



National Pg 2 Media hails move to review Act



National Pg 3 Kigamboni MP piles blames on Temesa



National Pg 5 Bank donates 100 desks to primary school



PMO initiates Planning Commission draft bill

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE PARLIAMENTARY Secretariat has obtained the green light to initiate the drafting of a new law for re-establishing the Planning Commission that was abolished in 2018.

George Simbachawene, the Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination state minister at the Prime Minister's Office, told MPs yesterday that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has accepted the initiation of preparations for writing a new law to that effect.

The ministry will start the process of drafting the bill, with expectations that the draft will be ready for the first reading in the budget session starting early April, he said, underlining that the government had come to the conclusion that it is of great importance for the commission to be in place to facilitate true socioeconomic development.

Christine Ishengoma (Special Seats, Morogoro) hailed the decision to reconstitute the commission, asserting that for several years the country has experienced sluggish implementation of development projects.

"Some projects don't reflect the value of investment and some vanish in the process of execution due to poor planning," she argued, insisting that it is in the national interest to have the commission in place.

The Planning Commission was established under the President's Office through Government Notice No. 20 of February 2008 to stand as a strategic agency for the country's economic plans.

The commission stood as a pillar for

Some projects don't reflect the value of investment and some vanish in the process of execution due to poor planning

counselling the government on setting short, medium and long term socioeconomic strategies, functioning as an autonomous agency within the Treasury for ten years before it was abolished.

In June, 2018 under the fifth phase leadership, the government moved to scrap the commission, via the Bill Supplement (Miscellaneous Amendments) tied to the 2018 Finance Act.

It entailed repealing the Planning Commission Act, Cap 314 of the laws, handing its functions to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, including the responsibility for "creating and conducting insightful and counter-intuitive policy analyses."

These briefs would relate to emerging challenges of great public interest, while also seeking to provide solutions that the government would examine for implementation.

All assets, rights, obligations and liabilities vested in the commission would be transferred to the central registry, and all deeds, bonds, agreements and instruments subsisting before its dissolution would continue in force.

Such engagements would be enforced by or against the ministry, government institutions or departments, the dissolution legislation provided.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan bids farewell to, among others, Chief Justice Ibrahim Hamis Juma (3rd-R, foreground), Constitution and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (to the CJ's right), and National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) shortly after gracing the climax of the annual Law Week commemoration at Dodoma city's Chinangali grounds yesterday. Photo: State House

'Trusted judicial system helps investments, unity'

Samia wants judiciary to clear heavy backlog of cases

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared that a trusted judicial system committed to upholding the law and rights of individuals is important for attracting investment and promoting national unity.

Gracing an event to mark this year's Law Day, the president appealed to the Judiciary to be innovative in addressing challenges disrupting timely delivery of justice, leading to piling up of cases.

The judiciary should now venture into sensitizing the public to first seek arbitration and reconciliation in resolving disputes as amicable methods promote national unity while reducing court workloads, she said.

She said the judiciary must conduct research and innovate to improve the criminal justice process, as reliable delivery of justice is important for national unity and attracting

...the society will work together with stakeholders in seeking ways to review law provisions holding up the management of cases, impeding the delivery of justice

investments.

"Take action against individuals who harm the image of the judiciary and seek to change attitudes among judicial staff," she said, acknowledging the resolutions read during the Law Week.

The government has formed a team to examine the justice system and what should be done to improve it, she affirmed, expressing expectation of recommendations on how to end complaints in the criminal justice system in particular.

The team will look at case piling, case delays and other challenges, she said, noting that the government wants officers to take down statements written at the police station by a suspect, not impose statements and force suspects to sign them.

The public needs to first consider arbitration instead

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NHC assets hit 5trn/-, plans joint ventures

By Guardian Reporter

NATIONAL Housing Corporation (NHC) total assets value peaked at 5.04trn/- as of June 31, 2022 as a result of implementation of various projects.

Nehemiah Mchechu, the director general, made this observation at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday, setting out the corporation's performance and annual financial statements.

Financial statements from accounts audited by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) show that NHC's total assets value grew at 12 percent annually since 2019, he said, noting that the balance

Our future strategy is to focus on priorities like developing projects for new housing estates like the Samia Housing Scheme

sheet involves NHC assets like buildings and titled land it is yet to develop.

He expressed the view that joint ventures will stimulate asset growth, projecting hypothetical five investors each investing \$200, asserting that the corporate entity "can easily mobilise such funds."

NHC capital stood at 3.4trn/- from 2.9trn/- from June 2019 to June 2022, enabling the entity to pay 22bn/- in taxes for the year 2021/2022 and 750m/- in dividends for fiscal 2021/2022, he said.

NHC total revenues reached 257.4bn/- in fiscal 2021/2022 from 144.4bn/- the

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Government rejects ranking for pupils, schools in exams

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

DIFFERENCES in teaching and learning environment rendered rankings which produced best and worst pupils and schools basically unfair, and was thus abandoned by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, told the National Assembly yesterday that NECTA was compelled to drop the rankings after receiving criticism from various stakeholders.

He was responding to Boniface Getere (Bunda Rural) demanding why NECTA had stopped announcing best and worst performing schools, asking for guidance from the session chairperson, Najma Giga.

He said the decision has triggered

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'Trusted judicial system helps investments, unity'

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of disputing parties going to court, she said, underlining that this will promote understanding among different sections of society and reduce bottlenecks in case management.

There is a need for review of laws on conflict resolution such that in the long run amicable procedure facilitates ending case pile ups, she stated, asserting that it is important for conflicts and misunderstandings to be addressed outside courts. Reconciliation helps to facilitate peace and justice, she affirmed, pointing at the increase in High Court judges from 71 to 100 as helping to reduce the caseload, underlining that this promotes trust in the courts which is essential for investment confidence.

Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma had earlier called upon stakeholders to address the need to

review laws which are inconsistent with needs of the current situation, which includes the need to address conflicts involving religious institutions.

It was important for the country to embrace reconciliation as a tool to end conflicts and maximize resources available for other key legal issues.

There has lately been an increase in cases involving religious institutions in courts, he said, questioning whether this is consonant with the norm. It is important for such cases to be addressed through arbitration, he stated.

Prof Edward Hosea, current president of the Tanganyika Law Society, said the society will work together with stakeholders in seeking ways to review law provisions holding up the management of cases, impeding the delivery of justice.

Govt rejects ranking for pupils, schools in exams

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public debate and that adequate clarifications were urgently needed, whereupon the minister said the government has considered pupils' ability and learning circumstances in accessing best performers.

There are some schools who learn in a good environment and others do not have that enabling facilitation, he stated, pointing out that ranking and announcing best performers has been taken into consideration only on final national examination results.

That was the main criterion of deciding the best schools, pupils, districts and regions, he stated, affirming that this procedure and yardstick was not fair.

A school with 100 pupils who have sat for the form four national examination is competing against a school with 20 pupils. "Results come showing that in the school with 100 pupils, 70 have scored grade A and among the 20 all scored A," he said, wondering whether it was right to say that the other school underperformed. "How are you going to evaluate this," he demanded, concluding that it wasn't right.

In calculating the performance average, it is obvious that the school with 20 students will emerge higher, but it is arguable that a school with 70 A pupils should be the best, he stated.

The minister outlined three approaches of evaluating best and poor performing schools, the first

being scanning the final results by school performance averages, the raw scores performance evaluation.

"The problem with this approach is that it does not tell you the school's contribution to the performance of a particular student," he said, noting that a school can enrol a child with average performance and train her to score good grades. That is better than a school which enrolled a child with that ability to get grade A in the first place, he said.

The second approach is value addition evaluation that includes considering the student's ability at the time of enrolment and before sitting for final exams, he said, citing Uganda as an example of those who follow that approach.

"It tells us about schools at ward level mostly enrolling pupils with average ability, that they can be the best schools if teachers and students are devoted to get the best performance," he emphasised.

The third evaluation approach takes into account the schools' and students' learning circumstances, described as the contextual value addition approach.

A school characterised by poor infrastructure and necessary services is hard to compare with schools in an attractive learning and teaching environment, thus it also considers socioeconomic issues.

Those who wish to find out the best or worst performing schools may conduct that exercise at their own time since the NECTA website is accessible to all, he added.

Govt resolves Ikama village-Lake Nyasa Basin Board land conflict

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Government in Mbeya Region has at last solved the land conflict pitting residents of Ikama village in Itagata Ward, Rungwe District and the Lake Nyasa Basin Board that began last year.

The conflict started after the board erected stone beacons preventing villages from continuing with farming activities to pave way for the conservation of Mbaka River water source, the exercise that took away more than 57 acres of their land.

In the circumstances, residents of Ikama village were angered and removed all beacons erected by the board and continued with their farming activities.

Last weekend, Mbeya Region's defence and Security Committee visited the village for the launching of the tree planting campaign and to resolve the conflict and instructed the Board of Lake Nyasa Basin Board to make assessment for the villagers to be compensated.

Juma Homera, Mbeya regional commissioner and Chairman of the Region's Security and Defence Committee called on the board to stop invading villagers' farms without involving them, saying the practice can create unnecessary conflicts.

He said the government is not ready to see people being humiliated in their own areas by taking away

their land and instead the board should follow laid down procedures.

He said the villagers are the protectors of the water source hence had they been involved early; they could not have removed the beacons erected in their areas.

"To start with I congratulate the villagers by uprooting the beacons because the board had not followed procedures, but now I request for their return in order to conduct assessment for you to be paid compensation," RC Homera said.

He said the villagers are the ones ensuring the life of the Mbaka River water source that is depended by the residents of Tukuyu, Kyela and some wards of Busokelo District hence they are supposed to be involved for its protection.

For his part, acting director of Lake Nyasa Basin Board, John Kavishe said the board decided to protect the water source due to its importance to the people of Rungwe and other surrounding areas.

He said the water source serves more than 60,000 residents of the district hence they were forced to protect it, even though such protection was affecting people in the area.

Residents of Ikama village thanked the government for resolving the conflict saying it was giving them sleepless nights as they did not know their destiny.



Judges follow President Samia Suluhu Hassan's address at the climax of the annual Law Week commemoration in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

NHC assets hit 5trn/-, plans joint ventures

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previous year, with profits reaching 90.7bn/- from 89.2bn/- in 2020/2021.

House sales income rose to 121.9bn/- in 2021/2022 from 29.3bn/- while revenue from building or construction services grew to 43.9bn/- in 2021/2022 from 25.6bn/-

2020/2021.

NHC increased profit before tax to 92.9bn/- where in 2021/22 profit before tax was 93.966bn/- while company's net profit increased 60.7bn/- in 2021/2022 from 31.7bn/- in fiscal 2020/2021, he elaborated.

"Our future strategy is to focus on

priorities like developing projects for new housing estates like the Samia Housing Scheme," he said, saying NHC as a view to satisfying the demand for rentable houses, especially in urban areas.

A total of 3,000 houses are needed at the moment, he stated, hinting at a project for the construction of

a shopping mall in the capital with commercial space for a wide range of social services.

NHC plans to collect debts slated at 21bn/- from tenants and 11bn/- debts from owners of sold houses while enhancing joint ventures with the private sector, he added.



CCM Vice Chairman Abdulrahman Kinana (3rd-L), who was on a recent visit to India leading a Tanzanian delegation, poses for a photo with India's External Affairs minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (to his left) and Minister of State for External Affairs Vellamvelly Muraleedharan (3rd-R) in New Delhi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stakeholders commend govt on Media Services Act review

By Guardian Reporter

MEDIA stakeholders have said that the amendment of the Media Services Act 2016, will remove all unfair provisions and thus create an enabling environment for media outlets and journalists to fulfil their duties freely.

Vice chairman of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)-Tanzania Chapter, Advocate James Marenga said the proposals to rewrite, remove and modify some provisions of the Act are now in the hands of the government where the media practitioners have great hope.

Speaking to journalists through a virtual meeting on Tuesday,

advocate Marenga said Members of the Parliament also have power to approve the changes by looking at the welfare of the industry and the country at large.

He said that stakeholders will be happy to see the Act amended by ensuring that all the oppressive sections are removed so as to promote media freedom enabling them to execute their mandate of educating, informing and criticising.

"We commend the government for showing commitment to review and amend the Act, but it is important to ensure that all the restrictive provisions are removed," he added.

Advocate Marenga further underscored the need for the

formation of an Independent Media Council to further promote growth of the industry and strengthen media freedom.

Secretary General of the Journalists and Media Workers Union of Tanzania (JOWUTA), Selemani Msuya said that media practitioners have a role to speak and campaign for changes in various areas including laws but also improvement of salaries and benefits.

"We need to campaign for media law changes, but while doing so, we also need to ensure that journalists and staff in media houses are valued by being paid well so as to enable them fulfill their mandate smoothly," he said.

He said the current Act is restricting some investigative efforts by journalists, something which harms development of the industry as well as access to information.

The current media law which is criticised by stakeholders as it provides the relevant Minister arbitrary powers to punish media houses and journalists without due consultation with those affected. The Minister can also ban any publication or newspaper that prints information deemed to affect national security and public health.

The Act gives the government a direct say on private media content, on issues that the government deems to be of national importance.



Green Waste casual workers in Mwanza city wave placards during their protest yesterday to demand for payments of more than six months in arrears. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

Kigamboni MP piles blames to Temesa on ferries unreliability

By Guardian Reporter

KIGAMBONI Member of Parliament, Dr Faustine Ndugulile has piled blames to Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) on the failure to manage ferries to the extent that hardly a week passes without complaints of the vessels switching themselves off in midstream and advised for the project to be handed to the private sector to operate.

Ndugulile made the remarks on Tuesday in the National Assembly when contributing to the report of the parliamentary Infrastructures Standing Committee saying that they should not wait until a disaster happens.

"TEMESA have become middlemen for private institutions and private car garages. I am the MP for the constituency which is reachable by crossing water and in recent days there have been big challenges for the people of Kigamboni in regard of safe and reliable vessels.

He said about 60,000 residents and over 2,000 vehicles use the vessels plying the Magogoni creek each day, but

the vessels supervision and operations have been very terrible. "There is a day a great disaster will strike. Almost every week a ferry engine switches itself off in midstream or approach gangways failing to open up," he warned.

He said hardly a day passes without him receiving complaints about the unreliability of the ferries saying it is unwise to wait until a big disaster strikes.

He appealed to the Speaker of Parliament Dr Tulia Ackson in one of Parliament resolutions, the issue of TEMESA and ferries resolved so that the services are given to private people.

He also said TEMESA's performance has not been satisfactory in the local councils, vehicles sent for repairs instead of coming out well repaired come out in more state of disrepair thereby increasing their maintenance costs.

"Just recently we received the MV KAZI ferry after undergoing major repairs but it also has its own challenges despite the high cost of its refurbishment - to the tune of 4.4bn/-," Dr Ndugulile said.

'Govt investigating members of Mchuchuma-Liganga project technical team'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is investigating members of the technical team that was involved in signing of Mchuchuma-Liganga project with Sichuan Hongda Group Corporation (SHG) in 2011 that is allegedly is of no public interest.

Minister of Industries, Trade and Investment Dr Ashatu Kijaji told the National Assembly yesterday that the delay in the project execution is due to investment incentives demanded by SHG from the government that are contrary to the country's tax, and natural resources laws.

"This is the reason why the project has not yet started. Investigation on the technical team members who led to the signing of the contract is ongoing, she said.

The government will not sign the

notice or issue an addendum for the project implementation on the ground of terms and conditions stipulated in the contract which are contrary to the laws," said Dr Kijaji.

The government's decision came after Josephat Gwajima Kawe Legislator-CCM had blamed the government for denying the nation 1.5bn/- on annual basis for delaying the execution of the project.

In his contributions after the Parliamentary Committee for Industry, Trade and Environment had tabled its report covering January 2022 to January 2023 for discussion, Gwajima who is also the committee's member argued that the government would have earned \$600million a year for the period of 100 years.

The delay came after the government had signed two different

performance contracts with SHG. SHG demanded for the notice to be gazette so that the project can kick-off something the government never did to date.

Stanslaus Nyongo Maswa East legislator-CCM said that the project was designed to produce 300 megawatt of electricity. Plans were 240 megawatt to be sold to Tanzania Electric Company Limited (Tanesco).

At the same time the government was supposed to pay SHG capacity charges and Tanesco was supposed to pay \$11 per single unit of electricity. "In this regard the project is a total loss. If that important we can execute it through the state-owned mining corporation-Stamico for production and supply," said Nyongo.

Christopher Ole Sendeka Simanjoro Legislator-CCM said that the project is of no public interest. He

encouraged the government to take stern measures against the technical team members who flew to China to sign such contract.

Presenting the report, David Kihenzile Parliamentary Committee for Industry, Trade and Environment Chairman said the committee was informed that the 20 percent of the government shares were derived through 'Free Carried Interest' hence the government was not obligated to investing hard cash for it to be considered as the owner of the shares.

