcast on giant screens to the crowds gath-

ered in the square.

"We were under the window where he was supposed to appear but then he didn't show up," said tourist Francesco Sinisgalli from Potenza in southern Italy. "I am a bit (disappointed) but in my soul he is always there."

Staying in the residence spared the pope from going outside for the short journey to the Apostolic Palace on what was a particularly cold Rome morning for the end of November.

He would have had to get in a car, be driven to a courtyard and take an elevator to the top floor of the palace to reach the window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

Earlier this month Francis skipped reading a prepared speech for a meeting with European rabbis because he had a cold, but he appeared to be in good health during a meeting with children hours later that day.

In June he had surgery on an abdominal hernia, spending nine days in hospital. He appears to have recovered fully from that operation.

Strengthening partnership the right choice for future of China-US relations

RECENTLY, at the invitation of U.S. President Joe Biden, Chinese President Xi Jinping flew across the Pacific Ocean on a trip to San Francisco. At the century-old Filoli Estate, Xi held a meeting with Biden to find the right way for China and the United States to get along with each other.

At this critical juncture of history, the San Francisco meeting between the Chinese and U.S. presidents achieved significant outcomes, making a key step to steer China-U.S. relations toward a healthy, stable and sustainable direction.

Xi pointed out that China and the United States should jointly develop a right perception, manage disagreements effectively, advance mutually

beneficial cooperation, shoulder responsibilities as major countries, and promote people-to-people exchanges. This has built together five pillars for China-U.S. relations and established the "San Francisco vision" oriented toward the future.

To jointly develop a right perception comes first in the five pillars, which mirrors Xi's profound thinking on the real challenges and future direction of China-U.S. relations.

"I have always had one question on my mind: How to steer the giant ship of China-U.S. relations clear of hidden rocks and shoals, navigate it through storms and waves without getting diso-

riented, losing speed or even having a collision?" Xi said at a welcome dinner by friendly organizations in the United States.

"In this respect, the number one question for us is: are we adversaries, or partners? This is the fundamental and overarching issue," said Xi.

Xi's important remarks made at the welcoming dinner were thought-provoking. China and the United States are two major countries with extensive common interests and bear important responsibilities for world and regional peace, stability, and prosperity. For China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option. It is

unrealistic for one side to remodel the other, and conflict and confrontation has unbearable consequences for both sides.

In recent years, China-U.S. relations have encountered challenges and difficulties. The root cause is U.S. misperception toward China and the China-U.S. ties.

Some people in the United States hold onto the Cold War mentality and zero-sum game mindset, seeing China as a primary competitor and the most consequential geopolitical challenge, which severely distorts the perception of China. It will only lead to misinformed policymaking, misguided actions, and

unwanted results.

To find the right way to get along with each other, China and the United States need to jointly develop a right perception. Only by doing so can the foundation for mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation be laid.

Jointly developing a right perception means the two countries must accurately understand each other's strategic intentions.

Xi pointed out that China's development is driven by its inherent logic and dynamics. China is promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese moderni-

zation. It will not take the old path of colonization and plundering, or the wrong path of seeking hegemony with growing strength. It does not export its ideology. It has no plan to surpass or unseat the United States. Likewise, the United States should not scheme to suppress and contain China.

China is consistently committed to having a stable, healthy and sustainable relationship with the United States. China never bets against the United States, and never interferes in its internal affairs. China has no intention to challenge the United States or to unseat it. Instead, China will be glad to see a confident, open, ever-growing and prosperous United States.

People's Daily

West's attempts to maintain influence exacerbating tension in Middle East, Ukraine, says Putin

MOSCOW

THE model of globalization created largely by Western countries in pursuit of their own interests has become obsolete, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an address to participants in and guests of the Primakov Readings international forum.

"The theme of this year's forum is quite relevant: 'Horizons of post-globalization.' Clearly, the model of globalization that was created largely by Western countries in [pursuit of] their own interests has, naturally, become obsolete and is now experiencing a deep-seated crisis.

A new, fairer and more democratic system of international relations is emerging, which will better meet the needs of the global majority," Putin pointed out.

However, in Putin's words, "a well-known group of countries," which has grown accustomed to dominating world affairs, will stop at nothing to preserve its waning influence, using outright blackmail and strong-arm pressure tactics, while replacing international law with some sort of "rules-based order."

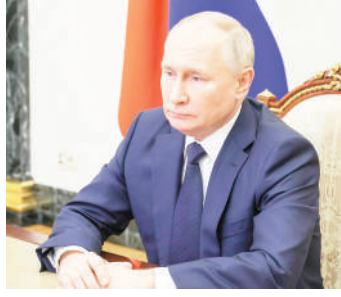
"Such a destabilizing policy line triggered both the crisis surrounding Ukraine and the tragic escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," the Russian president stressed.

He noted that the Primakov Readings forum, "which bears the name of noted statesman, diplomat and academic Yevgeny Primakov, has earned well-deserved recognition." "Its participants engage in meaningful and free debate, not only thoroughly analyzing the key international issues of today, but also assessing long-term trends on the regional and global level, guided by a systematic scholarly approach and objective facts," Putin said in his address.

Primakov Readings

The Primakov Readings is an annual international research and expert forum dedicated to the memory of Russian statesman and diplomat Yevgeny Primakov (1929-2015).

The forum addresses various scenarios for international relations, global security challenges and new models for interaction among international policy actors. Every year, over 600 Russian and foreign experts take part in the Primakov Readings. Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov chairs the forum's organizing committee. TASS is the general information partner for the event.



