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Samia: Focus on vision vital in planning

UNAIDS elated on goals, raises reservations on child infections

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

A new report released yesterday by the United Nations Agency on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) affirms that Tanzania can maintain current gains and meet AIDS eradication among children by 2030.

'The Path that Ends AIDS' data and case studies show political and financial needs to that goal, as health equity is key to achieving extraordinary results. Tanzania, Eswatini and Zimbabwe were listed as having achieved the '95-95-95' targets where 95 percent of those living with HIV know their HIV status, 95 percent of those with HIV are on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment and 95 percent of those on treatment have suppressed viral loads.

Charles Lyons, the president and CEO of the Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) said the report "affirms something EGPAF has long known: there is a path to end paediatric AIDS."

"The path forward is clear. As noted in the report, the path to an AIDS-free generation is anchored in health equity. The success of this approach requires strong political leadership, enhanced local solutions and sustainable financial investment," the medic declared.

Progress has been strongest in areas that have the most financial investments, including in eastern and southern Africa where new HIV infections have dropped by 57 percent since 2010, he stated. Areas that have legal and policy frameworks that protect human rights also strengthened progress, he said, noting that progress in the fight against paediatric AIDS has stalled, while disparities between adults and children continue, he said. "No country with a big HIV

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Prof Kitila Mkumbo as Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

By Getrude Mbago

MINISTERS and other top government officials need not fear in coming up with recommendations that seek to transform the country's direction to achieve set goals and visions, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

Addressing a State House gathering in Dar es Salaam after swearing in newly ministers and their deputies for revamped cabinet portfolios, she said that whoever has a good contribution and can help in the Planning Commission should feel free to do so.

She explicitly cited Tanzanian living outside the country or has citizenship of other countries in the Diaspora, in that they are made known to the commission "so that we see and conduct a thorough vetting so as to ensure that all our development plans can well be achieved."

She remarked to Planning and Investment minister of state Prof Kitila Mkumbo, who serves under the President's Office, that there is a huge burden for him to carry but he was well equipped for the task.

She said that human resource

Govt team fields key queries on DP World

By Henry Mwangonde

QUERIES from a wide array of politicians, academics and clerics on the Dar port operational accord were yesterday extensively addressed as top government officials sat with members of the Editors' Forum in a four-hour televised exchange.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Works and Transport minister accompanied notably by the government negotiating team which worked over the inter-governmental agreement, gave reasons on why it settled on the Dubai based state firm, DP World.

The firm was chosen as an investor to develop the port of Dar es Salaam owing to its experience and technology advancements, making it the best among six other shipping and port servicing firms shortlisted in arriving at the selected firm.

He issued this explanation when addressing editors from various media houses, underlin-

ing that the firm was best suited for the task owing to its knowledge of the central corridor, since it also operates in neighbouring states.

DP World was not just picked, but was subjected to competition involving six other

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Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa addresses members of the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on plans by the government to make the Dar es Salaam Port run more competitively. From-R: Dr Ally Possi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Works and Transport ministry; Mohamed Salim, the ministry's Director of Legal Affairs; TEF Chairman Deodatus Balile. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

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Six dead, two injured in road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

SIX people have died and two others injured in a head-on collision involving a mini-bus and a truck in Runzewe ward, Bukombe District in Geita Region.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Safia Jongo said the accident occurred on Thursday morning, involving a Toyota Hiace with registration number T766 DQP and a lorry where six people died on the spot.

She said the mini-bus was heading to Ngara in Kagera Region from Kahama in Shinyanga Region while the truck was heading to Kampala, the Ugandan capital. Preliminary investigations

show that the drivers of the vehicles were reckless as they were at high speed that led to the horrific accident, she stated. "The dead were the driver of the bus, his bus conductor and four passengers," she

elaborated, noting that the injured were admitted at the Geita regional referral hospital. She urged motor vehicle

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UNAIDS elated on goals, raises reservations on child infections

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burden has reached the 95-95-95 target for children. Approximately 130,000 children were newly infected with HIV and 43 percent of the 1.5m children known to be living with HIV were not receiving treatment last year," he elaborated.

While AIDS-related deaths in children have been reduced dramatically since their peak of 360,000 in 2004, approximately 84,000 children still died from AIDS-related complications in 2022. While the tools, the science and the solutions are available, sustained political will and financial investment needed to end AIDS by 2030 is lacking, he said, underlining that HIV funding declined in 2022 from international and domestic sources, falling back to the same level as in 2013.

Funding amounted to \$20.8bn in 2022, far short of the \$29.3bn needed by 2025 to keep UNAIDS on

track to end AIDS in children, youth and families by 2030, he stated.

"We echo UNAIDS in its call urging the world's leaders to join the journey to end AIDS by 2030. Now is the time for us all to end the world's deadliest pandemic and finally walk towards an AIDS-free generation," he said.

EGPAF is a proven leader in the fight for an AIDS-free generation and has reached over 31m expectant mothers with services to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies.

Founded in 1988, EGPAF has supported over 15,000 sites and currently works in 19 countries to offer HIV counselling, prevention, diagnosis and treatment services alongside high-quality family health care.

Each stage of life—from infancy to adulthood—brings new and different challenges, and EGPAF is driven to see a world where no other mother, child or family is devastated by this disease, the CEO intoned.

Six dead, two injured in Geita road crash

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drivers and road users to adhere to road safety rules and regulations to avoid drifting into unnecessary accidents.

United Nations statistics on road traffic crashes affirm that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless driving, 12 percent by mechanical problems, six percent by unpredictable weather linked to climate change, while only two percent of road accidents arise from poor infrastructure.

The Global Status Report on road safety issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) says that road traffic injuries are chiefly to blame for deaths of people aged 5-29 years.

"Every year road accidents cause the deaths of more than 1.35m people, disproportionately affecting the developing countries," it said.

In Tanzania, the latest WHO data establish that road accidents account for 6.12 percent of total deaths, with an actual count of around 18,054 deaths per year.

In September 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution for improving global road safety, proclaiming the decade of action for road safety 2021-2030.

It has an ambitious target of preventing at least 50 percent of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030.

Samia: Focus on vision vital in planning

FROM PAGE 1

development proposals for the country's development, she emphasised, asking the newly appointed ministers to work closely in harnessing digital technology and the blue economy.

She said the newly-formed planning ministry has a heavy burden of ensuring that Tanzania makes strides in development, giving it the green light to hire foreign experts.

Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango commended President Samia for restoring the Planning Commission, saying that the decision will propel forward the country's development plans.

He reminded the National Planning Commission permanent secretary Dr Lawrence Mafuru on the commission's tasks which include identifying current development status, opportunities and challenges the country is facing.

He said the commission needs to identify short, medium and long-term strategic direction as well as plans, milestones and implementation strategies. The technical leader of the team also has a role in leading the preparation of the national development vision for 2050, he stated.

"Go and work hard by collaborating with the private sector, CCM, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), think-tanks, higher learning institutions in various activities

In the new line up Dr Mwigulu Nchemba was retained as Finance minister, while Dr Ashatu Kijaji was retained as Industry and Trade minister, the two having shed planning and investment respectively.

Elijah Mwandumba was sworn in as Treasury deputy permanent secretary for economic management, in the wake of the Planning Commission Act 2023 setting it under the President's Office.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi presents a trophy to Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) acting CEO Andrew Mkapa (R) in Dar es Salaam on Thursday after the agency won the first prize in the 'Facilitation of Business and Investment' category at the just-ended 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt team fields key queries on DP World

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companies, he said, adding that the firm's experience and advancement in technology in port handling services worldwide sufficed for it to be chosen.

After initial remarks from the minister, upwards of 40 questions were posed by members of the forum, and addressed specifically by key legal experts from the ministry, the Tanzania Ports Authority, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Treas-

ury and relevant parliamentary committees.

The queries reflected the tone and slant of issues raised by various sections of the public, making a distinction between the inter-governmental agreement that has already been signed, and the host government agreement where many of the raised issues belong.

There is also a series of operational agreement like concession, leasing and issuing of TPA shares as the local partnering company, all of which will be

discussed and settled in due course, the panelists affirmed.

They said the discussion and queries raised constitute public inputs provided to the government negotiating team ahead of the relevant accords being reached after the IGA framework was signed and approved by the legislature, the various experts indicated.

Claims that the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to develop the port was binding

to Tanzania not to develop any port to a different company for a similar purpose are inaccurate as the relevant provision refers to sections of the port where the investor will be operating, the minister emphasised.

The preliminary agreement was to run, develop and manage gate 7 up to 11 of the port, to facilitate faster cargo handling and attract regional transit cargo stakeholders to Dar port.

DP world is expected to cut cargo clearance waiting time from the current five days to

24 hours, nearly doubling the number of ships using the port by the end of the decade.

Cargo disembarking will be reduced from days to hours, while charges are halved, thus attracting more cargo for Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in particular.

DP World investment will increase cargo from the current 21.8m tonnes to 47.57m tonnes by the end of the decade, while government revenue is projected to triple during the period, the minister reiterated.



Evodia Mbilinyi (R), sales supervisor with The Guardian Ltd, shows the gift members of the publishing firm's staff presented to outgoing Marketing and Circulation Manager Emmanuel Lyimo (in black T-shirt) at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. L-R: TGL Human Resources Manager Emmanuel Matondo, acting Marketing and Circulation Manager Dennis Ntaita, Finance Manager Samuel Orgeness and Commercial Director Ajay Goyal. Photo: Carlos Banda

IFM, NEEC sign MoU to implement economic transformation programme

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Institute of Finance Management (IFM) and National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement various economic initiatives to allow graduates to contribute to the country's economy.

Speaking during the signing ceremony yesterday in Dar es Salaam, IFM Rector Prof Josephat Lotto said the strategic partnership is part of the implementation of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) programme.

He said the aim of partnership is to produce competent graduates who can contribute to the country's economy and increase financial literacy among the community.

Prof Lotto said the partnership resonates with the government's target of

ensuring the graduates, community and the institute contribute to the country's economy.

He said that experience shows that most graduates are not competent in the labour market as well as financial literacy is poor amongst communities thus failing to contribute to the country's economy.

"We have signed the strategic partnership to be implemented in eight areas including upgrading curriculum and promoting applied research innovation capacity," he said.

NEEC executive secretary, Beng'i Issa said that financial literacy is crucial for the country's economic development noting that partnership will enhance community financial literacy which is key to the country's economic development.

"Our strategic partnership will be im-

plemented in eight identified areas to ensure graduates are competent. We also target to increase financial literacy among the community," she said, adding there will be a three years strategic plan to implement the MoU.

Dr Julius Raphael, HEET project coordinator at IFM said the institute is one out of 19 higher learning institutions implementing the HEET program with loan funding from the World Bank worth \$425 million.

He said out of the institutions, IFM received over \$10.5 million equivalent to 25m/- that will be used to improve the collaboration between the institute and the industry.

He named the areas of implementation as upgrading curriculum and introducing pedagogy, innovative methodologies and construction of infrastructures.

Carbon trading in Tanzania to support forest conservation

By Guardian Reporter

PROJECTIONS show that more than USD 1 billion (over 2trn/) will be mobilised annually through carbon trading in Tanzania to support conservation of forests while facilitating economic development.

The announcement was made yesterday by the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemeni Jafo when officiating the High Level Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Carbon Trading in Tanzania held yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

A statement released by the Vice

President's Office quoted the minister saying that since adoption of the regulations and guidelines on the trade in October, 2022, a number of prospective investors in carbon projects have been witnessed whereas to date, National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCCM) in Morogoro has already registered 21 companies for carbon trading.

The minister pointed out that Tanzania has set more than 48.1 million hectares of forests which provides global services for carbon sequestration so the discussion on Carbon trading from mangrove, terrestrial plants, wetlands, and

industrial carbon management are the results from the National Carbon Credit Guidelines and Regulations of 2022.

"It is expected that carbon trading will contribute to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for our country, which is targeted to reduce 30 to 35 percent of GHG emissions by 2030. We therefore need to establish and further co-operation between Tanzania and Carbon Credit investors and partners for our economy and future generations," he pointed.

However, Dr. Jafo added that the opportunities for Tanzania to be-

come involved in carbon trading includes capacity building in terms of technical, technology, institutional, access to climate finance from selling of carbon credits, environmental conservation and stakeholders' involvement.

He said on the other hand, responses to climate change mitigation requires multi-stakeholders including, ministries, departments and agencies, development partners, private sectors, civil society's organizations and not forgetting surrounding communities.

The Government recognizes the proud role and efforts undertaken

by various stakeholders including the private sectors towards addressing climate change through capacity building at the national and community's levels," he insisted.

Also, said the government will continue to create an enabling environment for private sectors to engage in carbon trading and explore various opportunities associated with carbon trading for climate change mitigation.

Speaking earlier, Acting Chief Executive Officer for Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Raphael Maganga expressed a word of

thanks to the government for its efforts to deal with the effects of climate change and in various fields in this country.

He said that these discussions will help build awareness among stakeholders and citizens in general about environmental challenges and various methods to deal with them.

Maganga added that climate change is a global challenge and that it causes various effects on the environment and health, so it is important to continue providing education to deal with them.



Government Chief Medical Officer Prof Tumaini Nagu (2nd-R) and Fistula Fund chief programme officer Lindsey Pollaczek (R) launch Fistula Foundation at the CCBRT Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. They are with the foundation's project manager in Tanzania, Clement Ndahani (L), and Fistula Foundation (Zambia Office) programme director Bwalya Chomba. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

TASAF called upon to identify eligible people to benefit from the programme

By Guardian Correspondent

MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, George Simbachawene has directed the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) to closely engage community development officers in the process of identifying eligible people to benefit with the programme.

It has been reported that despite the good job that is implemented by TASAF to rescue Tanzanians from abject poverty, there are some ineligible people who are benefiting from the programme.

Simbachawene made the statement on Thursday in his tour to speak with servants with the aim of encouraging responsibility in the implementation of their duties.

He said that the community development officers are very important people in the exercise as they are at ward level as well as in villages thus being easy to identify the eligible ones.

"Despite living with the beneficiaries, the community development officers have also been participating in councillor meetings, so they have a lot of information," Simbachawene stressed.

He said that TASAF's major basis is inclusion in every initiative meant to

alleviate poverty, so engaging leaders in particular areas was a matter of paramount importance.

The minister added that due to the huge job that TASAF was doing to help Tanzanians graduate from abject poverty, the programme should continue so as to lift as many people out of poverty and contribute to the country's development.

Deputy minister of the portfolio, Ridhiwani Kikwete hailed TASAF staff for their efforts and teamwork in serving Tanzanians.

According to him, proper plans and hard work has helped many men and women get out of poverty by engaging in income generating activities after being supported financially by TASAF. He added that the TASAF programme has also helped to reduce conflicts at the household level as many people who were living in abject poverty are now living a better life while engaging in economic activities.

Shedrack Mziray, acting TASAF executive director, promised to work on all the directives issued by the ministers so as to enable the programme achieve the intended outcomes.

Since its commencement in the year 2000, TASAF programme has contributed immensely to the reduction of income poverty among poor households in the country.

UNFPA accelerates advancement of gender equality, says Schreiner

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) is accelerating the advancement of gender equality - through access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, and equitable norms in the workplace and home.

UNFPA country representative, Mark Bryan Schreiner made the remarks when conveying a message to commemorate the World Population Day in Zanzibar.

This year's World Population Day theme is 'Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities'.

He said this year's celebration was used to reinvigorate conversations and efforts towards empowering women and girls with equal rights and choices in a world of 8 billion people.

Schreiner said there is strong evidence that education and family planning can yield enormous dividends in economic growth and human capital development.

He said human capital is equal-

ly crucial in fuelling a nation's progress, and therefore, investing in human capital is about improving individual lives and creating a skilled and productive workforce that drives innovation, competitiveness, and economic prosperity.

This results in healthier families, stronger economies, and resilient societies adding that evidence has shown that there is significant potential to increase productivity and facilitate income growth by achieving gender parity in the workforce, he said.

According to him, it was estimated that if gender equality was fully met today worldwide, it would bring about an 11percent increase in Gross domestic product by 2025; this percentage may be even higher in Tanzania.

He said more than 60 percent of the population in Tanzania is below the age of 24 and the number of young people is increasing.

"For this reason, promoting gender equality stands at the heart of UNFPA's work, recognizing that sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, is the

foundation for gender equality, dignity and opportunity" he said. "Immediate investment is needed in employment, education and health, especially sexual and reproductive health services of our young people, including adolescent girls and young women," he added.


Schreiner explained that advancing gender equality is a key solution to addressing many population concerns, and that realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights is the foundation for gender equality.

He expressed UNFPA commitments to continue collaborating with the government and key stakeholders to ensure that women, girls and young people can claim their rights, and make choices that will allow them to fulfil their potential, and build a prosperous future for this country and its people.


Tanzania's population is equivalent to 0.77 percent of the total world population. It is ranked number 24 in the list of countries (and dependencies) by popula-



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (2nd-L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before launching a project involving the deployment of ten three-wheelers (Bajaj). It is part of a Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) drive meant to enhance the participation of women and girls in the transport and transportation sector. Left is Maendeleo Bank managing director Ibrahim Mwangalaba and third-left is TGNP chairperson Gemma Sware Akilimai. Photo: Correspondent Muhidini Msamba



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INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER ICAP/TZ/05/2022-2023

Introduction	MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is the recipient of a five-year PEPFAR-funded cooperative agreement beginning 29th September 2021 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support comprehensive community- and facility-based HIV and VMMC services in Mwanza region.
	Along with this cooperative agreement ICAP received funds to conduct the second round of the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS 2022-23) during this performance period. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and ICAP worked in coordination with CDC and other national stakeholders to ensure a successful implementation of THIS 2022-2023.
General	Invitation for submission of proposal for yellow book audit services.
	ICAP now is looking for a reputable, registered, and competent audit firm to conduct an audit of Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS 2022-23) activities implemented by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) funded by CDC/PEPFAR. Detailed specification for year 2022/2023 income and expenditures for the project is contained in the tender document which will be provided to the interested bidders upon request.
Bidders will be required to submit the following documentation.	Business introduction letter, Company profile, evidence of being registered to audit US government funding by Office of Inspector General, Valid business license, Other audit certification evidence as required by law in Tanzania and internationally, Tax identification number (tin), Valid tax clearance certificate, Value added tax registration certificate (if any), Certificate of incorporation (if any), Article of association (if any), Manufacture authorization, Memorandum of association (if any), Experience justification & a recommendation letter from reputable organization.
Note	The public tender opening will be made in the presence of all bidders or their official representatives, we encourage all bidders to attend through zoom call and Zoom Call link will be sent to all who applied in advance of the meeting. Bids not received and opened in public at the public bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. The tender validity period is 14 days. Selection criteria will be lowest price, technically evaluated/ acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above. MSPH Tanzania reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions. MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition. MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and to confirm if the bid was submitted for this solicitation. The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP Procurement Guidelines.
Application procedure	Interested and eligible vendors should email their electronic quote via email to procurement department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu
	The Internal Tender Committee (ITC), MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP at Columbia University, Jangid Plaza 7 th Floor - Chaburuma Road, P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania, all quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings. The deadline for the submission is 10:00am East Africa Time on 28th July 2023.
Important to note	No tender fee charged for this invitation

Zambia, Tanzania to intensify security on 1,710-kilometre oil and gas pipeline

By Sara Simper

TANZANIA and Zambia have agreed to enhance security on the 1,710 km (1062 mile) Tanzania-Zambia Mafuta (TAZAMA) oil pipeline jointly owned by the two countries.

The pipeline was recently converted to transport refined diesel after operating for more than four decades as a conduit for commingled petroleum products.

Speaking after the TAZAMA pipeline security conference in Tanzania recently, Zambia's Defence minister, Ambrose Lufuma said the meeting centred on the implementation of agreed upon security enhancements and expansion of the pipeline as well as the proposed TAZAMA gas pipeline.

He said the matter arose from recommendations at the first inter-governmental meeting on the TAZAMA pipeline which was held in December 2022 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

"There have been security concerns (over vandalism), as the pipeline passes through communities in both countries. Previously, the pipeline was transporting commingled (oil) products, but now it has been upgraded to finished products, hence the need for further security," Lufuma said.

His call came against the backdrop of

increasing security risks for the pipeline, which traverses through communities in the two countries. In March this year, a contractor carrying out roadwork in Mbeya, Tanzania ruptured the pipeline, causing serious damage.

The incident resulted in the spillage of over a million litres of low sulphur gasoil, substantially costing the company in terms of repairs.

Speaking alongside Lufuma, Energy Minister, January Makamba said the TAZAMA pipeline was a legacy project of the two nations founded by their forefathers, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Tanzania's Julius Nyerere.

"This is why the present-day governments of President Samia Suluhu Hassan (of Tanzania) and Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia have demonstrated a commitment to ensure that the facility continues to be safeguarded for the benefit of our two nations and citizens," Makamba said.

There have been security concerns (over vandalism), as the pipeline passes through communities in commingled



Yara Tanzania senior agronomist Maulidi Mkima demonstrates to the company's agents who toured its factory in Dar es Salaam yesterday the care with which fertiliser is stored at the facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN report: 122 million more people pushed into hunger since 2019 due to multiple crises

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 122 million people are facing hunger in the world since 2019 due to the pandemic and repeated weather shocks and conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, according to the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).

The report has been published jointly by five United Nations specialized agencies—Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Food

Programme (WFP).

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said during the launch of the report at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday that there are rays of hope, some regions are on track to achieve some 2030 nutrition targets.

"But overall, we need an intense and immediate global effort to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals. We must build resilience against the crises and shocks that drive food insecurity from conflict to climate," he said.

FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu said: "Recovery from the global pandemic has been uneven, and the war in Ukraine has affect-

ed nutritious food and healthy diets. This is the 'new normal' where climate change, conflict, and economic instability are pushing those on the margins even further from safety. We cannot take a business-as-usual approach."

IFAD President, Alvaro Lario said: "A world without hunger is possible. What we are missing is the investments and political will to implement solutions at scale. We can eradicate hunger if we make it a global priority. Investments in small-scale farmers and in their adaptation to climate change, access to inputs and technologies, and access to finance to set up small agribusinesses can make a difference. Small-scale producers

are part of the solution. Properly supported, they can produce more food, diversify production, and supply both urban and rural markets - feeding rural areas and cities nutritious and locally grown food."

UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell said: "Malnutrition is a major threat to children's survival, growth and development. The scale of the nutrition crisis demands a stronger response focused on children, including prioritizing access to nutritious and affordable diets and essential nutrition services, protecting children and adolescents from nutrient-poor, ultra-processed foods, and strengthening food and nutrition supply chains

including fortified and therapeutic foods for children."

WFP Executive Director, Cindy McCain said: "Malnutrition is a major threat to children's survival, growth and development.

The scale of the nutrition crisis demands a much stronger response focused on children. Solutions include prioritizing access to nutritious and affordable diets and essential nutrition services, protecting children and adolescents from nutrient-poor, ultra-processed foods, and strengthening food and nutrition supply chains, including fortified and therapeutic foods for children."

WHO Director-General said: Dr

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus: "Child wasting remains unacceptably high and there has been no progress in reducing child overweight. We need targeted public policies, investments and actions to create healthier food environments for all."

The 2023 edition of the report reveals that between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, with a mid-range of 735 million. This represents an increase of 122 million people compared to 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While global hunger numbers have stalled between 2021 and 2022, there are many places in the world facing deepening food crises.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro opens a media workshop on gender-based violence in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SADC agrees to send troops to DR Congo in September

KINSHASA

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has agreed to send troops to eastern DR Congo by the end of September 2023.

The decision was reached on Tuesday, July 11, during a meeting of SADC presidents chaired by Namibia's Hage Geingob which discussed the security situation in eastern DR Congo and the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado.

"Our collective resolve as a bloc is that security, safety, and the stability of our region must be safeguarded at all cost," Geingob said, reading the meeting's resolutions.

The SADC mission in DR Congo will be deployed by September 30, even as the country prefers to hold national elections on December 20, he said.