He said the committee was told that the project had five components namely the Liganga iron ore mine with a production capacity of 2.9 tons a year; a factory with a production of 1.1 ton of iron metals; Mchuchuma coal mine with a production capacity of three million tons a year.

The other components are 600 megawatt power generation station with a transmission capacity of 220 kilovolt between Mchuchuma and Liganga and a short route linking Mchuchuma and Liganga.

He said as per investor's estimations, the project would fetch \$3billion where investor's capital shall not exceed \$600million while the conventional loan for the government stands at \$2.4billion.

Thereafter, key milestones such as securing of special mining licences, water rights and environmental impact assessment water were conducted as of October 2014.

"The committee was told that several challenges such as SHG demands for more incentives from the government for implementing the project;

Delay and increment in the


compensation funds from 11.04bn/- as per 2015 evaluation to 16bn/- in 2022," said Kihenzile.

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Embassy of Sweden Dar es Salaam

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Public private dialogue discusses challenges, opportunities towards creating better investment setting

By Felister Peter

THE Ministerial Public Private Dialogue (PPD) is taking place in Dar es Salaam today for purposes of discussing challenges and opportunities towards creating a better business and investment environment.

The dialogue which is an interaction between government and business stakeholders in the private sector has been jointly organised by the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade and the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) in collaboration with the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

Addressing journalists yesterday, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Investment) in the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, Ally Gugu said conference will bring together 500 participants from within and outside the country including top government officials from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, sectorial ministers, permanent secretaries, and owners of companies and industries.

He said the list also includes local and foreign investors and business communities, small traders, researchers and policy makers. The conference will be graced by Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade.

"We have been conducting similar dialogues since 2020, our major aim is to ensure we create a conducive environment for businesses and investments to facilitate economic growth," said Gugu.

TNBC Executive Secretary, Dr Godwill Wanga said: "Good business and investment environment facilitates economic growth. We want to make sure Tanzania's economy grows at the anticipated rate of 8 percent from the current 5.2 percent annually."

Economic growth benefits both individuals and the nation, he said, adding Tanzania has all the resources to realise the set goals for economic growth before the expiry of the National Development Vision 2025 which aims to bring the nation into a middle-income economy driven by industrialisation and human development.

TPSF Board Director, Octavian Mshiu commended the government for continuing to improve the business and investment climate. He called upon all business people to participate at the dialogue because it is the best forum for them to discuss ways to turn the current global economic challenges into opportunities.

Mshiu noted that Tanzanians should take advantage of the Ukraine-Russia war to produce more wheat that can be sold to local and international markets.

He gave an example of coal, saying Tanzania exported over 600,000 tonnes of coal as most countries could not source the product from conflicting countries.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has done a lot in improving the business environment; we are all witnesses that trade between Tanzania and Kenya is growing further; Tanzania is now exporting more to Kenya compared to previous years," he said.



Gairo constituency legislator Ahmed Shabiby speaks with Morogoro secondary school students moments after visiting the Parliament in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

Bank records 2.25bn/- as profit before tax

DCB Commercial Bank Plc has registered a sizable growth in its profit during the financial year 2022, accompanied by an impressive expansion of the asset base as the bank's deposit also swelled considerably.

The bank recorded a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of 2.25bn/-, ahead of the previous year's comparative PBT of 1.06bn/-, translating to a growth of 112 percent.

This growth resulted from an 11 percent growth in total income, attributed to increasing interest income which grew by 4 percent to 28.61bn/- (2021: 27.62bn/-) and non-interest income which increased by 45 percent year on year from 7.2bn/- to 10.4bn/- in 2022.

DCB Acting Chief Financial Officer (CFO),

Siriaki Surumbu said: "The bank grew its non-funded income during the year, focusing on trade financing activities, foreign exchange business, and increased transactional fees due to the enhanced features and increased usage of digital banking platforms."

DCB Managing Director, Isidori Msaki said: "During the year, the bank celebrated several awards, shining during the Consumer Choice Awards Africa to emerge winner in the Most Preferred Bank in Customer Service. The bank also won the Best Presented Financial Statements Award NBAA, in the mid-sized bank chapter, the fifth successive win."

Msaki added: "The awards were a great cause for celebration as we marked our 20th anniversary of operations in 2022. DCB

continues to celebrate excellence as we look forward to 2023."

The bank solidified its position as a mid-sized bank seeing its balance sheet position surpass the 200bn/- mark, with its total assets reaching 214bn/- in 2022. This is a 61 percent growth over the past five years, stemming from the 2018 asset base valued at 133bn/-. Gross loan book of the bank closed at 130.36bn/- in 2022, being 4 percent growth year-on-year from 125bn/- in 2021.

Its investment in government securities grew by 44 percent to reach 41bn/- from 28bn/- in 2021. The bank's deposits grew by 11 percent from 150bn/- in 2021 to 165bn/- in 2022, a product of the bank's calculated efforts to grow its customer base.

LSF, partner inaugurate project to empower Maasai women in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Legal Services Facilities (LSF) in partnership with the Luxembourg-based North-South Cooperation have launched a project named "WanawakeTunaweza" in Arusha region with the aim of empowering Maasai women both socially and economically.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala LSF's Executive Director said during the launching

ceremony that the two-year project that will run throughout this 2023 to 2024 year in Longido District will assist the women after forming small economic groups, and get skills impact on business and entrepreneurial skills. Equally, it will help them find markets for their diverse products and handicrafts.

Lulu said that about 209 women and 1,214 girls are expected to directly benefit through the awareness initiatives and

reach approximately 2,500 people across the Longido District.

She stated that the organisation's main purpose is to uplift Maasai women and girls who have largely been left outside of decision-making circles and property ownership including land and livestock and educational opportunities.

According to her, the Maasai community is unique in regard to the way it has for time immemorial preserved its culture and customs.

Lulu also said: "Its economy overwhelmingly relies on livestock rearing which accounts for 85% of all economic activities. The primary means of economic production are owned and controlled by men, a tradition that leads to serious infringement of the rights of women and girls. The implementation of this project in this district will

address some of these challenges and consequently empower Maasai women socially and economically."

In ensuring the local communities, especially women and girls are sufficiently equipped, the 'WanawakeTunaweza' project plans to improve opportunities for girls' education by constructing dormitories, establishing girls' clubs in schools and providing sanitary towels made locally by the women's groups.

On behalf of the Longido District Administrative Secretary, Hassan Ngoma who graced the event lauded LSF and the North-South for their efforts in promoting girls' education while assuring them of the government's support in their various activities.

Ngoma said: "The construction of girls' dormitories at Lekule and Namanga Secondary

School will extensively alleviate overcrowding and encourage more girls to attend school and improve their performance... we will ensure the availability of electricity in these schools."

He also stressed the importance of the women's economic groups formed through the project saying that it will enable the women to undertake activities that will strengthen their economic status, take good care of their children and improve the communities' fortunes.

North-South Cooperation representative, Roberto Marta, who participated virtually in the event said that the implementation of the project follows a long, detailed consultation process between the organisation and LSF where the main beneficiaries are Loliondo residents, local government authorities at the district and ward levels, and

paralegals.

"The project responds directly to Luxembourg's international development strategy which looks to 2030 prioritizing gender equality and women's empowerment as foundations for combating poverty and achieving sustainable development," Marta stated.

During its two years of implementation WanawakeTunaweza will act as a catalyst for social and economic development particularly among Maasai women and girls by facilitating entrepreneurial skills for women and formal education for girls.

The WanawakeTunaweza project aligns itself with sustainable development goals (SDGs) 1, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16 which collectively aim to alleviate poverty, ensure access to quality education, enhance gender equality, ensure decent work and economic growth, reduce inequalities and facilitate peace, justice and strong institutions.

Judicial officers urged to restore public's confidence in courts

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

PRINCIPAL Judge of High Court of Tanzania, Mustapher Mohamed Siyani has called upon judicial officers to dispense justice so as to build up confidence among the people and remove the popular concept that there is no service provided by the courts for free, without paying bribes.

He made the remarks on Monday at the event for the inauguration of District Courts buildings for Bunda, Kilindi, Sikonge, Manyoni and Rungwe districts held at Manyoni.

"Judicial officers have the ability to change this concept by working hard and honestly, and if we cannot do that, we will continue to be singled out as the institution that does not dispense justice," he said.

Judge Siyani said judicial officers are individually supposed to be proud and self-praise for providing excellent service and not proud of merely having good buildings and other issues.

"Excellent service includes making sure infrastructures are improved and that is why the government has seen this and we are today inaugurating court buildings with quality infrastructures," he added.

Judge Siyani said the government has decided that the provision of judicial services should be very close to the people thereby doing away with the inconveniences for people travelling long distances to get the services.

"All essential legal services are obtained in these buildings, including services given by the police and community development sectors to reduce inconveniences," judge Siyani added. He said these days "we have to recognize the importance in the use of technology in the provision of services because there cannot be better services these days without the use of technology."

Meanwhile, Singida Regional Commissioner Peter Serukamba said in addition to the improvement to the court buildings, it is essential for this to go in tandem with quality services. He said the issue of court cases delays is still among challenges, hence, he said it would be better to make sure justice is meted out in time instead of taking a long time to do that.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2002

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

KIJANI HAI TANZANIA LIMITED (the Company)

(Co Reg No 139213513)

MEETING OF CREDITORS

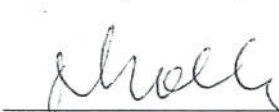
NOTICE is hereby given that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above Company will be held virtually on 24 February 2023 at 10.30 am EAT for the purposes of Section 348 of the Companies Act, 2002.

Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the Company c/o Anjarwalla & Khanna Tanzania, Ground Floor, 1 Bains Singh Avenue, Dar Es Salaam, not later than 12.00 noon on Thursday, 23 February 2023.

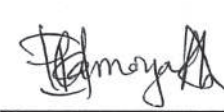
PARTICULARS of the claims of all creditors, accompanied in the case of a secured creditor (unless he surrenders his security) with a statement giving the particulars of the security, the date when it was given, and the value at which they assess it, should also for voting purposes be lodged at the above address before the meeting. A register of creditors will be available for inspection at the above address.

Registration details for joining the meeting virtually together with proxy forms will be sent by email to creditors who shall have already submitted their proof of claim forms.

Dated this 24th Day of January 2023



Nicholas Snoek
Director



Isaak Kamonga
Director



Jane Goodall Institute

TANZANIA

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

INVITATION FOR TENDER TO SUPPLY SIGNBOARDS

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania for Wildlife, Research, Education and Conservation (JGI-TZ) with funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) intends to procure SIGNBOARDS for the implementation of its project for Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) hence invites for bids.

The specifications and quantities for the tender of SIGNBOARDS is as listed below:

- The quantity of the signboards is 224 to be placed in 28 different villages.
- The dimension Size should be 2ftx3ft, height 6.5ft
- Total number of words on each signboard will range between 15 to 20 words.
- The signboards must comprise three (3) Logos, two (2) of them will be standard (USAID, JGI Tanzania Logo), and the 3rd one will be a district Logo changing depending on the district in which the village is located.
- The supplier must ensure the JGI Tanzania, and USAID branding guidelines is observed in designing and making the signboards.
- Signboards and its signposts should be made of metal and adequately painted to prevent rusting.
- Kigoma and Katavi based potential suppliers are highly encouraged to bid.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania now invites sealed bids from reputable and registered firms that wish to tender for the supply of the above item under the following conditions:

- Bidders must tender to supply all units of signboards.
- Application for the bid is free of charge.
- The interested bidders should send an e-mail to: jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz requesting for the sample of the signboard. The subject of the e-mail should read "Request for Sample of the Signboard".
- Tender will be conducted in accordance with the JGI Tanzania's Policies and Procurement Procedures.
- Submit sealed bids marked clearly "TENDER TO SUPPLY SIGNBOARDS" addressed to:

Executive Director
The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania
Mikocheni, Lucy Lameck Street/Serengeti Road - Plot # 375
P.O. Box 70728
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

And be deposited into the Tender box located JGI Tanzania - Mikocheni office, Dar es Salaam.

- The deadline for the submission of tender is Fourteen (14) days from the date of the advertisement.
- Electronic and/or late applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.
- The point of delivery will be into specific 28 villages located in Districts of Kigoma, Uvinza, Nsimbo and Tanganyika in western Tanzania.

SECRETARY, JGI TANZANIA TENDER BOARD

217259901

217259401

Kidunda dam to end water woes in D'Salaam - officials

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

The Kidunda dam currently being constructed by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) is expected to completely end water woes facing the region, officials have said.

The project will have the capacity to store 190 million liters of water, and is expected to be completed by 2026 calling upon residents to protect the project and its infrastructures to enable the project to be completed within time frame.

Speaking during the meeting with Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Fatma Mwasa, DAWASA Chief Executive Officer Cyprian Luhemeja, said the project will take three years.

Luhemeja said that various activities have been carried out towards the implementation of the project, including the payment of compensation to citizens who provided their land for the project and the construction of important social services such as schools and health centers.

He said they have also constructed

road infrastructures and surveyed 1,000 plots in new settlements during the implementation of the project.

Earlier, the Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary, Dr. Musa Ali Musa, hailed DAWASA for handing the project to the Regional Security Committee saying this would guarantee security for the project.

"I would like DAWASA to cooperate with its stakeholders, including the Wami Ruvu Basin, in order to properly manage the water sources that are a major source depended by the people of Dar es Salaam and the Coast," he said.

He said Ruvu River serves more than 76 percent of DAWASA's customers, so without strengthening solid management they will not achieve the expected goals.

Meanwhile, RC Fatma Mwasa expressed her satisfaction with the government's move to give Morogoro region a status of being a bank for water, electricity and food, something that will bring great development in the region.

"We thank the sixth phase government under the leadership of the President, Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for continuing to bring development in Morogoro region," she said.

"We are planning to use the available opportunities where now our region becomes the center of water and electricity services and through this project the citizens will benefit more from this project socially and economically," said RC Fatma.

"The work that is going on at the moment is for us to solve the challenges of livestock in the water sources and to remove the invaders by using the existing laws and the implementing instructions of our leaders," he said.

She said that the exercise to remove water source invaders will be sustainable and will help to ensure the protection of water sources which are beneficial for the development of the people and the nation as a whole.

The Regional Commissioner asked DAWASA to set aside the area and build a special office to enable security organs personnel like police and others to be there during the construction period and even after the Kidunda project is completed.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (R) and Finland Economic Affairs minister, Mika Lintila moments after their talks in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt tasks stakeholders to review public consumer service contracts

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

JENISTA Mhagama, the minister of State, President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance has directed public institutions, agencies and companies to prepare and review old public consumer service contracts and immediately submit them for verifications before they are adopted for public use.

Top officials in public offices are supposed to submit copies of the contracts to the ministry before mid-next month for verification, approval and inauguration with effect at the end of next month.

Issuing the directives yesterday in Dodoma, Mhagama said that public entities should make sure that their contracts are made public so that people can understand the kind and standards of services offered.

The public institutions were also directed to make time to time follow-up on the standard of services offered as per the contracts.

"The contracts help in strengthening discipline and accountability in public service. My office has learnt that the majority of public offices don't have consumer service contracts while those with contracts have not reviewed them for a long time," said Mhagama.

According to her, the implication of not having such contracts or not reviewing them for a long time has led most public servants offering poor services to the public. She said the ministry has learnt that some top officials in public offices are not ready to change their mind-sets as time passes by.

She said that upon submission, approved contracts by the ministry will be launched in two phases. The contracts for ministries, regional secretariat, and local government authorities that will meet the standards shall be launched February 28, 2023.

However, contracts with government agencies, corporations and other firms shall be launched

April 28, 2023.

The minister said that she is well informed of senior and junior public servants on being sluggish in preparing or reviewing old contracts and the way such entities are perceived by the public. In this regard, she said, business as usual prevails in many public offices when it comes to serving people.

She asserted that the government had already issued guidelines to help public entities to prepare or review customer service contracts. The government has also recruited experts to train public officials how to prepare contracts that meet the standards required in public service.

"The government does hope that emphasising the observation of such contracts will boost public service delivery especially when people are well informed about them," said Mhagama.

The ministry is mandated to inspect whether public offices are complying with this legal duty. The government needs public servants to offer voluntarily and responsibly deserved services to the public.

Bank donates 100 desks to primary school in Moshi

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank has donated 100 desks to Kiyungi Primary School in Moshi in its commitment to improving access to quality education in Tanzania through the continuation of its Stanbic Madawati Initiative, which began in 2021.

The desk donation event was recently attended by Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Hassan Babu.

The donation is aimed at creating a conducive learning environment for the students and supporting the government's agenda of promoting quality education for all. More than 300 students will benefit from the donated desks.

Speaking at the ceremony, the bank's Head Client Coverage-consumer & high net worth

clients, Adlhem Msiagi said: "The donation of these desks is a tangible demonstration of our commitment to providing resources and support to schools in Tanzania. We are honoured to hand over these desks and hope they motivate students to be excited about school and ultimately lead to improved performance."