Hamas releases 3rd batch of hostages, truce talks continue

GAZA/JERUSALEM

THE Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, released on Sunday the third batch of hostages from the Gaza Strip under a temporary ceasefire agreement with Israel.

"Within the framework of the humanitarian truce, we handed over to the Red Cross 13 Israeli detainees, three Thais, and one Russian," Al-Qassam said in a press statement.

The released Russian hostage is a 25-year-old Israeli-Russian male. Hamas stated that the dual-national, who was not included in the initial name list of the release, was freed following efforts by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Israeli Army Radio said part of the handover process took place in the northern Gaza Strip, adding that "a number of detainees crossed the border from a point between Gaza and Israel."

Meanwhile, the Israeli army confirmed in a statement that it had received from the International Committee of the Red Cross the 13 Israeli hostages, including four women and nine children, with the youngest being four years old.

The army explained that "the Red Cross crews handed over 12 hostages to the Israeli Army Special Forces and the Shin Bet internal security agency at the border fence in the central Gaza Strip, who will then transport them to the Hatzetim Airbase."

It added that the 13th one, an 84-year-old woman suffering from a medical condition, was airlifted directly to Soroka Hospital in the southern Israeli city of Beer Sheva.

According to the Israeli Army Radio, "the four foreign hostages were transferred to Egypt via the Rafah Crossing by the Red Cross, before heading for the meeting point with Israeli troops in Israeli



An International Red Cross vehicle carrying an Israeli-Russian hostage released by Hamas drives towards the Rafah border point with Egypt ahead of a transfer to Israel on Sunday. AFP

territory."

Meanwhile, the Palestine Liberation Organization's prisoners department published a list of 39 Palestinian prisoners released on Sunday evening, including 21 from Jerusalem, one from the Gaza Strip, and the rest from the West Bank.

Xinhua reporter stationed in Ramallah confirmed the arrival of the buses that transferred the 39 released Palestinian prisoners, all of whom are children.

At the same time, mediation efforts have been intensified to extend the current ceasefire, according to Palestinian sources.

"Qatar and Egypt conveyed a draft agreement to Israel and Hamas on extending the ceasefire due to expire Monday and facilitating a larger prisoner swap between the two warring sides," the sources, who wished to be anonymous, told Xinhua.

The sources said the discussions involved the release of 40 to 50 captives from Gaza, coupled with increased humanitarian aid flow into the strip to alleviate the humanitarian crisis.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he might agree to extend the truce by a few days if Hamas would free more hostages.

Netanyahu on Sunday also toured a tunnel in the Gaza Strip and vowed to "eliminate" Hamas.

"We are here in the (Gaza) Strip," Netanyahu was seen saying in a video footage released by his office, wearing an army vest and helmet. His office said he received a briefing from commanders and toured an underground tunnel belonging to Hamas that was exposed during the war.

Netanyahu stated that Israel's goals for the attack, launched on Oct 7 following Hamas' deadly surprise attack, are to "eliminate" Hamas, release about 240 hostages kidnapped by Hamas, and "ensure that Gaza will not pose a threat to Israel again."

"We are continuing until the end -- until victory! And nothing will stop us," he said, surrounded by soldiers. He added, "We are making every effort to bring our hostages back home, and eventually, we will."

Meanwhile, according to a statement from a Hamas representative on Sunday night, "Hamas is seeking to extend the ceasefire beyond the four days that were initially agreed upon with Israel."

The temporary ceasefire in Gaza, entering its third day, entails a cessation of hostilities and an increased flow of aid trucks into the

Palestinian enclave.

On Saturday, the second batch of the release was implemented after a delay of several hours, as Hamas accused Israel of failing to adhere to what was agreed upon under the truce, regarding the entry of relief trucks into the north of Gaza.

The truce deal reached between Israel and Hamas also stipulates the release of 50 Israeli female and teen hostages from Gaza in exchange for some 150 Palestinian women and children freed from Israeli prisons, with provisions for increasing the number of releases at subsequent stages of the agreement.

The weeks of Israeli bombardment in Gaza have reportedly led to the deaths of over 14,000 people, 40 percent of them children, while thousands remain missing, believed to be trapped beneath the rubble, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry.

According to Israeli figures, about 1,200 people were killed, mainly in the initial attack that triggered the war.

Benefits of membership highlighted

Experts look at what Pakistan can deliver to and draw from BRICS

A successful application by Pakistan to join BRICS could help bolster its economic development and further contribute to the regional stability and prosperity of South Asia, experts say.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said Pakistan has lodged the application to join the bloc, saying it is an important group of developing countries, TASS and Xinhua news agencies reported. "We have taken this decision after having noted the BRICS proclaimed openness to inclusive multilateralism," a ministry spokeswoman, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, said on Thursday.

By joining the group, Pakistan can play an important role in furthering international cooperation and revitalizing inclusive multilateralism, she said.

Pakistan enjoys friendly ties with BRICS members as well as a newly invited group of countries, she said. "We also hope that BRICS will move forward on Pakistan's request in line with its commitment to inclusive multilateralism."

BRICS is a group of emerging economies including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Six other countries have been accepted to become members next year.

Zafar Uddin Mahmood, special assistant to the prime minister of Pakistan and former special envoy for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, said regional cooperation organizations are important in socio-economic development and ensuring peace.

"Being a developing country and with a population of around 250 million, Pakistan had been keen to become a part of BRICS. Pakistan genuinely feels that it cannot only contribute in meeting the objectives of BRICS but also benefit from the collective resources and valuable experience of the member countries."