"Emphasis will therefore also be placed on the political and diplomatic front" for the parties to the conflict in eastern DR Congo to "come to the table to ensure a lasting solution," Geingob noted.

In attendance at the virtual meeting were Presidents Felix Tshisekedi of DR Congo, South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, Zimbabwe's Emerson Mnangagwa and

Zambia's Hakainde Hichilema, among other leaders.

The Southern African bloc approved a military deployment to eastern DR Congo on May 8, saying the troops would "address the prevailing situation." The latest decision follows a meeting between Ramaphosa and Tshisekedi on July 7 in Kinshasa, where they discussed the security situation in eastern DR Congo. The two leaders said their governments were looking forward to bilateral defense agreements.

Eastern DR Congo already has troops from five countries of the East African Community (EAC). The EAC regional force deployed in December 2022.

Under a bilateral arrangement, Uganda also has troops in the country's Ituri province. The EAC regional occupies positions vacated by the M23 rebels.

In March, Angola's President Joao Lourenço announced that his country would send troops to DR Congo under a bilateral arrangement with Kinshasa.

Eastern DR Congo is home to more than 130 local and foreign armed groups responsible for various atrocities and human rights violations. Multiple interventions, including the UN peacekeeping mission in the country, have failed to end decades of violence.

SUA secures 10,000 hectares of land for tree farming, students' practical studies

By Guardian Reporter

SOKOINE University of Agriculture (SUA) has secured 10,000 hectares of land in Madaba District council, Ruvuma Region for tree farming as well as students' practical studies.

This has become official after signing an agreement with the district council for the acquisition of the land.

Speaking soon after signing of the agreement, SUA deputy Vice Chancellor (academic, research and guidance), Prof Maulid Mwatawala said the farm will greatly help strengthen practical learning as well as provide income to the varsity.

"The government is currently encouraging universities to be innovative by investing in other income generating

projects so as to increase their internal revenue and operate independently instead of relying on government subsidies, so we at SUA have specialized in forestry issues," he said.

According to him, the pace of tree planting at the Ifinga training forest in Madaba has been boosted by Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project which has set aside funds to

facilitate more tree planting in the farm here in this year alone, a total of 500 trees will be planted.

He said that all citizens at Magingo village whose plots were taken to facilitate construction of a processing factory of the forest products have been compensated after the regional valuation unit completed the valuation exercise as per laws.

Sajidu Idrisa, Madaba district executive director said that the investment by SUA will stimulate tree planting in the district as well as increase income to people including those who will be employed in the farm and factory.

He further asked SUA to fast-track the process of establishing the factory so that it can help add value to the forest products and thus contribute to increasing income for tree farmers and the district.

Agnes Sirima, Principal of the SUA's College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism said they have already planted about 1000 timber trees since 2018.

"We are doing well with support and close collaboration with the council as well as Ifinga residents which include supporting various development initiatives at the areas, the college has supported construction of 20 latrine holes in Ifinga primary school and educate the community on fire control," she explained.

She added that the farm has also provided employment opportunities to 200 youth who have been working in the farm by planting trees and other activities.



Chamwino district commissioner Gift Msuya pictured yesterday opening a stakeholders' meeting called to discuss plans to ensure safe and gainful use of land. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Z'bar happy with implementation of three market construction projects

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, has expressed satisfaction with the speed of implementation of three markets construction projects in Unguja West Region.

The government in the Isles is constructing three markets—Mwanakwerekwe, Jumbi and Chuini.

During his tour to inspect progress in implementation of the projects, Abdulla expressed pleasure to see the projects are managed and executed by local patriotic contractors.

He said implementation of the projects is part of the government's efforts to improve the welfare of people and make sure they have improved services.

The second VP noted that completion of the construction of the markets will solve the various challenges facing Isle residents including poor market infrastructures. He said the structures will attract more

traders and push them to bring goods that are of high quality and standards.

He commended security organs as well as the government for ensuring safety of construction equipment throughout the project implementation. The projects are supervised by the Zanzibar Building Agency (ZBA).

Zanzibar Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administrations, Local Governments and Special Departments, Massoud Ali Mohammed said that once the markets are completed, more than 4,000 traders will be accommodated at Manakwereku market while Jumbi and Chuini markets will accommodate more than 4,500 traders. The project consultant and architect from the ZBA Shadya Fauz Mohamed promised to ensure close monitoring and supervision of the projects to ensure value for money.

Mohamed said the projects are expected to be completed within schedule.

RC warns civil servants on delays in execution of school projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

KATAVI Regional Commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko has urged civil servants in Tanganyika District to evaluate themselves for failing to complete various primary school projects.

The projects which are being implemented by the government through a programme dubbed: 'Best Learning of Early Education and Primary Tanzania

Mainland (BOOST)' were supposed to be completed by June 30th, this year but most of them are yet to be finished.

Speaking shortly after inspecting some of the projects, Mrindoko said that unnecessary internal conflicts between leaders and staff of the council are among the major factors leading to the delay of the projects.

She warned the employees to stop the recklessness of entertain-

ing the conflicts that greatly have impacts to the projects thus affecting implementation of prior projects in the education sector.

"These conflicts will not bring any productivity in the council, so think of this, assess yourself if what you are doing is good and take action because there are a lot of funds which will be issued and we do not want you to fail again,

we will not tolerate it," she explained.

Hassan Rugwa, Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) wanted contractors of the projects to increase pace in the implantation of the projects and ensure that they produce quality buildings that meet all the required standards.

"We are behind schedule, these projects should have been com-

pleted by June 30, this year to allow our children to start using the classrooms, but look where we are now, we need to increase pace," she added. Kasekese primary school headteacher, Fredrick Dunga said the project is implemented at a tune of 671m/- and that the school has 16 classrooms where two of them are for kindergarten pupils and 14 for primary education.

BOOST is part of the Education Programme for Results (EPforR II), an innovative, results-based financing programme supported by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the World Bank, the government of Sweden (SIDA), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



National Service (JKT) exhibitions chairman Col Shija Lupi (R) and his assistants celebrate in style on Thursday shortly after the Army wing was declared first winner in the 'Processing of Agricultural, Livestock and Fisheries Products' category at the just-ended 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Communication towers complying with international safety standards'

By Guardian Reporter

THE latest report by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) on comprehensive testing of electromagnetic radiation levels emitted by communication towers has shown that they comply with international safety standards.

The idea to conduct the testing which was done in nine regions was to ensure safety of citizens and communication service users through the management and monitoring of communication infrastructures.

The extensive testing aimed to verify adherence to the guidelines set by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), a renowned authority in the field.

The results provide valuable insights into the safety of communication services in Tanzania and have been met with relief and assurance by the public.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general, remarked that the institution is responsible for monitoring and maintaining telecommunications standards and plays a pivotal role in overseeing the safety of communication infrastructure and remains committed to it.

"Through comprehensive testing procedures, TCRA ensures that communication towers adhere to safety limits, providing a safe and secure environment for communication service users. By maintaining communication infrastructure that emits radiation levels well within established safety thresholds, TCRA prioritises the health and well-being of Tanzanians," he emphasised.

Dr Bakari noted that TCRA is committed to continue monitoring and regulating the telecommunications sector as it reinforces public trust in the safety of communication ser-

vices. He added: "Citizens can confidently utilize these services, knowing that their health and safety are protected by stringent regulatory measures."

As the government continues to provide a safe communication environment, it is anticipated that future advancements in communication infrastructure will also prioritise the well-being of its users, said the DG.

During a recent speech in the National Assembly, Minister of Information, Communication, and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye emphasised the safety of communication towers.

"The government continues to manage communication infrastructures including phone towers, radio towers, and television towers to protect communication service users and residents living near the infrastructures. The measured radiation levels from communication towers have not exceeded the maximum radiation limits as directed by the ICNIP, thus ensuring safety of communication users," said minister.

According to the TCRA report, the highest recorded radiation level from the tested communication towers was 3.676 V/m (Volts per Meter). The measurement is significantly below the ICNIRP's safety limit of 41.98 V/m, ensuring that citizens and nearby residents are not exposed to excessive electromagnetic radiation.

The government's commitment to protecting its citizens is further evident in its strict adherence to internationally recognized safety guidelines. By implementing the recommendations set by the ICNIRP, Tanzania safeguards the well-being of its population and ensures that the use of communication services does not pose any significant health risks.

Minister underscores need for concerted action to develop Songwe River basin

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WATER minister Jumaa Aweso has underscored the need for concerted efforts to further develop the Songwe River Basin for purposes of improving the lives of the people of both Tanzania and Malawi.

Aweso who is the co-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Songwe River Basin Joint Commission (SONGWECOM) made the statement yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the council's sec-

ond meeting.

"The government of Tanzania and Malawi are putting efforts to cooperate in developing the basin, we should not waste energy that has been used to get us where we are today," said the minister.

He said discussion between officials from the two governments stressed the need for cooperation in developing the valley and finding common permanent solutions to the various challenges in-

cluding floods that have been striking the valley since 1976.

Speaking at the meeting, Malawi minister for Water, Abida Sidik said the valley will be developed in support of development of the people in both countries.

Sidik added that the Malawian government is ready and committed to implement projects that are geared to develop the basin for mutual benefits.

Geographically, Songwe River is part

of the Lake Nyasa Basin on the Tanzanian side. The River originates in the mountains in Mbozi District and pours its water into Lake Nyasa.

In addition, Songwe River forms part of the border between Tanzania and Malawi and is 200 kilometers long.

The Songwe River Basin is located in Southwest Tanzania and North of Malawi and has a size of 4,243 square kilometers.

Along with the proposals for the con-

struction of dams, detailed design and investment preparation, 26 projects worth \$829 million have been designed and will be implemented through the Songwe River Basin development program.

The program involves various sectors including water, energy, irrigation, land, agriculture, climate, environment, local governments, investments, as well as the industry and business sector.



SGA Security managing director Eric Sambu (2nd-L), Kinondoni Regional Police Commander (C) Mtatiro Kitinkwi and a member of the company's board of directors, Oscar Mgaya (2nd-R), display the ISO 18788 certificate the firm has just been presented with for the third year running. This was at a ceremony the firm held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week to fete its founders and bid farewell to its retirees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Statisticians urged to interpret, utilise Housing Census results

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

STATISTICIANS in the country have been urged to interpret and utilise the 2022 Population and Housing Census results in planning, follow up and verify the implementation of various development plans and programmes in order to attain industrial economy.

The call was given here yesterday by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Jenifa Omolo on behalf of the Minister for Finance when opening the two-day training seminar for statisticians from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar organised by Tanzania Association of Statisticians (TASTA).

She said that it is important for statisticians to use the training opportunity to make sure they use census results in following up and verifying the implementation of various global and regional development plans and programmes which Tanzania had endorsed.

"The government stresses on the use of census results recognizing that the country can gain huge value from investment values," she said.

She also called upon all stakeholders including Tanzanians to be part of the process in the use of census results for various development plans, as by doing so, they can get the value of the money provided by the government to attain positive results.

Omolo also said that the training should be conducted as planned by attaining its goals by providing the intended knowledge and subsequent distribution to various other stakeholders.

For her part, Dr Albina Chuwa, the government Chief Statistician said that statisticians are required to move with one goal to make sure statistics spur community development.

"These statistics are required to instill development in the community, it is important now for all statisticians to make sure they become a driving force for the country's development," said Dr Chuwa.

Salum Kassim Ali, Zanzibar's Chief Statistician said statisticians are the ones who plan for the country's development, hence it is their responsibility for every one of them to make sure census results are utilised appropriately.

Communities earn 6.9bn/- through sustainable forest management and biodiversity protection

By Guardian Reporter

THE latest report by Carbon Tanzania has shown that local communities earned 6.9bn/- in revenues through nature-based carbon credits in combating climate change and deforestation.

The earned funds have helped communities to drive economic growth and support community development initiatives.

Marc Baker, Co-founder and CEO, Carbon Tanzania said: "At the highest level, carbon finance is about including communities in the global financial system and allowing remote communities access to the money in that system. Our projects recognize

the crucial role of local communities and depend on their active involvement. Through collaborative decision-making, local communities determine the allocation of carbon revenue, supporting initiatives like building schools or healthcare facilities."

Mariam Anywire Mwakilosa, community coordinator of the Yaeda-Eyasi Landscape Project, highlighted the positive impact of Carbon Tanzania's work in preserving forests and protecting their land from invasion.

"Deforestation posed a significant challenge for us. The financial revenues from the carbon credits we now earn from protecting our forests

in the way we always have, we now have the resources to ensure our land is not invaded and our forests stay standing," she said.

Frank Kweka, project manager Ntakata Mountains Project said that before the Ntakata Mountains Project was implemented, no one in the community was concerned about the environment because they didn't realize its importance.

He said people from neighbouring regions were invading and causing massive destruction of forests, water catchments, destroyed wildlife habitat and disturbed forest ecosystems.

"Through strategic land-use plans, defined land boundaries, and the dedication of carbon champions, the

project has effectively prevented deforestation," he added.

Carbon Tanzania's impact-driven approach to sustainable forest management and biodiversity protection not only preserves wildlife-rich forest habitats but also enables local communities, with their valuable traditional knowledge, to recognize the value of their natural assets.

In alignment with 12 of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2022 impact report includes data that demonstrates the measurable economic, social, and environmental benefits to local communities - supporting economic growth through the distribution of carbon revenue.

However, women's empowerment initiatives are implemented across all projects. Women serving as Village Game Scouts (VGS) defy gender stereotypes and their salaries - not only support their families - but also contribute to small businesses which benefit the entire community.

According to the report, improved access to quality education has been achieved through projects such as the Makame Savannah, which allocated 934,593,831.38/- to education in 2022.

The construction of a girls' dormitory has facilitated the attendance of 70 school-aged girls who would have otherwise faced traditional taboos regarding boarding schools for girl

children.

Addressing deforestation requires supporting locally implemented mechanisms that prevent unregulated land clearance. By collaborating with local communities and higher levels of government, Carbon Tanzania aims to build political support for protecting natural forests and selecting specific areas for agriculture.

Carbon Tanzania's 2022 projects showcase tangible outcomes. Due to an increase in carbon revenue, the communities of the Yaeda-Eyasi landscape project were able to employ additional staff to ensure they can effectively protect their threatened forests which now includes nine extra villages.



Kusaga Gombania, acting chairman of the union of natives of Suguti and Kusenyi villages in Musoma Rural District living in various regions and popularly known as Suguti Diaspora, opens an ordinary meeting of the union at Makumbusho in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. He is flanked by the union's secretary, Joseph Jandwa (L), and assistant secretary Medard Thomas. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

WFP embarks on new five-year plan to end hunger in Zambia

LUSAKA

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in partnership with the government of Zambia have launched a five-year plan targeting nearly 650,000 people.

The plan seeks to eliminate hunger, improve nutrition, and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to food shocks.

The WFP Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028) is a comprehensive road map that positions WFP as a major player in building the resilience of smallholder farmers.

Budgeted at \$98,463,341 the plan results from extensive consultations among WFP, government, donors, United Nations agencies, International Financial Institutions such as the International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Africa Development Bank, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academia, youth, and the private sector.

"We have seen the positive impact of WFP's programmes and initiatives and are particularly happy that the key strategic outcomes of this plan will focus on youth, women, and persons with disabilities," said Rueben Phiri, Minister of Agriculture.

"The government of Zambia is committed to supporting WFP in achieving the strategic objectives of its new five-year country strategic plan. I am confident that with the support of WFP, we can achieve one of our goals of a Zambia where every citizen has access to adequate and nutritious food," Phiri added.

Cissy Byenkyia, WFP's Country Director in

Zambia said: "Saving lives and changing lives by ending hunger and ensuring food security for all Zambians is not just a moral obligation, but also a critical step towards achieving sustainable development and reducing poverty."

He added: "Launching this five-year plan marks a critical milestone in our collective efforts to end hunger and malnutrition in Zambia. Our focus is squarely on achieving food and nutrition security by 2030. Working with our partners can build a more resilient, sustainable, food-secure, and prosperous future for all Zambians."

The CSP aligns with national priorities outlined in the government's Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

It aims to enable Zambia to achieve its development goals and contribute to the agenda of 2030 by prioritizing investment in human capital while maintaining sustainable economic growth.

WFP will support the government to decentralize its Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) procurement to ensure food is purchased from smallholder farmers near schools.

WFP aims to enhance social protection systems in Zambia by strengthening social registries and community feedback mechanisms. This support will include training, development of guidelines, and enhancement of information management systems that integrate anticipatory actions, preparedness, and risk reduction interventions within the broader social protection landscape.

Twiga Minerals transforms gold mining in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TWIGA Minerals, the joint venture between the government and Barrick Gold Corporation, has revitalised gold mining in the country through a partnership that should serve as a model for similar operations, said Barrick president and chief executive, Mark Bristow.

Bristow said in 2019, when Barrick took control over North Mara and Bulyanhulu - the mines that now form the Twiga complex - both were rundown and at a virtual standstill due to a deadlocked dispute between the government and the previous operators.

"We settled the dispute and established

Twiga as a 50:50 economic benefits sharing partnership, which also vested a 16 per cent shareholding in each mine with the government.

"We reinvented the mines which now, as a combined complex, produce gold at a Tier One level, in other words one which can produce at least 500,000 ounces of gold annually for more than 10 years at the lower half of the industry cost curve," he said.

"So successful are these operations that, since Barrick's buyout of the minority shareholders, they have contributed more than \$2.8 billion to the Tanzanian economy through gold mining in and in the form of taxes, levies, dividends, salaries and payments to

local suppliers," said Bristow.

"Equally important, we have fixed the environmental, land claims and human rights issues that destroyed these mines' reputations and have restored their gold mining in Tanzania social licence to operate as an integral member of their communities.

He said that since its establishment, Twiga has invested more than \$12.5 million in landmark projects - identified in collaboration with the community development committees we established at the mines - to provide access to quality healthcare, educational facilities, potable water and alternative sources of income. He said that among them is an irrigation system which is expected to substan-

tially improve production for 2,356 farmers.

Twiga has also committed \$30 million to a future forward school programme. In partnership with the government, it will build 1,090 classrooms and other facilities across 161 schools nationwide, to accommodate some 49,000 of the estimated 190,000 students who will start their A-levels in July this year. In addition, it has pledged \$40 million to construct a 73 kilometre road from Kahama to Kakola through gold mining in Tanzania.

Operationally, Bristow said the Twiga complex was continuing its strong production performance and was well on track to achieve its guidance for the year. Both mines are maintaining a strong focus on the health

and safety of their workers, and in April Bulyanhulu won the Overall Tanzanian OSHA Compliance Award for 2023 in the Mining Sector Category and North Mara was second runner-up.

Globally, Barrick has a policy of prioritizing local employment and at Twiga this has delivered a workforce which is 96% Tanzanian, with almost half drawn from the communities around the mines.

Bristow said conversion drilling at North Mara was successfully replacing the reserves depleted by mining and first ore was mined at the mine's new Gena pit last quarter. Additional opportunities for resource conversion have been identified at both mines.



Lucas Zacharia, councillor for Endiamtu in Simanjiro District, pictured at a meeting in Mimerani township on Thursday speaking on problems facing the education sector in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

IIT Madras' Z'bar campus to commence classes in October

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

THE international campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), extending across 200 acres in Zanzibar, will start classes in October 2023.

Preeti Aghalayam, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, IIT Madras, will be the first woman director of an IIT as she is the Director-in-charge of the international campus of the IIT Madras at Zanzibar.

Aghalayam said that faculty strength would be based on required teaching expertise and the quality assurances of IIT Madras, including but not limited to maintaining robust

faculty-student ratios. The IITM Zanzibar campus will have a structure with degree programs hosted by schools.

Classes for the first Academic Year (2023-2024) are scheduled to commence in October 2023, offering two full-time academic programs - A four-year Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and a two-year Master of Technology in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. The total student intake will be 70.

With the master plan being developed by IIT Madras experts, the admission process for the first Academic Year of 2023-24 has commenced, says a press release.

Faculty will be deputed from IIT Madras or recruited

from India during the initial days of this campus. Activities to ensure local talent is developed and can be employed as faculty are underway already.

The government of India offers numerous scholarships for citizens of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to study in various degree programs at IIT Madras in Chennai, starting from July 2023.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi recently, V. Kamakoti, director of IIT Madras said: "It is indeed a major milestone in the history of IIT Madras that we are establishing a Campus at Zanzibar. Through this, we look forward to active participation in the future higher education initiatives at Zanzibar."

Women's empowerment key to crop diversity in low-income states - study

By Special Correspondent

EMPOWERING women farmers in low and middle-income countries can lead to greater crop diversity - helping to improve year-round supply of healthy foods, research suggests.

Involving women more in agricultural decision-making, community groups and the ownership of farm equipment results in more crops with a higher nutritional value being grown, the study shows.

Growing a wider variety of crops brings environmental benefits, improving soil fertility and reducing the threat from pests and crop diseases.

The resultant crop diversity also enables farmers to adapt more readily to market changes, and builds resilience against increasingly erratic weather patterns, researchers say.

The team says these findings suggest a pathway to improving global food supply, protecting the world's low-income farming

communities, whilst supporting women's rights.

Most of the world's farmers are smallholders and women make up more than half of the agricultural workforce, but typically they have less control over decision-making.

An international team led by the University of Edinburgh analysed data from four countries, Burkina Faso, India, Malawi and Tanzania, to explore the relationship between women's empowerment and crop diversity.

Dr Lilia Bliznashka, from the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems at the University of Edinburgh and the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC, said: "We hope to encourage efforts to consider women's empowerment in the context of agricultural production and food system resilience to support critical win-win agendas for women's rights and for the provision of a healthy diet from a healthy planet."

Previous studies in South Asia

indicated that supporting women farmers could enhance crop production and diversity, but it was unclear whether the findings would apply to other regions.

Analysis revealed that greater involvement from women improved three measures of crop diversity - the number of crops grown, the number of food groups grown, and if nutrient-dense crops were grown.

In low and middle-income countries, crops produced by smallholders are vital to protect

the livelihoods and food supplies of local communities, but they are increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change.

The research team plans to translate these findings into targeted interventions that support women and improve crop diversity, without adding to women's existing work burdens.

The study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, also involved researchers from, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the University of Ox-

AU high-level meeting takes place in Kenya

NAIROBI

A high-level summit between the African Union (AU), regional economic communities and regional mechanisms organisation opened here on Thursday.

The 5th mid-year coordination meeting is taking place from July 13th to 16th and is attended by 51 foreign ministers from the AU member states.

Tomorrow, 15 heads of state will meet at the United Nations African headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi.

The summit is following the AU theme for 2023, 'Acceleration of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation and will explore ways to enhance integration across the continent and boost trade.

Kenyan Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr Alfred Mutua said that the meeting would also consider the AU's financial budget for 2024.

The meeting takes place as the continent is rocked by ongoing conflicts and crises which have affected most of the AU's member states.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dhoahir Dhoulkamal, the AU's Chairperson of the Executive Council, recognised that the meeting takes place 'at a time and within a special context of the international scene marked by conflicts and various crises'.

"The war in the Sudan, the conflict in Eastern DRC, the transition process in Mali and Burkina Faso and Guinea, the war in Russia and Ukraine, which is weighing heavily and negatively on the agricultural production of Africa," Dhoulkamal said, adding: "These are so many concerns which remain at the very heart of our political and diplomatic program."

The MYCMs were started in 2017 as a means for the AU and RECs to 'align their work, and coordinate the implementation of the continent-wide integration agenda'.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (L) presents 200,000/- to an entrepreneur at the city's Kivukoni market in support totalling 10m/- the Lalji Foundation extended on Thursday to each of 50 small businesses run by women. With them are Lalji Foundation director Imtiaz Lalji (2nd-L) and Kivukoni councillor Sharik Choughule. Photo: Correspondent

Govt starts addressing challenges facing low examination passes in mathematics

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has begun working on challenges contributing to low examination passes in the Maths subject in both primary and secondary schools by establishing special training via ICT for instructors in teachers' colleges.