Msiagi added that the bank's commitment stems from its ambition of driving Tanzania's growth through socio-economic development by strategically prioritising the education sector in its Corporate Social Investments as a key driver of sustainable economic growth and social progress.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Hassan Babu commended the role Stanbic Bank has played in supporting

government efforts in the education sector Kilimanjaro.

He urged other investors to emulate the move and called upon teachers and students to ensure that the desks are properly maintained so that they can be of benefit for a long time.

Kiyungi Primary School Head teacher Fatma Kassim thanked the bank for its generous donation and commended it for its commitment to making a positive difference in their community. She highlighted that the donation of the desks would go a long way in ensuring that students have the tools they need to succeed and reach their full potential.

The event was also attended by local government officials, students from the school, and staff from Stanbic Bank.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT & AUDIT TO PORTABLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED, TANZANIA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring service of provision of technical support & audit to portable water treatment plant and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply and delivery of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01580	PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT & AUDIT TO PORTABLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.20%
Company Code of Conduct	1.20%
Company Code of Ethics	1.20%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.20%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.20%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.20%
Current NSSF Compliance Clearance Certificate (mandatory)	5.00%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.20%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.20%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.20%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.20%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.20%
List of Directors	1.20%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.20%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
5%	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
5%	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01580)	
60%	
Evidence of greater than five years' experience on designing work of water treatment plant	20%
Evidence of at least five years' experience on installation and commission/operation of water treatment plant	15%
Expertise Water treatment reagent quality check and analysis	10%
Evidence of not less than five years' experience on water treatment plant technical expertise	15%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01580) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 20th FEBRUARY, 2023. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Court acquits 13 people accused of stealing 20 drums of chemicals valued at more than 938 million/-

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

KISUTU Resident Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam has acquitted 13 persons who were accused of stealing 20 drums of tantalite concentrates valued at 938.3m/- after the prosecution failed to prove the case against them.

The accused persons included Jacob Kihombo, Yahaya Masoud, Mbaraka Lipinda, Ramadhani Zombe, Waziri Kigua, Joseph Kimario, Ramadhani Jongu and Mustapha Mnyika.

Others are Richard Sangana, Mussa Hamad, Godfrey Mambosho, Ramadhani Muro and Jimmy Mwanjala.

The court has also ordered the accused to have their vehicles returned after receiving the copy of the judgement.

Reading the judgement yesterday, Kisutu Principal Resident magistrate Pamela Mazengo said the accused faced three counts which the prosecution failed to prove.

She said that in the first count that involved conspiracy with the intent to commit a crime,

the prosecution failed to establish how they had conspired to commit the crime.

In failing to do so, Mazengo said the prosecution also failed to prove other counts involving stealing of goods and failing to stop the crime.

"The prosecution has failed to prove their case against the 13 accused, hence this court has no option but to set them free and are entitled to have their vehicles returned after receiving a copy of the judgement," said Magistrate Pamela Mazengo.

According to the charge sheet, it was claimed that between February 6 and March 7 2019 in the Region of Dar es Salaam, the 13 conspired to steal goods in transit.

The charge sheet further said the accused were also claimed to have stolen 20 drums of tantalite concentrates valued at 938,339,907/- belonging to Bollore Transport and Logistics Ltd.

In the third count against Zombe, a security guard, it is claimed that on the said dates being an employee of Bollore Transport and Logistics Ltd, he failed to stop the commission of the crime for stealing the said goods.

Prepare projects to help boost councils' income, planning officials challenged

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PLANNING officials of all the councils have been tasked to prepare documents for projects that will help increase income in their councils and reduce dependence on Central Government grants and even the challenge of poor income.

Prof Riziki Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary in the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Governments (RA-LG) made the call here yesterday when opening training on project write-up and companies' set up for planning officers from 13 councils.

"Studies carried out show that many councils in the country depend on only one source of income, especially on agriculture, if there is any challenge the council may collapse," he said, asking all planning officials to come from here with a strategic plan who will be able to help them get money.

Prof Shemdoe asked planning officers to ensure that they use the knowledge they have acquired to write various texts that they will

be able to sell and provide their councils with income.

He said he expects to receive 15 projects that will help the councils to increase income and asked the managers in the councils including directors and councilors to remove various obstacles that stop the establishment of the projects instead of cooperating with the officials.

Dr Bonamax Mbasa, senior lecturer at the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) said it is very important for the planning officers to be trained to solve various challenges they face. "The challenges that they face include planning officials not having the understanding of writing documents for loanable projects," Dr Mbasa said.

He said the training aims to enable officials to prepare plans and write documents that will enable them to get loanable projects in their councils due to studies conducted in 2022 showing that many councils failed to achieve the government's goal of collecting more than 1bn/- of income per year.



Newly appointed Kahama district commissioner in Shinyanga region, Mboni Mhita, takes the oath of office at a swearing-in ceremony yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Ministry directs TCRA to regulate short text messages sent to consumers by mobile firms

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology has directed the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to develop a system that will regulate the kind of short text messages sent to consumers by mobile companies.

The communications docket minister Nape Nnauye issued the directive yesterday in the National Assembly that also suggested the authority body to contact the mobile carriers and find out what is really happening.

According to Nnauye, there have been boring short text messages that are sent to consumers telling about different issues

including classified advertisements.

"I have been receiving a lot of complaints from the consumers. There have been too many messages sent to consumers without their willingness or demand and some of them are about witchcraft, betting and love affairs which have turned into a disturbance," said Nnauye.

The minister goes ahead and insists that TCRA will shut down all simcards that will not be registered as of February 13, 2023.

He asserted that for the recently approved laws such as the Investment Act 2022, and the Personal Data Protection Act 2022 to be fully enforced, people must hold registered sim cards.

"Registered sim cards are even likely to slow down cybercrime and other related

incidents. Even online businesses will be protected in this regard," he said.

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson said the minister must find a way that will eliminate the embarrassment.

"People are receiving messages that are not even viable in their daily life. We need to know why it has come to this extent. Mobile companies should seek the consent of a particular consumer if he is okay with the messages before they are sent to his handset," argued Ackson.

She questioned the mandate of mobile companies if they are allowed to send consumers whatever they like at any time they wish to do so.

"The respective authorities should find a way of handling this matter," she said.

Mining firm in new drive to complement govt's efforts to create job opportunities

By Guardian Reporter

GETTA Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) has embarked into the internship programme aimed at offering internship opportunities to Tanzanian graduates of various disciplines at the mine firm.

The initiative is dubbed: "Enhancing Graduates Employability in Tanzania" and in the past 12 months GGML has offered internship to 50 graduates.

"We would like to wish them all the very best as they report today to their different departments," said Terry Strong, GGML

managing director.

According to Strong, GGML Internship Programme has been a strong supporter to the government initiatives to enhance graduates' employability in Tanzania, having implemented internships and other graduate programmes for several years.

"GGML is contributing towards skills development in Tanzania by providing graduates with opportunities to gain work experience in various skills areas. The internship programme provides an opportunity to unemployed graduates to

gain meaningful work experience that will complement their studies and provide them with experience that could help them gain access to the labour market."

Dr Kiva Mvungi, Senior Manager for Health, Safety, Environment and Training at GGML, also congratulated this year's interns.

"Beware of con artists! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job or any other opportunity. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 756 808 128 / +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply)," warned Dr Mvungi.

Since its inception, GGML has been working closely with the local government authorities to support a number of community projects in the Geita region through Public-Private Partnerships as well as National programmes. In November 2022, GGML was recognized by the Tanzania Revenue Authority as the most compliant taxpayer in the country's mining industry while in December 2022, the Company scooped two accolades at the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) Awards: first place in its implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility and 2nd Runners Up amongst Best Private Sector Employers.



ATC House, Ohio Street,
P. O. Box 543, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA
Phone: (255 22) 211 - 7500 Fax: (255 22) 2113-114
Email: info@airtanzania.co.tz

TANGAZO LA MNADA

Wananchi wote wanatangaziwa kwamba, Kampuni ya Ndege Tanzania (ATCL) watauzwa kwa njia ya Mnada wa Hadhara Gari Moja

TAREHE	KITUO	AINA YA VIFAA
14/02/2023	Kampuni ya Ndege Tanzania (ATCL) -J.Nyerere Int' Airport Term 1 Admin Block.	Toyota Hiace - 1

MASHARTI YA MNADA: -

- Gari litauzwa kama lilivyo mahali lilipo;
- Mnunuzi atalazimika kulipa amana papohapo sichiniya asilimia ishirini natano (25%) yathamani ya Gari na kukamilisha malipo yote katika muda wa siku kumi na nne (14), kuanzia tarehe ya kifaa kunadiwa. Kushindwa kufanya hivyo kutamuondolea mnunuzi haki zote za ununuzi wa Gari husika na AMANA (Deposit) haitarudishwa;
- Mnunuzi atatakiwa kuondosha Gari alilonunua katika muda wa sikusaba (7) kuanzia siku ya kukamilisha malipo;
- Ruhusa ya kuangalia Gari hilo itatolewa siku mbili (2) kabla ya tarehe ya Mnada;
- Mnada utanza saa nne (4:00) asubuhi.

MKURUGENZI MKUU
KAMPUNI YA NDEGE TANZANIA (ATCL)

Directors: Prof. Neema Mori (Chairperson)
Mr. Ibrahim A. Mussa, Dr. Neema K. Mssusa, Eng. Raphael Bokango, Mr. John M. Njawa
Lt. Col. Amour Jen Ally



NOTICE TO DESTROY ABANDONED GOODS

To,
Simgas Kenya Limited
South C, Five Star Road
Nairobi, Kenya

We, Freight Forwarders Tanzania Limited (FFTL) hereby inform you of our intention to dispose your abandoned goods which are stored in our warehouse since July 2018.

Your abandoned goods are described as parts of biogas tanks made in plastics. The said goods may still be collected from us at our warehouse at Plot No 52, 52/1 and 53 Mbagala Industrial Area, Dar es Salaam after you have paid the clearance and storage charges.

If your goods are not collected within 30 days from the date of this Notice, your goods will be destroyed and/or disposed as we shall see suitable.

Issued on 27th JANUARY, 2023

Freight Forwarders (T) Limited
Apex Tower, Lugoda St., Gerezani
P.O Box 79658, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: + 255(0) 22 2129984



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemari Jafo (C) talks with contractors and the ministry's officials after visiting the construction site of Vice President's Office in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: VPO

Japan offers funds to treat fluoride from water for Lemanda residents

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

THE government of Japan has now provided funds for the purchase of a special plant for treating water containing fluoride used by Lemanda residents in Oldonyosambu Ward, Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

Scientific research showed that fluoride is a chemical with adverse effects in human bones, vertebral column and teeth as they turn their colour to brown while weakening them.

Speaking yesterday at the event for handing over the water treatment project, Ambassador of Japan in Tanzania, Yashushi Misawa said his government has reached the decision after discovering a high level of fluoride in the water used by Lemanda villagers.

"Research has shown that water in this area has a fluoride level of more than 24 milligrams per litre

that has adverse effects on humans.

"But the plant installed in the project area will reduce the chemical level to 0.1 milligram per litre, the internationally accepted level for human use," said Amb Misawa.

He said the plant will also help in removing, or reducing the challenge involving children born with twisted limbs, spina bifida and hydrocephalus and bad teeth condition.

Earlier, Arumeru District Administrative Secretary, James Mchembe, speaking at the event said Tanzania recognizes contributions from the government of Japan to Tanzanians.

He further said the government will continue putting in place a friendly environment to cement the existing cooperation aimed at solving challenges facing the community.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of

Arusha District Council, Ojung'u Salekwa said the plant will be a unique blessing for Lemanda villagers and appealed to the Japanese Embassy to look into how they can also provide a plant that will be able to supply fluoride-free water to all three nearby villagers facing similar challenges.

Speaking on behalf of Lemanda Villagers, the Ward Executive Officer, Lomunyaki Ndiyogi said the problem has adversely affected children who fail to walk to school hence appealed to the Japanese government to build pre-school classes at Ngivilati homestead for the children to learn.

The water treatment plant was made by Japan's Shunshi University and has the capacity to produce 300 litres of treated water per hour to serve a total of 400 people of Lemanda Village and cost USD 115,000, equivalent to 264m/-.

World economic challenges affect production activities, reports BoT

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Financial Policy Committee says world economic challenges continue to affect production activities thereby increasing the country's inflation.

It adds that the situation is the result of the reduction of goods distribution chains in the world market, together with the steps taken by various countries in the mitigation of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This was revealed on Tuesday in the report of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Governor, Emmanuel Tutuba regarding the Committee's statement that met January 30 this year to assess the implementation of the country's monetary policy and its economy.

Tutuba said the committee found out that the implementation of the

monetary policy for November and December last year was a success and the liquidity level was adequate for the economy, and loans to the private sector increased to 21 per cent.

"The conduct of the economy for both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar was satisfactory for the first three quarter of 2022.

"Tanzania's economy grew at an average of 5.2 per cent compared to 4.8 per cent for the similar period in 2021.

"This growth was largely contributed by farming activities, construction and industrial production.

"In regard to Zanzibar, the economy grew by 5.8 per cent, largely contributed by hotel accommodation, construction, industrial production and real estate business," said Tutuba.

Tutuba further said the strengthening of the world distribution chains will contribute to the growth and that inflation was below the 5.4 per cent target for 2022/23 and well within the 8 per cent ceiling for the EAC and SADC countries.

The Financial Policy Committee also found out that in both economies, the rate of inflation was minimal compared to many states in EAC and SADC due to steps taken by the government in reducing the effects of rising prices of goods and services from foreign countries.

"The committee endorsed for BoT to continue with the implementation of the monetary policy that aims to reduce liquidity levels in the economy for the months of January and February this year.



MUHIMBILI NATIONAL HOSPITAL



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) is a tertiary Specialised and Super Specialist Hospital in Tanzania with bed capacity of 2,178 out of which 1,570 beds are at the Main Upanga Hospital and 608 beds are at the Mloganzila facility which is 30 km away from the main Hospital. The Hospital serves between 2,000-3,000 Outpatients and 1,500 - 2,000 Inpatients per day.

The Hospital is looking for a competent and experienced person to fill the position below for 3 years contract (renewable on mutual agreement)

1: 0 ECONOMIST/HEALTH ECONOMIST (1 POST)

1:1 Duties and Responsibilities

The Economist/Health Economist shall be stationed in the Strategy and Business Development Section and shall perform the following duties and responsibilities;-

- i. Planning, budgeting and Investment
- ii. Collect economic statistics and information for development of Hospital economic policy
- iii. Writing of Economic/Investment and Grant Proposals
- iv. Design and execute research studies on economic matters to identify and explore available economic opportunities
- v. Utilize research programs on implementation of Hospital economic policies that guide effective use of economic information and resources.
- vi. Evaluate and establish priorities on Hospital investment in areas of production, infrastructure and business development
- vii. Pro-actively identify market access opportunities for the Hospital through effective planning and development of financially sound business proposals
- viii. Effectively allocate and deploy resources including people, activities, projects and investment
- ix. Consulting experts' in economics on the efficacy of policies, products and services provided by the hospital
- x. Develop and present reports on economics activities of the Hospital and Communicating data in the form of presentations, technical reports, and non-technical reports.
- xi. Studying the economic impact of laws and regulations and advising Management on businesses and economic decisions.
- xii. To perform any other related duties as may be assigned by his/her supervisor.

1:2 Qualifications and Experience

Holder of Bachelor Degree in Economics/Health Economics with Minimum of at least 3 years of working experience

Holder of a master's degree in Economics/Health Economics will be an added advantage

1:3 Experience and Skills

- He/she should come with at least three years of working experience in economic activities.
- Working experience in Health economics will be an added advantage
- Good understanding of the subject of economics and international relations
- Good understanding of Planning and Budgeting
- Right balance of mathematical and analytical aptitude to comprehend the economic aspects thoroughly
- Abreast with the national economic policies and its impact on the organization sector
- Fluent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work on multiple projects and meet deadlines
- Strong orientation to team work
- Ability to handle pressure, complex situations and problem-solving capacity
- Ability to think analytically and strategically

1.4 RENUMERATION

Attractive package in accordance with Hospital salary structure.

1.5 MODE OF APPLICATION

Assigned application letter with certified copies of academic certificates and up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) with three referees with reliable contacts, postal address, e-mail, and mobile numbers should be addressed to:

**Executive Director,
Muhimbili National Hospital,
P.O.Box 65000,
Dar es Salaam.**

Via the following email address:

Email: hrt@mnh.or.tz

Application Deadline: 15th February, 2023.