Expansion of BRICS demonstrates that inclusiveness is the way forward for global harmony and development, and Pakistan looks forward to the opportunity to become a member, he said.

Tahir Farooq, vice-president and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors, said Pakistan's application is a strategic move to enhance its global economic and diplo-

matic stature.

BRICS as an alliance of emerging economies offers numerous potential benefits to Pakistan, which is keen to bolster its economic and international presence, said Farooq, who is also editor-in-chief of Pakistan Economic Net and DailyIttehad Media Group.

Joining BRICS could offer Pakistan several advantages such as creating closer ties with some of the world's fastest-growing economies, opening up new trade and investment opportunities, Farooq said. "It could also provide Pakistan with a platform to attract foreign investments, technology transfers and access to larger markets."

"Diplomatically, BRICS membership could amplify Pakistan's voice in international affairs, offering it greater leverage in global economic and political discussions."

Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, founder of the Eurasian Century Institute in Islamabad, said that Pakistan, despite its recent economic troubles, is a major developing economy. That Pakistan has cordial relations with China and other BRICS members would inject positive energy and vigor to the bloc, he said.

"For Pakistan it means enhanced diplomatic outreach and multiplied opportunities of cooperation, specially (in) economic (terms). Let us hope that certain quarters, including BRICS member India, would not try to color it negatively and seek to hinder it."

Pakistan's seeking entry to BRICS will pave the way for significant regional balance and improve its overall trade and investment framework, said Shujaat Ahmed, an independent economic analyst in Pakistan.

"As we look at BRICS, which is expanding with the inclusion of Argentina, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, Pakistan will be able to benefit and improve its overall investment framework as it has bilateral investment treaties with Egypt and Iran."

Pakistan's inclusion in BRICS could have a positive impact on South Asia in several ways, Farooq said. Economically, Pakistan would be integrated more deeply into a network of emerging global economies.

Politically, Pakistan's involvement in BRICS could serve as a platform for greater regional collaboration and dialogue, possibly helping defuse longstanding regional tensions, he said.

China's contributions to world heritage preservation, cooperation

By Lyu Zhou

THE Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of Jingmai Mountain in Puer, southwest China's Yunnan province, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee that concluded in September this year.

China now has 57 World Heritage Sites, including 39 cultural sites, 14 natural sites, and four cultural and natural heritage sites. Together, they mirror the five prominent features regarding Chinese civilization consistency, originality, uniformity, inclusivity, and peaceful nature.

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must meet strict criteria. Selection criteria include exhibiting an important interchange of human values, being an outstanding example of a type of building or landscape, and being directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. The authenticity and integrity of properties are also important considerations.

In the long river of history, the Chinese people have created numerous engineering wonders, showcasing the outstanding originality of the Chinese civilization.

The Great Wall, included on the World Heritage List in 1987, as well as the Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System included in 2000 and the Grand Canal included in 2014, are all ancient engineering classics. The Grand Canal, whose excavation began in the 5th century BC, and the Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, which was built in the 3rd century BC, are still functional in shipping and irrigation today, serving as examples of sustainable development of humanity.

Chinese heritage sites included on the World Heritage List, such as the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven in Beijing, the classical gardens of Suzhou, and the West Lake cultural landscape of Hangzhou, reflect the unique aesthetic characteristics of the Chinese civilization.

Besides, the historic ensemble of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, the Old Town of Lijiang, the cultural landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces, the ancient city of Pingyao, and the Fujian Tulou are examples of the diverse and colorful Chinese civilization created by various ethnic groups. These sites have witnessed the uniformity of diverse Chinese civilization.

Chinese heritage sites included on the World Heritage List also reflect the inclusivity of the Chinese civilization. In 2014, the Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor was included on the World Heritage List. This project, jointly proposed by China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, reflects the trade and cultural exchanges between the Asian and European continents from the 2nd century BC to the 16th century AD, as well as the resulting technological innovations.

Such cultural inclusivity is also evident in World Heritage Sites such as the Yungang Grottoes, Longmen Grottoes, Dazu Rock Carvings, and Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China.

"Although Gulangyu Island is small in area, it is of great value and profound cultural heritage," said Irina Bokova, former director-general of UNESCO. She made the remarks



Members of a joint Chinese-Egyptian archeological mission work at Montu Temple in Luxor, Egypt. (Photo/Gao Wei)

when presenting the World Heritage certificate to Gulangyu Island in 2017.

She said Gulangyu Island gave people hope, and it is an important classroom for global citizenship that inspires and guides people towards peaceful coexistence of cultures, which is a message needed more than ever.

On the island, the local culture in the early 20th century, the Western culture brought by the opening of ports, and the Nanyang culture brought by returning overseas Chinese converged and blended into a new look. This is the contemporary value of the World Heritage Site.

At the initial stage of China's accession to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, China received technical and financial assistance and support from many countries and international organizations, which enabled it to continuously improve its capacity in cultural and natural heritage protection.

After extensive practice, China has gained rich management experiences and excellent technical capabilities, transforming from a recipient to a provider of heritage protection.

Starting from 1993, China has participated in international aid and cooperation for the preservation of the Angkor heritage site in Cambodia, restoring the Chau Say Tevoda temple and the Ta

Keo temple, and becoming the co-chair of the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and the Development of Preah Vihear.

In 2017, the Chinese government undertook a restoration project for the quake-hit Nine-Storied Basantapur Palace complex in Kathmandu, Nepal, making significant contributions to Nepal's post-disaster reconstruction and social recovery.