The step by the government stems from low statistics in examination passes and few teachers of the subject at schools.

Speaking at the opening of an in-service training seminar for instructors of Maths subject from 35 teachers' colleges, the permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Tech-

nology, Prof Caroline Nombo said the training is one in the implementation of government goals in bringing about transformation in the Maths subject.

Prof Nombo said the plan will boost teaching and learning strategies including the use of ICT especially at this time the government is implementing a huge transformation of

the country's education. She said in attaining the plan, the government has already invested in the construction of new buildings and boosting other teachers' colleges' infrastructures including those for laboratories and ICT.

Prof Nombo also said already invested towards the construction of a science centre at Morogoro Teachers College and

provided various modern ICT equipment including computers and tablets that will enable the instructors to learn even if they are outside the college's premises.

For his part, Assistant director of Teachers Training, Huruma Mageni said the Ministry of Education continues with the implementation of various tasks for the Tanzania Educa-

tion Support Project (TESP) for teachers teaching Maths subject.

Mageni said the training is provided on the subject at Degree and diploma level from all 35 teachers colleges county-wide to teachers of the Maths subject.

The coordinator of Teachers Education Development Project, Cosmas Mahenge said the

Maths training via ICT is provided to 135 instructors from all country zones.

For his part, TESP Consultant, Andrew Binde said they have started with instructors of the Maths subject because already its infrastructures have been completed at teachers' colleges and later they will do so for other subjects.

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Hunting blocks committee has a tough advisory balancing act

PLENTY of issues will have to be brainstormed by members of an advisory committee on allocating tourist hunting blocks that has lately been launched. The spheres that the portfolio minister pointed out, namely the need to reduce bureaucracy and curb conflicts of interest are pregnant with vast choices and policy conflicts the sector is beset with. It is unclear what therefore the minister thus asked the committee to correct, if it is own shortcomings or those of policy.

One such task which is likely to have faced shortcomings is ensuring that the allocation process is conducted transparently and on time. Obviously this is vital for revenue expectations but it begs questions as to whether it was the big problem in the past few years. The minister emphasized the need for the committee to help in ensuring that tourist hunting blocks get investors to boost government coffers, but there is a neat balancing act involved in this quest.

A strategic dimension to the issue that the minister may have already resolved by the time of appointing the committee is where government priorities lie. It has for years been torn between hunting tourism growth and conservationism tied to a sharp environmentalist creed, where investor designs and interests, or even government coffers, come later. At another level, there were past efforts to physically push a rise in coffers, for instance by a 500per cent hike in licence fees which ruined hunting block allocations, for the following hunting season.

This compelled the replacement of erstwhile portfolio holder, Prof. Jumanne Maghembe, though it was never explained if he championed

that policy or merely put it to implementation. The new committee is familiar with all that background especially as it is chaired by a veteran of the Sokoine University of Agriculture, like the former minister. Clearly hiking tourist hunting fees was meant to boost coffers, but then it 'killed the goose that lays the golden eggs.'

There were other initiatives which like the fees hiking measure, are popular with a broad section of conservationists as well as the media, offering really hot talking points, like airlifting a giraffe and moving it say to a Gulf Zone country. For once, no one knows how many giraffes we have, or indeed the increasingly notorious elephants, but if tourist hunters put a giraffe or jumbo onto a plane, there is a media rebellion. The government is characterized as non-patriotic, etc.

It is likely that the point of departure for the new advisory committee is to ensure that the 43 tourist hunting blocks currently unoccupied have bidders. That needs creating conditions where those holding blocks would wish that their terms are prolonged, and indeed to be ready to receive ideas on allocation or longevity. Hunting blocs are like shares with prolonged loyalty in wishing to hold them, not like retail items.

Engaging investors on a long term basis for game controlled areas came up last year, and frankly game reserves need to be part of the list. And with more than 20 national parks where only five or so in the northern circuit are competitive, strategic rethinking in that direction is relevant. The committee has not been tasked with that aspect of things, but rather with transparency, finding bidders.

Tanzania needs compulsory provision for public toilets

THERE is no mandatory requirement for local authorities to provide public toilets. Yet, it is argued, they are a vital component in creating accessible, sustainable and comfortable towns and cities for all.

It is a common sight in many of our towns and cities in Tanzania to find people urinating or defecating either on the roadside or in seemingly obscure corners, sometimes in the full glare of passers-by.

Since people who are hard-pressed in the public often must ease themselves in the most inappropriate places, the health hazards posed by this repugnant habit cannot be over-emphasised.

This culture is more noticeable at motor-parks, public schools, markets, bus and train terminals, and public squares where there are either no toilets or poorly kept ones. Even some of the nation's airports have no functional toilets. Where such facilities exist, they are poorly maintained. It is amazing how authorities at all levels should ignore such basic needs as toilets.

The majority of public toilets in our towns and cities are not in good state and therefore pose a health risk to users. Most of the toilets are dirty and do not have clean water, soap. They also lack cleaning equipment as well as waste bins.

The urge to ease oneself most often comes without much warning. When such an urge arises, it should be conveniently responded to. At present, that is not readily available in most Tanzanian cities. The embarrassment that this could cause is better imagined than experienced.

That is why the provision of public toilets and conveniences is an imperative in a modern society, not the least one wooing investors and tourists. Otherwise, where would a person, outside home, who suddenly feels the need to either pass urine or stool, ease themselves without debasing their human dignity?

What saddens is that the entire country is fast becoming one huge field, where people defecate, without shame, and without taking into consideration the impact of their action on the health of others. In many rural communities, people still build houses without provision for toilets, or latrines where waste can be emptied without others encountering it.

In the urban centres, the issue is pervasive. And experts have consistently warned that when large numbers of people are defecating outdoors, it's extremely difficult to avoid ingesting human waste, either because it's entered the food or water supplies or because it has been spread by flies and dust.

The government may not be able to provide every facility needed in a city. However, it must demonstrate not only the inclination to do it, but also create the enabling environment to encourage the private sector to do so. The local government authorities that we have in the country have the primary responsibility of providing and maintaining such facilities. But currently, they are shirking that responsibility.

Besides, government, at all levels, must initiate and sustain a re-orientation campaign to educate and enlighten the people on the need for observance of basic hygiene in our communities or cities. It is the loss of this once cherished culture of cleanliness that has today made certain public places a no-go area because of indiscriminate defecation.

Schools, churches, mosques and other social institutions should also join the campaigns if the nation is to be spared the possible consequences of non-availability and poor use of public toilets.

Given reports that majority of the public facilities in Tanzania either do not have toilets or they are broken, this emblem of shame deserves urgent attention. All critical stakeholders must do more to provide conveniences.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

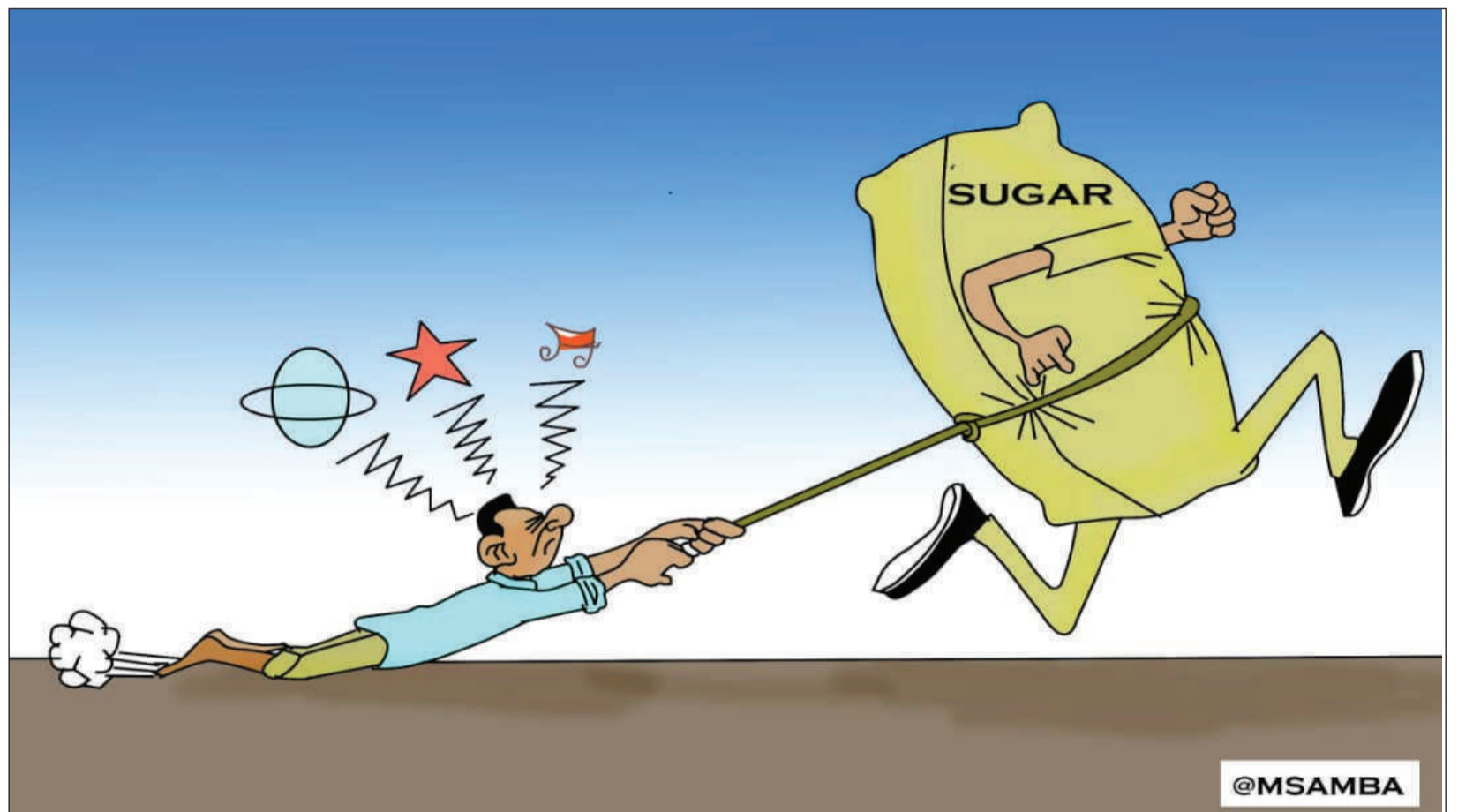
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More black visitors to Kruger Park needed to undo ugly legacy of racial exclusion

By Lucas Ledwaba

A full-day visit in South Africa's premier national park offers close encounters with many animals, but it leaves the writer wondering why there are hardly any black tourists enjoying this heritage.

If, like me, you grew up in South Africa in the turbulent 1980s, your distrust and suspicion of white people tends to kick in especially in spaces where, for many years, darkies were excluded on the basis of their race.

I'm talking about a place like the Kruger National Park where, until the end of legislated apartheid in 1994, black people were only allowed as labourers who tended to the needs of whites, who were indifferent to their exclusion.

When I started visiting the Kruger in the late 1990s, mostly as a solo traveller in search of the unknown, I often felt that I was like one of the attractions in the park, given the stares I received from white folks.

At public facilities like restaurants and toilets some white folks would nervously grab their bags and cameras at the sight of this lone black traveller.

Even some of the people in my circle, young black men and women, just couldn't understand why a young man from Ekasi would be so fascinated by wildlife.

"So you spend money to travel so far to see a lion?" some would ask. It became somewhat of an irritating joke. But even the black.

The Kruger National Park is a South African National Park and one of the largest game reserves in Africa. Originally known as The Sabi Game Reserve, it became a game reserve in 1898. The park became known as Kruger National Park in 1926, when it was named after Paul Kruger.

In 1898, the Sabi Game Reserve was proclaimed by the South African Republic. Before any effective management could take over, the South African War broke out the following year. After the occupation of the Transvaal by British forces, Captain H. F. Francis was appointed as the first Warden of the Sabi Game Reserve in 1901. However, he was killed in action a month later, at the end of July 1901. A former prospector, W. M. Walker, was then appointed as the second Warden on 24 October 1901. He was dismissed at the end of January 1902 after proving to be a dismal failure in the post. Finally, the new British administration appointed James Stevenson-Hamilton as Warden of the reserve in July 1902. To assist him in his



duties, the new Warden started appointing the first game rangers. Each one was given the responsibility of a section of the reserve. Captain E. G. (Gaza) Gray and Rupert Atmore only lasted for a few months and they were replaced with Harry Wolhuter (August 1902) and Thomas Duke (December 1902). They were stationed, respectively, at Pretoriuskop and Lower Sabie. In May 1903 Cecil Richard de Laporte was appointed to the Kaapmuiden post. Shingwedzi Game Reserve, now in northern Kruger National Park, was proclaimed in May 1903. Apart from Stevenson-Hamilton's duties as Warden of the Sabi Game Reserve, this new reserve's administration was also added to his responsibilities. He visited and explored the Shingwedzi Reserve for the first time during September and October 1903.[2] He appointed Major A. A. Fraser as the first ranger for this new reserve in 1904. The eccentric Fraser was stationed at the Malunzane rangers post, not far from the present Mopani rest camp.

Proclamation No. 31 of 1906 restricted hunting in a large area between the Olifants and Letaba rivers.

In May 1905 the Sabi Reserve had almost 3,000 black residents, and in 1911 Stevenson-Hamilton reported that there were 4,100 people living in the Sabi Reserve.

In 1916 the Administrator of the Transvaal appointed a commission to inquire into and report upon the advisability of altering the boundaries of the Sabi and Shingwedzi game reserves and on matters generally affecting the two reserves. The members of the commission visited the Sabi game reserve during the dry season of 1916. The commission sat at intervals through 1917 and 1918 and towards the end of 1918 it issued its report. Considering that some members of

this commission wanted to reduce the area of the Sabi Game Reserve as recently as 1915, the report was extraordinarily favourable to the reserves and the ideals embodied in them. The report recommended that there should be no changes to the boundaries of either reserve; that additional staff should be appointed; and most importantly made the following pronouncement:

In the course of our investigations we were not a little struck by the uselessness of having these magnificent reserves merely for the preservation of the fauna - in an area practically unknown and, by the effect of a somewhat stringent policy, made to a great extent inaccessible to the bulk of the people - a policy which it will be increasingly difficult to maintain as applied to so large an area ... for these and other reasons we recommend that the policy of the provincial administration should be directed toward the creation of the area ultimately as a great national park where the natural and prehistoric conditions of our country can be preserved for all time.

During 1923, the first large groups of tourists started visiting the Sabi Game Reserve, but only as part of the South African Railways' popular "Round in Nine" tours. The tourist trains used the Selati railway line between Komatiport on the Mozambican border and Tzaneen in the then northern Transvaal. The tour included an overnight stop at Sabi Bridge (now Skukuza) and a short walk, escorted by armed rangers, into the bush. It soon became a highlight of the tour and it gave valuable support for the campaign to proclaim the Sabi Game Reserve as a national park.

After the proclamation of the Kruger National Park, named for president Paul Kruger (1825-1904), in 1926, the first three

tourist cars entered the park in 1927. No accommodation was provided for visitors. They made their own camps in enclosures of thorn bush. Tourists could come and go at any time, day or night. The bad roads prevented any speeding. Night driving, however, had to be ended as too many animals, dazzled by headlights, were getting killed.

A rapid road construction program was started in 1927, and by the end of 1929 a total of 617 km of tourist roads was completed. The first roads connected the established ranger posts.

The all-year round opening of the park had to be ended in 1929. Not only was the effects of rain chaotic on the primitive roads, it also caused a public relations disaster in March 1929 when a large group of American tourists arrived by luxury train at Crocodile Bridge. With two big trucks as transport, they went on a game drive and soon got bogged down after a big rainstorm. One truck also overturned on crossing a stream. The drenched tourists had to perch in thorn trees to avoid lions. Local ranger Hector McDonald and his staff eventually came to the rescue. It was one big adventure, but the bad publicity started when several of these visitors went down with malaria. Apart from the Pretoriuskop area, from 1930 the park was closed down from the end of October until the end of May.

The construction of roads continued during the Thirties, and by 1934 about 1,200 km of roads had been completed. This included the roads between Skukuza and Lower Sabie (1931) and between Letaba and Shingwedzi (1933).

During October 1936, the last black rhino in the park was seen by ranger Harry Kirkman in the dense Nwamihiri bush between Skukuza and Lower Sabie. Kirkman and three members of his staff observed a lone cow for about half an hour before she disappeared again. It was the last sighting of a black rhino in the park and by 1946 the species was extinct in the park.

Because the park shares a long (and unguarded) border with Mozambique, the outbreak of World War II in September 1939 caused little panic among locals and government officials in Pretoria. In June 1940 an alarming report of some two thousand Nazis concentrating on the Mozambican side of the frontier was received by the chief of the Union Defence Force General Staff. He summoned Warden Stevenson-Hamilton to Pretoria to discuss the situation.

The complexities and ingredients of the crime of murder

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at one aspect of children's rights and welfare as provided for in the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019). We saw that children have right not just to education, but rather better education.

The idea was to see whether early childhood education, which is the foundation of formal learning, according to recent studies (one of them being from Tanzania), is valued as it deserves. Recent studies suggest that children aged 0-6 years have "extraordinary capacity for learning".

Also, it meant to find out whether we are aware of the findings and have aligned our early childhood education with the type of education which exposes pre-primary schoolchildren to skills and competencies needed in the rapidly changing world and in the fourth industrial revolution (4IR)/digital literacy era. This includes having in place the right infrastructure that facilitates this type of learning and grooming and having teachers skilled in child psychology and learning.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the ingredients of a criminal offence called "murder". The day before yesterday, a friend of mine called me and asked my opinion on a hypothetical case of causing death of a person. He narrated to me a true story that had happened in his village which I found striking and worth sharing.

It was about certain friends in his home village, who one evening went to a pub for a drink. When they ar-



been a criminal liability to his friends or his committing suicide would have been attributed to the influence of alcohol?

Going through the five ingredients of section 203 of the Penal Code I found nowhere the friends of his would have been held liable. Let us briefly look at section 203 which states that a person is deemed to have caused the death of another person, although his act is not the immediate or sole cause of death.

The same can happen in any of the following cases (a) if he injures another person in consequence of which that other person undergoes surgical or medical treatment which causes death and (b) if he injures another which would not have caused death if the injured person had submitted to proper surgical or medical treatment or had observed proper precautions as to his mode of living.

Also, (c) if by actual or threatened violence he causes that other person to perform an act which causes the death of that person, the act being a means of avoiding the violence which in the circumstances would appear natural to the person whose death is so caused; (d) if by any act or omission he hastens the death of a person suffering under any disease or injury which, apart from that act or omission, would have caused death; and (e) if his act or omission would not have caused death unless it had been accompanied by an act or omission of the person killed or of another person.'

I couldn't find any decided case on this, but it suffices to say that besides causing murder, any murder case has the following key ingredients which must be established: 1) malice aforethought (guilty mind), 2) causation of death (meaning the accused must have directly caused the death of another person) and by an unlawful act done (an act which is prohibited by law) or by an unlawful omission. We will go back to each of the ingredients in future.

Today's proverb: "Be just before you are generous."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam-based. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

rived at the pub, they were welcomed by an attendant who served them some alcoholic drinks. As they were drinking, one of them who showed signs of being drunk said he wouldn't go back with them home because he wanted to drink more.

His friends insisted that since they went together, they had to return home together. They were worried if he remained behind and something bad happened to him, they could get into trouble for nothing. So, they urged him to go with them, but he refused. Then, they thought since he didn't want to go back with them, what they could do was to take his mobile phone from him lest he lose it.

So, they took it from him while he was unaware and hid it so that they could give it back to him the following day when he was sober. When he discovered that he didn't have his mobile phone he suspected that it could be his friends who had hid it from him, but he was not sure.

Nevertheless, he threatened to kill himself if he didn't find it. His friends thought he was joking. As they were still at the pub he did as if he were going to answer a call of nature, but went further to a certain workshop where he attempted to commit suicide. The owner of the workshop saw him and ran to save him after which he took him to a police station where he was incarcerated.

Now the friend of mine asked me. "Suppose he committed suicide, would his friends have been held accountable for it?" Remember there is also a legal principle called "The last seen together doctrine" - that is, when you go somewhere with a friend and people see you with them and it happens that they die in mysterious circumstances, even if you know nothing about what happened to them, you will be considered a prime suspect. But we will look at this doctrine next time.

To go back to the friend of mine's story, after he had asked me, I took my copy of the Penal Code (Chapter 16, R.E. 2022) and perused section 203 on what causing death to another person means. Mind you, there was no person who died or was killed, but this friend of mine just wanted to know whether the person who attempted to kill himself because his friends had hidden his mobile phone could have been held liable for causing his death.

There is also another aspect here: the influence of alcohol. This friend of theirs was drunk and didn't want to go back home with his friends. Instead, he offered to remain behind drinking while his friends wanted to return home with him because they didn't want to be implicated in anything that could happen to him after they had left.

Now how far what he had attempted to do would have

The Law and You



Here are six types of fear that can stand between you and success (6)

By Luther Mugosha

LAST week we saw how a psychotherapist simply changed a nurse for his patient and assigned him a young, beautiful and charming caregiver. The stunning nurse showed kindness to her patient via polite words with attractive facial expressions.

After one week the patient who was in critical condition got discharged from the hospital with medication being rest and paracetamol. We concluded that the presence of the young beautiful lady did the magic of treating the patient's lovesickness.

Today I welcome you to join me in looking at the remaining symptoms of the fear of ill-health first and later, symptoms of the fear of loss of love. It is important to note that fear of ill health is a universal one.

Autosuggestion is another symptom. This refers to the habit of negative use of self-suggestion by looking for and expecting to find the symptoms of all kinds of diseases. It is kind of enjoying imaginary illness and speaking of it as being real.

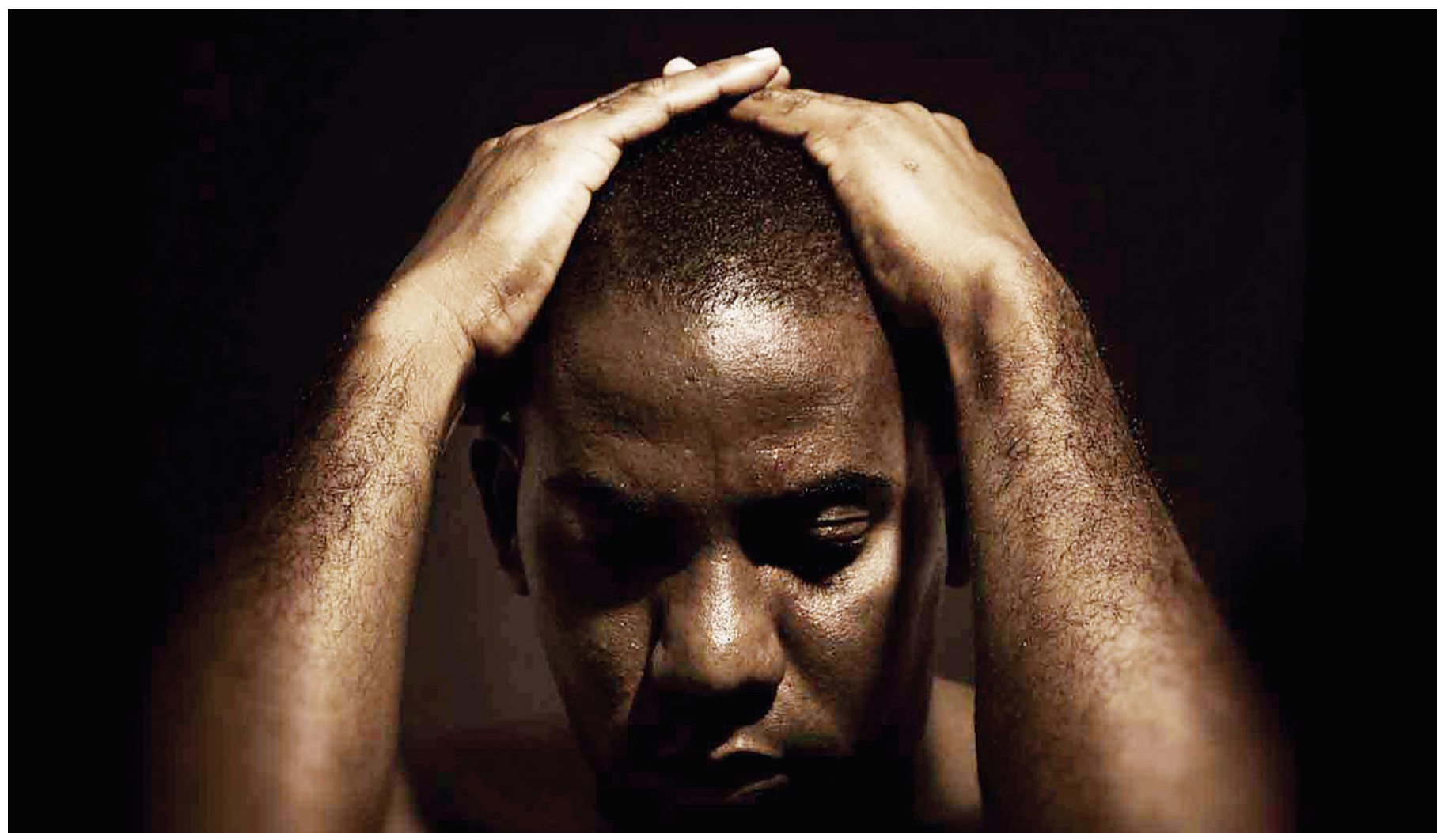
Also, it manifests in the habit of trying all kinds of things recommended by others as having therapeutic benefits as well as talking to others about operations, accidents and all manner of illnesses. Others are experimenting with diets, physical exercises without professional guidance as well as trying home remedies.