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THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY, 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

MPs' questions slanted, may give Treasury circles to run

RECONVENING for a session of Parliament was no routine matter in the wake of restoration of public rallies, and the sudden emergence of food prices on top of the political agenda. As each contender for the ear of the public wishes for originality in the issue, if at least within a certain perimeter of loyalties, a certain amount of creativity was visible in the hemicycle. This led to throwing up questions and the demand for answers that will give the responsible officials a hard lump to swallow.

Thus there is a research issue that has been thrown at the Treasury and answers are needed the soonest, namely whether food prices have been made affordably by the spate of subsidies that the government initiated last year. The proper demand is for the Treasury show how subsidies placed on various products or services may have contributed to easing of food prices. No one is saying they causes food price rises.

Noting that this demand was fairly acute, Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson instructed the Finance and Planning minister to prepare a detailed explanation on whether the subsidies had been useful in relation to grain prices (the critical element). To start with, it would have been better to pose the question if the subsidies have been useful at all, which even the sceptical MPs would agree they calmed things down. But then prices of grain, meat and other needs retained an upward push, steadily.

In actual fact it appears that MPs were demanding to know the reason for the rise in food prices, and they definitely had the answer, but the

subsidies issue was crept for this or that reason. It was probably meant to pre-empt Treasury explanations that prices would have risen much faster without subsidies, and definitely that view is likely to be reiterated in due course. Yet for some reason the matter still merited to be retained as a parliamentary demand for an exhaustive government response.

A few of the remarks were a bit surprising, a clear effort to bend over backwards to accommodate sentiments of broad sections of opposition politicians. They affirm that explanations like the outbreak of Covid-19, the global trade constraints from the Ukraine-Russia war and drought tied to climate change are "light excuses." This affirmation is itself a result of effectiveness of government policy and indeed the benefits of a natural resource-laden economy, shielding the country from hardship.

If these tales are of any use, newspaper readers need to be reminded or at most told that several people died in queues in South Asia after a sick person remains in a car on a queue to refill his tank for up to three days, with the family trekking to bring food to that spot. Those who know little as to what is happening elsewhere try to stretch arguments that the government is doing little or nothing. They detest any inflation, or a situation where food prices may double, and see it as unacceptable.

Yet there is a hidden argument, sneaking at the end of one or two speeches in the debate, that allowing food exports leads to price rises. It will be up to the Treasury and higher levels of the government to explain why this is a necessary condition for the growth of agriculture. A permanently depressed crop sector isn't of much use.

Safe streets key to rules on criminal justice ethics

ANOTHER test of reform thrust and usability of some preliminary civic ideas on the country's institutions is on the way to becoming reality, after President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched a commission to conduct an intensive assessment of the delivery of criminal justice in police stations, the courts and prisons. An overly top heavy panel of experts has a former chief justice to chair it, and two retired heads of the police force, to mention but a few of its members. Some will say it has no cause to fail as it has all the expertise and experience on how the system operates.

Remarks that the president made at the launching ceremony held at the Chamwino State House mostly covered what an outside observer would suggest is the more practicable aspect of reforming criminal justice processes, as she laid emphasis on reforms pursued in the judiciary. The wider remark that criminal justice delivery has vast deficiencies impeding access to justice was an aspect of the problem, as to what the public wants or doesn't want in criminal justice. It isn't as straightforward.

To go back in time somewhat, sometimes in the past year the president raised the matter and was roundly applauded by activist organisations, for instance in wishing that suspects should not be arrested until investigations are completed. It isn't clear what happened in police stations that week or weekend, but within a few days the main urban areas were awash with a wave of juvenile delinquents otherwise known as 'panya road'. They knew they will escape police dragnets if the order is obeyed.

The intensity of demands arising therefrom as to the need for effective policing 'without ifs or buts' restored

resolute police action and even some range effect on armed criminals in a hideout, etc. In other words people want safe streets first and foremost; if some youth mistakenly finds happiness in a group of wrongdoers he may not exactly expect a fool proof system to ensure that he did something wrong at a particular spot. Police often have to arrest in order to investigate, more rapidly.

Addressing criminal justice drawbacks is a vital requirement for observance of human rights, not just in view of international conventions but aspiring for dignity for all in a democratic society. Yet it must be admitted that there is a hard core of society, among the youth in particular, who are hard to dissuade from crime and often make life miserable for many, if not actually causing harm, losing limb or property once a youth routinely exercises the law of the jungle, the survival of the fittest. Dissuading anti-social elements is quite impossible even with affirmative law enforcement, and relaxing it to accommodate doubt on any affront is self-injurious.

The selected panel is composed of veterans in the law profession, and if there are things they will not be able to square up (as no one can square a circle) critics will have to know that their work was bound to be difficult. The familiar maxim with a democracy is that a wrongdoer goes free where an innocent person would be put to trouble if the net is widened, but often public wisdom is inclined on the opposing view. For criminal justice to be quite accommodating, the number of youths prone to delinquency has to diminish, which is antithetic with rising unemployment, rural emigration and dropping out of school. The panel may clear up some faults in civil procedure, reporting systems, but unlikely to compromise the safe streets paradigm.

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By Dr. Leonard Maboko

THIS week marks the 20th years anniversary of US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The US government programme has changed the trajectory of HIV in Tanzania more than any other foreign assistance. As the executive director of Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), I work hand-in-hand with PEPFAR on a regular basis, but I also vividly remember life before PEPFAR.

Between 2000 and 2003, before PEPFAR was announced by US President George W. Bush and before programmes came to Tanzania, I was working with the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) - Mbeya centre by then it was known as Mbeya medical research programme where I was the centre director. Without anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) or the hope of treatment, healthcare for our research participants and other people diagnosed with HIV was focused on counseling to prepare them for the end of life.

I first heard of PEPFAR from colleagues at the US Military HIV Research Programme (USMHRP) at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). Their news about PEPFAR gave me hope that HIV treatment would one day be available in Tanzania. I was privileged to take

'PEPFAR: 20 years of impact'

part in the very first PEPFAR proposal and planning for Tanzania (under USMHRP/WRAIR), a programme that has continued now since its inception in 2003. And in 2004 I was part of the research team that enrolled the very first HIV patient in Tanzania among ARVs at the Mbeya zonal referral hospital, a day that marked hope and opportunity for Tanzania.

For the past twenty years the government of Tanzania and PEPFAR have continued to partner and collaborate. Through the generosity of the American people, since 2003, more than 6.6 billion US dollars have been invested to fighting HIV and AIDS in Tanzania, averting more than 1 million new infections and more than 700,000 deaths. As the main funder of the HIV response in Tanzania, PEPFAR has played a critical role in building health infrastructure in

Tanzania over the past two decades, training medical personnel, creating prevention programmes, providing broad-use diagnostic equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE), and establishing systems to trace infections. These efforts enabled Tanzania to better respond to other health crises such as COVID-19.

Although widespread availability of ARVs in Tanzania has changed course of the epidemic in Tanzania by

ensuring that people living with HIV can live long and healthy lives, I am a strong believer in HIV prevention. The intervention I'm most proud of within PEPFAR is the DREAMS programme. DREAMS stands for determined, resilient, empowered, AIDS-free, mentored and safe, and is targeting adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) with training and services to prevent new HIV infections amongst this most vulnerable population. The idea that DREAMS has been able to identify highly at-risk girls and support them to reduce their risk; to go from having no hope to being economically independent and empowered young women, this is something to be proud of. I have heard countless testimonies from DREAMS beneficiaries, and it is inspiring to understand the true and personal impact. I applaud PEPFAR for this meaningful work and implore PEPFAR to scale up this program to reach all vulnerable AGYW in Tanzania.

Working with government of Tanzania and other institutions over twenty years, PEPFAR completely transformed the lives for people living with and at-risk for HIV. Prevention and treatment for HIV and AIDS is now accessible in the areas hardest hit by the pandemic, fostering hope, dignity, and security for generations

to come. In Tanzania, since the start of PEPFAR, new

HIV infections have reduced by 58 per cent since 2004, and AIDS-related deaths have declined by 76 per cent since their peak in 2004 - thanks in large part to PEPFAR and US contributions to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria (GFATM).

I am proud to have partnered with the US government on these life-saving HIV programmes for twenty years. When we began this work, there were fewer than 1000 people on life saving ARV treatment. Today there are more than 1.5 million.

The end of HIV and AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 is an ambitious, but achievable goal. It must continue to be a collaborative effort moving forward to reach the 95/95/95 goals (95 per cent of people living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of those diagnosed are on treatment, 95 per cent of those on treatment are virally suppressed) by 2025 and end HIV and AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The government of Tanzania, together with PEPFAR, GFATM, multilateral partners, and civil society, is committed to ending HIV and AIDS and reaching these goals together.

Dr. Leonard Maboko is TACAIDS executive director

transition," the statement added.

Several key military and civilian political players in Sudan signed a Framework Agreement (FA) in December 2022 after months of discussions to begin the country's transition to civilian rule.

Phase I of the deal, which included the secretive and closed negotiations that led to the December agreement, was led by the United Nations-African Union-Intergovernmental Authority on Development tripartite structure with strong backing from the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. It also marked the beginning of Phase II, the goal of which is to reach a final agreement and then establish a civilian administration. The parties that signed the agreement on December 5 agreed to complete Phase II within a month.

The agreement inked in December might be a beginning in the right direction, but it has a long way to go before it is fruitful. It excludes all former insurgents and others identified by institutions such as the Crisis Group as potential threats to the transitional administration.

"As part of these 'Phase II' negotiations, anti-coup forces should forge a more unified front as well as bring in ex-rebels, tribal leaders and other opposition parties. The US and other outside powers that pushed for the deal should urge them to do so," the Crisis Group said in its statement on January 23, 2023, regarding the transition in Sudan.

Sudan backs Ethiopia's dam

By Samson Berhane

SUDAN has now returned to its prior position, expressing its full support for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. It's a dramatic shift from when Sudan sided with Egypt to oppose the dam's construction.

The announcement was made when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) went to Sudan, where he was welcomed by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of the Sudan.

Abiy's visit is the first since the Sudanese military coup led by al-Burhan in 2021. Al-Burhan justified the coup by claiming that infighting among civilian components of the transition posed a threat to the country's security.

Abiy was joined by the ministers of defence, peace, and interior affairs, the government communications office, the Ethiopian deputy minister of foreign affairs, the national security adviser, and the director of Ethiopian intelligence. Mohamed 'Hemeti' Dagalo, Vice President of the sovereignty council and commander of the paramilitary rapid support forces, met with Abiy and his entourage.

Relations between Sudan and Ethiopia have deteriorated for a

number of reasons, including a disagreement over a border and refugees fleeing a conflict that has been going on for two years in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region. Reportedly, Sudan has been hosting TPLF combatants and allowing them to conduct military exercises within the country, which has aggravated the situation.

As Egypt backed the al-Burhan, the Sudanese military government supported Egypt in the dispute over the construction and operation of the GERD. In fact, Sudan changed its position on the project prior to the military government assuming control. Since the ousting of former Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir from office in the wake of a popular uprising, Sudan has sided with Egypt, which seeks to prevent Ethiopia from constructing a dam on the Nile before signing a binding agreement.

Egypt, often known as the Nile's gift, relies on the Nile for agriculture and drinking water. Long ago, Sudan backed the dam with the hope that it would manage annual floods and generate electricity. Later, however, it expressed concern that the dam would limit the amount of water in its dams and insisted that the project's operation not begin without a legally binding agreement.

Sudan seems to have reversed course once again.

Al-Burhan and Abiy discussed "measures to deepen and improve bilateral ties" at a meeting in Khartoum last Thursday. The two leaders are "aligned and in agreement" over the dam. "Burhan emphasized... that Sudan and Ethiopia are aligned and in agreement on all issues regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)," the sovereign council, which Burhan chairs, said.

Abiy, on the other hand, said "Ethiopia continues to stand in solidarity with Sudan in their current self-led political process," he stressed. The PM urged Sudanese political forces to solve problems without external interference.

A joint communiqué was issued at the conclusion of Abiy's visit, in which the two leaders underlined the need to settle the issue via establishment mechanisms. The one day visit, according to the communiqué, was meant to demonstrate support for the Sudanese administration and people as they worked to construct a peaceful transition period inside the country.

The statement emphasized that "Sudanese are capable of managing their internal problems."

"The Ethiopian side expressed optimism that the Sudanese achieve an agreement to form a transitional civilian government and other institutions, opening the road for elections at the conclusion of the

'Plan to enable youth own land, venture into agriculture good move'

By Guardian Reporter

YOUTH unemployment in Tanzania has for decades remained stubbornly higher than that of the general population which is single digit. This is a major concern because the 15 to 24 age bracket is when people are naturally very energetic and can be very productive.

According to official statistics, about 800,000 Tanzanian young men and women are estimated to enter the labour market each year. Unfortunately, there are not enough vacancies to absorb this number. As a result, graduates spend years walking with brown envelopes containing their academic while depending on parents for basic needs.

But available evidence shows that Tanzania is not supposed to worry about youth unemployment given her vast land resources and favourable weather. The answer is in agriculture and agri-processing which are hugely underutilized.

Although agriculture sector employs over 75 per cent of the population, it contributes a mere one-third of Tanzania's gross domestic production. This is because farming is mainly by hand-hoe and ox-plough, and depends largely on rains.

To unlock potential of Tanzanian agriculture, experts recommend more mechanization and irrigation to make farming more attractive to youth. It is encouraging that the government has seen the importance of youth involvement in this underutilized sector but with huge potential to curb youth unemployment in our country.

Last week, President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced that the government is working on a plan seeking to enable Tanzanian youth to own land as part of the wider strategy aimed at promoting their engagement in agriculture for economic development.

The Head of State made the statement during the opening of the 2nd Africa Food Summit in Dakar, Senegal, where she noted that said the



government was well aware of the fact that potential of agriculture cannot be fully unlocked without active participation of youth.

In support of President Samia's commitment to unlocking potential of agriculture, the African Development Bank (AfDB) announced a package of \$120 million for the sector to be invested in four value chains through irrigation and logistics hubs.

President Samia elaborated that as part of the government's 'Building a Better Tomorrow', selected youth in the scheme will be allocated up to 10 acres each, the plots which they will later own through returns from agricultural production.

The government is currently in the

process of recruiting the first batch of youth who will be enrolled in mid-this month for a three-month training programme after which they will be allocated land to commence farming.

The programme focuses on young men and women and has established a youth guarantee scheme and loan facility under the Agricultural Input Trust Fund to support expected young farmers with consistent credit services.

President Samia said that since the adaptation in the past six months, the programme has already secured a total of 600,000 hectares where land clearance is ongoing.

If well implemented, this programme has the potential to produce economic miracle for Tanzania and a fantastic leg-

acy for President Samia. Why? Because the main hindrances for youth engagement in agriculture are two: land and financing. This programme has lifted the two barriers.

President Samia seems confident in her plans for youth of this country to the point of saying that the ball is on their court. Speaking Zanzibar last month, President Sama challenged young Tanzanians to make the most of the environment she is preparing for them.

Too often the youth are not spotting opportunities as some are too lazy to put emphasis on utilizing them, she said, noting that hotels in the isles need constant supply of food that youth can deliver by joining efforts, being innova-

tive and coming up with new ideas to increase income.

Also, last month, President Samia unveiled a bigger plan designed to ensure that agriculture sector grows at an annual rate of 10 per cent by 2030, up from the current 3.6 per cent as part of the sector's transformation vision.

Contributing as a panelist at a session on 'Food Action and Partnership: Investing in Greater Resilience', on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, President Samia said Tanzania has a great vision of transforming the agricultural sector.

In implementing a sustainable food system in Tanzania, a number of efforts have been implemented including establishing a programme for youth while continuing to build on the successful work of agricultural growth corridors.

In this financial year, the national budget for the agriculture sector increased four times from the previous budget. This is a shift from promises made to farmers without significant investment needed to unlock potential of the sector.

Agriculture is undoubtedly the largest and most important sector of the Tanzanian economy which can fix youth unemployment and create wealth because food is a necessity and the government has now come with a plan that seeks to lift previous barriers that hindered youth involvement.

There are plenty of business opportunities across domestic, regional and international markets, for both traditional and new products. With youth involvement and production and value addition, Tanzania is likely to create new millionaires in the sector.

Apart from initiatives targeting youth, the government has also sought financing for its flagship project Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAG-COT) which is designed to quickly develop the region's agricultural potential.

By Philippe Benoit and Jonathan Elkind

METTING our climate change goals will require massive investments in clean energy projects, in both advanced economies and across the Global South. But financing projects in the latter group of countries requires an increase in foreign capital inflows that will be constrained by currency exchange rate risk. Creating an innovative Exchange Rate Coverage Facility can help to overcome this constraint.

Over the coming two decades, annual energy emissions across the Global South (not counting China) are currently projected to grow by 5 Gt. Analysis by the International Energy Agency, the World Economic Forum and the World Bank shows that reversing this dynamic so as to meet the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, while also supporting the development needs of these countries, will require a four- to seven-fold increase in clean energy investments by 2030 from the current level of \$150 billion.