In addition, China has also participated in cultural heritage protection projects in Uzbekistan, Myanmar, and other countries. In the course of assistance, China has maintained close exchanges and cooperation with other participating countries and recipient countries, with an aim to achieve common progress in heritage conservation.

Protecting world heritage is an international obligation of China, and also a historical responsibility of the country to pass on the Chinese civilization. As more Chinese heritage sites are included on the World Heritage List, it is believed that people will have a deeper understanding of the sites in China. China will work together with more countries to safeguard the spark of human civilization and build a shared home for humanity.

(Lyu Zhou is a professor at Tsinghua University and director of National Heritage Center of Tsinghua University.)





Simba SC Information and Com The Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) Managing Director, Ephraim Mafuru (R), welcomes the AICC team that had returned to Arusha last weekend after featuring in this season's Inter-Parastatal and Non-Parastatal Sports Federation of Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) Games in Dodoma. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Telecoms company launches campaign in five regions

By Guardian Correspondent

THE campaign, termed 'Magifti Dabo Dabo', organized by telecoms company Tigo Tanzania, has wowed people in various regions in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

After the launch which was held in Dar es Salaam, there has been launch for the campaign in various regions including Arusha, Tanga, Mtwara, Mwanza, and Zanzibar.

Speaking to journalists in Zanzibar last weekend, Tigo Zanzibar Director Aziz Ali said the campaign seeks to ensure that his firm hands over various gifts to customers during the end-of-the-year holidays.

He said the campaign will see winners being presented with various prizes including cash totaling 30m/-, trips to Zanzibar and Dubai with their loved ones, and two new cars. He said the campaign's launch has

already been held in various regions including Zanzibar.

"The launch of the 'Magifti Dabo Dabo' has already been held in various regions including Zanzibar, we aim to hand over gifts to our customers at the end of the year," he said.

Zanzibar's Urban District Commissioner, Rashid Simai Msaraka, said 'Magifti Dabo Dabo' is expected to benefit the winners in one way or another.

He said people will get a share of the profits generated by the company, including sending rural communications, loan calls and others.

"We expect the winners will receive various prizes including cars, cash, trips to Zanzibar, Dubai, and domestic appliances at the end of the year, this seeks to give back to the community the benefits the firm earned throughout the year," he said.

ZFF hails President Samia fete for Z'bar U-15 football team

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ZANZIBAR Football Federation (ZFF) president Suleiman Jabir has thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for hosting a function for the Isles U-15 team, saying the gesture is motivational to the players.

The Isles U-15 squad lifted the 2023 CECAFA U-15 Championship silverware, defeating hosts Uganda in the final at the FUFA Technical Centre in Njeru recently.

Jabir said the Isles U-15 football team players are thrilled to visit State House and have lunch with the head of state.

The ZFF president said the Zanzibar U-15 football team comprises talented, hard-working boys who like playing football.

Jabir noted: "All players are happy with this gesture, it is the first time for many of them to visit the State House, and this gesture will motivate them."

"They are young boys who believe they can scale great heights, should they be given enough support," he said.

The ZFF president also disclosed that the U-15 football team will not be dissolved and, instead, it will serve as a feeder side for the senior national team.

The official revealed: "Our boys have shown that they have the potential to do well in any competition, training them and providing them with necessary resources is all that is needed."

"It should also be clear that these are young boys, we cannot measure their success merely on the pitch, formal education is also important to them, it's about creating ambassadors of tomorrow," the official added.

"ZFF believes football has the power to take people of good character, elevate them into influential positions to benefit generations to come, we will in cooperation with stakeholders- nurture their talents so that they can become good football players," he said.

President Samia hailed the Zanzibar U-15 football team for showcasing outstanding performance in this year's CECAFA U-15 Championships at the FUFA Training Center in Njeru.

The President, who presented a cash prize of 50m/- to the youngsters, said the squad has made the nation proud, and she assured of her administration's continued support to the team.

She pointed out: "You have done the country proud and credit should also go to the President of Zanzibar, Hussein Mwinyi, and his government for their efforts to promote sports in the country."

"Let me congratulate you for playing well and I'm asking you to continue working hard, the government is behind you," the President told the team's footballers.

During the event, the team captain Mohammed Ali Mohammed presented the CECAFA U-15 Championship title to President Samia.

Yanga gutted while Simba earns a share of the spoils

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT does not take a first-rate neurosurgeon to figure out that Yanga devotees are not happy campers at the moment, following their club's bitterly disappointing 3-0 loss to Algerian side, CR Belouizdad, in the opening clash of Group D, last Friday in the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

Indeed, the defeat came as a cruel blow to Yanga, perhaps because the coach at the helm of the club, Miguel Gamondi, had been waxing optimistically about his charges' chances of a victory ahead of the vital match.

Sadly though, the Jangwani Street side would get an unpleasant reality check as all of their massive efforts to gain a favourable result ultimately came to naught.

And, the path ahead in Group D does not get either any easier or less precarious for Yanga as a likely epic contest against reigning African champions, Al Ahly, comes hot on the heels of the Jangwani Street outfit's embarrassing 3-0 loss to CR Belouizdad.

Meanwhile, as Yanga was swallowing the bitter pill of defeat, Simba SC was straining every sinew in a bid to claim what would be an utterly encouraging victory against the Ivorian outfit, ASEC Mimosas, who were seeking to roll back the years to an earlier era when they were firmly amongst the pre-eminent clubs on the continent.