Another symptom is hypochondria. This is the habit of talking of illness, concentrating the mind upon disease and expecting its appearance until a nervous break occurs. Nothing that comes in bottles can cure this condition. It is brought on by negative thinking and nothing but positive thought can cure it. Hypochondria (a medical term for imaginary disease) is said to do as much damage on occasion as the disease one fears might do. Most of the so-called cases of "nerves" come from imaginary illness.

Lack of exercise is another one. Fear of ill health often interferes with proper physical exercise and results in over-weight and its related health risks by causing one to avoid outdoor life.

Another symptom is susceptibility. This means likelihood of being affected by diseases. Fear of ill-health breaks down natural body resistance and creates a favourable condition for any form of disease one may contact.

The fear of ill health often is related to the fear of poverty, especially in the case of hypochondriac who constantly worries about the possibility of having to pay hospital bills and so on. This type of person spends much time preparing for sickness, talking about death, saving money for cemetery and burial expenses.



Self-coddling is another one. It is the habit of making a bid for sympathy, using imaginary illness as the trick. People often resort to this trick to avoid work. Yes, it is the habit of pretending to be sick to cover up plain laziness, or to serve as a habit for lack of ambition.

Another symptom is intemperance. This is the habit of using alcohol or narcotics to destroy pains such as headaches, neuralgia (pain along a nerve in your face or head) and so on instead of eliminating the cause. This manifests in the habit of reading about an illness and worrying over the possibility of being stricken of it.

The fear of loss of love

The original source of this inherent fear obviously grew out of man's polygamous habit of stealing his fellow man's mate, and his habit of behaving too normal as if nothing happened.

Jealousy and other similar neurotic nerves grow

out of man's inherited fear of the loss of love of someone. This fear is the most painful of all the six basic fears. It probably plays more destruction or disorder with the body and mind than any of the other basic fears.

The fear of loss of love probably dates back to the Stone Age when men stole women by brute force. Instead of force, they now use persuasion, the promise of pretty clothes, fine cars, and other 'bait' which is much more effective than physical forces in this world of civilization

Careful analysis has shown that women are more susceptible to this fear than men. This fact is easily explained by the open secret that men are polygamous by nature that they are not to be trusted in the hands of rivals.

Symptoms of the fear of loss of love

Jealousy is the number one symptom. This is the habit of being suspicious of friends and loved

ones without any reasonable evidence or sufficient grounds. It is the habit of accusing wife, husband or lover of cheating without grounds. In short, it is general suspicion of everyone and absolute faith in no one.

Another one is fault-finding. This is the habit of finding fault with friends, relatives, business associates and loved ones upon the slightest provocation, or without any cause whatsoever.

To you surprise, gambling is amongst the symptoms. There is hidden fear in the habit of gambling, stealing, cheating and taking hazardous chances. Also, it manifests in the habit of spending beyond one's means, or incurring debts, to provide gifts to loved ones with the object of making a favourable showing.

Luther Mugosha is a psychologist and author of motivational books based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0626 267 969.

Reflections on 25 years of the International Criminal Court

By Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi



ON the night of 17 July 1998, the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference convened to create the International Criminal Court was still uncertain. Hundreds of state representatives and civil society organizations assembled in the FAO headquarters in Rome, holding their breath in anticipation.

Finally, after midnight, euphoric delegations could applaud the outcome of the vote: 120 states in favour, 7 against and 21 abstentions. A long-standing dream was to become reality: the creation of a permanent criminal court to investigate and try perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The crime of aggression was also included, but only in a programmatic way pending agreement about its definition and the conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction. These questions were only resolved 12 years later in the first review conference held in Kampala, Uganda in 2010.

In the 25 years that followed the adoption of the Statute, successive judges and prosecutors contributed to operationalizing this Court, simultaneously desired and feared by different actors of the international community. States and civil society expected much of this unparalleled institution and its potential to impact positively on conflict resolution.

The creation of an international court with jurisdiction over international crimes was not in and of itself something new. The International Criminal Court followed the steps of the post-war Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals, as well as those created by the United Nations Security Council 50 years later for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

However, the establishment of the first permanent international criminal jurisdiction, represented a key paradigm shift. Contrary to special tribunals, the International Criminal Court was not created to exercise jurisdiction solely in predetermined situations but to decide for itself, fully independently, where to investigate and who to prosecute. The ability to select situations in the world where to intervene gave it powers never previously granted to any other court.

To counterbalance this ambitious mandate, the Court was conceived as a complementary institution of last resort, with the power to act only in those cases of inaction or lack of genuine action by national systems.

Furthermore, despite its global vocation, the International Criminal Court was not granted universal jurisdiction. Unless the United Nations Security Council requests the Court to act, the Court may only investigate and prosecute in situations in which the states in whose territories the crime are committed or the states of nationality of the perpetrators are parties to the Rome Statute.

In its 25 years of operations and within the parameters set by its constituent treaty, the Court has

demonstrated its capacity to investigate and prosecute in multiple situations of extremely grave crimes in Africa, Asia, America and Europe. It has also demonstrated the possibility of involving the victims of those crimes in its proceedings and of repairing the harm suffered by hundreds of thousands of them, either directly and indirectly.

For the first time, the Rome Statute introduced elements of reparative justice which allow victims to participate in the proceedings to make observations and to request

reparation. These elements were later incorporated by the legal frameworks of other international courts and today form an integral part of international criminal justice.

The Court has achieved significant accomplishments, but has also suffered difficulties in its functioning. Currently, the Assembly of States Parties is undertaking, together with the Court and civil society, a holistic review to strengthen of the Rome Statute system by accelerating proceedings and improving the performance, governance, and work culture of the Court.

This review also seeks to strengthen cooperation by states and to design suitable

strategies to increase political support and protect the institution and everyone who collaborate with it against threats and attacks.

Today, the Rome Statute has 123 state parties. This is a significant number that comprises two thirds of states in the international community. However, it is still insufficient to achieve the Court's global aspirations.

Broadening the universality of the Court is of crucial importance. Today the world needs more justice than ever. The atrocities of the twentieth century that led to the creation of the Court have not ceased and there is a growing erosion of multilateralism and the rule of law.

Despite current circumstances, there is cause for hope. The international community has redoubled its demand for justice and multiplied the initiatives to make it a reality. The establishment of the Court reaffirmed the obligation to investigate and prosecute and contributed to consolidate the concept that justice is an indispensable component of sustainable peace.

In addition to proceedings by the International Criminal Court and other international tribunals, more states are willing to exercise universal jurisdiction over international crimes. New mechanisms are being created to ensure the collection and preservation of evidence that may assist these international or national efforts.

We are seeing the emergence of a global justice system, or a justice "eco-system", within which international and national courts have a role to play - sometimes a central role, sometimes a complementary or supporting one.

In July 1998, the Court was an idea yet to be realized. Twenty-five years after its creation, the hope is that more states will join this historical effort to maximize its potential to impart justice in our tumultuous world.

Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi is President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute; Former Judge and former President of the International Criminal Court.

IPS UN Bureau

Is water being used as a weapon of war or tool for peace?

By Maria Skold and Martina Klimes

THE role of water in conflicts is changing, with more attacks against environmental and civilian infrastructure. Dr Martina Klimes of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) recently held a lecture describing the shifting security landscape and how water can be both a weapon and a victim of war - and sometimes a tool for peace.

The Kakhovka dam disaster in Ukraine on 6 June is a painful reminder of how collapsing water infrastructure can cause enormous suffering in times of war, sometimes with consequences that last for generations. Ukraine accuses Russia of destroying the dam and using it as a weapon of war.

"That would be in direct conflict with the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions which protects civilians in times of war," says Dr Martina Klimes who is Advisor Water and Peace at SIWI.

On 14 June, she participated in a breakfast meeting at the Swedish parliament together with other representatives

from the Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security of which SIWI is a founding member.

Klimes' presentation outlined the different roles of water in war. One is direct impact where water and attacks on water infrastructure are used as a weapon of war.

Second is indirect impact where military operations harm the environment, for example poisoning water sources or contaminating soil.

Third is transboundary impact - where the consequences are felt also in other countries.

During the war in Ukraine, all three dimensions are carefully monitored by local and international organizations to an extent rarely seen in other wars. Already before the Kakhovka dam disaster, Ukrainian authorities estimated the cost of the environmental impacts of the war to be approximately 50 billion euros.

Rivers, groundwater, and soil are polluted, and many national parks are impacted in the country which is described as the most biodiverse in Europe. In 2022, 16 million Ukrainians needed water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance.



By tracking the environmental consequences of the war so closely, the Ukrainian government hopes not just to facilitate reconstruction. Another aim is to collect evidence that could be used in a future war tribunal against Russia.

President Zelensky has said that charges could include ecocide, in addition to the

four types of crimes currently covered by the International Criminal Court (ICC). In recent years, the idea of making ecocide a fifth crime enshrined in the Rome Statute of the ICC has started to gain traction.

The parliament of the European Union recently voted to make ecocide part of EU law.

At the United Nations, a commission has assessed gaps in

existing international law and presented a set of more far-reaching draft principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts.

But researchers who have studied Yemen, Libya, and Syria say that attacks on civilian and environmental infrastructure have become more common in the past decade.

"This causes immense suffer-

ing for local populations and the impact often goes beyond national borders. We also know that environmental degradation is a risk multiplier that can trigger social instability and violence," Klimes says.

Meanwhile, a landmark report on the topic - Environment of Peace - was presented last year by the Stockholm International Peace Research In-

stitute (SIPRI), another partner of the Stockholm Hub on Environment, Climate and Security.

At the same time, countries and regions can reduce tensions by strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and humans. Collaborating around for example shared waters can also foster cooperation and peace.

To raise awareness of these complex interlinkages, SIWI works actively to bring together actors with different types of competencies. One example is the Shared Waters Partnership Programme to strengthen transboundary water cooperation.

Every year, SIWI also hosts a high-level panel during World Water Week on water-related security issues. This year the event will take place on 23 August at 11am CET with the theme Innovative Approaches to Support Peace and Conflict Prevention.

Maria Sköld, is Senior Manager, Communications.

Martina Klimes, PhD, is Advisor, Water and Peace, and Transboundary Water Cooperation.

IPS UN Bureau

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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NGO brings new digital learning platform for secondary students

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

GLOBAL Outreach Tanzania (GOT), an NGO, has developed a digital learning platform to provide an engaging learning experience to secondary students, especially girls in Tanzania.

Dubbed Windows to Knowledge (W2K), the platform is a software learning platform which possesses a variety of multimedia resources, such as videos, past papers, science practical simulations and notes which follow the country's syllabus making it ideal for the students to interact and enjoy learning experience.

Lizzy Macha project coordinator for Global Outreach Tanzania said the platform is designed to equip girls with knowledge and basic computer literacy skills and fosters confidence, creativity and critical thinking abilities enabling them to thrive in the digital world.

In order to subsist this obstacle, Share in Africa (SHARE) a non-governmental organization responsible with supporting girl's education to African girls in collaboration with GOT whose purpose is to bring youths closer into the

digital world and the software developers of the learning platform have been working hand in hand to offer this remarkable opportunity to young girls in Tanzania.

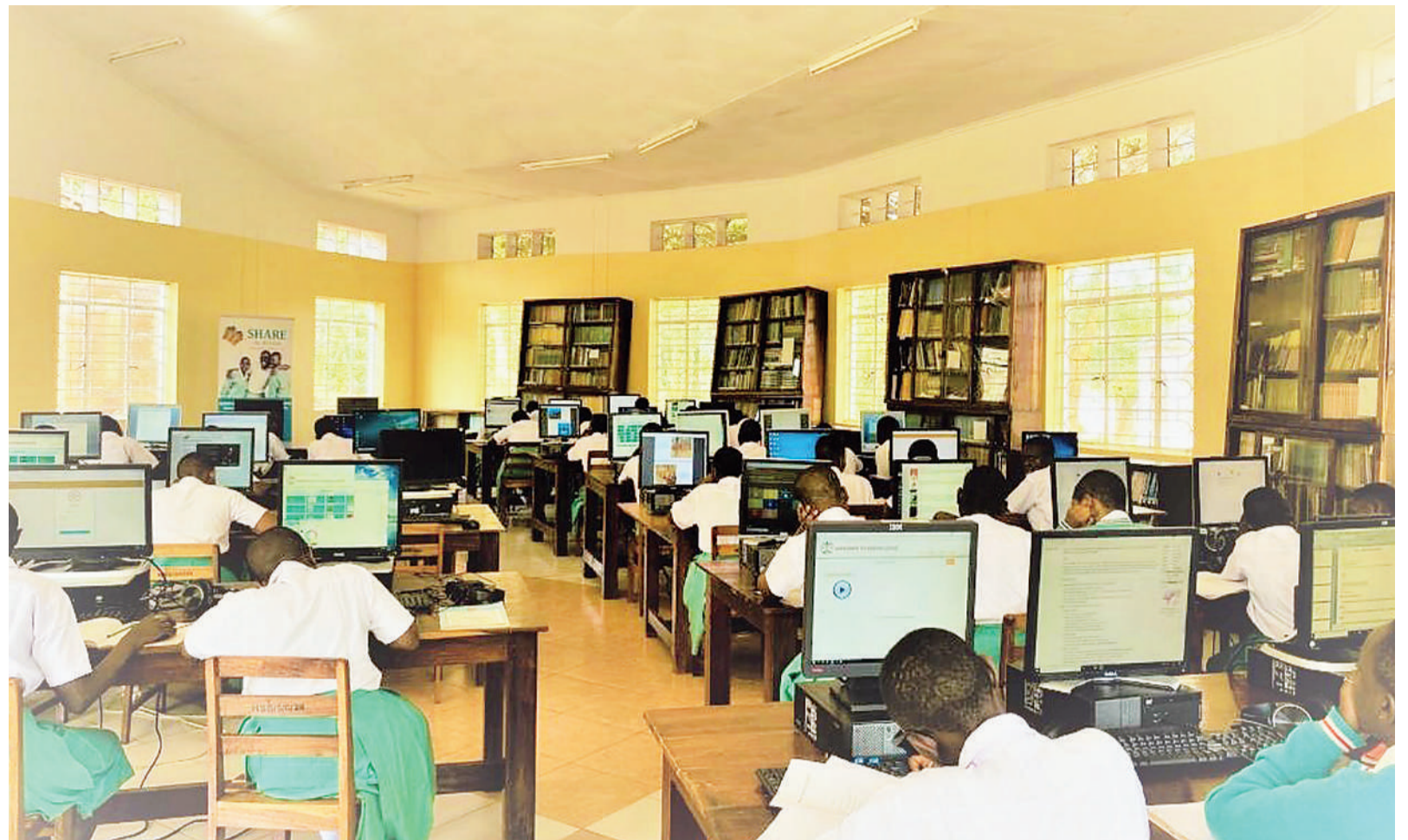
As of this month, the two organizations have to stretch this opportunity to 21 schools in the country.

Of these schools two are in Arusha city, two in Kilimanjaro region, one in Dodoma, one in Bukoba and 15 schools in Iringa making it a total of 13,920 students who are benefiting from this initiative. Of the beneficiaries, 7,023 (50.43 percent) are girls while 6897 (49.59 percent) are boys.

A tracer study undertaken on the impact of using W2K at Hekima and Maria De Mattias girl's secondary schools with a total of 819 students, has revealed 81 percent of the girls were able to testify that the platform has developed their computer basic skills and created a reading habit spirit on them.

"Our goal is to bring girls in our communities much closer to technology and build their mindsets and confidence to pursue their passions and dreams," she said.

Computer lab manager in charge of W2K at Maria De Mat-



Students at Hekima Girls Secondary School enjoy learning using the Windows to Knowledge (W2K) programme.

tias secondary school, John Manga said the existence of teacher's commitment and the engagement of the software has engineered a dramatic change in the improvement of form four students.

"Years back we had a challenge of advocating STEM studies to our students, and since we had few resources only 20 percent of students were able to undertake

science subjects," she said.

"70- percent of the girls opt for science subjects, the open mindedness of the teachers and the existence of this software has given the girls the confidence to pursue and undertake science subjects" said Sister Vestina, the Headmistress of Hekima Girls secondary school. Based on the W2K program, it is clearly

revealed that creating pathways for girls to enter the digital world through a software learning platform is a powerful step towards bridging the gap in the technology industry.

Meet the kipunji: A rare primate success story in Tanzania

By Ruth Kamnitzer

A RECENT census shows that the population of the kipunji monkey (*Rungwecebus kipunji*) in Tanzania's Southern Highlands has increased by 65%, while signs of human impacts in its habitat decreased by 81%, over a 13-year period.

The increase follows 20 years of intensive holistic conservation efforts by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Tanzanian government partners, including greater legal protection for forests and community engagement.

The total population size of the kipunji is estimated at 1,966 individuals in two subpopulations, and the species is classified by the IUCN as endangered.

The kipunji has been on the Primates in Peril list of 25 most endangered primates three times: in 2006-2008, 2008-2010, and 2018-2020, but was not on the most recent list.

In January 2003, when Wildlife Conservation Society researchers working in Tanzania's Southern Highlands heard from local hunters that there was a monkey called the kipunji living on the slopes of Mount Rungwe, they didn't know what to think. They had never heard of the kipunji, but the local Wanyakyusa are storytellers, and the line between the real and mythical is often blurred.

Then, in May that year, while doing biodiversity surveys in the Southern Highlands, the researchers caught their first glimpse of a strange primate. It took many months of trekking through the steep forested slopes on the heels of these elusive monkeys before they got a good look. Only then could they confirm that the kipunji – with its light-brown tufted triangular crest, black face, a muzzle similar to a baboon's, and a loud honking call – was a species new to Western science.

In a strange coincidence, in July 2004, researchers working in Tanzania's Udzungwa Mountains some 350 kilometers (220 miles) to the northeast, also discovered what they believed was a new primate. In 2005, the two teams jointly published a paper in the journal *Science* describing the new species. They initially dubbed it the highland mangabey (*Lophocebus kipunji*), but later, following genetic analysis of a dead specimen, they renamed it the kipunji (*Rungwecebus kipunji*), putting it into its own genus, meaning it wasn't closely related to any other monkey. This made the kipunji the first new pri-

mate genus described in Africa in more than 80 years.

But with excitement of the new discovery came deep concern. The kipunji and its forest habitat, rich in biodiversity and endemic species found nowhere else, were in trouble. The Mt. Rungwe and Livingstone Range Forest in the Southern Highlands, home to nearly 95% of the kipunji population, wasn't in a national park; tree felling, charcoal making and poaching were common. Farms pushed right up against the forest's edge, threatening to sever the ecosystem and isolate kipunji groups. In the Udzungwa Mountains, where scientists uncovered the second kipunji population, the forest was in better condition – but the kipunji population there was very small. The first census, done in 2007, put the total kipunji population, at both sites combined, at just 1,117 individuals.

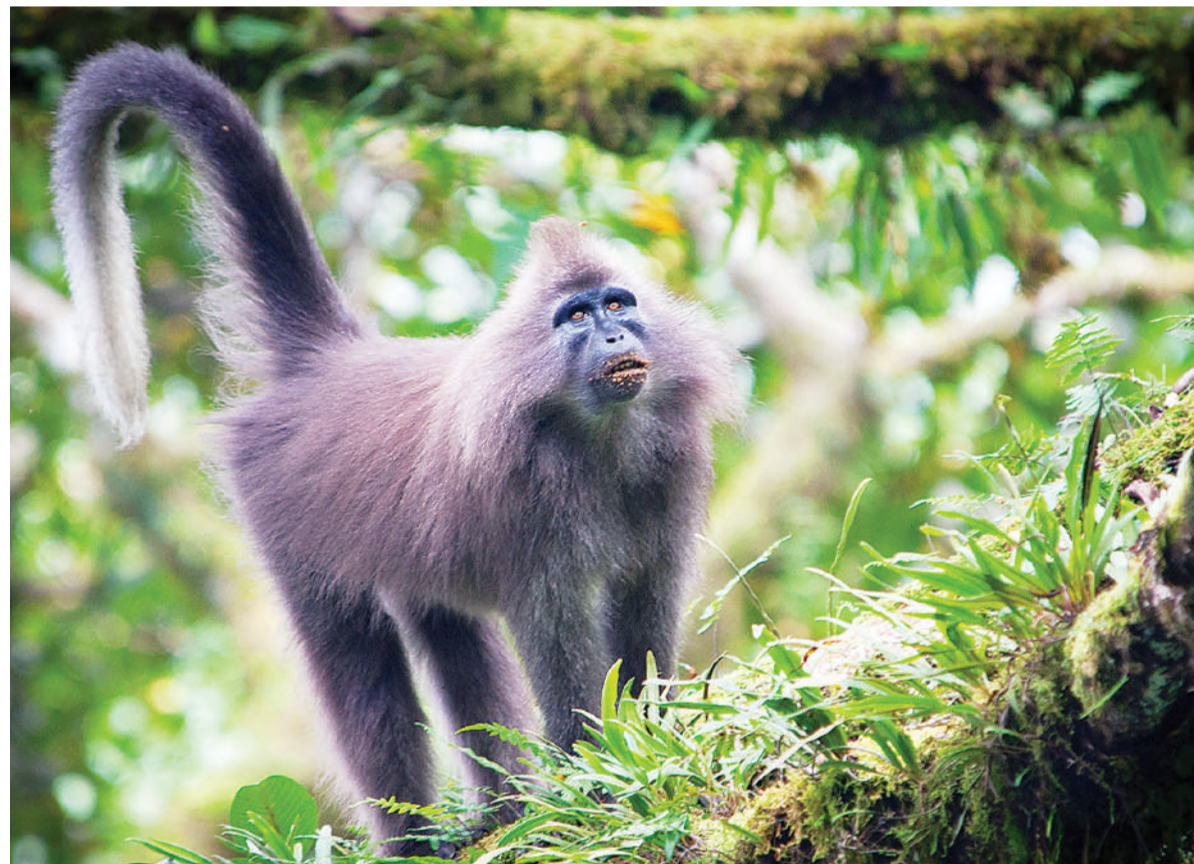
"Of course, the monkey [discovery] was very exciting – but it was also very useful," says Tim Davenport, formerly director of species conservation and science for Africa at WCS, and now Africa director for Re:wild. The discovery drew international attention, garnered political support and attracted funding, allowing WCS to work with government and community partners to implement a holistic long-term conservation program.