Significantly, most of the needed clean energy projects provide domestic-oriented services (such as power from solar or wind power plants, public transit systems, building efficiency retrofit campaigns, electric vehicle charging stations). These generate

local currency revenues.

Although much of the funding for these projects will come from domestic resources, the sheer magnitude of the required investment will necessitate significant amounts of foreign capital, potentially \$180 billion or more per year by 2030.

Exchange rate risk (i.e., the potential that the local currency devalues relative to the foreign currency loan or other investment) is a major impediment to mobilizing large foreign capital flows for these projects (albeit, not the only one).

This risk translates into many problematic impacts. Notably, it increases the cost of capital, raises the financial liabilities of domestic stakeholders as their local currency depreciates, and, perhaps most significantly, constrains the level of foreign investment.

While currency hedging and other options exist (including specialized programs for developing countries), they can be expensive and are lacking for many Global South currencies, particularly at the long tenors, low cost and large scale required to support many clean energy investments.

If this currency risk cannot be overcome, it will be impossible to mobilize the level of foreign capital inflows that developing countries require to grow their energy systems with a

Overcoming currency mismatch to finance clean energy in developing countries



A wind energy generation plant located in Loiyangalani in northwestern Kenya. Credit: Isaiiah Esipisu/IPS

low-emissions trajectory. This poses risks for both rich and poorer countries in the global effort to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

What to do to address this impediment? We propose an Exchange Rate Coverage Facility (ERCF), a blended-finance vehicle that would be funded by a combination of host country stakeholders, multilateral/bilateral development and climate agencies, and climate-engaged international capital.

The ERCF would be established as an offshore facility to absorb currency exchange risk on its balance sheet. It would issue

guarantees protecting international lenders against this risk (see figure 1), while in parallel helping to insulate domestic sponsors from it. The Facility would pay any and all shortfalls between the value of contracted local currency (LC) payments and foreign currency (FC) debt repayments if the local currency (LC) depreciates relative to pre-defined exchange rate.

Under our proposed financing structure, the Facility would be a "blended finance" vehicle funded by the following:

(i) carbon credits generated by the clean energy

project that are assigned to the Facility, which would cover "first loss";

(ii) multilateral development banks (including guarantees counter-guaranteed by host countries), development finance institutions and other development/climate agencies, providing funding for defined subsequent losses; and

(iii) international capital, including philanthropies, sovereign wealth funds, and interested private institutions, covering "third loss".

A fuller description of this facility is set out in the report: "Scaling Clean

Energy Through Climate Finance Innovation: Structure of an Exchange Rate Coverage Facility for Developing Countries."

The Facility could generate multiple benefits:

(i) catalyzing additional foreign financing for clean energy projects in developing countries;

(ii) lowering exposure of local project stakeholders to currency exchange rate shifts, thereby reducing prospect of tariff increases if the LC depreciates;

(iii) reducing the cost of foreign financing to clean energy projects;

(iv) facilitating scalability of coverage;

(v) supporting the growth of carbon credits projects and markets;

(vi) enabling funders to leverage financial impact through blended-finance structure; and

(vii) flexibility to include specialized windows (e.g., country-specific programs, including under the Just Energy Transition Partnerships being discussed with South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam and others).

To mobilize international capital flows in the magnitude required to achieve the dual objectives of sustained development and low emissions, there is a need for new financial tools.

The proposed blended-finance ERCF is being incubated as a solution to address currency exchange risk as part of the initiative on Mobilizing Investments for Clean Energy in Emerging Economies. Its proponents welcome interested organizations and individual experts to join forces on the implementation of a pilot Facility to facilitate increased funding for the global clean energy transition.

Authors: Philippe Benoit, Adjunct Senior Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University; Jonathan Elkind, Senior Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University; Justine Roche, Energy Initiative Lead, World Economic Forum

PPP drives maternal health targets in Tanzania with m-mama system

By Guardian Correspondent

IT comes to roundabout one year since the m-mama national emergency transportation system officially known as Vodafone Foundation's m-mama programme was rolled out across Tanzania - specifically, in April 2022.

However, it has already made inroads into four mainland Tanzania regions as well as Zanzibar, connecting pregnant women in some of the remotest areas to an emergency and toll-free healthcare line. The idea is to save the lives of those women - and often those of their babies too.

What happens is that if a pregnant woman is in need of assistance, she - or her health worker - can call a toll-free number, to connect to a trained dispatcher.

Using the m-mama app, the dispatcher will then remotely make a preliminary assessment of the patient in order to determine the urgency of her need for treatment and the nature of treatment required.

Depending on the outcome of the evaluation, the dispatcher might decide to arrange free emergency transport - possibly an ambulance, if one is available, or a registered local driver.

Many women just cannot afford transportation to the higher-level facilities, so without m-mama and such drivers they are unable to access the care they need. Upon safe delivery of patients to care, the driver is paid instantly by M-Pesa mobile money transfer.

M-mama's ambitions align well with Tanzania's agenda on meeting global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 - reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per cent per 100,000 live births by 2030.

In Tanzania, the m-mama system as implemented through a close partnership involving the Vodacom Foundation, the government and local communities has since expanded to Dodoma, Lindi, Morogoro and Tanga regions as



well as Zanzibar.

Meanwhile, active preparations towards that end are ongoing in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manjara, Mbeya, Mtwara, Rukwa, Singida and Songwe regions.

As noted, m-mama was established with the sole purpose of reducing maternal and infant mortality rate particularly in the most remote parts of rural Tanzania.

It has, however, since recorded 16,159 emergency calls in four mainland regions and Zanzibar, further demonstrating the dire need for

emergency health care services amongst pregnant women in rural areas.

Agnes John, one of the beneficiaries of the programme in Kahama District, has spoken on her m-mama experience: "M-mama has helped me tremendously for, if there was no m-mama, perhaps both I and my baby would have died - in the absence of the driver who heeded an emergency phone call and rushed me to the hospital in Lunguya. I am so grateful for this service, as m-mama has indeed saved both I and my child."

Kahama-based taxi driver Makala Shedrack,

who doubles as an emergency community driver for m-mama following appropriate training and onboarding, has meanwhile also giving an account of his contribution to the programme.

He explains: "As a driver, my phone number and home address are registered with the dispatch centre in Kahama. I am very sharp. Whenever I get a call to transport a patient, I know it's an emergency and it's important to get that person to a facility that can best cater to her or him."

There is also Ezekiel Mitakwa, a nurse at Mbizi Dispensary in Kahama, and he says: "Since the m-mama emergency system became operational, we have seen increasingly fewer cases of maternal and infant deaths."

The Tanzanian government, through the Health ministry of Health and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), has been closely partnering with Vodacom - through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm as well as Vodacom Tanzania Foundation.

All are working hard, rolling out m-mama into more and regions, providing solutions to all manner of health-related challenges facing pregnant women in rural Tanzania, as well as leveraging technology as an anchor for the success of the life-saving programme.

The plan is to have m-mama become live and efficiently operational across the country by September 2023.

The partnership between the government and Vodacom Tanzania Foundation in implementing m-mama also runs in line with global SDG 17, where private-public partnership is enhanced for sustainable development. It is joint effort inducing positive change in society that is truly worth celebrating - and replicating in more and more rural settings.

Population decline hysteria and more Ponzi demography

By Joseph Chamie

CHINA'S announcement on 17 January 2023 that its population had declined for the first time in 60 years has fostered population decline hysteria and promoted more Ponzi demography in many parts of the world.

Pro-population growth advocates, including many policy makers, traditional economists, business leaders, conservative writers and media commentators, are advancing the hysteria of demographic gloom and doom following the Chinese government's announcement of a decline in the world's largest population.

China's population decline was reported to be 850,000, which is the difference between 9.56 million births in 2022 against 10.41 million deaths. With China's population at 1.4126 billion, the reported decrease of 850,000 amounts to 0.06 percent.

Much of the media has described China's population decline with various hysteria phrases, including "demographic time bomb", "disappearing population" and "demographic collapse" (Chart 1).

The population decline hysteria has in turn facilitated the promotion of Ponzi demography, which calls for sustained robust rates of population growth. Ponzi demography is basically a pyramid scheme that generates more money, power and influence for some by adding on more and more people through natural increase and in some cases immigration.

Its underlying strategy is relatively straightforward: privatize benefits and profits and socialize burdens and costs incurred from increased population growth. Ponzi demography, however, is clearly unsustainable. Populations cannot continue to grow indefinitely without having serious social, economic, environmental and climatic consequences.

The unsustainability of Ponzi demography, however, doesn't seem to be a concern of those calling for continuing, robust population growth with no endpoint in sight. The unsustainability and critical consequences of long-term population growth are typically ignored, dismissed or trivialized.

Instead of getting caught up with population decline hysteria and Ponzi demography, it's prudent, instructive and advisable to review the past growth of China's population, examine its likely future growth, and consider some of the major challenges posed by those expected demographic changes.

China's population of 1.4126 billion people in 2022, which represents 18 percent of the world's total, grew rapidly during the recent



With China's population at 1.4126 billion, the reported decrease of 850,000 amounts to 0.06 percent. Credit: Shutterstock.

past. In 1950 the Chinese population was slightly more than a half a billion. China's one billion population milestone was reached in 1981. By the close of the 20th century, China's population had grown to approximately 1.3 billion by (Figure 1).

China's future population over the coming decades depends largely on the course of the country's fertility rate. If its fertility rate of 1.18 births per woman were to remain constant at its current level, the Chinese population at midcentury is projected to decline to 1.28 billion, a decrease of about 10 percent.

The often-cited United Nations medium variant population projection assumes China's fertility rate will increase slightly over the coming several decades, reaching 1.39 births per woman by 2050. If that were to occur, China's population in 2050 is again projected to decline, reaching 1.31 billion.

Under the UN high variant population projection, China's fertility

rate is a half child higher than medium variant, i.e., 1.89 births per woman by 2050. The high variant projection results in China's population in 2050 remaining essentially unchanged at its current size of 1.41 billion.

Alternatively, fertility in the UN low variant population projection is a half child lower than the medium variant, i.e., 0.89 births per woman by 2050. The expected 2050 population of China in the low variant projection is 1.22 billion, a decrease of 15 percent from its current population.

China is not alone in its low fertility rate. Approximately 100 countries worldwide have a fertility rate below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman.

Moreover, the fertility rates of some thirty countries in 2022 were less than 1.5 births per woman. Several of those countries had fertility rates that were roughly half or less than the replacement level, includ-

ing China, Italy and South Korea, and consequently are confronting population decline (Figure 2).

The low fertility rates of today, including China's, are expected to increase somewhat in the coming decades. However, despite the desires, policies, and programs of governments to raise fertility levels, expectations of a return to replacement level fertility in the foreseeable future can be simply described as future fertility fantasies. Consequently, the current populations of some 50 countries, including China's, are projected to be smaller by midcentury.

In addition to population decline, China as well as many other low fertility countries are experiencing demographic ageing. The median age of China's population is expected to continue rising during the 21st century. China's median age increased from 18 years in 1970 to nearly 39 years today. By 2070 the median age of China's population

is expected to be 55 years, or three times the median age of the population in 1970.

Besides its expected population decline, demography ageing presents a major challenge for China. The consequences of the demographic realities of older population age structures with declining numbers of young workers supporting growing numbers of the elderly are likely unavoidable.

Consequently, careful rethinking, comprehensive evaluations and major adjustments, some likely to be unpopular with the public such as raising the official retirement age, will be needed.

In addition to China, many countries with below replacement fertility are expected to face declining populations and older age structures over the coming decades. In contrast, many other countries, especially in Africa, with fertility levels of more than four births per woman are expected to have rapidly increasing populations and relatively young age structures throughout the century.

The net result of these substantial country differences in future population growth rates is that the world's current population of 8 billion is projected to continue increasing. Over the next forty years, the world's population is expected to add another 2 billion people, reaching 10 billion around 2058.

So, in conclusion, it's time to stop fostering population decline hysteria with its doom and gloom and promoting Ponzi demography of unsustainable, continued robust population growth. It's time to recognize, understand and analyze today's demographics and their likely trends over the coming decades. And also importantly, it's time for countries to prepare for the formidable challenges of their respective expected demographic realities in the 21st century.

Joseph Chamie is a consulting demographer, a former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, including his recent book, "Population Levels, Trends, and Differentials".

Youth bulge and social stability: Regional integration and 2022 Mo Ibrahim report

By Guardian Correspondent

PROSPERITY for peace in Africa are becoming a conceptual burden for observers as all pointers are inclined to the opposite direction. But this kind of evidence-based intuition is contrary to nature and to political organisation as man strives for peace and prosperity, not for chaos and instability.

Even those who are pursuing interminable wars in different parts of Africa - and the world - are actually seeking a particular kind of peace which they trust will also be stable but that intuition is contentious with what other people believe.

As the last population census in Tanzania showed, there is a youth bulge in African countries where the youth easily form the majority portion of the population. That poses serious challenges

as technology and easy transport all over the world leads to mass production and low priced goods around the world, such that habits of dreaming up an industrial take off slumber.

The world is not hospitable to each country to have all the industries it dreams of having, but is facilitated to enable countries to sell whatever goods they have.

For Tanzania it more or less implies that the youth bulge environment, which isn't just a problem for those who have obtained low levels of schooling as it increasingly encompasses college trained youth, the answers are distinctive.

It means that the government no longer pursues policies of financing industries so that they employ youths, but use that amount of money more profitably in improving agro-sector productivity, and enable a services industry

'take off.'

The latest Mo Ibrahim Report that also encompasses an index of governance in Africa was wholly pessimistic in a number of areas. The most important area of citation is regression of democracy and return of military coups, where it is unclear if the report has an answer except to go back to the social dimension as the source of unrest. What the report doesn't say is why potential solutions to social crises aren't being pursued in a democratic way, first, and if it is the case how can both the crisis and governance be rectified.

As if by a trial and error method, there were other events going around in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, one being the African Union leaders' summit, and another being a food security and nutrition summit. The former was an African Union routine matter while the latter concerned a number of United

Nations agencies. While it was classically believed that the crisis in Africa was not likely to destabilize European political systems because Africa is too far away, planetary conspiracies ganged up to change the picture, since 2011.

In the past youth movements around the world centred on greener pastures for elites, like remaining in Europe or the United States after college education, or seeking airfare, going into ships etc and arriving in a regular manner.

But as social dislocation in Africa multiplied the scale of rural devastation and youth desperation increased in the wake of climate change and civil wars (starting from unfinished democratic revolutions and radical counter-reformation) in 2011 in North Africa and the Middle East, the impact is clear. European democracy is sliding backwards if in a

confusing way, in choosing far right governments without actually shifting to outright fascism.

This phenomenon was noticeable in tiny Israel lately as the multiple party leftist coalition crumbled and the dominant right returned, but only on the basis of unity with the far right, now unavoidable in government.

This comes up in the context of Abraham Accords, on the basis of which the Palestinian problem becomes a governance issue - what sort of government or constitutional arrangements to set up in a wider national dialogue - not an actual independence project, the two state solution.

In Africa the return of coups is a shift to the 'far right' but it has a revolutionary garb as it is anti-colonial (anti-French) but in reality it is frustration with expectations for 'la paix française' (peace guaranteed

by France) as fighting guerrillas in the thousands of square kilometers infested with well-armed and motorized guerrillas leads to failure. Capital cities can be peaceful if the bush is cleared.

That is why it can be hypothesized how African countries come out of the vicious cycle of a youth bulge leading to violence (easily harnessed by political opponents seeking to thrive on social dislocation), and thus impairing - crushing - tepid democratic systems. In this context, the point of departure isn't what Mo Ibrahim says, improving or doing everything we can about governance - where 'we' means Africa and the development partners.

It has to start from regional integration, by the agency of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and a new kind of Marshall Plan of resettling the youth bulge in agriculture

as President Samia Suluhu Hassan was suggesting in the Dakar food security summit. Only if Africa offers up its land for resettling youth, not just given land plus seeds and fertilizer but also allowances to keep them in place amid rules that bind African countries, can the backsliding stop.

The British were debating with the whole world lately about shifting thousands of 'perilous journeys' migrants to Rwanda, where they are given some subsistence funds to start out something.

As Rwanda is doing well in the services economy and their coming infuses some extra money into circulation that effort could succeed, but an agro-based Marshall Plan to actually cream off Africa's youth to its farmlands, on the basis of assured incomes all year round. If the development partners won't team up the dislocation will deepen.

EAC delegates in Kisumu for five-day development summit

By Dickens Wasonga

A high-powered delegation from the five East Africa Community (EAC) partner states has converged in Kisumu for a five-day conference.

The meeting is set to review progress on the implementation of multi-billion projects being undertaken by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).

The LVBC is a special implementation agency of the EAC with headquarters in Kenya which coordinates sustainable management of the Lake Victoria basin's ecosystems.