In what was a bona fide peach of an encounter, both clubs tried their damndest to secure the maximum points that were up for grabs.

However, to the disappoint-



The Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) Managing Director, Ephraim Mafuru (R), welcomes the AICC team that had returned to Arusha last weekend after featuring in this season's Inter-Parastatal and Non-Parastatal Sports Federation of Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) Games in Dodoma. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

ment of both clubs, the thrilling clash ended in a 1-1 sharing of the spoils.

Significantly, Simba SC's draw with ASEC Mimosas capped off a nightmarish week for Tanzanian football as the week started with the Taifa Stars' heart-breaking 2-0 loss to Morocco in a key 2026 World Cup qualifier last Tuesday.

Doubtlessly, our run of saddening and unwanted results last week has left millions of Tanzanians distinctly down in the dumps.

One can only hope then that our various teams will be able to return to winning ways sooner rather than later.

Moving on, the premier grassroots football competition in the world, the FIFA U-17 Men's

World Cup, has been enthralingly unfolding in the host nation of Indonesia for the past couple of weeks.

Indeed, this is a championship, which in the past has served as a springboard for prodigiously talented youngsters like Nwankwo Kanu, and Nii Odartey Lamptey to rise to the limelight from obscurity.

Moreover, it is also a perennially pulsating tournament in which African countries like Nigeria and Ghana have won the whole shebang.

For instance, Ghana hoisted aloft the trophy in 1991 and, a mere two years later, the Golden Eaglets of Nigeria wowed a global audience by brilliantly claiming the title.

With this year's FIFA U-17

Men's World Cup having reached the latter stages, the lone African team still in contention for the trophy is Mali, who pipped Morocco to a wafer-thin 1-0 win in an all-African quarterfinal last weekend.

On the back of that triumph, Mali is now slated to go up against France in one semi-final while the other semi-final will see two established football juggernauts, Argentina and Germany, pitted against each other.

Naturally, a gargantuan number of unbridled African football fans will be fervently hoping that Mali can comfortably overcome France and then perhaps even go on to seal what would be their first title triumph.



Renowned Dar es Salaam-based sports stakeholder, Idd Azzan, addresses jogging groups that took part in a 5km race, which sought to back the fight against sextortion, after the conclusion of the race at Tandale in the city last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Azzan condemns sextortion in sports

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PROMINENT Tanzanian sports stakeholder, Idd Azzan, has asked the country's jogging groups to be at the forefront of denouncing sexual corruption to protect the health of the athletes.

Azzan issued his plea while welcoming various jogging groups at Tandale Primary School's playground in Dar es Salaam after finishing a 5km race last weekend.

"Sports are healthy, so, I encourage young people to be in the front line to stop these acts of violence within your groups, and where you live, to be a safe

society," Azzan noted.

Azzan, the former Member of Parliament for Kinondoni Constituency, explained sexual corruption incidents have been taking place within the community, adding that jogging groups should not allow such acts in their groups.

"Let's improve health through sports, let's also remember to condemn sexual corruption because it is dangerous to our health, so, let's all work together, starting at home and in sports, considering that these sports involve groups consisting of both genders," he said.

The secretary of the union of 10 jogging clubs in Kinondoni,

Vincent Kikube, said the groups support the call to tackle sexual corruption.

"There is indeed a problem in society and we started to provide education to combat it after getting training from experts from the WAJIKI organization," Kikube stated.

Haruna Magumbo, a member of the Barafu Jogging Club located at Magomeni, said that he- a parent and sportsman- is annoyed by the calamity and promised to inspire his group to support the fight against it.

Janeth Mawinza, the Director of a non-governmental organization sensitizing communities on gender issues (WAJIKI),

which opposes sexual corruption, said the organization cooperates with jogging groups in Dar es Salaam in the fight against sexual corruption.

According to Janeth, the program is conducted through the campaign, termed 'Safari Salama Bila Rushwa ya Ngoni Inawezekana', sponsored by Women Fund Tanzania (WFT).

"WAJIKI started involving a few jogging groups and now they have increased, given they have seen the importance of the fight against sexual corruption. I believe we are going to deliver this education well," Janeth noted.

Atletico leaning on Griezmann in key Feyenoord visit

AMSTERDAM

ATLETICO Madrid are depending on the red-hot Antoine Griezmann to book them a place in the Champions League knock-out rounds today at Feyenoord.

After finishing bottom of their group last season Atletico are desperate to progress and know they face a fierce battle at De Kuip in the Netherlands, with the hosts fighting to avoid elimination.

Atletico lead Group E on eight points, one ahead of Lazio and two up on third-placed Feyenoord, and a win would send them through.

Griezmann, who scored a fine header against Mallorca to take Atletico third in La Liga on Saturday, is in superlative form.

The French forward has nine goals in the Spanish top flight, only trailing the division's top goalscorer, Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham, and has netted four in four Champions League matches thus far.

He has eight goals and two assists in his last seven games for the club, across all competitions.

Griezmann played the full 90 minutes against Mallorca with coach Diego Simeone unable to rest the forward as his team had to fight until the end to take the three points.

"It's difficult to think about taking him off," said Simeone.

"He's so important to us, it's a shame that he always, or almost always, plays 90 minutes."

The Argentine coach has made Griezmann a central figure in the Atletico team, sometimes literally, deploying the 32-year-old in midfield on occasion.

Griezmann scored twice against Celtic while playing there in Atletico's 6-0 win earlier in November at the Metropolitan.