The program worked. The latest census showed that over the past 13 years, the kipunji population in the Southern Highlands increased by 65% and expanded its range by nearly one-fifth, while signs of human disturbances dropped by 81%, according to a 2022 *International Journal of Primatology* paper.

The Southern Highlands contain an astounding array of biodiversity, and many endemic species. Davenport's spiny-throated reed frog (*Hyperolius devenportii*) was first described in 2015, and has only been found in one area of the Livingstone Mountains. Image courtesy of Tim Davenport / WCS.

Davenport says little was known about the biodiversity of the Southern Highlands when WCS began working there in 1999. The area doesn't have the big game of Tanzania's northern parks like the Serengeti, nor, at the time, the reputation of a biodiversity hotspot like the Udzungwa Mountains. But the area did have an intriguing montane-grassland mosaic, rich volcanic soils and ample rainfall – a breeding ground for biodiversity waiting to be discovered.

But finding a rare monkey in a montane forest isn't so easy. Sophy Machaga first joined WCS in 2003



and is now the organization's Southern Highlands conservation project director. She recalls those early days when the team would trek for hours on the steep, thickly forested slopes, riven with gullies, searching for the elusive kipunji.

"You don't see it, and then when you see it, it runs away," she says. "Sometimes when you find it, you follow it for a few hours and after that it will just jump to the other ridge. But you can't jump to the other side, you have to go all the way down and follow the other ridge ... and then you've lost it."

Slowly, though, the team built up an understanding of the kipunji's basic biology. The monkeys live in montane forests at altitudes of 1,300-2,450 meters (4,270-8,040 feet), in groups of 15 to 30 individuals. They mostly stay in the tree canopy, feeding on a wide variety of leaves, bark, fruit, seeds and invertebrates.

Though the behavioral questions were fascinating, Davenport says the research focus was always on applied studies to aid conservation. That included looking at human-wildlife conflict.

Farmers in the Mt. Rungwe-Livingstone area grow bananas, maize, potatoes and occasionally horticultural crops like carrots. Though generally shy, kipunji will loiter at the forest edge and opportunistically raid crops. In response, farmers lay crude but lethal log traps.

Machaga describes how she witnessed crop-raiding when she was doing some observations in the Rungwe area to try to understand the extent of the problem. There was a farm near the forest, and in the center of the farm, a hut where the farmer had hung some bundles of maize to dry. When the farmer left the farm, a juvenile male kipunji scampered to the top of one of the trees at the forest edge and surveyed the area. Seeing no-one, he let out a call.

"Then imagine," Machaga says, "like 30 monkeys coming from the forest. The females and children were just by the forest edge and the subadults were running to that hut, opening it, passing the maize to the females, then running back to the hut to take more ... I thought, my god, that man ... we will have to at least offer some compensation."

To mitigate the conflict, the WCS team tried out a number of deterrents; smearing chili oil and cow dung paste on the maize stalks at the entrance of the field worked best. Farmers also changed cropping patterns, planting avocados or potatoes, which the monkeys don't seem to like as much, in fields closer to the forest.

Other obvious threats to kipunji were habitat degradation, caused by tree felling for timber and charcoal making, and snares set by hunters in the forest. Tackling those requires aligning "sticks and carrots," says Davenport, so that there's an overall benefit for people to change their behavior.

"It isn't rocket science – ultimately, it's just understanding what motivates people," he says.

The "sticks" involved working with the government to strengthen forest protection in the Southern Highlands. The Livingstone area was incorporated into the newly created Kitulo National Park; Mt. Rungwe was upgraded to a nature reserve; and WCS leased a third kipunji forest area, called Nkuku, to create a private reserve where the kipunji could be studied and potentially habituated for tourism.

Continuous environmental education was an important component of the program, says Sophie Machaga, WCS's Southern Highland Project Director. That included working with schools, wildlife clubs and adults to raise awareness about natural ecosystems and build a sense of pride in the area's unique biodiversity, including the kipunji. Image courtesy of Tim Davenport.

People from the local communities, including hunters and loggers, sometimes worked alongside the WCS team for forest surveys or other conservation work, which provided opportunities to exchange ideas, Machaga says. She credits those kinds of deep conversations, and the continuous education program, with changing people's attitudes.

Even though some of the WCS activities have ceased, people haven't returned to hunting or logging. And when people see illegal activities going on in the forest, they now alert WCS or other authorities, Machaga says. That, she adds, shows the people have truly taken ownership of the forest resources.

This combination of approaches over the past 20

years appears to have worked, given the researchers' findings of a growing and expanding population of kipunji. The kipunji was on the Primates in Peril list of 25 most endangered primates three times – in 2006-2008, 2008-2010, and 2018-2020 – but was not on the most recent list.

Yet despite these increases, the total kipunji population, now estimated at 1,966 individuals when the Udzungwa population is included, is still alarmingly low, and classified on the IUCN Red List as endangered.

Francesco Rovero, associate professor of ecology at the University of Florence in Italy and a researcher with the Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre, Tanzania, says the smaller Udzungwa population has remained relatively stable, estimated at 60-150 individuals, according to surveys done in 2006 and 2016.

In the Udzungwa Mountains, the forest is more remote and in good condition, so Rovero says it's unclear why the kipunji population has remained low and confined to a small area. It could be it's simply a remnant population that never managed to expand, or that there's competition from other species such as the Sykes' monkey (*Cercocebus albogularis*), or that, despite appearances, the habitat isn't optimal.

"Really, this is an open question," Rovero says.

Still, the overall story of the kipunji, so far, is one of sustained recovery. The ratio of adult females to subadults and juveniles in the Southern Highlands indicates that the population is still increasing, according to the 2022 paper. The authors note that if current forest protection continues, the population could double over the next 25 years, and expand into new areas of forest.

Ultimately, the fate of the kipunji will rest with the Tanzanian government and local communities. Davenport says international NGOs can be an important bridge between the two, but it's not their role to be there forever.

"You're permanently looking for the end game. And there are now opportunities, there are people doing tourism, both the Tanzania Forestry Service [and] Tanzania National Parks is doing good stuff," he says. "It's not perfect by any means. There are still pressures, there are still, just as anywhere in the world, illegal activities. There is still poverty around the edge. But it's in a considerably better place than it used to be."

This is why efforts to prohibit charcoal in East Africa have failed

By Wambi Michael

AT Kampala's Nakawa market, Lovisa Nabisubi scoops charcoal from a bag and packs it into tins ready for customers. Her bare hands, feet, and clothes are stained black from hours of dealing in this popular household fuel which some equate to "black gold" not just in Uganda but in most of East Africa.

The sizes of Nabisubi's measuring tins have been shrinking as charcoal gets scarcer and more expensive. While the price of charcoal is getting out of reach for some residents in Kampala, Nabisubi tells IPS that she may lose her only source of income if the situation persists.

"It is becoming difficult to find the suppliers of charcoal. We have been buying a bag of charcoal at ninety thousand shillings. The suppliers sell at one hundred and ten thousand shillings (\$32). Sometimes I don't get any stock, so I stay at home," she said.

Charcoal is a popular source of cooking energy for urbanites in Uganda and most of East Africa. It also has immense social-economic importance, but it is getting scarce and expensive.

A household study by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2021 found that charcoal provides the primary energy of up to 80 percent of Kampala's population. While charcoal, wood, and other forms of biomass together provide more than 90 percent of the total primary energy consumed in Uganda.

Most of the charcoal supplies to Uganda's capital Kampala, neighbouring municipalities, and districts have been from formerly war-torn Northern Uganda, but there has emerged pressure against it over environmental concerns.

In February this year, a former member of Parliament, Samuel Odonga Otto, and others mobilised vigilantes to enforce bans on charcoal burning and illegal trade in a region which has a tree cover relatively better compared to other parts of Uganda. The vigilantes would intercept trucks loaded with charcoal cutting off supplies to markets like Nakawa and others. "Cutting (down) any trees should stop. It should stop if we are to protect our environment. You can see the rainfall patterns. We will not turn to politics; this is environmental," said Odonga Otto.

As the vigilante group got more sympathizers, President Yoweri Museveni swiftly responded by issuing an order banning commercial charcoal trade in northern Uganda and districts bordering South Sudan and DRC and Kenya to the northeast of Uganda.

While the ban was celebrated by some in the region, a number of questions have emerged. What alternatives to charcoal? How can governments address the conflict between the charcoal ban versus lives and livelihoods?

Only 1.7 million of about 8 million households in Uganda are connected to grid electricity while small-scale charcoal burners, like Cypriano Bongoyinge, wondered how else to survive as the ban took



Some people in parts of Uganda have depended on small-scale charcoal production for livelihoods, but the trade has been taken over by illicit charcoal traders. Credit: Wambi Michael/IPS

effect.

Bongoyinge told IPS that traders from cities and towns should have been cut off because they were fueling large-scale production.

He told IPS that the traders from Kampala pay between \$400-800 to clear an acre of land covered with trees and then hire labourers to burn into charcoal for transportation to the cities or across the borders.

Like Bongoyinge, Ceaser Akol, a politician based in Uganda's northeastern district of Karamoja, told IPS that communities in the region were burning charcoal at a small-scale level, but they were invaded by large-scale commercial charcoal

burners. "While the president came up with a ban, the challenge, as usual, is on enforcement and, of course, corruption."

Denis Ojwee, a journalist based in northern Uganda's Gulu city, told IPS that "Our ancestors used to use firewood for cooking but not charcoal. One tree cut for firewood would last longer. So fewer trees were cut for firewood than it is for charcoal."

Ojwee said the war in northern Uganda may have saved the trees from unsustainable harvesting and that the times of peace have come with a negative impact on the region's tree cover.

"As much as people died during the war, the environment got saved. But now,

trees are getting finished. They have finished other types of trees now they are cutting shea nut trees (Vitellaria paradoxa). Rare species of tree which take very long to grow," said Ojwee.

Charcoal from Uganda's Acholi and Karamoja regions is not only sold to cities in Uganda. It gets through the porous borders and is smuggled to Kenya and beyond.

The wasteful archaic method of making charcoal

Charcoal in most of East Africa is produced under anaerobic conditions. That method cannot efficiently regulate the oxygen supply, leading to a lot of wastage.

Xavier Mugumya, a forestry expert,

told IPS that the high demand for charcoal had escalated the levels of destruction of trees because people look at it as a source of income.

"If you take a thousand kilograms or a ton of wood and you want to convert it into charcoal using the methods which we normally see, you will only get 100 kilograms of charcoal. That means you are only able to utilize 10 percent of the original wood. Meaning that 90 percent of the trees go to waste and become carbon dioxide and ashes," explained Mugumya.

Corruption and the role of organized crime in charcoal value chain

The Global Initiative Against Transitional Crime 2021 released the findings of the study investigating the charcoal market in Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. It produced a report titled "Black Gold The charcoal grey market in Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan".

Michael McLaggan, one of the co-authors of the report, said they found what he described as "a classic grey market, where laws or regulations are flouted at some point in the value chain."

"There are more organized criminal elements in the charcoal market. And while it is not pronounced in other trades such as drug trade or markets for animal parts, it is present," said McLaggan.

The report found that loose groupings headed by charcoal dealers or people with influence in charcoal value chains commission clandestine production of Charcoal to stay in the market.

Nyathon Hoth Mai, a South Sudanese Climate and natural resources expert, told IPS that small-scale charcoal is produced predominantly by the armed forces in South Sudan, while foreign traders were involved in large-scale production.

"We have seen a lot of traders that come from Sudan, Uganda, DRC, Ethiopia, and Eritria. And they exert a lot of pressure on forests. And then as well how this has the potential of corruption practices," she said.

Can charcoal prohibitionist policies work?

Kenya has since 2018 used sporadic bans on charcoal production. In Uganda, a number of bylaws against trade in charcoal have emerged, but there has not been a national moratorium. There exists a national moratorium in South Sudan on the export of Charcoal, but this has hardly been enforced.

The main shortcoming with prohibition, according to McLaggan, is that where there exists a commodity for which there is a sizable demand, that demand doesn't disappear upon the commodity being outlawed.

"We noticed that when charcoal gets banned in a certain county, production shifts to another county. Or from one country to another country. So the problem is merely displaced," he said.

Sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector

At the end of March, the FAO released a study report. Are policies in Africa conducive to sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector? It assessed forestry, environmental and energy policies related to charcoal in 31 African countries.

The report found that more than half of the 31 countries assessed do not have policy frameworks that would encourage sustainable interventions in the charcoal sector.

In other countries, existing policies and regulations tended to be inconsistent and risk creating a confusing and uncondusive environment to increase the sustainability of the sector.

The study found that five countries - Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda - provide favourable policy frameworks for interventions that would improve sustainability.

Another study, "Cross-border charcoal trade in selected East Central and Southern Africa Countries: A call for regional dialogue", said although several governments in Africa have banned the cross-border trade of charcoal, making it effectively illegal, markets in border areas and beyond remain vibrant.

"Therefore, the issue of sustainable charcoal production and trade remain critical and must be addressed as part of broader efforts to manage forest-agricultural landscapes across national borders," it suggested.

While policymakers and environmentalists lobby for change, those trying to make a living from it have uncertain futures.

IPS UN Bureau Report



A household study by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2021 found that charcoal provides the primary energy of up to 80 percent of Kampala's population. While charcoal, wood, and other forms of biomass together provide more than 90 percent of the total primary energy consumed in Uganda.

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS

Inter-bank lending charges decrease on increased liquidity

NAIROBI

The cost at which banks borrow from each other on an emergency basis has dropped from the double-digit levels seen at the beginning of the month on improved liquidity in the market supported by exchequer disbursements.

The interbank rate stood at 8.62 percent on Wednesday, falling from a near five-year high of 10.1 percent seen on July 3, data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows.

The improved liquidity has been attributed to government spending at the start of the new financial year through payments to contractors and disbursements to counties and ministries.

This has been coupled with the CBK slowing down on liquidity-mopping ac-



Early fiscal year government spending and muted open market operations by the CBK could be some of the drivers of improved liquidity

tivities in the market.

“Early fiscal year government spending and muted open market operations

by the CBK could be some of the drivers of improved liquidity,” said Solomon Kariuki, an analyst at AIB-AXYS Africa.

In its bulletin at the end of last week, the CBK said liquidity in the money market increased, supported by government payments, with commercial banks holding an excess reserve of Sh37.4 billion in relation to the 4.25 percent cash reserves requirement (CRR).

Mr Kariuki added that there could be renewed upward pressure on the rate due to the mop-up of July’s bond sale, which raised Sh38.6 billion.

The interbank rate had been rising steadily since the start of the year, coinciding with delays by the government to pay arrears to contractors and counties.

The State’s payments and borrowing are key to supplying or withdrawing liquidity from the money market.

Although banks do not borrow from the interbank market for onward lending to customers, an increase in the emergency rate factors into their overall cost of funds, translating to expensive borrowing.

Skewed distribution of liquidity in the banking sector has been a recurring problem since the collapse of three lenders in 2015 and 2016, with some of the larger lenders becoming more cautious when advancing cash to smaller peers.

Oil price hits above \$81 after supply disruptions

LONDON

Global benchmark Brent crude hovered above \$81 a barrel on Friday, with bullish sentiment over US demand bolstered by supply disruption in Libya and Nigeria.

On Thursday some oilfields in Libya were shut down because of a local tribe’s protest against the kidnapping of a former minister. Separately, Shell suspended loadings of Nigeria’s Forcados crude oil owing to a potential leak at a terminal.

The Libya disruption is halting an estimated 370,000 barrels per day (bpd) while the loss from the Nigerian outage is pegged at 225,000 bpd, said PVM analyst John Evans.

With the “market in thrall of a ‘tightening’ narrative”, any more outages will push the oil price to levels that not even the most ardent bull would have predicted for the second half of the year, Evans added.

Russian oil exports have also decreased significantly and, if this trend were to continue next week, this would probably drive the price up further, particularly since Russian oil exports are set to be reduced by 500,000 bpd in August, added Commerzbank analysts.

Both Brent and WTI futures were

down slightly at 1207 GMT, with Brent 9 cents lower at \$81.27 a barrel and WTI down 11 cents at \$76.78.

Further price support came from Thursday’s reports by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) predicting that oil demand will pick up in the second half of the year, particularly in China, despite broader macroeconomic headwinds.

National Australia Bank said in a research note on Friday that it expected the OPEC forecast, if realised, “to deliver oil prices well above \$100 a barrel”, adding that the softening value of the US dollar continued to boost commodity prices.

Cooling US inflation has also given markets hope that the US Federal Reserve could be close to ending its fastest monetary policy tightening campaign since the 1980s.

“The light at the end of the tightening tunnel is getting brighter and investors are increasingly confident of emerging after one more hike in two weeks,” said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world’s biggest oil exporters, this month agreed to deepen oil cuts in place since November last year, providing further support to crude prices.

Underdogs of currency world stage comeback

London

AFTER being beaten down by a dominant dollar this year, the weakest links in the currency world are making a comeback – much to the relief of central banks.

The Japanese yen, Norwegian krone and South African rand have turned from the worst-performing major currencies this year to become the best in recent days, along with Sweden’s krona. The sharp turn of fortunes has come on the back of softer US inflation that is weakening the greenback.

With traders now confident that the Federal Reserve is close to the end of its interest-rate hiking cycle, a spike in risk appetite saw some of the biggest currency moves of recent times. The krona rallied the most in a week since 2009 to turn positive for the year, while the krone and rand gained the most since 2020. The yen posted its best performance since the beginning of 2023.

This is a boon for policymakers, who in all these countries have

been warning over severe currency weakness. That had led several central banks to mull supportive measures in recent weeks, including market intervention.

“This could be the start of an important adjustment in markets,” said Chris Turner, head of currency strategy at ING Groep NV. “There may be a few bumps along the road, but lower US short-dated yields should allow these underdogs to come back – especially since they have all been quite undervalued.”

With deeply negative real rates as interest rates lagged inflation and struggling economies, Japan, Sweden and Norway have been unable to compete with the draw of US markets. Authorities were increasingly having to talk up the possibility of intervention.

Japanese officials were monitoring the yen with a “strong sense of urgency” as it neared levels that triggered intervention late last year. In Sweden, policymakers said investors shouldn’t bet on prolonged currency weakness and introduced a strategy to hedge a portion of reserves, while Norway’s

central bank reduced the pace of foreign currency purchases. South Africa’s bank said it was monitoring weakness in the rand, after a record low.

“The rallies will be welcomed by domestic policymakers,” said Lee Hardman, currency strategist at MUFG Bank Ltd.

Many money managers have been calling for a downtrend in the dollar for months. MUFG’s Hardman is betting that sustained greenback weakness heading into the second half of the year will keep the rally in the yen, krona and krone going.

“All three currencies are deeply undervalued so there is room for the rebound to extend further,” he said, forecasting dollar-yen at 130.00 by year-end.

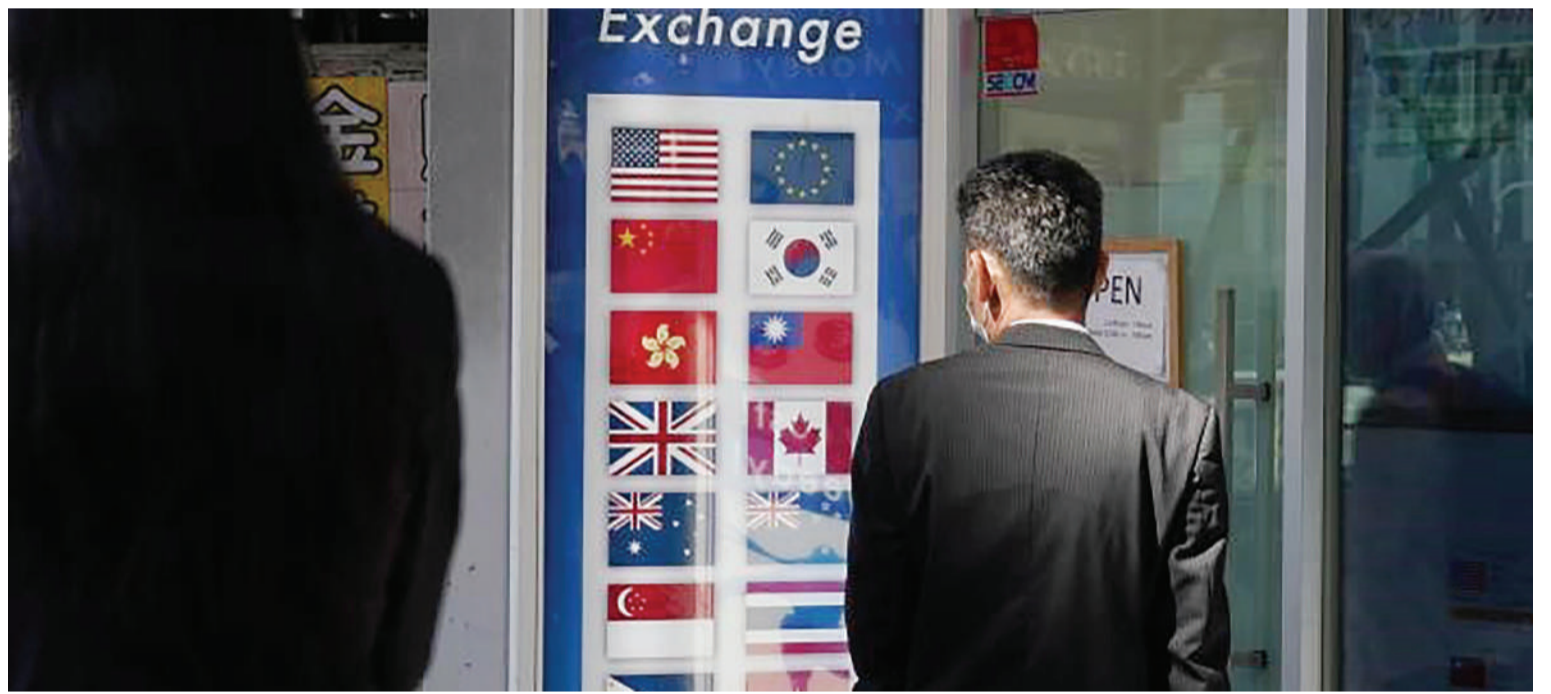
The sharp moves will have burned others. Hedge funds had been building up yen short positions in the past three weeks to the highest in a year. Against the rand, in recent days someone bought “any dollar within reach of the mouse button,” said Warrick Butler, head of foreign-exchange trading at Standard Bank in Johan-

nesburg, hoping they are not still sitting “in a world of pain.”

Some investors remain skeptical about jumping in on the trend. Short positions in the yen remain historically high, cracks in Sweden’s housing market are still a huge source of concern and the dollar’s high-carry appeal may hamper any sustained weakening.

For example, Iain Cunningham, fund manager at Ninety-One Asset Management, is continuing to short the krona. He’s unconvinced that the recent draw-down in the dollar will sustainably turn around the krona story given Sweden’s domestic vulnerabilities. The krona, along with these other currencies, dipped on Friday.

“One has to be a little bit careful about this euphoria of selling the dollar at the moment,” said Fredrik Repton, fund manager at Neuberger Berman, citing the worsening outlook for Europe’s economy in comparison to the US and the dollar’s high-carry attractiveness. “I wouldn’t chase this narrative with both hands, even though I do think over the short term it can still work.”



CCBRT trains entrepreneurship skills to 200 people

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

MORE than 200 people have been empowered by the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region with the entrepreneurship skills as well as how to establish small businesses, so that they can earn income that will enable them to serve their children living with disabilities.

This was stated here recently by the CCBRT Moshi Center Manager, Lucy Kavishe when briefing members of Christoffel Blindenmissie (CBM) from CBM Germany office, the African CBM Regional Office and Tanzanian country’s CBM office who visited CCBRT and the KCMC Zonal Referral Hospital (KCMC ZRH) both located in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region.

“We support the parents and caregivers so that they could have funds to support the well-being of their children instead of depending on begging or support from other sources”, she said.