For the last four years, the commission has been overseeing the implementation of more than six multi-billion donor-funded projects in Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Speaking during the opening of the 10th joint regional policy steering committee meeting in Kisumu on Monday, the commission's executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire said the aim of these mega projects is to contribute towards the integration agenda of the EAC.

Dr Masinde said the projects also target to alleviate poverty while fostering cost-effective management of Lake Victoria Basin.

"We are also ensuring, through the implementation of these programmes that the movement of our people within the region is made smooth and trade is facilitated," the executive secretary said.

During the five days conference, the delegates will also receive a report on resource mobilisation initiatives and pipeline projects including partnerships for the last year from the commission.

Some of the projects whose status will be reviewed by the delegates include the integrated water resources management project and adapting to climate change in Lake Victoria Basin project.

Others are multinational Lake Victoria transport and communication project and Nile cooperation for climate resilience project among others.

"Partner states will discuss, review and assess progress made so during the ongoing implementation of the six mega projects during the conference," Dr Bwire said.

Dr Bwire noted that adapting to the climate change project which kicked off four years ago was almost coming to an end.

According to the executive secretary, the project implements practical solutions and technologies seeking to transform and build the resilience of communities along the basin in regards effects of climate.

"In Kenya, the project is implemented in Siaya and Busia while in Uganda it is in Masaka and Uvande districts, Chirehe district in Rwanda, Muhinga district in Burundi and Magu district in Tanzania," he said.

Dr Bwire further revealed that the integrated water resources management programme which is funded to the tune of 45 million euros target to transform sanitation systems mainly in slum areas within the EAC major cities.

More than 80,000 households will benefit from the project according to the commission.

In Kisumu, the project is being implemented in the Manyatta estate where modern sanitation systems are lacking.

"Kisumu was selected because of the high pollution levels that is witnessed along the lakeside city's coastline and particularly communities around the Manyatta slums where sanitation infrastructure is not well developed," he said.

"The project is designed to transform such kind of poor infrastructure and create modern ones, particularly in informal settlements in the cities."

Dr Bwire, however, observed that despite the numerous initiatives, programmes and partnerships, Lake Victoria Basin continues to witness negative environmental and ecosystem changes and land degradation.

"This contributes to a number of effects on the lake itself. The current smell from the lake is an indication of the high level of pollution. The sediment levels also continue to rise," he said.

"We need to continue to mobilise our people, governments, partners, and private actors to be able to reverse this trend. What you see in Kenya is happening in most riparian ecological systems across the region."



Arusha district commissioner Felician Mtahengerwa (R) who previously was Themi division officer receives working tools from Arusha regional commissioner John Mongela shortly after swearing - in ceremony yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

IMF projects 3.8 per cent growth rate for sub-Saharan Africa

ACCRA

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) is projecting a moderate 3.8 percent growth rate for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2023 amid prolonged fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a modest upward revision since October 2022, and higher than the 2.8 per cent it forecast for Ghana. It has firmed its 2.8 per cent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Ghana in 2023.

According to its January 2023 World Economic Outlook, the small upward revision for 2023 (0.1 percentage point) reflects Nigeria's rising growth in 2023 due to measures to address insecurity issues in the oil sector.

In South Africa, by contrast, after a COVID-19 reopening rebound in 2022, the IMF projected growth more than halves in 2023, to 1.2 per cent, reflecting weaker external demand, power shortages, and structural constraints.

Meanwhile, global growth, estimated at 3.4 per cent in 2022, is projected to fall to 2.9 per cent in 2023 before rising to 3.1 per cent in 2024.

Compared with the October forecast, the estimate for 2022 and the forecast for 2023 are both higher by about 0.2 percentage point, reflecting positive surprises and greater-than-expected resilience in numerous economies.

Negative growth in global Gross Domestic Product or global GDP per capita—which often happens when there is a global recession—is not expected.

Nevertheless, global growth projected for 2023 and 2024 is below the historical (2000-19) annual average of 3.8 per cent.



Heritage Insurance chief financial officer Thecla Magashi (R) presents gift to Profound Insurance Agency Marynice Pallangyo (C) for 2022 performance and the important role of providing insurance services to customers in various areas in the country. Left is Heritage Tanzania Insurance Company managing director chief executive officer Manasseh Kawoloka. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Afghan refugees fear return as Pakistan cracks down on migrants

KARACHI

“If I return to Afghanistan, the Taliban will kill me; I’m prepared to stay in a prison in Karachi than face those ruthless people,” said 24-year-old Afghan refugee, Sabrina Zalmi, referring to the recent crackdown on hundreds of Afghans residing without proper documents in the metropolis, who are being arrested and then deported back to Afghanistan. Having taken refuge in Pakistan for almost a year without a visa, she said she was feeling extremely unsafe. “We are trying to remain as invisible as possible,” she said.

But, said 45-year-old Nagma Ziauddin*, a former broadcast journalist working in Kabul, and having fled to Karachi, living under the radar, illegally, in the city was difficult. If arrested and deported, she said, she would instantly be recognized since she had been “very vocal in my hatred for the Taliban, and they know my voice.”

She, her husband, two sons, and a sick daughter-in-law came to Karachi in March 2022. “If they put us behind bars, how will we take care of my daughter-in-law?” she said, adding: “Because of the recent arrests, we have become caged in our home. I hardly go out; I am always anxious about being apprehended when I take my daughter-in-law to see the doctor for her monthly check-up.”

According to official reports, about 250,000 Afghans have fled to Pakistan after the Taliban seized power in August 2021.

But the amnesty extended to those fleeing Afghanistan and entering Pakistan with valid visas that have expired, terminated in December 2022.

To renew their visas, they have to re-enter Afghanistan, which they still find a dangerous place.

A majority of those who fled feared they would find themselves in the crosshairs of the Taliban. These included soldiers, judges, journalists, human rights defenders, and those whom the Taliban despised, the Shia Hazaras, the LGBTQIA+, and those who were musicians and singers. The economic immigrants who were without work in Afghanistan were also among the refugees.

Ziauddin finds deportations “very inhuman”.

Not only is it inhuman, said Umer Ijaz Gilani, an Islamabad-based lawyer, it is a violation of the non-refoulement (forcibly returning refugees or asylum seekers where they may be persecuted) principle. Acting on behalf of 100 Afghan human rights defenders seeking asylum, he has urged the government’s National Commission on Human Rights to direct state authorities not to deport them. “We may have to take them to the court otherwise,” he told IPS in a phone interview.

According to Moniza Kakar, a Karachi-based young human rights lawyer, Afghan refugees are being arrested across Pakistan. “They get deported immediately in other provinces, but in Sindh, the arrested Afghans are put behind bars for months, treated badly in prisons, fined, and then deported,” she said.

Kakar is helping in the release of the Afghan refugees in Sindh. “So far, of the 1,400 arrested (including 200 women and 350 children), 600 have been released and deported,” she told IPS.

“If a person lives illegally in any country, the government takes action and deals with them according to the law,” Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon said, justifying the arrests. “Nobody has been sentenced to jail for more than two months,” he added. He also denied that children were put behind bars.

Kakar said because Pakistan had not adopted the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, “which stops states from punishing people who enter a country illegally”, it is able to invoke the domestic Foreigners Act 1946 to use against Afghans residing in Pakistan illegally, to punish and deport them.

Of the imprisoned Afghans, Kakar said, nearly 400 had been arrested wrongfully as they had valid documents that allowed them to stay in Pakistan. They remained incarcerated for months till their cases were heard.

“Some Afghans arrested in Jacobabad have been sentenced to as much as six months rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5,000 imposed on all males, and



Moniza Kakar gets thumb impressions of Afghan women on the legal document called Wakalatnama, which is a document filed by a party in order to appoint a lawyer to plead on their behalf. Credit: Moniza Kakar

Rs 1,000 each on all minors and females,” she said, contradicting Memon’s statement to media. “Why were minors fined when the government claims they were not offenders or imprisoned?” she asked.

Kakar said because Pakistan had not adopted the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, “which stops states from punishing people who enter a country illegally”, it is able to invoke the domestic Foreigners Act 1946 to use against Afghans residing in Pakistan illegally, to punish and deport them.

Amnesty International has urged the Pakistani government to stop the deportations and extend support to the refugees so they can live with dignity and free of fear of being returned to Afghanistan. In a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Agnes Callamard, secretary general of Amnesty International, said she found it alarming to note the country lacked national legislation for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

Pakistan may not have signed the international refugee protocol, but, argued Lahore-based Sikander Shah, who teaches at the law school at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, there were several international human rights conventions that Pakistan had adopted, like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against

Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, that can be “turned to, to help the hapless refugees”.

“My experience has been that the judges in Sindh do not empathize with the Afghan refugees,” pointed out Kakar. “In fact, one judge said in the open court that the refugees did not deserve to be looked at from a humanitarian lens; that they were criminals who were involved in terrorist activities in our country,” said the young rights activist bemoaning the open hostility prevalent not just among other segments of society, but even her own legal fraternity.

She also said the Afghans were especially ill-treated both by prison authorities and the inmates. “They complain of being lugged with more than their share of work and not always provided with meals,” said Kakar.

Many say they face constant discrimination.

Armineh Nasar* 21, another refugee, who came to Karachi last year, in December 2021, with her mother and three siblings, said she had experienced much suspicion. “I have witnessed how Pakistani mothers pull away their children when they find out their kids are playing with Afghan kids. I’ve heard them say, we are terrorists,” she said.

Before the Taliban took over Kabul, Zalmi was working in Kabul in a nongovernmental organization. But the reason she would find herself on the wrong side of the Taliban if she were deported was that, like Ziauddin, she had been “very vocal in my

dislike of the Taliban, and they know who I am.” She fled with her grandmother in January 2022 after her family got hold of a hitlist of Taliban which had her name on it as well.

With a BA in economics, her dream of opening a boutique in Kabul’s upscale market has been dashed. “Right now, I work as a domestic help, sweeping floors, earning up to Rs 300 (USD 1.30 cents) for half a day’s work,” because she cannot find any office work as it would require her to show an identification card. “I had never done this kind of work even at home as I was either studying or working outside. “We are a family of seven; I’m the eldest, and I was the main bread earner of my family, earning Afghani 15,000 (USD 166) per month,” she told IPS. Her father, a security guard in an office, earned less.

Like the other two, Nasar, too, cannot find work, so she keeps hopping from one job to the other till the issue of documents comes up. “I’ve worked in an office and in a supermarket, each lasting three months, and then had to leave as I was unable to show any identity card.” Having studied till 12 grade in Kabul, she wanted to enroll in higher studies. “But the university administration wants to see a refugee card before giving me admission. I’ve missed a year because of that!” said Nasar, who wants to study computer sciences and enter the profession of banking.

But it is not just that they cannot work; without documentation, Afghans cannot access housing or open bank accounts (to be able to receive money). They also cannot obtain a SIM card or seek medical treatment at a government facility.

With no one in her family able to earn, Ziauddin said she was worried the family would soon run out of money. The cash they had after selling her jewelry and household items to flee to Pakistan is drying up fast, as are all their savings.

“I am under a lot of anxiety that has caused my blood pressure to rise,” said Ziauddin. Her doctor had suggested she begin walking as a form of exercise, which she did, but she gave it up after she got robbed last month.

“If only the UNHCR could provide us with the documents stating we are refugees, we would not face so many problems,” she said.

But it seems even the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ hands are tied.

Since 2021, the UNHCR has been in discussion with the government on measures and mechanisms to support vulnerable Afghans. “Regrettably, no progress has been made,” said UNHCR spokesperson Qaiser Khan Afridi.

He said the refugee agency was ready to work with the government of Pakistan in identifying Afghans in need of protection and to seek solutions to their plight. But the latter has yet to agree to recognize the newly arriving Afghans as refugees. “It does, however, allow Afghans in possession of a valid passport and visa to cross into Pakistan; the online visa application process is also available to those with passports.”

In addition, said Afridi, in line with its mandate, the UNHCR strives to find durable solutions for refugees. “But the realization of such solutions is beyond its control.” It all depends on countries to offer third-country resettlement opportunities or to allow refugees to naturalize as citizens in the country where they sought asylum. “Resettlement, unfortunately, cannot be available for the entire refugee population as the opportunities are limited,” he agreed but said the refugee agency was urging RST (Refugee Status Determination) countries (like Pakistan) to increase the resettlement quotas.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



Radio One



Thursday 2 February 2023

Banking assets quality improve as NPL declines to 5.8pc

By Mnaku Mbani

Banking sector assets quality is improving further, as the ratio of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) continue to decline, reaching 5.8 percent in December last year, from 8.5 percent in corresponding period in 2021, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statement issued yesterday by the Governor of Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said.

The MPC noted with satisfaction that, this is a significant milestone compared to the highs of around 13 percent in 2017. The regulatory NPLs' benchmark rate is set at five percent.

"This development will incentivise banks' lending to the private sector and reduce cost of borrowing," MPC observes.

The committee held its 224th Meeting on 30th January 2023 to assess the implementation of monetary policy and performance of the economy, and based on this, decided on the course of monetary policy in the subsequent period.

The statement is issued in a time when banks have just published their financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year, which indicated the decreasing NPLs and improving assets recovery from credits impairments.

The BoT will this month expect to publish the Monetary Policy Statement for 2023/2024.

According to the statement, banking sector was adequately capitalized, liquid, profitable and remained resilient to shocks.

Assets and deposits of banks continued to



Bank of Tanzania headquarters in Dar es Salaam

increase, supported by improving business environment, as well as response to leveraging technology in business and financial services delivery, including agent banking model, MPC statement said.

Banking profitability also increased last year, as unaudited financial statements for the last quarter show banks raked a historical net profit of more than 1.2trn/-, with two largest banks, CRDB and NMB earned more than 70 percent of industrial net profit.

Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) Theobald Sabi was quoted as saying the

success has been achieved on the back of deliberate action by the government in increasing conducive business environment and expanding economic activities.

The MPC noted that the implementation of monetary policy in November and December 2022 was successful.

On the basis of the recent economic performance and outlook for the second half of 2022/23, the MPC decided for the BoT to continue implementing less accommodative monetary policy stance in January and February 2023.

"As previously communicated, the poli-

cy stance aims at controlling inflationary pressures, while safeguarding growth of economic activities," it says.

The BoT director of economic research and policy, Dr Suleiman Misango elaborated to the Guardian yesterday that this stance will include reduction of increase in liquidity in the economy.

"Liquidity will increase in lower rate than before," he noted.

The policy stance is also consistent with the BoT strategies of achieving monetary policy targets set forth under the International Monetary Fund's Extended Credit Facility (IMF ECF) program.

"The MPC is optimistic that, with inflation staying below the target of 5.4 percent, the monetary policy will facilitate high private sector credit growth, thereby improving output performance," the statement noted.

Liquidity in banks was maintained at adequate levels, private sector credit growth was high at around 21 percent, and monetary targets set forth under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) were achieved.

The high credit to the private sector is expected to have significant contribution to the growth of the economy in the fourth quarter of 2022.

The growth of money supply was broadly in line with the target.

Money supply (M3) grew by 11.6 percent in December 2022, consistent with the target of 10.3 percent for 2022/23, and

was mostly driven by private sector credit growth.

The pace of growth of M3 was also consistent with the inflation target of 5.4 percent.

In the outer period, inflation is forecast to remain low and stable, due to easing of supply constraints and expected good food harvests.

In respect of the recent performance of the economy, the MPC observed that, global economic challenges continued to undermine activities and exert pressures on inflation in the country, but to a lesser extent than before as the year rolled out.

This was due to easing of supply-chain disruptions and commodity prices in the world market, as well as interventions made by countries to cushion economies from adverse impact of the war in Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on economic indicators in quarter four, the MPC was optimistic that growth projections for 2022 will be realized.

In 2023, output growth is projected to be higher than in the preceding year, reinforced by strong growth of credit to the private sector, public investment, rebound in tourism, improvement in business climate, and supportive fiscal and monetary policies.

"The apparently easing of global supply-chain constraints will also provide impetus to growth," the statement said.

Banks credit to private sector grow by 22pc

By Guardian Reporter

Banking credits to private sector has continued to remain strong, after recording an annual growth rate of 22.5 percent in December last year, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for January has shown.

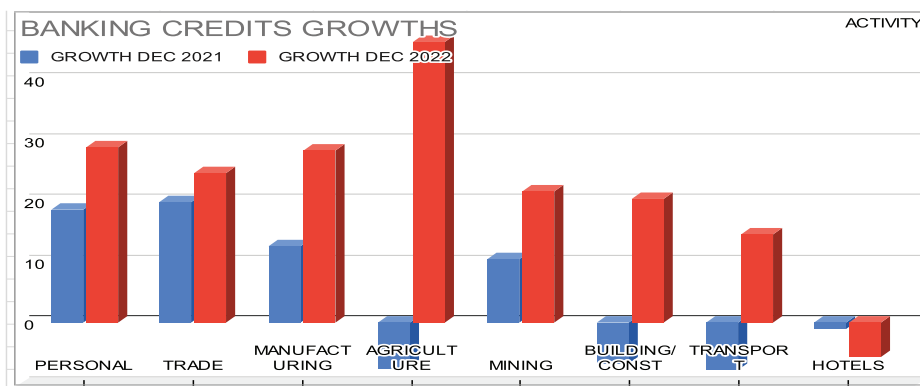
This is reflecting ongoing recovery of economic activities from the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, complemented with supportive monetary and fiscal policies.