It allows Griezmann to put his imprint on the game more, without losing sight of his goalscoring duties.

- 'Living history' -

His goal against Mallorca was his 170th for the club, trailing all-time top Atletico goalscorer Luis Aragonés by only three.

Garnacho stunner helps Man U quell Everton fury

LONDON

MANCHESTER United rubbed salt into Everton's wounds as Alejandro Garnacho's stunning overhead kick helped the Red Devils to a 3-0 win that left the Toffees rooted in the Premier League relegation zone.

Everton's first match since receiving a 10-point deduction for breaches of financial rules was met with a furious response at Goodison Park as the home support held up thousands of placards labelling the Premier League "corrupt".

But the match was only three minutes old when Garnacho produced a sublime piece of skill that will go down as one of the great Premier League goals.

The 19-year-old Argentine sprang to meet Diogo Dalot's hanging cross flush on the volley and fire into Jordan Pickford's top left-hand corner.

"I cannot believe it. To be honest I just turned around and thought 'oh my God'," said Garnacho.

That moment of magic was out of keeping with another patchy United performance, but Marcus Rashford's penalty and Anthony Martial's strike ensured Erik ten Hag's men have now won five of their last six league games.

"It was a fantastic goal. (The) season is still many games to play but probably already the goal of the season," said Ten Hag. "We knew beforehand it was going to be difficult but we enjoy those challenges."

United climb up to sixth in the table and within six points of leaders Arsenal despite a troubled season.

The visitors had to cope with a febrile atmosphere as the Everton support took out their frustrations on the authorities for being handed the most severe sporting sanction in Premier League history.

After two seasons battling relegation, Sean Dyche's men looked to have pulled clear of trouble thanks to a fine recent run of form. But they are now off the bottom of the table only on goal difference and five points adrift of safety.

Everton were left to rue a series of missed chances after Garnacho stunned the raucous home support early on.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin twice failed to make the most of excellent headed chances.

Teenager Kobbie Mainoo shone on his first Premier League start for United and only a goalline clearance from the midfielder denied Dwight McNeil an equaliser after Andre Onana parried Calvert-Lewin's initial effort.

Abdoulaye Doucoure then slotted another glorious opportunity wide as Everton failed to press home their dominance before the break.

And the feeling among the home support that the world is against them was not helped when VAR intervened early in the second period to award United a controversial penalty.

Referee John Brooks had initially booked Martial for diving as he went down in the box under a challenge from Ashley Young.

Saudi-backed Newcastle now face Champions League reality check

PARIS

NEWCASTLE must overcome the might of Paris Saint-Germain and a mounting injury list if the Magpies' first foray into the Champions League for 20 years is not to come to a premature end today.

Damaging back-to-back defeats to Borussia Dortmund have left Eddie Howe's men sitting bottom of a devilishly difficult Group F, also featuring last season's semi-finalists AC Milan.

Newcastle must avoid defeat in the French capital to have any chance of reaching the last 16.

Qualification looked well within the grasp of Howe's side when they humbled PSG 4-1 on Tyneside in October.

But things have since unravelled for Newcastle as an injury crisis has taken its toll despite the club being backed by the riches of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund.

Contrary to expectations, Newcastle did not splash their newfound wealth extravagantly in the transfer window by the standards of top Premier League sides.

The club's one marquee summer signing, Sandro Tonali, has been slapped with a 10-month ban for breaching betting rules during his time with Milan.

Harvey Barnes has spent most of the campaign out injured since his switch from Leicester, while young full-



Newcastle will be knocked out of the Champions League if they lose to Paris Saint-Germain. Agencies

backs Lewis Hall and Tino Livramento have only been pressed into action in recent weeks due to injuries to others.

The decision to be more conservative in the transfer market is now coming back to bite, even if Newcastle showed remarkable resolve to thrash Chelsea 4-1 on Saturday without 13 first-team players.

Sven Botman, Dan Burn, Callum Wilson, Joe Willock and Sean Longstaff are among the other key players likely to miss out again at the Parc des Princes.

"You look at the players who were missing and that was a giant performance from the players we have fit,"

said Howe after Chelsea were swept aside at St. James' Park.

However, the fear for Howe is that his depleted squad have already emptied the tank ahead of facing a PSG side led by Kylian Mbappe with revenge and a place in the last 16 in their sights.

Howe needed to name three goalkeepers and a number of teenagers just to fill his bench at the weekend.

The demolition of the French champions in their first home Champions League match for two decades appeared a statement of intent from a coming power of European football.

Newcastle are aiming to follow in the footsteps of Manchester City as a state-

Giroud carrying Milan's attacking hopes in key Dortmund clash

MILAN

OLIVIER Giroud will carry AC Milan's Champions League hopes on his broad shoulders today when the veteran striker lines up against Borussia Dortmund at the San Siro.

Giroud has been the man for the big occasion since signing for Milan just over two years ago and the seven-time European champions will need his magic touch as they face a key Group F clash off-form and struggling with injuries.

The 37-year-old has scored eight times for Milan this season and reignited their hopes of reaching the last 16 with a trademark headed winner over Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month, his only goal in the competition so far coming when it really mattered.

Giroud wants to prolong his career at Milan, where he has had a hugely successful Indian summer, winning Serie A in 2022 and starring in last season's run to the Champions League semi-finals.

"I would like to stay. My contract expires next summer but I haven't spoken to the club about it," said Giroud in a recent interview with Le Journal du Dimanche.