She said that in order to find the needy, CCBRT always cooperates with the government through its community development related office together with CBM and that the Alibis and Heifer institutions facilitate by providing grants which enables the beneficiaries to establish the small businesses.

Commenting on services provided by CCBRT Moshi, Kavishe said apart from support and training to parents and caregivers, the institution also provided rehabilitation services to children with cerebral palsy, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SBH) so that they can manage the disability, not as an inability.

“We also provide capacity building on early childhood disability identification and establishing disability referral systems for health-care workers in the public and private sectors”, she added.

Speaking during the visits, Dominique Schlupkothen from the German office of the CBM expressed his satisfaction with the good work done by KCMC ZRH

together with CCBRT Moshi, especially in ensuring the good use of funds provided by donors to serve those in need.

“Regarding the challenges you are facing, KCMC ZRH, CBM will look at how to help each other in dealing with them, especially considering the fact that our relationship’s duration has a lifespan of more than half a century”, he said.

On his part, KCMC ZRH’s Executive Director (EDR) Professor Giliard Masenga, thanked the leadership of CBM for the cooperation it has given to the hospital since it was established in 1971.

“CBM has contributed to the establishment of various departments which provide services here at KCMC, including the orthopedics, Eye Nose and Throat (ENT), Dermatology, Physiotherapy departments, just to name but a few”, he said.

In addition, he said that the donation of equipment for treatment at the zonal health facility by CBM, has been a great help as it helps minimize the costs of treatment

for patients, especially considering the high costs of acquiring such equipment.

The representative of CBM Africa Regional Office Albert Kombo commended the Tanzanian government for giving opportunities to various organizations including those from outside the country to provide health services in the country.

“It is encouraging to see that people are getting good health services, whereby they get better and some are recovering completely and thus get a chance to do developmental activities”, he said.

The CBM Tanzania Country Director Nesia Mahenge said that, the visit was aimed at giving the CBM staff the opportunity to see the activities carried out by the stakeholders with whom CBM collaborates in one way or another.

“We have been able to see for ourselves the kind of services that are provided by those with whom we collaborate, how they help many people, even those who live in rural areas”, she said.

Ministry to construct one stop tourism centre

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE ministry of natural resources and tourism is expected to construct one stop tourism center worth US\$7 million at Kihesa village in Iringa Region with funding from the World Bank.

Felix John, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB)’s domestic and regional marketing manager said this recently at the just-ended 47th International Trade Fair.

The main goal of the planned centre is to promote Tanzanian tourism potentials available in Southern circuit and help tourists see what Tanzania has to offer in tourism sector.

“So far the feasibility study has been carried out for the proposed project, and right now tendering processes to select a main contractor for construction activities is underway,” he said.

During the implementation, the centre will provide

all up-to-date information relating to Tanzanian Tourism potentials and advice on what to see and do on their trips.

The main goal is to help tourist access to information they need and enjoy while in Tanzania.

The decision to construct the center was reached after realizing that Tanzanian Tourism potentials available in southern circuit is not well-known and we want to help tourists obtain information about what Tanzania has to

offer in tourism sector.

Tanzania has a great potential for natural resources, cultural and tourism attractions.

In terms of wildlife, the present network of wildlife Protected Areas (PAs) in Tanzania is comprised of 16 National Parks, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, 38 Game Reserves and 43 Game Controlled Areas.

The wildlife protected area network covers 233,300 Sq. Km (28 percent) of the total Tanzania’s land surface area.



Nokia and Ericsson hit by weaker demand in US

HELSINKI

Nokia cut its annual sales forecast on Friday while Ericsson reported a steep fall in quarterly profits, as a slowdown in customer spending in the US hit Europe's two largest telcoms equipment makers.

Both companies said customers, especially in North America, were curbing spending and reducing inventory levels amid high inflation and rising interest rates, in a sign of a potential prolonged slow-

down across the sector.

In an update on Friday, Finland's Nokia said sales would now be between €23.2bn and €24.6bn this year, down from an earlier forecast of €24.6bn to €26.2bn, as a tougher economic backdrop weighed on customers.

The company also trimmed the top end of its profit margin range to 13 per cent from 14 per cent, keeping 11.5 per cent as the bottom.

Telcoms groups have been hurt by a worsening economic outlook that has forced businesses to slash

their budgets and pull investment in technology and upgrades, particularly in markets such as the US.

"Customer spending plans are increasingly impacted by high inflation and rising interest rates, along with some projects now slipping to 2024 – notably in North America," Nokia said. The company added the lower forecasts related to its network infrastructure and mobile networks units.

Nokia said it had been "proactively managing costs to protect profitability" and would



"continue to take measures to ensure it remains on track towards its long-term targets of growing faster

than the market".

Sweden-based Ericsson reported a 62 per cent drop in its operating profit

for the three months ended in June on Friday, slightly beating market expectations. The decline

was driven by a 42 per cent fall in comparable North American sales year-on-year.

Sales growth in India partly offset the "softening" in other markets, "notably in North America, where buildout pace moderated and customer inventory levels were reduced", said chief executive Börje Ekholm.

Ericsson's shares fell 8 per cent on Friday morning. Shares in Nokia, which have been tumbling since April after missing quarterly profit estimates, were down 10 per cent.

In an earnings call on Friday, Ekholm said that he expected "a gradual recovery" in the market towards late 2023 and an improvement in 2024.

"You cannot get away from the macroeconomic headwinds," said Paolo Pescatore, analyst at PP Foresight, adding that coupled with "challenges with supply side constraints, notably sourcing chipsets, this could potentially be the start of a long winter for telecom equipment manufacturers".

New Mali's mining law to increase state, local interests to 35 per cent

NAIROBI

Mali's military-led government is in talks with gold miners over proposed changes to its mining law that could see it boost state and private Malian interests in new projects to 35 per cent, from up to 20 per cent today, according to a draft of the new code seen by Reuters.

The government announced the review of the mining code in January after it said an internal audit had shown that Mali, one of Africa's biggest gold producers, was not receiving a fair share of profits while granting too many tax breaks.

The draft, dated June 17 and verified by three sources close to the talks, shows the government aims to take a direct 10 per cent stake in mining

projects once a permit has been issued, entitling it to 10 per cent of dividend payments.

It would give the state the option to buy an additional 20 per cent within the first two years of commercial production, possibly through a newly created state mining entity.

International investors would have to cede a 5 per cent stake to locals, the document said.

Mali's current mining law, passed in 2019, gives the state the right to 10 per cent with the possibility of acquiring a further 10 per cent stake.

A separate bill within the law would ensure miners employ more locals to top positions, transfer skills and technology, and place a cap on expatriate salary costs, the sources said.

A spokesman for Mali's



The government aims to take a direct 10 per cent stake in mining projects once a permit has been issued

mines ministry declined to comment on the draft, saying no law has been proposed so far to the country's transitional parliament.

Barrick Gold, the world's No. 2 gold miner, and Canadian rival B2Gold are among the biggest producers and have been expanding output in Mali, even amid frequent changes in government and rising insecurity.

The two are among a number of miners taking part in talks with the government, which is keen to claw more revenue from a sector that has remained attractive despite coups and a deadly Islamist insurgency.

REGULATORY UNCERTAINTY

Barrick is "confident that through constructive dialogue" Mali would be able to maintain its attractiveness as an investment destination, the Toronto-based miner, which has operated in Mali for over two decades, said.

"As in any generation-long relationship, there have been occasional differences of opinion between the partners, but these have always been resolved through constructive dialogue," a spokesperson said, adding that it was engaging with the government on the code "in the same spirit."

The government already holds a 20 per cent shareholding in mining projects such as Barrick's Loulo-Gounkoto and B2Gold's Fekola.

Both mines are among the biggest on the continent and this year Loulo-Gounkoto is forecast to produce about 560 000 oz of gold while Fekola is aiming for about 610,000 ounces.

Resolute Mining and Hummingbird Resources also operate in Mali.

The proposed changes represent a source of regulatory uncertainty for a sector that has been relatively shielded from the turbulent political and security landscape in recent years, said Mucahid Durmaz, senior West Africa analyst at Verisk Maplecroft.

"As the junta needs to boost state revenues, the change will likely encourage more state interventions such as demands

for re-negotiating mining contracts, introducing additional taxes, and temporary suspensions of mining projects," Durmaz said.

Discussions with the government over the new rules are "encouraging and healthy" and are expected to continue over the coming months, B2Gold CEO Clive Johnson said.

Johnson said he had not seen the draft document and declined to comment on government demands, saying discussions are still in early stages.

"There is a lot of discussions going on which is very healthy and we are confident we can find common ground going forward," he said.

EU working on e-bus for lithium deal with Latin American nations

BRUSSELS

European Union officials are working on a plan that can help provide electric buses to Latin American nations in exchange for lithium supplies, as they seek to curtail the bloc's reliance on China for this critical raw material.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, is in talks with automakers and governments to create a private sector consortium that can supply e-buses to Latin America, according to people familiar with the plan who did not want to be named as the discussions are private. In return, this will facilitate access to lithium deposits for the EU firms in these resource-rich countries, they said.

The initiative is part of a broader push among western economies to ringfence their core industries and counter China, which has a stronghold over the green energy supply chain. For the Latin American countries, the deal will expedite a switch to cleaner public transport and curb carbon emissions.

The quid pro quo pact is part of the EU's 300-billion-euro (\$335-billion) plan called the Global Gateway, the people said. It aims "to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors" globally, according to the commission's website.

The EU has been "working intensively with its Latin American and Caribbean partners on an Investment Agenda," a spokesperson for the commission said in an email, without sharing specific details. "The partnerships allow both sides to advance trade and investments into secure, sustainable and resilient raw materials value chains."

The 27-nation bloc plans to invest around 10-billion euros in projects across Latin America and the Caribbean, with additional contributions coming from the Member States bilaterally and the private sector.

EU's ambitious green goals are dependent on obtaining a large amount of minerals, including lithium whose demand is projected to surge 12 times by 2030 and 20 times by 2050.

"We have to act now and with the highest speed," said Bernd Schäfer, chief executive officer of EIT RawMaterials that is co-funded by the EU. "It's a make or break moment."

The commission signed a pact with Argentina last month for developing "innovative and sustainable and responsible raw materials value chain projects." It is expected to sign a similar agreement with Chile next week, two of the people familiar said. Chile and Argentina are among the countries with largest lithium reserves on the planet.

Europe is not the only one racing to tie-in raw materials for key sectors such as electric vehicles and clean energy.

A bill was introduced in the US this week to create a national strategy for securing supply chains of critical minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Another US government program has given a \$9.2 billion loan to Ford Motor Co. for building battery factories, in a bid to help local firms catch up to China in green technologies. The commission is still discussing the details of the plan with member states and the industry, the people said. This includes how the European companies could benefit from being part of the consortium.

Kenya finds buyer for 30pc stake in Portland Cement

NAIROBI

The government has found a deep-pocketed buyer for a 30 per cent stake in East African Portland Cement Company (EAPCC) for Sh15 billion in a deal that is likely to trigger a fresh fight for control of the cement firm facing insolvency.

Industry Principal Secretary (PS) Juma Mukhwana (pictured) told the National Assembly that the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade had approved a turnaround plan that will see the strategic investor buy 30 per cent shareholding in the company.

The PS said the deal is now only awaiting President William Ruto's approval.

"We were to meet the President yesterday (Wednesday) but the meeting has been rescheduled to next week. We have approved a proposal between the National Treasury, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and Lafarge that we get a strategic investor to buy 30 per cent shareholding at EAPCC," Dr Mukhwana said.

"A strategic partner will also bring money, new blood and management style as we move to turn around the company."

Dr Mukhwana, who did not disclose who the new buyer is, said the proposal will see the Treasury, the NSSF and French firm Lafarge cede part of their shares to create a 30 per cent stake for the new investor.

The government, through the Treasury, holds 25 per cent shareholding, the NSSF controls 27 per cent, Lafarge 42 per cent and other Kenyans six per cent of the Nairobi bourse-listed cement manufacturer.

But Lafarge, whose representative attended the same meeting, expressed surprise at the government proposal requiring it to cede part of its stake to the new investor.

"We are not aware that we will be ceding shares," Geoffrey Nduigua, a representative of Lafarge who arrived in the country on Thursday for the tripartite meeting convened by the National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Com-



mercial and Energy Affairs, said.

The committee chaired by Pokot South MP David Pkosing asked the government to resolve the conflict with other shareholders before presenting a final proposal.

"I agree we need to put our house in order. We all agree core business is to produce cement. EAPCC has idle land and as a government, we are keen to give life back to Port-

land," Dr Mukhwana said.

The PS said the government would go back to the drawing board and come up with a comprehensive plan on how to dispose of idle assets, pay debt and revive the company.

"We propose you give us time out. We will have a workshop to bring our members together and return on August 17 with a comprehensive plan and an agreed

draft Cabinet memo on the EAPCC business plan," Dr Mukhwana said.

Pkosing asked Dr Mukhwana to coordinate the meeting that will bring together the Treasury, the NSSF and Lafarge.

"You will take the lead and coordinate all shareholders. We want a final decision on August 17, either EAPCC sells its land, a Treasury bailout or we liquidate the company," Mr Pkosing said.

The parliamentary committee had invited the Treasury, the State Department for Industry, the NSSF and Lafarge to discuss the future of the cash-strapped EAPCC.

"We invited you here to this round table to get a permanent solution because EAPCC is dead and only exists on paper. This company is partly owned by the government but it is dying," Mr Pkosing said.

The meeting followed a report by Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu that revealed that EAPCC's current liabilities exceeded the current assets by Sh13.8 billion in the year to June 2022.

EAPCC has been looking to dispose of some of its expansive land holdings in Athi River to fund a restructuring of its balance sheet, mainly to pay debt and bridge a working capital deficit.

EAPCC Managing Director Oliver Kirubai told the committee that it was seeking Sh20 billion to pay off a debt of Sh13 billion and use the balance to revive the operations of the once profitable company.

Dr Mukhwana said a six-point plan for solving the problems facing EAPCC had been approved by the State Department for Industry and will be presented to President Ruto next week.

He said the surveying and titling for regularisation of properties already occupied by squatters will commence following the lifting of the suspension that the new administration imposed.

Dr Mukhwana said another proposal to be tabled before the President next week is the regularisation of the sale of 907 acres that has been illegally encroached on and which is estimated to be worth Sh5 billion.

StanChart to sell five sub-Saharan Africa's businesses to Access bank

DUBAI

Standard Chartered said on Friday it has reached an agreement to sell its subsidiaries in five sub-Saharan African countries to Nigeria's Access Bank, putting into motion a plan announced last year to divest those businesses. Standard Chartered will sell its shareholding in its subsidiaries in Angola, Cameroon, Gambia and Sierra Leone to Access. It will also sell its consumer, private & business banking business in Tanzania to Access Bank, a subsidiary of Access Holdings. Standard Chartered said in April last year that it would exit seven countries in Africa and the Middle East (AME) as it seeks to im-



prove profits by focusing on faster-growing markets in the region. "Access Bank will provide a full range of banking services and continuity for key stakeholders including employees and clients of Standard Chartered's businesses across the five aforementioned countries," Standard Chartered said in a statement. The agreement is in line with Standard Chartered's global strategy "aimed at achieving operational efficiencies, reducing complexity, and driving scale," it said. A value for the deal, which is expected to be completed in the next year, was not disclosed. The deals are subject to regulatory approvals in each of the countries as well as in Nigeria.

"This strategic decision allows us to redirect resources within the AME region to other areas with significant growth potential," Sunil Kaushal, Standard Chartered's regional CEO for AME, said in the statement. The statement said the deal would help Access "build a strong global franchise focused on serving as a gateway for payments, investment, and trade within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world." "With our recent European expansion and our deepened presence in key trading corridors across Africa, we will bridge the gap between cross-border and domestic transfers across all business segments," Access Group Managing Director Roosevelt Ogbonna said in the statement.

Palestine foreign affairs ministry rejects planned new settlements

RAMALLA

The Palestinian ministry of foreign affairs and expatriates said they are against planned 450 new settlement units saying will separate Palestinian neighbourhood. Biden criticized the views of some members of Netanyahu's cabinet on illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, considering them part of the problem. Ben Gvir said on Twitter "President Biden needs to realise that we are no longer a star on the American flag" completely exposing the ruling coalition in the occupying state and its hostility to peace and its desperate attempts to alienate the Palestinian peace partner and undermine any possible opportunity for a solution. That, the statement says, Ben Gvir is proud of what he represents in the Israeli government by refusing (any settlement or removal of any random settlement outpost) is another confirmation that he and his followers and allies are subversive elements that ignite fires in the conflict arena and seek to detonate them, as well fight any efforts made to achieve calm in order to restore the political horizon for resolving the conflict, including achieving security and stability in the region.



that has become normal and familiar, and to move from the square of diagnosing and describing the ruling coalition and its subversive and terrorist acts to the square of actions, accountability and the imposition of deterrent sanctions. Even the US president Joe Biden said that Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet contained some of the "most extreme" members he had seen, accusing them of being "part of the problem" in the occupied Palestine. He then said of Netanyahu's administration: "This one of most extreme members of cabinets that I've seen". The international community considers the Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal. But since taking office in December, Netanyahu's government has pushed for their expansion, advancing plans for 13,000 new housing units in existing settlements, almost triple the amount approved last year.

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"These violations that rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity are held accountable under international law, including large-scale ethnic cleansing operations and the targeting of sanctities, especially the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque," said a statement issued by foreign ministry this week. The Ministry affirms that the Israeli government is racing against time in implementing its expansionist colonial interests map at the expense of the land of the State of Palestine, deepening the processes of annexing Jerusalem, imposing Israeli law on it, completely separating it from its Palestinian surroundings, and drowning it in a huge settlement ocean linked to the Israeli depth and extending east towards the Dead Sea. "This means sabotaging and undermining any opportunity to implement the principle of the two-state solution and establish a viable, sovereign, and geographically contiguous Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of June 4, 1967," it says.



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The Ministry also believes that Ben Gvir's statements confirm the sincerity of the Palestinian position on the need to work for the internationalization of the conflict and to force Israel to end its occupation in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as the sincerity of the Palestinian approach to international courts in order to hold the perpetrators of extremism and settlement on the other side accountable. The Ministry holds the Israeli government and its President, Benjamin Netanyahu, fully and directly responsible for these racist, inciting positions, and their results and repercussions on the escalation in the conflict arena, especially as they constitute an umbrella for settler militias and their armed organizations and encourage them to commit more attacks and crimes against Palestinian civilians, their towns, properties, land, homes, and sanctities. The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates warns against the consequences of international dealings with the Israeli represented by Ben Gvir and Smotrich and their followers as a case



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MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

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

CAPITAL

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

WORLD

UK Labour focuses on economy as PM Sunak faces electoral test

LONDON

BORIS Johnson is no stranger to making headlines, but the name of Britain's former prime minister hardly crosses the lips of the opposition Labour Party candidate battling to replace him in his former outer London parliamentary seat.

Instead, Danny Beales is concentrating on the issues he says are most troubling voters in the constituency of Uxbridge and South Ruislip - high inflation, weak economic growth, car charges and rising taxes and mortgage costs.

The attack lines adopted by Beales, 34, are an ominous sign for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who has promised disillusioned voters his governing Conservatives are the only way to revive an economy that is being hurt by stubbornly high inflation.

But opinion polls suggest Sunak could

lose the so-called by-election in Uxbridge and South Ruislip on Thursday, and most likely two others elsewhere - results that would mark the worst one-day outcome for a governing party in more than half a century.

A general election must be held within the next 18 months.

In an election debate last week, Beales made just one comment about Johnson, who dramatically quit parliament when he was accused by a parliamentary committee of lying about parties at his official residence during the coronavirus pandemic, answering "no" when asked if Johnson was honest.

He swiftly went back to concentrating his attacks on the government's handling of the economy and public services.

"You know, from knocking on doors, what people are interested in," Beales told Reuters. "People are all talking



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks at a press conference at Number 9 Downing Street on public sector pay in London on Wednesday. AFP

about what is going on with the economy and the crisis that is affecting so many ordinary lives." While the contests are to fill seats vacated by Johnson and two other lawmakers, they are also in part a referendum on Sunak's leadership.

Sunak, who has been prime minister for just nine months, asked voters at the start of the year to judge him on five pledges: to halve inflation, get the economy growing, cut the national debt, reduce health waiting lists and stop boats carrying asylum seekers crossing the Channel to Britain.

He has failed to achieve any so far.

Sixty-four percent of voters said the economy was the most important issue for them in a YouGov survey earlier this month.

'Bucket full of holes'

Uxbridge and South Ruislip, on the western edge of London, is traditionally a Conservative stronghold. The Conservatives have won the

seat at every general election since 1970.

Labour is confident the party will win and the betting odds suggest Labour has a more than 90 percent chance of taking the seat, which returned Johnson with a majority of 7,210 in 2019.

Labour's message is more focused on national issues such as the economy and mortgages, while the Conservatives are hammering local issues.

Maria Genjatovic, 73, a retired businesswoman who voted for the Conservatives most of her life, said she would vote for Labour, describing Britain as like "a bucket full of holes" with high inflation, long waiting lists to use the state-run health service and rising mortgage rates.

Paul Mathews, 52, who works in human resources and has voted for different political parties, said he was worried about the economy, but could not back Labour after the party's London mayor expanded the anti-pollution Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) from inner London to the suburbs, including Uxbridge.

From next month, drivers of vehicles not meeting the latest emissions standards will face a 12.50 pound (\$16) daily charge.

Mathews said it was a "crazy policy" meaning two family members would have to pay almost 400 pounds a month in extra levies unless they buy new cars.

This is the message the Conservative candidate, Steve Tuckwell, 54, a local councillor and businessman, continues to focus on even though he admits it is a "very challenging backdrop".

"But it is also an incredibly challenging time for other countries as well," he told Reuters.

A Labour member of parliament, who has spent time canvassing in the area, said while voters complained to him about the economy, the ULEZ issue was going to hurt the party.

Agencies

Wagner PMC formally non-existent, Putin says - media

MOSCOW



LEGALIZING private military companies is a complicated issue that should be handled by the government and the parliament, because formally companies such as Wagner PMC are non-existent in Russia at this point, Russian President Vladimir Putin was quoted as saying.

Kommersant's special correspondent Andrey Kolesnikov quoted the Russian president as saying in response to a question about the organization's future that, from the point of view of the Russian legislation, "Wagner PMC does not exist."

The president explained that Russia has no law on private military companies and, therefore, "there is no such legal entity."

"The [Wagner] Group exists, but it is judicially non-existent," the report quotes Putin as saying. "The formal legalization is a separate issue that should be addressed by the State Duma [the lower chamber of the Russian parliament] and the government. It's a complicated issue."

The president believes that the Wagner Group controversy "is very simple and clear for [members of] the Russian society."

"Wagner's ordinary members were fighting with dignity... so it is very regrettable that they became embroiled into these events," Putin added.

On Thursday, the Russian president took part in the plenary session of the Future Technologies Forum. After the event was over, he had a conversation with Russian journalists. Excerpts of the talk, where the issue of Ukraine, NATO and the grain deal were raised, were published by the Kremlin website and aired by the Rossiya-24 television channel.

India-Ukraine holds ninth round of Foreign Office Consultations in Kyiv

NEW DELHI

INDIA and Ukraine held the ninth round of the India-Ukraine Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Kyiv and exchanged perspectives on the ongoing Moscow and Kyiv conflict and peace efforts.

Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West) Sanjay Verma co-chaired the 9th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) with Ukraine's First Deputy Minister of Foreign Ministry Emine Dzharparova on Thursday, according to the statement released by MEA.

"The two sides reviewed bilateral ties in their entirety and also exchanged perspectives on the ongoing conflict and peace efforts. Global and multilateral issues of mutual interest were also on the agenda," the statement read.

"During the visit, Secretary (West) called on Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and discussed the ways to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

He also called on Andriy Yermak, Chief of Staff to the President of Ukraine. Secretary (West) also interacted with the Indian Diaspora and Ukrainian academia and think tanks," it added.