All major economic activities recorded credit growth, except hotels and restaurant.

The positive growth trends were recorded on personal, manufacturing, building and construction as well as transport and communication.

Banks and BoT computations show personal loan, which accounts for 32.5 percent of total loans, grew by 28.8 percent in December, compared with 27.1 percent in November and 18.5 percent in December 2021.

Credits to manufacturing also recorded the positive growth trend to 28.3 percent in December from 27.8 percent last year.



This is more than doubles of the annual growth of 12.4 percent recorded in December last year.

According to the computations, growth of credits to building and construction increased to 20.3 percent in December compared with 18.1 percent in November last year, from a contraction of 6.9 percent in December 2021. Growth of credits to transport and communication which recorded a contraction of 7.8 percent in 2021, increased to 14.5 percent in December, compared to 9.9 percent in November last year.

However, growth of credits to trade slightly slowed to 24.6 percent in December from 24.8 percent in November.

The computation also shows credits growth to mining and quarrying slowed to 21.5 percent in December compared to 48.6 percent in November, although were higher than the growth of 10.4 percent recorded in December 2021.

Credits to hotels and restaurants continue to record negative growth after contracting by 5.8 percent in December, from a contraction of 5.2 percent in November last year.

Credit to agriculture activity registered the highest growth, attributable to the monetary policy measures rolled out by the Bank to provide cost-effective credit intermediation to agriculture and agri-business activities.

In terms of share, the largest portions of outstanding loans were held in personal undertakings, followed by trade, manufacturing and agriculture activities.

Meanwhile, interest rates charged by banks on loans remained virtually unchanged in December 2022, compared with the rates registered in the preceding month and corresponding month in 2021.

The overall lending rate averaged 16 percent, whereas negotiated lending rates were around 13 percent.

Overall deposit interest rate averaged 6.94 percent, slightly lower than 7.28 percent recorded in the preceding month, but was higher than 6.74 percent recorded in December 2021.

Negotiated deposit rates averaged 8.88 percent in December 2022, slightly below 9.5 percent in the preceding month and 9.82 percent in December 2021

Central banks gold purchases now reach record high

LONDON

Central banks added a whopping 1,136 tonnes of gold worth some \$70 billion to their stockpiles in 2022, by far the most of any year since 1967, the World Gold Council (WGC) has said.

The data underline a shift in attitudes to gold since the 1990s and 2000s, when central banks, particularly those in Western Europe that own a lot of bullion, sold hundreds of tonnes a year.

Since the financial crisis of 2008-09, European banks stopped selling and a growing number of emerging economies such as Russia, Turkey and India have bought.

Central banks like gold because it is expected to hold its value through turbulent times and, unlike currencies and bonds, it does not rely on any issuer or government.

Gold also enables central banks to diversify away from assets like US Treasuries and the dollar.

"This is a continuation of a trend," said World Gold Council analyst Krishan Gopaul.

"You can see those drivers feeding into what happened last year. You had on the geopolitical front and the macroeconomic front a lot of uncertainty and volatility," he said.

Buying dipped during the coronavirus pandemic but accelerated in the second half of 2022, with central banks purchasing 862 tonnes between July and December, according to the WGC.

Banks including those of Turkey, China, Egypt and Qatar said they bought gold last year. But around two-thirds of the gold bought by central banks last year was not reported publicly, the WGC said.

Banks that have not regularly published information about changes in their gold stockpiles include those of China and Russia.

"Central bank buying (in 2023) is unlikely to match 2022 levels," the WGC said.

"Lower total reserves may constrain the capacity to add to existing allocations. But lagged reporting by some central banks means that we need to apply a high degree of uncertainty to our expectations, predominantly to the upside."

The central bank purchases took total global gold demand last year to 4,741 tonnes, up 18% from 2021 and the highest for any year since 2011.

AFAWA's approved funds for African women hits US\$1bn

By Guardian Reporter

The African Development Bank's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative has reached a landmark US\$1 billion in approved funding designated for lending to African women entrepreneurs.

This is yet another milestone for the bank following an historic summit last week to tackle the escalating challenges of food security in Africa.

The Dakar 2 Africa Food Summit, co-hosted by the AfDB and the government of Senegal, was attended by 34 heads of state and government, more than 70 ministers, farmers' representatives from the private sector and development partners.

AFAWA was launched in 2015 in Dakar during the first Feed Africa conference (Dakar 1 Africa Food Summit).

Dr. Beth Dunford, the AfDB's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development said: "AFAWA's benchmark reminds us that when we invest to grow Africa's food systems, we must also invest in Africa's women agripreneurs."

Women run the majority of Africa's agricultural sector small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), yet they face significant barriers to accessing finance.

Across the continent, African women



Investment, trade and industry deputy minister Exaud Kigaha (centre), permanent secretary ministry of finance and planning Lawrence Mafuru (3rd L) and permanent secretary, ministry of community development, gender, women and special group Dr Zainab Chaula (2nd L) and AFAWA officials pose in a group photo during the launch of an initiative in July last year. File photo

entrepreneurs face an estimated \$42 billion gender financing gap compared to men.

In the last two years, the Bank, through AFAWA, has multiplied the volume of investments toward women-owned small and medium enterprises sevenfold.

"By the end of December 2022, AFAWA-approved lending to women-led small and medium sized enterprises reached \$1.051 billion. Of that, \$135 million targets women in the agriculture sector," said Malado Kaba, Director of the Bank's Gender, Women and Civil Society Department.

"AFAWA's approved lending reaches across 27 countries, and through 56 financial institutions. Already 4,115 women business owners have benefited from AFAWA financing instruments. This is just the beginning," she added.

Already, financial barriers to African women 'agripreneurs' growing their businesses, are being addressed through AFAWA investment.

AFAWA is working to boost the professional and financial capacities of over 200 women cooperatives in the staple crop food sector in Cote d'Ivoire.

This includes training and access to a digital platform connecting women producers to buyers of agricultural products like wholesalers, retailers and consumers across Cote d'Ivoire.

Furthermore, AFAWA is working with Ecobank on the "Financing Climate Resilient Agricultural Practices in Ghana" project. The project mobilized \$20 million from the Green Climate Fund, and \$5 million from Ecobank Ghana as co-financing, to fill the gap for working capital to farmers.

The AFAWA project aims to provide financing and technical support to 400 women-led, farmer-based associations and women-owned small and medium enterprises, to foster their agriculture productivity and strengthen their climate resilience practices.

To accelerate progress toward unlocking \$5 billion in lending for women by 2026, AFAWA has established a Guarantee Mechanism which de-risks the women's market and increases the ability of financial institutions to lend to women business owners.

AFAWA also launched the Women Entrepreneurship Enablers program, which provides up to \$250,000 for women's business associations, incubators, accelerators, women-led cooperatives, and civil society organizations.

HOW TO AVOID FINANCIAL NIGHTMARE DURING DIVORCE

By Kelvin Mkwawa

Sadly, many people in our society nowadays find themselves the victims of divorce, faced with the harsh realities of a broken marriage. The rising number of divorces in our country in recent years is alarming. The study carried out on Tanzania's households by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that the rate of divorce has doubled within the last six years. This means that currently, for every 100 people who have reached the age of marriage, two have been divorced. The survey further reveals that four couples out of 100 have separated, meaning that their chances of divorcing are high.

Going through a divorce is never fun. Not for you, and definitely not for your soon to be ex-wife/husband and definitely not for your kids (if you have them). Divorce is an unfortunate time for all those involved and it affects not only a person's emotional well-being but their finances as well. The divorce proceedings can be a big challenge on many different levels and the biggest

mistake you can make while going through a divorce is making decisions based on emotions. When you are emotional, you don't think logically and usually make irrational decisions so the best thing you can do throughout the divorce process is to manage your emotions and keep your focus towards achieving your personal and financial goals. This week, I will share a few tips on how to avoid a financial nightmare during divorce which will help you rebuild your life again:

- **Create A New Budget** - A divorce is a major lifestyle change as for a while you lived on two incomes but now you are down to one. Therefore, if you had a budget, it is time to create a new one and if you didn't have a budget, it is important to have one as it is the only way to survive the transition and to thrive in your new life. You need to re-evaluate your expenses as your past expenditures cannot fit into your new life of a single income. As a starting point, downsize your expenditures temporarily, stash



Kelvin Mkwawa,

away any extra money you can and live on a minimum budget to ensure you are setting a strong budget base for your new life.

- **Separate Your Finances** - This part can be

irritating if you have been married for a long time since you will need to reorganize your finances. Your finances include everything from all investments, debts, and liabilities; if you were not involved in your family finances, now is the time to immerse yourself in the details. The first and important step is to cancel and remove yourself from all joint properties, bank accounts, insurance policies, and loans; anything that has both your names on it needs to be addressed. This will help you to have a clear picture of your financial situation and help you strategize towards your new financial goals.

- **Get Financial Advice** - During a divorce, your partner can engage in dubious activities that will hurt you financially such as moving the funds or selling off assets without your consent. Furthermore, in most marriages, it is a common practice that one spouse tends to manage the majority of finances and this can lead to all sorts of

problems during the divorce if you were not the party that managed the shared finances. If that is the case, you will need to step up and educate yourself about managing the finances, which may very likely require you to seek financial advice. You can hire a financial advisor or have someone who can help you understand your investments, assets and how to manage your liabilities to ensure a smooth transition to your new life.

To summarize, divorce is one of the most stressful life events a person can through so surround yourself with people you trust that can help you get through personally and financially. Through this article, I have shared three tips that will help you regain control of your financials during a divorce: create a new budget, separate your finances and get financial advice.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is a seasoned banker. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Four African banks in Brand Finance's top ten strongest

JOHANNESBURG

Four of the top 10 strongest banking brands in the released Brand Finance Banking 500, 2023 report are from the African continent, with South African banking brand First National Bank being the strongest banking brand in the world, closely followed by Capitec Bank as the second strongest brand.

First National Bank (brand value down 3 percent to \$1.5bn) is the strongest banking brand in the global ranking with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 93 out of 100 and a corresponding AAA+ rating.

Capitec Bank (brand value down 1 percent to \$620.4m) is the second strongest brand in the ranking with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 93 out of 100 and a corresponding AAA+ rating.

Jeremy Sampson, managing director of Brand Finance South Africa says: "The fact that two South African banks top the global Brand Strength Index (BSI) is something for great celebration and reflects extremely well on the local banking sector."

The two SA banks are joined by Kenyan banking compatriots, Equity Bank (brand value up 37% to \$531.7m) and Kenya Commercial Bank (brand value up 13% to \$380m) in 4th and 6th position respectively. Both banking brands have achieved growth in their brand value in 2022 and continue to grow their customer base nationally and internationally by offering new mobile banking services.

Nigerian banking brand Access Bank (brand value up 22% to \$462.5m) is the most valuable

brand in Nigeria. Access Holdings is making strides into the global market with plans to expand in international markets including France, Hong Kong, India, China, and UAE among others.

In the African continent, the brand is expanding its cross-border banking capabilities to cater to the broader East African market.

Chinese banking brands are subsiding in brand value with American brands quickly closing the gap. ICBC (brand value down 7% to \$69.5bn) is the most valuable banking brand in the world, followed by China Construction Bank (brand value down 4% to \$62.7bn) and Agricultural Bank of China (brand value down 7% to \$57.7bn).

Key trends in the banking industry
The Brand Finance Banking 2023



report finds several key trends in the banking industry.

Rising interest rates in many markets have led to short-term increases in net revenues and profitability and in addition to this, brand equity research metrics have improved, with the average reputation for the sector increasing by 0.1 points year-

on-year.

Another important trend in the sector is that neo/digital banks, such as Revolut (brand value up 57% to \$194m), have made a significant impact in the industry, entering the top 500 most valuable banking brands for the first time, with a brand value increase of 57%

year-on-year.

Declan Ahern, director of Brand Finance says that banking brands across the globe have continued to recover significantly post Covid-19.

"There has been an improvement in digital banking services, government stimulus measures have been relatively successful, and the rise of mobile banking and on-line platforms have contributed to the sector's positive performance," comments Ahern.

"Accelerated by the strict global lockdowns, banking and fintech brands have innovated to create user-friendly mobile application-based banking services that have led to an increase in customer satisfaction and acquisition," Ahern adds.

Every year brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance puts thousands of the world's biggest brands to the test, and publishes over 100 reports, ranking brands across all sectors and countries.

The world's top 500 most valuable and strongest brands in the banking industry are included in the annual Brand Finance Banking 500 2023 ranking.

Sabi: NBC Bank remains champion in stimulating Tanzania's economic development

NBC Bank Limited has been operating in Tanzanian market over the last half a century; passing through different economic transformations. The bank has therefore played a major role in the country's economy by offering financial services and championing financial inclusion among Tanzanians. Business Editor Mnaku Mbani spoke to NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (pictured), who recently was chosen the Chairman of Tanzania Bankers Association on the long journey of the bank successes and future plans.

You were recently chosen as the chairman of the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA). Congratulations. What major industrial issues will you focus on during your tenure in office?

Thank you. I'm honored to be bestowed with such confidence by my fellow bankers. At the recent Annual General Meeting, TBA members approved a revamped five-year strategy that focuses on the banking industry's growth while increasing banking penetration. We will soon be launching this strategy to the public.

As the leading voice of the banking industry, TBA will continue working closely with all stakeholders toward a banking industry that will continue to contribute effectively to the country's economic development.

You are leading the oldest commercial bank in Tanzania. What are your views on the current banking business environment in Tanzania?

Tanzania's business environment has



been relatively stable post the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen improved business activity, as well as a general improvement in profitability for most banks over the last two years.

The banking industry is going through a transformation, with the number of transactions completed via digital channels continuing to increase. The development of digital service channels will positively affect the growing banking penetration in Tanzania, giving more Tanzanians access to much-needed formal financial services.

Credit extension by banks to the Private

sector is showing growth, with the June 2022 Bank of Tanzania reports showing a growth of 20% in the credit extension to the Private Sector compared to growth recorded in June 2021, which was 10.2%. We attribute this growth to the general recovery in economic activity and the accommodative policies that the GoT and the Bank of Tanzania have pursued.

Tanzania has so many banks with stiff market competition. What factors are driving NBC to remain among the largest banks?

We have more than 50 years of experience in the commercial banking industry in Tanzania. Over these years, we have provided banking solutions to all customer segments from individuals, corporations, and Public Sector Institutions. We have a strong capital base to support the credit needs of our customers. We are a universal bank offering tailor-made solutions for Transactional Banking, Working Capital, Investment Banking, and financial advisory to our customers.

Our service provision network is designed conveniently around Branches, ATMs, Point of Sale (POS) machines, Mobile banking platforms, Electronic & Internet banking, and more than 9,000 NBC Wakala agents. We indeed live our slogan of being "Conveniently everywhere."

As a long-standing corporate citizen of this country, our corporate social responsibility program is at the center of our strategy. For instance, our annual charity event, the NBC Dodoma Marathon, is meant to raise awareness as well as funds towards the fight against cervical cancer in Tanzania. For those who don't know, cervical cancer accounts for more cancer-related deaths among women in Tanzania. Tanzanians love soccer. We at NBC take pride in our sponsorship of the Tanzania main soccer league, "The NBC Premier League," which has since evolved from a sports sponsorship to an economic inclusion platform through direct and indirect employment within the soccer value chain.

Many banks are now intensifying their investments in digital banking services in support to physical branches presence. How has NBC Bank gone through digital transformation?

We have evolved to be driven by customer needs. As such, we have continued to invest in mobile banking transactional capabilities, Electronic as well as internet banking. Our customer service network is expanding with the addition of new Branches, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), POS machines, and well as Agency

Banking.

You will be surprised to learn that a deposit or withdrawal transactions in our banking halls is paperless. This has been well received by our customers. With the investment in technology, we can open a bank account remotely within five minutes.

Gender balance in employment is now the global agenda. How is NBC Bank implementing this agenda in its recruitment processes?

NBC is an equal opportunity employer. We believe in diversity and inclusiveness and consider it to be important towards the success of any business. Currently 47 percent of all our employees are women.

We have a special women empowerment program called NBC Women Network Forum that nurtures women into managerial prowess through mentorships and career guidance. The forum is also a platform for imparting financial knowledge to women around the country. Through this program we aim to increase the number of Women colleagues in Leadership positions across the Bank.