"I want to keep going and I think I've got what it takes to do just that. I can still be useful to the team... coming here has been a blessing for me."

Giroud's importance to Milan couldn't have been clearer on Saturday night when, with the France forward suspended, they struggled to a single-goal win over Fiorentina.

A make-shift forward line led by flop summer signing Luka Jovic barely created a chance against Fiorentina, who were only stopped from snatching a late draw by a miraculous Mike Maignan save in stoppage time.

Missing star



Olivier Giroud netted AC Milan's winner over Paris Saint-Germain. Agencies

winger Rafael Leao and Noah Okafor to injury. Giroud's two-match Serie A suspension meant Jovic tried, and failed to make an impression.

- Giroud on target -

Serb Jovic, who arrived as a last-minute free transfer after negotiations for Porto striker Mehdi Taremi broke down, is yet to score or set up a single goal in eight league appearances.

His pass did lead to the penalty with which Theo Hernandez won the match but he also missed a huge opportunity to open his Milan account and suffered the ignominy of being substituted by a 15-year-old.

The introduction of Francesco Camarda, Serie A's youngest ever player, highlighted just how desperate coach Stefano Pioli is in attack and how happy he will be to have Giroud back leading the line against Dortmund.

"The win over PSG boosted our chances and a win against Dortmund would make a huge difference," Pioli said after Saturday's win.

"The boys know what kind of performance we need on Tuesday night, and that makes my job easier."

Beating PSG put Milan third in the group, two points behind leaders Dortmund with PSG sandwiched between the pair in second ahead of their clash with New-

a Champions League group which includes Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Newcastle, having conceded just two goals in four matches.

In the league however they are shipping more than 1.5 goals per game on average and look out of the title race with only a third of the season gone.

Now at the helm for almost a year and a half, Terzic has faced heavy criticism in Germany, with some calling for the 41-year-old's head.

Terzic and those in charge at Signal Iduna Park can help to silence the chatter by securing progress to the knockout phase against last season's semi-finalists.

Speaking at Dortmund's AGM on Sunday, club CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke contrasted his side's performances in the league with their showings in Europe.

"We were hoping for two or three more points (in the league) at this stage," Watzke said, "but the sky isn't falling."

"We are in first place in the (Champions League) group which cannot be over-estimated. The group is fragile and anything can happen. On Tuesday, we have a chance to qualify early with a win. I wouldn't have dared to dream of that at the time of the draw. That's the truth."

Watzke said the club

had "been exposed to a media barrage for months that I have not experienced in ages. I have to double check every week that we're not fighting relegation!"

The CEO, who took over in 2005 and helped save Dortmund from financial ruin, said "we beat Newcastle, but even then they say 'well they're not that good either.'"

Despite the criticism, Watzke has been Terzic's main advocate, often calling for patience for the Dortmund-born-and-raised coach.

The CEO has drawn parallels between Terzic and former mentor Jurgen Klopp, who did not finish in the top four until his third season in charge, when he won the league.

Dortmund drew the reverse fixture 0-0 with Milan in October and another draw, or a loss, would most likely mean the German side need to beat Paris at home in December to progress.

Besides the morale boost that would come from making it through this season's strongest Champions League group, qualifying has huge financial importance for the member-run club.

Dortmund, who were European champions 26 years ago, ended a run of three matches without a win in the league on Sat-

urday but made tough work of it, coming from two goals down to beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 4-2 at home.

"It was extremely important that we started the next block of games with a win," Terzic said on Saturday.

Terzic joked with reporters after the Gladbach game that "it definitely won't be boring with us this season" before crediting this side's "spirit, energy and faith" in the comeback.

Dortmund have now rescued 11 points from losing situations this season, the second-highest in the Bundesliga.

They face a season-defining set of fixtures in the lead-up to Christmas, taking on Milan, league leaders Leverkusen, third-placed Stuttgart in the German Cup, RB Leipzig and PSG.

Captain Emre Can, the former Liverpool and Juventus midfielder, said at the AGM on Sunday that the Milan game "won't be easy at all but we'll try and win."

"We are on top of the table. We don't need to hide... we want to measure ourselves against the best."

Watzke also primed his troops for the challenge on Sunday, saying "we live for games like this."

AFP

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Saudi-backed Newcastle now face Champions League reality check

PAGE 19

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
13:55 Dandoo Za Mchezo
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandoo Za Mchezo
17:00 SLELEK
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kaili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Arusha set to host maiden East Africa Youth Swimming Championships

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MORE than 12 swimming clubs from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania will be hitting the waves in the forthcoming maiden East African Swimming Championships which will take place here next month.

The inaugural swimming showdown, to be held in Arusha City, is part of the annual East Africa Chipkizi Cup which is essentially a youth soccer tourney but, for the first time, it will involve a swimming competition as well.

The event brings into Tanzania individual swimmers and clubs from all over the East African region.

There will be 12 teams and 46 individual swimming contestants in the maiden event which will be held at Braeburn International School swimming pool.

Participants will mostly be junior swimmers aged between six and 15 years in the first category, as well as those aged above 15 years in the second batch.

The Director of the Future Stars Academy, Alfred Itaeli, revealed here that the 2023 installment of the Chipkizi Cup has so far attracted more than 300 teams from all over the world.

"A total of 322 soccer teams, coming along with more than 5000 players, will be jetting into Arusha for the full week-long event," Itaeli said.

According to the Future Stars Academy Director, the football and swimming events will run from December 11-17, 2023.

Itaeli added that the teams also bring along more than 6000 supporters, for the 14th season of the annual East African youth football tournament.