Taking to her Twitter account, Emine Dzharparova said, "Happy to greet @SanjayVermaIFSIN #Kyiv for Foreign office consultations. We discussed areas of our mutual cooperation & elaborated on #Peace-Formula of @ZelenskyyUa to ensure just and lasting peace. Confident Ukraine-India relationship will continue to prosper."

Earlier in April, Emine Dzharparova during her four-day visit to India said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy of democracy, dialogue and diversification is very important for Ukraine.

She further said that India should be pragmatic in diversifying its energy resources, diversifying military contracts and diversifying political interaction."

As my President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says, extraordinary times need extraordinary decisions. So of course, Prime Minister Modi with his 3D policy of democracy, dialogue and, to my knowledge, its diversity. I think that this no-era-of-war and strategic application is really, really important," she added.

"We hope that India and Ukraine will be...even though we are distant geographically, but we will become closer physically and politically and in many other ways," Dzharparova added.

During the visit, Secretary (West) is expected to call on Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ruslan Stefanchuk and Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, the release added.

ANI

Modi, Macron arrive at Champs-Elysees ahead of Bastille Day Parade

PARIS

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi joined French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris ahead of the Bastille Day Parade, which will be the highlight of the French National Day celebrations yesterday.

PM Modi, who will be the Guest of Honour at the Parade at the invitation of the French President, arrived at the Champs-Elysees in a traditional off-white kurta and pyjama paired with a navy blue jacket. French First Lady Brigitte Macron and France's PM Elisabeth Borne received PM Modi ahead of the Bastille Day Parade.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the

two countries.

An Indian tri-services contingent will be part of the Bastille Day Parade, while three Indian Air Force Rafale fighter jets, as part of the military contingent, are also set to participate in the Bastille Day flypast over the Champs Elysees, Paris.

The Bastille Day Parade is the highlight of celebrations of the day that marks the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison, an ancient royal fortress in 1789 during the French Revolution.

This year the Bastille Day Parade will have about 6,300 soldiers in various marching contingents. This includes a tri-services contingent of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. The Indian Army is rep-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by the President Emmanuel Macron, at Elysee Palace in Paris on Thursday. ANI

resented by the Punjab Regiment. The troops of the Regiment have participated in both World Wars, having been awarded 18

Battle and Theatre Honours in the first war.

The Punjab Regiment participated in an offensive near Neuve Chapelle in France in September 1915 during World War One. The regiment also won 16 Battle Honours and 14 Theatre Honours in the Second World War.

Earlier, the Ministry of Defence, in a press release, stated, "The Indian Army contingent comprising of 77 marching personnel and 38 members of the Band is being led by Captain Aman Jagtap. Indian Navy contingent is being led by Commander Vrat Baghel and the Indian Air Force contingent is by Squadron Leader Sindhu Reddy.

The Rafale fighter jets of

the Indian Air Force will also form part of the flypast during the parade."

It added, "The Army contingent is being represented by the Punjab Regiment which is one of the oldest Regiments of the Indian Army. The troops of the Regiment have participated in both the World Wars as well as the post-independence operations."

PM Modi's visit is expected to herald the next phase in the India-France Strategic Partnership by setting new and ambitious goals for our strategic, cultural, scientific, academic, and economic cooperation, including in a wide range of industries, the official statement read.

ANI

China has not forgotten NATO's 'debt of blood' for bombing embassy in Yugoslavia - MFA

BEIJING

THE Chinese people haven't forgotten the 1999 bombing of the country's embassy in Belgrade, which killed three Chinese citizens, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Twitter.

"We haven't forgotten the debt of blood NATO owes the Chinese people in bombing the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia. Asia-Pacific countries don't welcome a war machine, still less an 'Asia-Pacific version of NATO' that stokes bloc confrontation or a new Cold War," the tweet reads.

"China having coercive policies? Isn't NATO the one who has engaged in bloc politics and military operations around the world, threatening other countries with force and challenging the interests, security and values of the world?" Hua said. "Isn't NATO the one who has trampled underfoot international law and basic norms governing international relations by interfering in other countries' internal affairs and engaging in wars, causing sufferings to millions of people in the world?" the Chinese diplomat added.

On Tuesday, NATO countries participating

in the bloc's annual summit in Vilnius adopted a communique stating, in particular, that China's "ambitions and coercive policies" challenge the bloc's interests, security and values.

The NATO members expressed concern about the expansion and diversification of China's nuclear arsenal. NATO also believes that the deepening strategic partnership between China and Russia runs counter to its values and interests.

The communique adds that the EU and NATO will coordinate their steps "to address the systemic challenges posed by the People's Republic of China to Euro-Atlantic security." In addition, NATO allies expressed readiness to boost cooperation with their partners in the Asia-Pacific Region, including Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan, in countering common security threats.

In May 1999, a missile struck the Chinese embassy in Belgrade during NATO's operation in Yugoslavia, killing three Chinese nationals. The alliance claims that the incident was a mistake and the nearby building of the Yugoslav Federal Directorate for Supply and Procurement was the target of the attack.



Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying

THE World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) 2023 was held in Shanghai from July 6 to 8.

The event, joined by more than 1,400 guests and 400 exhibitors, covered an exhibition area of over 50,000 square meters. It hosted 133 themed forums, attracting over 177,000 in-person visits. All of the above hit record highs.

The event was a magnet attracting investment and businesses. During the 2023 WAIC, 210 firms reached a total intended purchase amount of 11 billion yuan (\$1.52 billion), and 32 major projects were signed with a total investment of 28.8 billion yuan.

The scale of China's core arti-

China's AI industry achieves fruitful outcomes

ficial intelligence (AI) industry has exceeded 500 billion yuan so far, with the number of AI enterprises exceeding 4,300. Intelligent chips, AI development frameworks and other innovations keep emerging.

The application scenarios of AI are seen everywhere, from people's daily life to enterprises' production, sales, services, and administration.

"Our equipment is designed for those with lower limb disorders in their early functional training," said a staff member of an exhibitor who brought a

lower limb rehabilitation robot to the 2023 WAIC.

The staff member said that the robot provides users with correct sensory input and helps prevent the development of abnormal gaits through rhythmic stimulation, vertical DOF (degree of freedom) and ground-walking assistance. The robot has been applied at many rehabilitation centers across China.

Autonomous driving vehicles were a highlight of the event. On July 8, 15 unmanned vehicles manufactured by three enterprises obtained the first batch of

road test licenses for unmanned intelligent connected vehicles issued by Shanghai's Pudong New Area.

As relevant regulations are put into effect, autonomous driving in Pudong New Area is about to embrace an "unmanned era."

According to a report issued by the 2023 WAIC, China has witnessed prospering development of its AI industry, accelerating relevant infrastructure construction and in-depth integration with other industries over recent years.

Statistics released at the con-

ference showed that China's computing power ranks second globally. Thanks to the profound integration of AI and the manufacturing sector, more than 2,500 digital workshops and smart factories have been built across the country, which forcefully drives the digital, intelligent and green transition of the real economy.

The application of AI-assisted scenarios is leading to rapid data growth. Computing power, as a key productive force in the era of the digital economy, will empower all industries.

The State Information Center of China said that 80 percent of scenarios will rely on AI in the future. How to build a solid foundation of computing power and making it a basic resource of AI development is a key factor driving the development of industrial ecology and promoting sci-tech innovation.

According to preliminary estimation, the revenue of China's AI computing core industry will hit 4.4 trillion yuan by 2025, with related industries up to 24 trillion yuan.

Future development of com-

puting power will feature inclusiveness and intelligence, said a report released at the 2023 WAIC. It noted that computing power will be able to forcefully drive the integration, sharing, development and application of data collected from different levels, regions and departments, and thus vitalize data assets.

AI insiders and more than 80 renowned scholars held in-depth discussions on the topics of technology, industry and humanities, focusing on intelligent chips, scientific intelligence, robotics, brain-like intelligence, autonomous driving, rule of law and security as well as other frontier research areas.

People's Daily

Republican debates: Trump's rivals in need of a game-changer

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump has taken a commanding lead in the race to be the Republican presidential nominee for 2024. His opponents need to make a game-changing impression at the TV debates.

First, each of the 14 candidates must gather enough donors and hit certain opinion polling metrics to qualify for the stage.

Several prominent names say they've made the cut, while others are still desperately corraling support.

But with Mr Trump threatening to skip the debates in order to preserve his huge lead, it is unclear how much these forums will influence the race.

When are the debates?

The first debate of the Republican presidential primary will be held on Wednesday 23 August, with a second possibly to follow the next night.

The first one will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is also where the party will host its formal nominating convention next year.

Wisconsin is a battleground state that the eventual Republican nominee will probably need to win at the November 2024 general election in order to get to the White House.

At least two more debates are expected in the ensuing months, with the next one expected to be held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California in September, but no dates have yet been set. Voting in the Republican primary election begins in Iowa on 15 January 2024, but more debates are likely to be held to help winnow the field. The 2016 election saw the party hold as many as 12 debates.

Why is Trump skipping?

Over the past few months, the former president has suggested he won't join the debates.

He has cited polls that show him leading other candidates by "seemingly insurmountable numbers", and has complained that proposed moderators and venues may be "hostile" towards him.

It comes as the Republican Party as a whole has cast doubt over whether it will participate in

debates with the eventual Democratic nominee ahead of the general election.

They claim the Commission on Presidential Debates, which has organised such forums since 1987, is "biased and has refused to enact simple and common sense reforms to help ensure fair debates".

Trump, 77, has a history of threatening to skip debates - but does not always follow through.

He boycotted a 2016 debate hosted by Fox News, alleging that moderator Megyn Kelly was biased against him, and hosted a separate event.

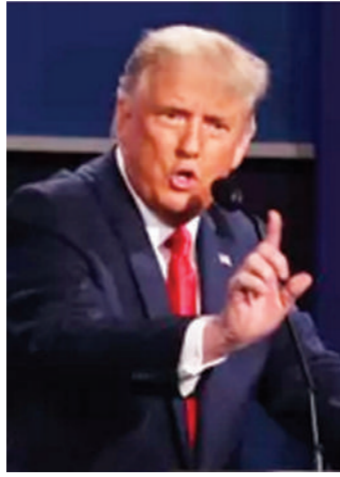
He also suggested he might skip his TV duel with Democrat Joe Biden, but did not.

Ahead of the debate this August, he has threatened to hold his own event the same evening.

If Mr Trump does decide he wants to square off with his rivals, however, he will easily qualify for the debate stage.

How do candidates qualify?

In June, the Republican National Committee implemented polling and fundraising standards



that candidates need to clear to participate in its debates.

Candidates must receive donations from at least 40,000 contributors, with no fewer than 200 unique donors from a minimum of 20 states or territories.

They must also record more than one percent in at least three polls conducted after 1 July 2023.

These two criteria must be met at least 48 hours before the first debate, and the thresholds are expected to be raised ahead of future debates.

All candidates are also required to commit to supporting the

eventual Republican nominee and pledge not to participate in any outside debates.

That's a nod to 2016, when Mr Trump ran as an "outsider" and memorably refused to take such a pledge at the first debate.

So far, Mr Trump and his chief rival Ron DeSantis are on track to qualify. The campaigns for Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, Tim Scott and Chris Christie also claim they expect to qualify in time.

Others in the race, however, including former Vice-President Mike Pence and Trump critics Asa Hutchinson and Will Hurd, are yet to make the cut.

Eager to deliver their pitch to a national audience, some long-shot candidates are going to desperate lengths to qualify.

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum is relying on his personal wealth to offer donors a \$20 gift card for every dollar he receives.

The move is "legally suspect", according to election law expert Rick Hasen. Federal law prevents candidates from asking for donations and then reimbursing them for it, he told the BBC.

Other contenders are opting

for more innocuous methods. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez is giving away "Dump Biden" bumper stickers, while businessman Perry Johnson is selling \$1 T-shirts.

And what about the Democrats?

Only two people are currently challenging President Joe Biden for the Democratic presidential nomination: Marianne Williamson and Robert F Kennedy Jr.

Polls indicate a majority of Democratic voters, including those who support Mr Biden, want to see the nation's oldest ever president participate in debates as he seeks re-election.

That is highly unlikely, given that the Democratic National Committee has expressed its "full and complete support" for Mr Biden and says it will not sponsor any debates. The Biden campaign has defended that position, by noting that no incumbent president of either party has participated in a primary debate in its modern history.

But critics have cited Mr Biden's unpopularity and concerns over his age to argue the process is undemocratic. **Agencies**

Women, girls deserve full access to education

KABUL

FOLLOWING the ban on higher education for women by the Taliban, the US Special Envoy for Afghanistan Thomas West said that women and girls in Afghanistan should have complete access to education in honour of Malala Day, reported Khaama Press.

West took to his Twitter account and said, "Afghan women and girls are a tremendous asset to the future of Afghanistan and deserve full access to education to realize their potential." The Malala Day is celebrated in honour of Malala Yousafzai who is a Pakistani education activist and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize was born on July 12 and following that, UN declared that day as "Malala Day."

Malala while addressing the audience at the United Nations House in Abuja, Nigeria, said, "Ten years ago, millions of Afghan girls were going to school."

She expressed her concern over the Taliban's "complete reversal" of women's rights and education in Afghanistan, according to Khaama Press.

"One in three young women were enrolled in university. And now? Afghanistan is the only country in the world to ban girls and women from seeking education," she added.

"Even as a teenager, I understood that progress could be slow - but I never expected to witness a complete reversal, an entire country of girls locked out of school, trapped in their homes and losing hope." The Taliban banned girls from secondary school in March 2022, prohibited women from working for humanitarian aid agencies, and barred women from pursuing higher education in December last year, reported Khaama Press.

Earlier in May, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also said that Muslim world condemns the Taliban's ban on higher education for women.

"When the Taliban enacted restrictive bans on higher education for women, governments from across the Muslim world spoke up to condemn the Taliban's decision," and they had argued that the actions were inhumane and contrary to Islamic beliefs, Blinken said. **ANI**

Nigerian president declares state of emergency for food security

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President Bola Tinubu has declared a state of emergency in response to high inflation threatening food security in Africa's most populous country, the State House said on Thursday.

Dele Alake, a spokesman for the president, revealed this at a press briefing in the capital of Abuja, adding that Tinubu "is not unmindful of the rising cost of food and how it affects the citizens ... affordability has been a major issue for many Nigerians in all parts of the country."

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed the headline inflation rate in Nigeria has remained stubbornly high since January 2021. It jumped to 22.41

percent in May, with food being the biggest driver of inflation.

Alake said that the government would implement several approaches to reverse inflation and guarantee future uninterrupted supplies of affordable foods to ordinary Nigerians. He explained that the president's declaration of a state of emergency on food security aimed to mobilize all available resources to mitigate the crisis.

According to the official, the government plans to use some of the money saved following the end of fuel subsidies to improve the agricultural sector in the short term. They will also introduce further interventions and solutions in the medium and long term, as is typical in emer-



Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, inspects honor guards after taking an oath of office at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria, on May 29, 2023. AP

agencies.

"The government will immediately release fertilizers and grains to farmers and households to mitigate the effects of the subsidy removal," he said. He added that the president also ordered the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Resources to closely cooperate to ensure adequate irrigation of farmlands and to guarantee that food is produced all year round.

Nigeria has been grappling with a series of challenges in its agricultural sector, including farmer-herder clashes, climate change effects, limited access to modern farming techniques and the increasing threat of pests and diseases, which have significantly impacted food production and have led to rising food prices. **Agencies**

Shanghai to foster new growth drivers with AI technology

SHANGHAI-based tech firm Deemos, a startup offering digital identity in the metaverse, attended the 2022 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) with its technology that builds digital avatars upon the scanning by panoramic cameras.

This year, it went further and brought to the 2023 WAIC a text-to-3D avatar technology, which uses artificial intelligence (AI) and text guidance to generate animatable 3D faces that can be customized based on user preferences.

Themed "Intelligent Connectivity Generating Future," the 2023 WAIC was held in Shanghai from July 6 to 8. Both the number of exhibitors and its exhibition area hit record highs. A batch of AI technologies and products developed by Shanghai companies were exhibited, showcasing the latest AI achievements.

Shanghai is one of the earliest cities in China to develop the AI industry. Over recent years, the city has made continuous efforts to build relevant application scenarios, improving AI ecology and fostering talents.

As a result, the AI industry is developing vibrantly in Shanghai. The number of AI enterprises above the designated size, or companies with annual revenue from principal business of 20 million yuan (\$2.77 million), jumped from 183 in 2018 to 348 last year, with



Visitors watch a robotic arm do traditional Chinese calligraphy on a fan at the 2023 World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai, July 6. File photo

the total output value from 134 billion yuan to 382.1 billion yuan during the same period.

"AI technologies are evolving globally, leading to a new trend in the AI industry and catalyzing industrial reforms," said Wu Jincheng, director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization.

He said Shanghai is working actively to foster new growth drivers with AI technologies. On a river surrounding the Zhangjiang Artificial Intelligence Island in Shanghai's Pudong New Area, unmanned boats are always seen carrying tourists. After such boats are put into use in more scenic areas in the future, people could board the boat by simply placing an order on their mobile phones.

The AI+ Marine Technology Innovation Center, an innovation platform jointly launched by Shanghai Ocean University and electronics manufacturing giant INESA, built an AI application scenario in the waters of the Zhangjiang Artificial Intelligence Island.

A Beijing-based company has successfully developed an unmanned surface boat in the pilot area, which is able to automatically navigate, avoid barriers and dock.

At the previous five sessions of the WAIC, 58 major AI application scenarios were unveiled by Shanghai enterprises in three batches, which effectively promoted the development of the AI industry.

Over recent years, a series of innovation organizations have been built in Shanghai, including the Shanghai AI Laboratory, the Shanghai Data Exchange and the Baiyulan Open AI.

The city has established four clusters of AI enterprises, launching a batch of open AI systems and producing a number of intelligent chips. **People's Daily**

Besides, Shanghai has put into trial operation a new-gen AI computing platform and unveiled China's first AI public computing platform.

To create a sound industrial environment for AI developers, Shanghai issued regulations aiming at promoting AI development.

The city also implemented an action plan for AI intelligent computing innovation and a local standard for AI technology.

As a pilot zone for AI innovation and application, Pudong New Area is home to over 600 key AI companies that boast a total output value of more than 120 billion yuan.

The Global AI Developer Conference has been hosted in the Lingang Special Area of Shanghai's Pilot Free Trade Zone for four consecutive years.

An international algorithm innovation center and an innovation center for smart robot manufacturing were inaugurated in the area.

Shanghai will consolidate its foundation of the AI industry, strengthen the development of multimodal and large models, enhance its competitiveness in new fields such as intelligent content creation and scientific intelligence, build the ecology for independent intelligent computing and improve international cooperation on the AI industry. **People's Daily**

NATO summit shows Russia needs to meet special operation's goals, says diplomat

MOSCOW

ANALYSIS of the latest NATO summit's results leads to a conclusion that Russia needs to fulfill the goals of its special operation in Ukraine, strengthen its armed forces and develop ties with allies, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko (pictured) has told Russia's Channel One.

"I can briefly outline the conclusions that we had drawn with regards to the outcomes of the NATO summit. Firstly, the objectives of the special military operations must be fulfilled. Secondly, the Army, the Navy and the Aerospace Forces should be strengthened," the deputy minister told the Big Game TV show late on Thursday.

"Also, we should boost integration within unions and allied organizations where Russia is a member. And we need to further strengthen relations with the global majority, with all those who are not willing to succumb to domination and are ready to cooperate with Russia on the basis of national interests," the diplomat added.

In his words, a multipolar world has already become a reality.

"No matter what NATO does, it will fail. There is no way to reverse this process," Grushko added. **Agencies**

N A T O

held its summit in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on July 11-12. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said at the meeting that the bloc's members states had taken three steps towards Ukraine, making a decision not to demand Ukraine implement its NATO Membership Action Plan, adopting a multi-year program of military assistance to Kiev and approving the establishment of a NATO-Ukraine Council.

However, the final statement read out by Stoltenberg said that Ukraine would receive an invitation to join NATO once allies reached a consensus and all the conditions were met. Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky at a press conference expressed dissatisfaction with the decision, saying that the summit's outcome was not ideal for Kiev as it had failed to get an invitation to join NATO. **Agencies**



BRICS education ministers meet in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

THE 10th meeting of the BRICS ministers of education was held from Wednesday to Thursday in Skukuza, South Africa's Mpumalanga Province, which was attended by the ministers and delegates of education from all five BRICS countries, with Namibia present as an invited special guest country.

BRICS countries should prioritize eight thematic ar-

eaes which include skills for the changing world including digital education cooperation and mutual recognition of qualifications, said a statement released Thursday on the outcomes of the meeting. BRICS members are committed to delivering responsive and relevant programmes for out-of-school youth and ensuring employability and absorption into labor markets, according to the statement. The BRICS countries also

pledged to improve the quality and enhance international cooperation on higher education and training through mutual recognition qualifications in line with the Global Education 2030 Agenda, the statement said.

BRICS is an acronym for five emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa assumed the BRICS presidency on Jan. 1, 2023, taking over from China.

Simba Queens begin search for new head coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Queens has begun pursuing a new head coach after sacking Ugandan Charles Lukula.

The Mainland Tanzania women's soccer side had failed to retain the trophy in the just-ended Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL), as army outfit, JKT Queens, lifted the top honour.

Lukula was in charge of Simba Queens for just one season, having joined the club before the commencement of the just-concluded campaign.

After failing to achieve what appears to have been the target, namely clinching the SWPL title, he has been shown the door.

The club released a brief statement on Thursday evening confirming Lukula's exit and went on to wish him well for the future.

"We thank Charles Lukula for being Simba Queens' head coach for the last season. We wish him all the best in his life," a statement from the club revealed.

Simba Queens has seen local and foreign footballers including Jentrix Shikangwa, Topister Situma, and Corazone Aquino, all from Kenya, shine for the outfit in the 2022/23 season.

Goal-getter Jentrix could be on her way out after winning the SWPL golden boot prize, having scored 17 goals.

Lukula is not the only tactician who left Simba Queens on Thursday, as Simba SC sent two more coaches and a physio from the men's team parking.

Kelvin Mandla, who served as the midfielders' specialist, was shown the door, as is the case for physiotherapist Fareed Cassim and goal-keeping coach Chlouha Zakaria.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC Communication Manager, said they are already in the market looking for replacements for those who exited.

"We are keen on making big improvements in our technical bench, and we want to bring on board coaches who are more knowledgeable and experienced," he said.

"We have big plans for next season, and to achieve these plans, we ought to have the right people on board. We are already in the market, looking for replacements for the coaches that have left the club."

Both men's and women's sides had gone without clinching silverware in the 2022/23 season, a situation which has brought about disappointment among Simba SC fans and the club's board members.

Simba SC head coach seeks to improve defense

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Roberto Oliveira has made it clear that he wants to strengthen his defensive line after conceding a few goals in last season's Premier League.

The Msimbazi Street side is currently in Türkiye, Turkey for pre-season sessions in preparation for next season's campaign.

Simba SC will next season battle it out in various tournaments including Community Shield Knockout showdown and Africa Super League.

Last season, Simba SC allowed the fewest goals (17) in the Premier League while being the leader in scoring, netting 75 goals.

Despite allowing few goals, Oliveira has clearly shown that he still has work to do to ensure that his outfit completely avoids conceding easy goals next season, a weakness that was in view during the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

The Brazilian gaffer noted: "On the defensive side, you must always be able to protect the lost ball, the current ball needs speed and great possession."

"If you can control the ball, you have a good time to make decisions about where and when to release it," Oliveira revealed.

The gaffer said that he needs his defenders to be comfortable with the ball and be compact in each de-

fensive zone as well as contributing to attacking progression.

"We need to be solid more than last season, defensive wise locally we were excellent but in the CAF Champions League, it was another story. I think we need to work on that," the gaffer noted.

"We need defenders who contribute to the ball progression as well as players who like to score because the secret of football is to score," the tactician pointed out.