Apart from swimming, which is being held for the first time this year, the 2023 East African soccer tourney features several categories- U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15, I-17, and U-20 for both boys and girls.

Participating countries include Cameroon, DR Congo, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, and the host Mainland Tanzania.

Then there will be talent recruiting agents, scouts, and soccer teams from the United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Macedonia, Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, Kenya, and Malawi.

The US's Major League Soccer (MLS) outfit, Chicago Fire, and the Outreach Ministry of Malawi are some of the soccer entities that will be pitching camp in Tanzania for the event in December.

The 2023 East Africa Chipkizi Cup, which runs for the 14th year now, will be staged at various venues in Arusha.

They are Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) grounds, Aga Khan Sports Center, Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, and the United World Colleges (UWC).

Simba SC's new head coach understands task ahead of him



Simba SC's newly appointed head coach, Abdelhak Benchikha.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

SIMBA SC's new head coach Abdelhak Benchikha is expected to arrive in Dar es Salaam this week to help the outfit settle and garner positive results.

The Msimbazi Street outfit ended Brazilian coach Roberto Oliveira's 18-month tenure after a disappointing 5-1 loss to long-time rival Yanga in this season's NBC Premier League tie earlier this month.

They quickly moved to appoint Benchikha, who led Algerian club USM Alger to TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup glory last season, defeating Yanga via the away-goal

rule having been level 2-2 on aggregate.

The arrival of Benchikha signifies Simba SC's ambition to quickly restore success on both fronts this term.

Benchikha witnessed via television when ASEC Mimosas managed to salvage a point away from home in a 2023/24 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League Group B clash against Simba SC played at the Benjamin

Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday afternoon. Speaking via phone, Benchikha- who has signed a one-and-a-half-year deal with Simba SC- said he is aware of the task at hand, with the current negative atmosphere engulfing the Msimbazi Street outfit.

"I understand the task at hand for me, Simba SC is a club with a huge reputation at home and the status they built for themselves in CAF

inter-club championships in recent years," he noted.

The coach stated: "First I want to meet all players at our training ground, train them, and get to know each player's prowess and weakness so that I can find their strengths."

He disclosed: "I know Simba SC as a brand that is well recognized on the continent and where the club deserves to be, for the time being, I can't speak about

my plans since I have to fulfill the requirements of the team per our contract terms."

Benchikha resigned from USM Alger earlier this season despite delivering a continental trophy for the Algerian club.

The Algerian international has eight trophies to his resume including two CAF Super Cup titles and CAF Confederation Cup.

"Every African team aims to achieve greatness in the CAF Champions League, I have worked for many years in African football, and I am ready to deploy my prowess and transform the club," the coach disclosed.

"I am ready to meet the technical bench officials and make sure we turn things around," Benchikha noted.

Now Simba SC hopes his pedigree can revitalize fortunes after Oliveira departed soon after recent setbacks.

Benchikha boasts over two decades of experience- managing prominent African clubs like Club Africain, Raja Casablanca, CS

Dar athlete qualifies for Paris 2024 Olympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN athlete Jackline Sakilu on Sunday qualified for the Paris Olympics slated for July to mid-August next year.

Marathoner Jackline earned her qualification in the 2023 Shanghai Marathon that took place in China on the same day, bringing together more than 35,000 runners from across the world.

She clocked 2.26.50 to finish eighth in the marathon's women's category and joined compatriots Gabriel Geay, Alphonse Felix Simbu, and Magdalena Shauri who have already secured their Paris Olympics qualification.

Jackline and Simbu took part in the Shanghai Marathon, with the latter managing to garner an eighth place in the men's category after recording 2.05.39.

Shanghai Marathon is on number 12 on the Platinum Label marathon events in the world and Simbu's time is his personal best.

In a brief interview, Jackline said she is happy to have realized her



Tanzanian athlete, Jackline Sakilu.

dream of representing her country in the Olympic Games.

She pointed out she is looking forward to carrying the national flag well in the Paris Olympics slated for July 26-August 11.

"It feels good to realize the dream. My dream has been to

represent my country in the Olympics and I am happy that I have realized it. I thank my coach, my family, and all those who supported me in this journey," she said.

In next year's Paris Olympics, Tanzania will be represented by performers from four disci-

plines- athletics, boxing, judo, and swimming.

So far, four athletes have qualified for the global showcase but the number is expected to increase as, next year, there will be many African qualifying events in which Tanzania's athletes are expected to take part.

Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), through the body's Secretary-General Filbert Bayi, had in the past emphasized the need to have many local athletes qualifying for the Olympics, saying a bigger number boosts the chance for the country to win medals in the

showdown.

To see to it many local athletes qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics, TOC through Olympic Solidarity (OS) early this year awarded scholarships to five Tanzanian athletes to prepare for the Games.

Bayi said TOC applied for scholarships for 16 athletes from athletics, boxing, judo, and swimming, but OS has so far granted the scholarships to five athletes.

He said the OS scholarships, worth \$1,500 a month, are handed to young promising athletes, aiming to prepare the young athletes to be future champions.

The five athletes that were awarded the scholarships are athletes Geay, Simbu, and Failuna Matanga, judo player Andrew Mlungu, and swimmer Hilal Hemed.

"We applied for Scholarships of 16 local athletes but the Olympic Solidarity (OS) has offered us five scholarships," Bayi disclosed.

"This is good for the country, this is the opportunity for our local athletes to prepare well ahead of the Paris Olympics," he noted.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