The Brazilian insisted: "If you have two good players in each area, if possible it will be good, remember last season when I was with Simba SC, I did not lose any league match and didn't win the league because we had a poor Start which has to be resolved."

Oliveira moreover expressed satisfaction with his squad, insisting on delivering a winning team upon the conclusion of the pre-season camp in Türkiye.

"We have an important, difficult competition, Africa Super League and domestic competitions, I believe in my players and their levels," the tactician revealed.

"I aim to ensure good performance as Simba SC is a big club and I respect my players, fans, and the club too much, we are here to win and play nice football, that's our objective," the Brazilian noted.

Pastor Dominic and enthralling late-night 'reality' broadcasting

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THE city of Dar es Salaam is unlikely to have either United States bookmakers or those on its glamorous Western coast, home of Hollywood's countless outlets for reality television.

In the past, these used to be specialized forms of entertainment often for upper-class viewers who could afford cable television, like the French Canal Plus which was special cable TV while mainstream channels were open air.

Shifting to the digital format changed all this, and all local TVs are cable but state broadcasting.

Often those who use the radio are also available on television and social media channels, but Pastor Dominic (who scarcely offers a surname but a qualification as a top-level witch buster) does not mention social media channels or TV access.

It appears his work is limited to radio broadcasting especially late at night, offering live programs as well as repeats of testimonies quite often.

Even for those used to deliverance programs and witch-busting, there is still something special here.

Ordinarily, movers of Gospel reality shows involve healing, or rather healing testimonies - which leaves room for detractors in the main denominational groups to talk of people being arranged to provide pseudo-testimony.

This perception will likely be sliding out little by little but its articulators prefer not to sit in to watch alternative faith experiences, in the sense of events happening directly as people watch or listen. It is this facet of faith experience that is breaking records.

Events similar to what is heard if one tune into Pastor Dominic's radio outlet well after 1:30 am are at times being heard at the more established



Singers from various choirs from Seventh Day Adventist Church, located at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam, perform at the launch of a one-week camp meeting held at the church recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKI

Fresh Springs Fellowship.

It is not surprising to hear that after someone healed there is a nearby resident, presumably responsible for the problem that took the Kimara Temboni frequenter to the place, to obtain healing.

Still, those situations involve what may be called a manifest disconnect, that no direct link can be formed but by believing.

This is what the new deliverance show promises to be different, that it isn't testimony that is collected later when a healed person goes before the vast church assembly and recounts what happened.

With Pastor Dominic, the reality show is more candid and to the point, as it isn't just the complainant, often a diseased person who comes looking for a cure.

It is someone calling from his or her home and the problem is located right there, and what's more, it is instantly sorted out.

This ability to pinpoint the problem is often true of the Kimara-Temboni altar holder but is scarcely accepted or pursued at Tanganyika Packers ground in the Kawe suburb.

Pastor Dominic is a higher expression of Joshua Makondeko, rather well known as an ordinary dance music entertainer who later shifted to Gospel music, unaware that his proper

itinerary was healing - and punishment of witching - to be performed as reality shows. Pastor Dominic takes this gift to even higher standards.

By comparison of styles or indeed of gifts, which is balanced out by the numbers of people involved in the exercise within the limited time of one show, the Kawe show features Boniface Mwamposa commonly known as 'Bulldozer'.

His show involves extensive instances of healing and not reaching out to identify evil doers, by identity or relation to the one being healed.

This is altered somewhat at Kimara Temboni where the altar head calls out individuals to free them from darkness, in some instances they admit to having been there on a sabotage mission.

Even those who come to sabotage the ministry, or series of shows that highlight how those engaged in occult arts operate, at least volunteered to come there.

Those who will be involved from a distance will have no chance or be placed in a situation of being humiliated, the way it routinely comes up with Pastor Dominic.

And the reason is not some deliberate design on his part but reality itself in a social sense of the term, depicted in the expression 'what eats you is in your

clothing', which here may imply spouse, parent, sibling, neighbour, ex-partners, etc.

That is where the show by Pastor Dominic bites and is more intensive, and could be X-rated while the other shows are B-movies.

How else would one classify a show where a young man's businesses are ruined, his wife runs away and he is left with children and a sick mother, and then the torment is explained to come from the mother as a witch, pushed to bring ruin and destruction over his son?

In a different context, a man whose skin was showing a distorted scalp like that of a snake heals.

In real life it was destroying his skin and pushing him to madness, he is told the matter is right at home.

He has a well-moneyed elder brother, the two remaining members of the family after several siblings died as well as the parents, due to him.

Pastor Dominic informs the fellow that his brother is in Nigeria and he has to open a room that he never saw open.

He was led to a button and space enclosing the key, took water in a glass that the pastor prayed over it, and poured it into the room - which artifacts went up in flames - carpet, plate, gold necklace, and baton.



Children from Safari Salama Club that is run by WAJIKI - a Community-Based Organization (CBO) fighting gender-based violence and sextortion - join joggers from various clubs from across Dar es Salaam to participate in exercises at Msimbazi Mwananyamala recently. The event supported efforts to fight sexual exploitation. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKI

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN a twist of fate for Yanga, the future of the outfit's prolific striker Fiston Mayele hangs in the balance as the player contemplates lucrative offers from abroad.

Mayele, who laid his hands on the 2022/23 NBC Premier League golden boot and played a vital role in Yanga's impressive run to the CAF Confederation Cup final, is now at a crossroads in his career.

With an impressive tally of 17 goals in the domestic top flight and 14 goals in the just-ended Africa inter-club tournaments, Mayele has emerged as one of the most sought-after talents in African football.

Yanga faces the difficult task of decid-

Yanga struggles to keep hold of Mayele

ing whether to retain their prized asset or succumb to the irresistible offers on the table.

Among the offers that have sent shockwaves through the Yanga camp, two have emerged as serious contenders.

With huge offers, one comes from Egyptian outfit Pyramids FC, an unnamed club from Saudi Arabia that has as well tabled an offer.

However, the Yanga bosses have been tight-lipped about the exact details of

these offers.

Nevertheless, sources suggest that Mayele has been presented with a lucrative offer, including a staggering USD 600,000. These lucrative offers have put immense pressure on the club's hierarchy, making it increasingly challenging to keep Mayele within their ranks.

Despite Yanga's desire to retain the services of their star striker, the prospect of earning a monthly salary of \$ 75,000 and a total income of \$900,000 within a year

seems too enticing for the 29-year-old Congolese goal-getter to ignore.

The continuous influx of offers, particularly following Mayele's nomination for the African Local Player of the Year award, has intensified the pressure for him to leave.

As negotiations progress rapidly, Yanga's leadership finds itself on the brink of making a crucial decision that will shape the future of the club.

Sources within Yanga indicate that the

club's bosses will reach a verdict on the offers this week, after engaging in discussions with several interested parties.

In preparation for Mayele's potential departure, Yanga has already initiated a covert process to identify and secure a replacement striker.

As Yanga awaits a definitive resolution regarding Mayele's future, the club's faithful fans anxiously anticipate the outcome.

Whether Yanga manages to retain their prized striker or if Mayele embarks on a new chapter in his career, his decision will undoubtedly have a significant impact on both his journey and the future of the club.

Dele Alli reveals childhood drug dealing, sexual abuse and sleeping pill addiction

By Mark Mann-Bryans

DELE Alli has revealed he was sexually abused at the age of six and was dealing drugs two years later - while a recent fight against a sleeping pill addiction led to a six-week stay at a rehab clinic.

The Everton midfielder has seen his football career stall in recent seasons but has now spoken on the reasons behind a mental health battle that saw him contemplate hanging up his boots at the age of 24.

In an emotional interview, the Everton midfielder and former England international fought back tears as he laid bare his difficult upbringing before he was adopted by the Hickford family.

Alli also told Gary Neville in The Overlap podcast, in partnership with Sky Bet, that he only came out of rehab last month as he struggled with his mental health.

The 37-cap England star, who spent last season on loan at Turkish side Besiktas, said: "When I came back from Turkey, I came in and I found out that I need an operation and I was in a bad place mentally.

"I decided to go to like a modern-day rehab facility for mental health. They deal with like addiction, mental health, and trauma because it was something that I felt like it was time for.

"I think with things like that, you can't be told to go there. I think you have to know, and you have to make the decision yourself, otherwise it's not going to work."

Alli - a key part of the England side that reached the 2018 World Cup semi-finals - also laid bare the sickening abuse he received as a child, saying he was "molested" at the age of six.

"(Childhood) is something I haven't really spoken about that much, to be honest," he said. "I was sent to Africa (to stay with his father) to learn discipline, and then I was sent back. At seven, I started smoking, eight I started dealing drugs.

"An older person told me that they wouldn't stop a kid on a bike, so I rode around with my football, and then underneath I'd have the drugs, that was eight. Eleven, I was hung off a bridge by a guy from the next estate, a man.

"Twelve, I was adopted - and from then, it was like - I was adopted by an amazing family like I said, I couldn't have asked for better people to do what they'd done for me. If God created people, it was them.

"There were a number of times my adopted family and my brother - you know, it makes me sad - they would take me to rooms crying, asking me to just speak to them, tell them what I'm thinking, how I'm feeling, and I just couldn't do it because I wanted to deal with it by myself."

After signing for Tottenham from MK Dons, Alli enjoyed a fine run of form that culminated in playing a key role in England's progress to the World Cup semi-finals in 2018. But he was still battling in silence off the pitch - leading to a "scary" addiction to sleeping pills and a reliance on alcohol.

"I got addicted to sleeping tablets and it's probably a problem that not only I have, I think it's something that's going around more than people realise in football," he said.

"I think, without me realising it - the things I was doing to numb the feelings I had...I didn't realise I was doing it for that purpose, whether it be drinking or whatever.

"I don't want to talk about numbers but it was definitely way too much, and there were some scary moments I had.

"To take a sleeping tablet and be ready for the next day is fine, but when you're broken as I am, it can obviously have the reverse effect because it does work for the problems you want to deal with.

"That is the problem - it works until it doesn't. So yes, I definitely abused them too much. It is scary, now I'm out of it and I look back on it.

"Probably the saddest moment for me, was when (Jose) Mourinho was (Tottenham) manager, I think I was 24. I remember there was one session, like one morning I woke up and I had to go to training - this is when he'd stopped playing me - and I was in a bad place.

"I mean it sounds dramatic but I was literally staring in the mirror - and I was asking if I could retire now, at 24, doing the thing I love. For me, that was heart-breaking to even have had that thought at 24, to want to retire. That hurt me a lot, that was another thing that I had to carry."

Alli said that he had largely been able to mask his difficulties during his football career but to the detriment of his mental health.

He added: "To be honest, I was caught in a bad cycle. I was relying on things that were doing me harm and, yeah, I think I was waking up every day and I was winning the fight, you know, going into training, smiling, showing that I was happy.

"But inside, I was definitely losing the battle and it was time for me to change it because when I got injured and they told me I needed surgery, I could feel the feelings I had when the cycle begins and I didn't want it to happen anymore.

"So, I went there [rehab], I went there for six weeks and Everton were amazing about it, you know. They supported me 100 per cent and I'll be grateful to them forever."

***Dele Alli was speaking to Gary Neville on a special episode of The Overlap in partnership with Sky Bet.**

THE INDEPENDENT

Confusion over launch date for African Football League

ABIDJAN

CAF confirmed at a meeting of their top officials in Abidjan on Thursday that the African Football League would kick off in October, but there is confusion over the starting date.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino, a guest speaker in the Ivory Coast commercial capital, said the eagerly awaited debut of the club competition would be on Friday October 20.

But the official CAF website said the eight-team first edition would kick off one day later, on Saturday October 21.

The African Football League is the new name for what was launched last year in Tanzania as the CAF Africa Super League.

CAF president Patrice Motsepe told South African public broadcaster SABC in June that the name change was necessary because some major sponsors had a problem with the original title.

"Some sponsors say the history of the Super League in Europe was not good and if you associate the name 'super' with a football competition, it has negative connotations," said Motsepe.

Speaking more recently to Qatar-based BeIN Sport, the CAF president said: "Our friends in Europe advised us not to use the expression 'su-



FIFA president Gianni Infantino (left), CAF president Patrice Motsepe (centre) and CAF secretary general Veron Mosengo Omba (right) at the CAF 45th Ordinary General Assembly in Abidjan on Thursday. Agencies

per league'.

"(They based this advice on) negative associations with the recent failed attempt in European football."

A planned European Super League collapsed within 48 hours in 2021 after a backlash from fans, governments and players, which forced nine of the 12 teams who signed up to pull out.

The founding members were Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, AC Milan,

Inter Milan, Juventus, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona and Real Madrid.

- Little known - Infantino has repeatedly stressed that the situation in Africa is different from Europe with the African League backed by FIFA and CAF.

Three months before the competition begins, little is known about it beyond the name change, an October 20 or 21 kick-off and a field reduced from 24 clubs to eight that have not been named.

AFP understands the line-up will included

2023 CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly of Egypt, runners-up Wydad Casablanca of Morocco and semi-finalists Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and Esperance of Tunisia.

The other entrants could be recently crowned Nigerian champions Enyimba, 11-time CAF title winners TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Petro Luanda of Angola and Simba of Tanzania.

"There will be eight great teams, which will be followed in the future with a bigger version. We

have to invest in African club football as well as national team football," said Infantino.

"It is our responsibility, duty and task, and with the work and contributions of all of us as a team, we will succeed."

CAF have said that their main annual competitions before the African Football League launches -- the Champions League and Confederation Cup -- will continue.

Delegates to the Abidjan meeting heard that CAF commercial revenue rose 17 percent to

\$125 million (€111 mn) in the past financial year thanks to media rights and sponsorship increases.

The Cairo-based organisation are hoping for a major revenue boost next year as their biggest money-spinner, the Africa Cup of Nations, will be staged in the Ivory Coast from January 13.

Defending champions Senegal are among 15 nations who have secured places and the other nine will be known in September when the final qualifiers are played. AFP

History makers Morocco to face Zambia in World Cup qualifiers

ABIDJAN

HISTORY-MAKING 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco must win a group including Zambia to ensure qualification for the next edition in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Congo Brazzaville, Tanzania, Niger and Eritrea complete Group E after a draw made on Thursday in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast's commercial capital, by former African stars.

Morocco became the first African or Arab country to reach the World Cup semi-finals last December in Qatar before losing to France, and finished fourth.

With Europe-based stars like Yassine Bounou, Achraf Hakimi, Sofyan Amrabat and Youssef en-Nesyri available, they look likely winners of the section with Zambia posing the greatest threat.

Morocco are the highest placed African team in the latest FIFA rankings, ahead of Cup of Nations title-holders Senegal with Tunisia third.

Senegal are in Group B and the biggest danger to them is likely to come from the rapidly improving Democratic Republic of Congo, who played in the 1974 World Cup when known as Zaïre.

Like Morocco, Sadio Mane-inspired Senegal are seeking a third consecutive appearance at the four-yearly global showpiece, with the next edition set for mid-2026.

Tunisia are in Group H with Equatorial Guinea, a rising force in Africa who beat the north Afri-



Morocco star Sofyan Amrabat (L) fights for possession against Croatia during the 2022 World Cup third-place play-off in Qatar. Agencies

cans in a Cup of Nations qualifier last month.

Long-time rivals Nigeria and South Africa will clash in Group C, which includes Zimbabwe, whose FIFA ban for government interference in football was lifted two days ago.

Ghana, who made an early exit in Qatar, will fancy their chances of finishing first in Group I above Mali, the only first seeds who have not qualified for the World Cup.

- Cameroon struggling -

Cameroon, who hold the African record for World Cup qualification with eight appearances, have been poor in recent Cup of Nations matches, offering hope to Cape Verde and Angola in Group D.

Algeria, who lost out to Cameroon for a place in Qatar, appear likely

winners of Group G with unpredictable Guinea probably the main challengers.

Ivory Coast, hosts of the next Cup of Nations in January and February 2024, are another country who will be satisfied with the draw.

The biggest threat to the three-time World Cup qualifiers could come not from second seeds Gabon, but from shock 2021 Cup of Nations quarter-finalists Gambia.

Egypt have won the Cup of Nations a record

seven times, but often struggle to qualify for the World Cup, reaching the final only three times.

They are in Group A, where Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau could trouble the Mohamed Salah-captained Pha-

raos.

With the number of finalists expanding from 32 in Qatar to 48 in North and Central America, Africa are guaranteed a record nine places, and possibly 10.

Each group winner will qualify automatically and the best four runners-up enter play-offs with the winner going to inter-confederation play-offs, with two places up for grabs.

Apart from an African team, the confederation play-offs will include two teams from North/Central America and one each from Asia, South America and Oceania.

Matchdays one and two in Africa will be played this November, with a further two rounds next year and six in 2025.

The draw was scheduled for Wednesday this week, only to be delayed 24 hours at the last minute without an official explanation.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Confusion over launch date for African Football League

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EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:30 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

east africa RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

African Football League to kick off in Tanzania

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE African Football League, formerly fronted as the Africa Super League, will kick off on October 20, 2023, with the first match being played in Tanzania.

This is per confirmation by both FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe during the 45th CAF Ordinary General Assembly in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on Thursday afternoon.

Commenting on the change of the showdown's name, Motsepe revealed that it was necessitated by the negative experience with the proposed European Super League.

The CAF president revealed: "We have changed the name and it's now called the African Football League because of the negative experience with the Super League in Europe."

"These were some of the issues raised by our sponsors, the inaugural African Football League will kick off on October 20 in Tanzania," Motsepe said.

Although CAF is yet to formally announce the eight clubs that will participate, insiders at CAF reveal that Tanzania's Simba SC is among the eight teams.

The other seven teams are Egypt's Al Ahly, Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, Angola's Petro Atletico, Democratic Republic of Congo's TP Mazembe, Guinea's Horoya AC, Esperance Tunis of Tunisia, and Morocco's Wydad Casablanca.

The competition will now see eight top clubs from eight African countries take part as opposed to the 24-club proposal that had been floated initially.

Speaking at the meeting, Infantino noted that the competition will expand in the future to allow room for more teams to take part.

The FIFA president noted: "It will have eight great teams, which will be followed in the future with a bigger version, we have to invest in African club football as well as national team football."

"It is our responsibility, duty, and task, and with the work and contribution of all of us as a team, we will succeed," the FIFA boss said.

Details of the format the competition will take remain scanty although it was revealed last year that the champion would take home USD 11.5 million (28,129,000,000.00/-)

Simba SC seals swoop for Al Hilal midfielder Fabrice Ngoma



Congolese midfielder Fabrice Ngoma.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

CONGOLESE midfielder Fabrice Ngoma has joined Tanzanian football big gun, Simba SC, from Al Hilal of Sudan on a two-year deal.

The NBC Premier League club announced yesterday: "It is now official that we have managed to sign DR Congo international midfielder Fabrice Ngoma from Al Hilal of Sudan on a two-year contract."

Political unrest in Sudan has halted professional football in the country, forcing

foreign players to consider moving away from Al Hilal and Al Merreikh ahead of next season.

Ngoma, who joined Al Hilal in January from Kuwait club Al-Fahaheel SC, is one of the players that fled from Sudan because of the unrest.

Last month, it was report-

ed Ngoma and Al Hilal had reached an agreement to part ways with immediate effect for the player to continue his career elsewhere, walking away from a lucrative three-year deal.

However, Al Hilal disputed the news and threatened to take legal action against Ngoma.

The Khartoum club accused Ngoma of unilateral termination of contract without just cause.

The matter could end up at FIFA if Al Hilal pushes through with the club's statement issued to the public.

Tanzania's other football giant, Young Africans SC (Yanga), was reportedly willing to secure Ngoma's signature before pulling out of the race that also involved South African giants Kaizer Chiefs and Tanzania's Azam FC.

The midfielder has now joined Simba SC as part of the ongoing rebuild ahead of the 2023/24 season.

The 29-year-old has vast experience in the CAF Champions League, having made 31 appearances in the competition for Morocco's Raja Casablanca, DR Congo's AS Vita Club, and Al Hilal.

He won Morocco's Botola Pro League title and 2020/21 CAF Confederation Cup silverware during his time in Morocco.

With the departure of 10 players so far, Simba SC has

a few holes in the squad that need addressing.

The club has so far released goalkeeper Beno Kakolanya, fullback Gadiel Michael, center-back Mohamed Ouattara, and midfielders Ismael Sawadogo, Victor Akpan, Nelson Okwa, Jonas Mkude, Erasto Nyoni, and Augustine Okrah.

The outfit has further loaned experienced Kenyan defender, Joash Onyango, to Singida Fountain Gate FC.

Ngoma's addition to Simba SC means five players have been added to the squad as replacements for those who have been shown the exit door.

Cameroon international defender Che Malone Fondoh, Ivorian winger Aubin Kramo Kouame, and Cameroonian attacker Willy Osomba are the three foreigners who were signed before Ngoma.

Simba SC confirmed Ngoma will be part of the second batch of players who will immediately leave for Turkey for pre-season training. The first batch consisting of 17 players left on Tuesday last week.

Bank rolls out program for African filmmakers, writers

By Guardian Correspondent

THE African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), through its Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) program, has announced a project dubbed 'Script to Screen'.

The institution has come up with the project in partnership with the African International Film Festival (AFRIFF), one of Africa's largest and most vibrant film festivals.

This project is a year-long incubator, capacity development, and content creation acceleration program, focused on African filmmakers/producers and writers that are interested in improving their ability to create and deliver quality screen content.

The institution revealed that in the course of the program, participants will be immersed in a 'Writers Lab' anchored by accomplished writers who have attained global recognition in the film industry.

The program, according to the institution, will include development residencies, workshops on financial management, business skills, entertainment law, and IP and distribution strategies.

Participants will also get an opportunity to pitch their projects to international studios and streamers during the program.

This film industry development initiative reflects one of CANEX's core pillars aimed at building upstream capacity within the audiovisual value chain, to enhance the exportability of African film content.

The Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) have become a powerful transformative force in the world today, being among the most rapidly growing sectors in the global economy, in terms of income generation, job creation, and export earnings.

In this regard, Afreximbank is acknowledging the prominent role that

some CCI sectors, including the film industry, can play in economic transformation and youth engagement on the continent.

The Script to Screen Film Accelerator Program, the institution noted, aims to achieve various specific objectives including training 30 youths in the development of exportable film content, and facilitating the development of indigenous intellectual property.

The program seeks to provide a platform for the associated intellectual property (IP) to be showcased to streamers, for instance, Amazon and Netflix.

It is moreover planning to enhance the competitiveness of African filmmakers by providing exposure to cutting-edge technology and other tools that will enable them to grow production quality.

The program is also out to foster the development of Africa's film development through networking and partnerships and provide up-and-coming African filmmakers with increased visibility and recognition.

It will as well provide participants with mentoring and related support services.

Chioma Ude, AFRIFF Founder, and Festival Director, expressed her gratitude to her partners for introducing the project.

Chioma stated: "Over the years, CANEX has been a critical development partner and collaborator of AFRIFF and continues to be a major pillar of support."

She pointed out: "The possibilities that this collaboration enables continue to build the much-needed structure and capacity in the African creative industry, as well as amplify the collective values shared by AFRIFF and CANEX in promoting greater creative business opportunities on the continent."

Afreximbank, through CANEX, recognizes positive developments and notable strides achieved by AFRIFF in its contributions to the

growth of the film industry in Africa.

The showcase serves as a launch pad for creative talents to connect to opportunities and realize the endless possibilities of their contemporaries around the world.

To find out more about eligibility criteria, how to apply, and the program details, interested African filmmakers/producers have been advised to go to the CANEX or AFRIFF social media platforms.

The applicants should moreover visit the AFRIFF website, www.afriff.com for information, entries and queries can be sent to info@afrieff.com.



Zanzibar's President, Hussein Ali Mwinyi (Front row 2nd R), watches a National Service (JKT) magician Issa Juma Issa showcase his tricks at the 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at the Mwalimu Nyerere Trade Fair grounds in the city on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

A sick job-seeker is seeking a sickening-sick skinning job!

a new tongue twister in town