The NBC Women Network Forum also looks at diversity within the wider society, with a view to improve financial inclusion and economic development for all segments of the community. Last year, the forum organized a special investment seminar for Tanzania Women Members of Parliament to equip them with financial and investment knowledge that will then be cascaded to women in their constituencies.

What are NBC Bank's medium and long-term business plans?

We look to increase our market share through provision of banking solutions that meet the needs of our customers.

Growing our customer base is a key part of our strategy going forward. We have historically been associated with the major industrial developments in the country; we will continue to play a significant role in the economy.

Ecobank wins best place to work in Africa 2022 award

By Guardian Correspondent, Lomé,

Ecobank Group, the leading pan-African bank, has won the highly coveted Best Place to Work in Africa 2022 Award from the Best Place to Work organisation.

The Award honours organisations that exhibit the highest standards of excellence in Human Resources (HR) practices and employees' experience. Ecobank is the first Pan-African bank to have been awarded the certification.

Ade Ayeyemi, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group, said: "At Ecobank, we recognise that our people are our greatest asset. As a pan-African bank, we are intentional in deploying resources to attract, develop and retain the right talent. We actively provide the tools and processes to achieve a performance-driven culture and enabling environment. Receiving international recognition as being one of the Best Places to Work in Africa is a great honour. It is noteworthy that this Award would not have been possible without the support of my colleague Ecobankers."

The certification programme involves rigorous assessment and rankings based on the results of robust and objective assessments carried out at various hierarchical levels and across HR operations and procedures. It includes HR Assess-



ment and an Employee Assessment Survey.

Areas covered include HR practices, compensation, benefits, leadership, teamwork, employee engagement and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Yves Mayilamene, Group Executive, Human Resources at Ecobank, commented: "We support and empower our talent to excel in an enabling and conducive working environment while investing in their growth and well-being. At Ecobank, we always seek to provide our staff with opportunities to advance and achieve their full potential through our learning and development

initiatives. This Best Place to Work Award is a tribute to our Ecobankers' commitment to exhibiting and living our values, as well as creating the right corporate culture."

The assessment process resulted in the Ecobank Group achieving a total certification score of 79% - any percentage above 75% is considered high. The certification of the Best Place to Work accreditation is for one year (November 2022-November 2023).

Best Places to Work certified organisations tend to outperform the market average in terms of driving consistent long-term business performance through

high employee engagement, engaging leadership and talent focus. Becoming a certified organisation means employees are inspired, engaged and motivated to do their best, everyday and everywhere.

During the celebration event, Peter Burke, President of Best Companies Group, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Ecobank by emphasising on the uniqueness of this Award that strengthens the Ecobank Employer Brand. He added: "You are being recognised for creating workplaces where your employees love to come to work. You are the envy of all other employers. Keep

up the good work."

The Best Places to Work certification is a globally recognised flagship employer of choice programme and is delivered in partnership with Best Companies Group. The Best Company Group is a well-established US company focused on identifying and recognising best employers in over 60 countries around the world.

In Africa, there were 29 Best Places to Work organisations recognised in 2022. These include Alsa, eHealth Africa, Hilti, IHS, Ooredoo and Pharma 5. Some global companies with operations in Africa - such as AstraZeneca, Dell, Nestlé and Roche - were also among the winners.

The Best Place to Work in Africa Award followed another significant recognition for Ecobank as the Best Employer Brand in Africa, from the Africa Best Employer Brand Awards 2022. It honours the top organisations in Africa who are exemplary in HR.

The judges for this Award considered business progress based on public available information and many aspects of People/HR strategies including Talent Management and Development; Diversity and Inclusion; Women Empowerment; Promoting and Managing Health in the workplace; and CSR Initiatives.

Huawei Tanzania office named among top employers in global ranking in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has enhanced its status as a top employer in the country proving its operational and management superiority in the local context.

This is according to the Top Employers Institute's rankings, which place the technology company as one of the top employers in a global ranking.

The Top Employers Institute program certifies organizations based on the participation and results of their HR Best Practices Survey. This survey covers six HR domains consisting of 20 topics including People Strategy, Work Environment, Talent Acquisition, Learning, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Well-being, and more. The Top Employer Institute program has certified and recognized 2053 Top Employers in 121 countries/regions across five continents.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend on the recognition, Huawei Tanzania, Human Resource Director Wangyue said "the recognition was yet another testimony of the value we accord our employees, our commitment to providing the best working environment for our people".

"The value of employees is pivotal as they are our greatest asset and the source of our success story. Our Tanzania office's rise into the top 20 Top Employers in Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly noteworthy."

"This award should make our employees in Tanzania proud as they are working for a Top Employer who is recognized in Africa. Our employees are of great value and our policies and processes have



Huawei Tanzania employees

been tailored to assist our employees to grow, enjoy the environment in which they work, and above all give them the motivation to become better with each passing day. Developing the local employees is key to Huawei's global strategy, being certified as a Top Employer showcases Huawei's dedication to a better world of work and excellent people practices," adds Wangyue

Commenting on the achievement, Huawei Southern Africa Human Resource Director, Mr. Yu Chen said the company is so proud to have a growing number of Huawei offices across the Sub-Saharan region recognized as top

employers, as well as to have seen improved rankings in several markets.

"We're proud to have seen improvements in our rating for employee wellness, which is due to our programs for staff physical and mental health," added Chen.

According to Chen, Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa has seen the number of country offices represented in the Top Employer Institute's Top Employer rankings rise from 9 to 11. The increased representation in the prestigious annual rankings is a testament to the work Huawei has put into employee well-being across the region over the past 12 months.

He further noted that Huawei has also worked hard on

diversity and inclusion, implementing programs aimed at fostering a more unified workplace. Additionally, it has sought to increase its senior local professional experts and appointments.

While these gains are commendable, Chen recognizes that Huawei will keep building its reputation as a Top Employer. One area that continues to be a major focus is building ICT skills, which remain scarce across the region.

"We remain dedicated to addressing this challenge, focusing primarily on skills transfer and training," Chen says, adding: "Across the region, we have a number of industry-leading intern and graduate programs aimed at

developing our ICT Talent Ecosystem."

"At Huawei, we look forward to these initiatives bearing fruit in the coming months and years as we cement our status as a top employer. Ultimately, however, the well-being of our employees remains our primary motivation for evolving as an employer. Our staff have always been, and will continue to be our greatest asset."

CEO of Top Employers Institute, David Plink says, "Exceptional times bring out the best in people and organizations. And we have witnessed this in our Top Employers Certification Programme this year: exceptional performance from the certified Top Employers 2023."

Credit Suisse's private bank halts margin loans on Adani bonds

HONG KONG

Credit Suisse Group AG has stopped accepting bonds of Gautam Adani's group of companies as collateral for margin loans to its private banking clients, a sign that scrutiny of the Indian tycoon's finances is growing after allegations of fraud by short seller Hindenburg Research.

The Swiss lender's private banking arm has assigned a zero lending value for notes sold by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Green Energy and Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd., according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing private information.

It had previously offered a lending value of about 75 percent for the Adani Ports notes, one of the people said.

Other banks continue to lend against Adani debt. At least two European private banks kept the level unchanged as of now, with one of those offering lending of between 75 percent to 80 percent for Adani Ports dollar bonds, according to the people. A potential trigger for lowering could be any rating downgrade, one of the people said.

When a private bank cuts lending value to zero, clients typically have to top up with cash or another form of collateral and if they fail to do so, their securities can be liquidated.

A Credit Suisse spokeswoman didn't immediately comment. A representative at Adani Group said it has no relationship with Credit Suisse's private bank.

The corporate empire of Adani, Asia's richest man, was thrown into turmoil after Hindenburg Research alleged in a report that the group used a web of firms in tax havens to overstate revenue and stock prices. Bonds of the group plumed record lows after the allegations, though they've since recouped some losses after Adani Enterprises Ltd. completed a \$2.5 billion share sale with support from existing shareholders and institutional investors.

Adani Green Energy's dollar bonds maturing in 2024 were trading at 81.2 cents on the dollar, up 5.7 cents on the previous day, while the Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone bonds maturing in 2027 climbed 1.4 cent to 82 cents on the dollar on Wednesday as of 1:47 p.m. in Hong Kong. The former's bonds are rated Ba3 by Moody's, while the latter's bonds are rated Baa3.

Declines in Adani's shares resumed on Wednesday, with Adani Enterprises falling as much as 4.5%. The combined market value slump at the group's listed units now exceeds more than \$70 billion since the Hindenburg report was released.

Wealthy clients in Asia often take on leverage against securities to make investments. Banks typically consider the volatility of a security's price and its credit rating among factors when determining lending values.

Private banks late last year curbed margin funding on bonds of China property developers as that sector ran into turmoil. After Russia invaded Ukraine and sanctions were imposed, some banks cut the amount they would loan their private bank customers against Russian debt.

Credit Suisse, which is undergoing a strategic revamp of its investment bank following a slew of scandals and overhauls, has warned it faces losses of up to 1.5 billion Swiss francs (\$1.6 billion) for the final three months of 2022,

BANKING&FINANCE

European debt sales break January record in tricky year

FRANKFURT

European borrowers sold a record 280 billion euros (\$304 billion) of debt in January, in a jump outpacing US peers, to take advantage of tumbling borrowing costs and better-than-expected economic conditions.

It is an encouraging sign for governments and corporates having to navigate higher interest rates, and for countries needing to borrow more to back energy subsidies amid the spectre of central banks offloading massive bond holdings. But bankers

that sell the debt remain cautious.

January's figures follow a year that saw the biggest jump in government borrowing costs in decades - from the United States to Asia and Europe - as inflation soared.

"Everything that we've seen so far indicates 2023 is not going to be as difficult as people feared it would be," said Philip Brown, managing director, sovereign capital markets at Citic.

Borrowers raised a record 278 billion euros from euro and sterling syndicated debt

sales in January, up 10 percent from the same month last year, data from Refinitiv to Monday shows.

In contrast, bond sales in the United States - the world's largest debt market - were roughly unchanged at \$408 billion in January versus a year ago, the data shows.

Global debt sales overall were down over 10 percent from January 2022 at \$992 billion, which excludes government auctions.

Europe stood out as borrowers made the most of improved sentiment. Falling

energy prices have pushed euro area inflation down and business activity is holding up, raising hopes that recession may be avoided.

"Overall versus last year there is more appetite from both global and European investors to invest in European businesses," said Jonathan Owen, portfolio manager at TwentyFour Asset Management. He noted that US debt sales had fared stronger last year than in Europe.

Bankers said brightening sentiment and

sharply lower borrowing costs helped some European borrowers accelerate funding plans.

Germany's 10-year bond yield has fallen 25 basis points in January, one of the biggest drops at the start of the year on record.

"We weren't necessarily making plans to issue in the very first week of January, absolutely not," said Rui Amaral, an official at Portugal's debt agency, which sold a 15-year bond on Jan. 5 directly to end-investors via banks.

WORLD

Britain's Sunak defends Brexit as outlook dims

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday defended Brexit, insisting that leaving the European Union had brought significant achievements and offered a "huge opportunity", as the International Monetary Fund slashed the country's growth outlook.

"In the three years since leaving the EU, we've made huge strides in harnessing the freedoms unlocked by Brexit to tackle generational challenges," Sunak said in a statement ahead of Tuesday's three-year anniversary since the country formally left the EU.

He said Brexit was a "huge opportunity to deliver" on his priorities on growth, employment and social mobility.

The prime minister, who will also mark 100 days in office this week, said the United Kingdom had "forged a path as an independent nation with confidence" and "that momentum hasn't slowed".

He said this included Europe's fastest vaccine rollout, trade deals with 70 countries and "taking back control of

our borders".

The statement came as Sunak faces numerous challenges, with thousands of UK workers launching waves of strike action over pay outpaced by soaring inflation as the cost of living crisis hits millions.

On Tuesday, British grocery inflation hit a record 16.7 percent in the four weeks to Jan 22, dealing another blow to consumers battling the cost-of-living crisis, industry data showed.

A YouGov poll last week found 63 percent think the government is handling the issue of Brexit badly.

In a jargon-heavy statement, Sunak said progress had been made in "a range of key growth areas".

He cited economic reforms, including the opening of free ports that exist outside normal tax and customs territory, as well as regulatory reforms to the financial sector.

On Tuesday, the IMF said in its forecast that Britain is the only Group of Seven nation to have suffered a cut to its 2023 economic growth outlook, adding pressure on Jeremy Hunt, the chancel-



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

lor of the exchequer, to come up with a growth plan.

Britain's flagging economy now looks set to shrink by 0.6 percent this year, a sharp downgrade from previously expected growth of 0.3 percent in the IMF's last forecast in October.

All other G7 economies are predicted to grow this year, mostly at a stronger pace than the IMF forecast three months ago.

Multiple pressures

The IMF said Britain would struggle with a combination of factors, including higher taxes announced by Hunt late last year as he tried to restore the confidence of investors after former

prime minister Liz Truss' mini-Budget in September.

Britain had also been hit particularly hard by the surge in gas prices amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict as it relied on gas for much of its power generation, and it faced a shortage of workers too that was holding back the economy, the IMF said.

"All these factors taken together lead to a fairly sharp retrenchment of activity in 2023," IMF's chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said.

Hunt said nearly all advanced economies were facing headwinds, and that past forecasts from a range of bodies including the IMF had proved too gloomy about Britain's prospects.

Blinken wraps up visit to Jerusalem, West Bank, with little progress in ending Israeli-Palestinian violence

JERUSALEM/GAZA

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken concluded his visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank on Tuesday, with little progress made in de-escalating the Israeli-Palestinian tensions, experts said.

Blinken's trip, during which he met with leaders of Israel's new right-wing government and the Palestinian Authority (PA), came amid escalating violence between Israelis and the Palestinians. Since the start of 2023, Israeli forces have killed at least 35 Palestinians, making January one of the most deadly months in the West Bank in recent years.

Most casualties occurred during Israeli military raids, which Israel says aimed to detain Palestinian militants. In retaliation, a shooting attack launched by a Palestinian gunman outside a synagogue in an Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem claimed the lives of seven people on Friday night.

On Monday, Blinken held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem and other senior officials before traveling on Tuesday to the West Bank city of Ramallah to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

In both places, Blinken urged de-escalating the tensions and renewed the call

for a two-state solution to the conflict. "The rising tide of violence has resulted in the loss of many innocent lives on both sides," he told reporters in Jerusalem. "All sides must take steps to prevent further escalation of violence."

The top U.S. diplomat's trip failed to offer any new initiative to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Michael Milshtein, an expert from the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at the Tel Aviv University, told Xinhua.

Milshtein said the Israeli government was hopeful that Blinken will exert pressure on Abbas to renew the security coordination between the PA and Israel.

The PA decided on Jan. 26 to end security coordination with Israel in response to an Israeli military raid in the West Bank city of Jenin, in which Israeli forces killed ten Palestinians. The security coordination, which is criticized by many Palestinians, has led to the arrests of some Palestinians who were allegedly planning attacks against Israelis.

In a statement issued after meeting with Blinken, Abbas made no indication he was going to resume the coordination.

He accused Israel of violating Palestinians' rights,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attend a press conference in Jerusalem, on Monday. Xinhua

promoting annexation of the West Bank, and demolishing Palestinian homes -- moves that pose further hurdles to achieving a peace deal. "We have found that the Israeli government is responsible for what's happening these days," Abbas said. Assaf Meydani, a professor at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy of the Reichman University in Herzliya, told Xinhua that "negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the current situation is impossible, even the United States knows it."

On the other hand, Blinken's visit also had limited impact on the Israeli side, which

has a new hawkish government that is unlikely to dial down its position against the Palestinians. "The situation inside Israel makes the current government go to more 'extreme' to ensure its survival for the longest possible period, and therefore it will continue to escalate, and in return, there will be a Palestinian reaction," said Ghassan al-Khatib, a political science professor at the Birzeit University in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The visit, which marked the first meeting between Blinken and Netanyahu since the latter returned to office in December as the leader of a new right-wing government, was seen as

part of Washington's efforts to navigate through the differences between the Biden administration and the new Israeli government.

His trip followed the visits to Jerusalem by Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and CIA Director William Burns earlier in January.

Al-Khatib also noted that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not a priority for the U.S. as its attention is occupied by "other internal and external issues." The Palestinians have repeatedly called on Washington, as Blinken promised in 2021, to reopen the U.S. consulate for Palestinians in Jerusalem and the PLO office in Washington.

AfDB commits to support climate-resilient farming in Africa

NAIROBI

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) will dedicate greater resources to promote climate-smart agriculture in the continent, tackle food insecurity and boost rural incomes, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Pascal Sanginga, the regional sector manager for Agriculture and Agro-Industries at AfDB, said the lender has earmarked additional funding to ensure African smallholder farmers have access to skills, technology and inputs required to withstand climatic stresses.

The Pan African lender has committed to earmark an average of 2 billion U.S. dollars annually in the near term to promote climate-smart agriculture in the continent through irrigation, water harvesting, enhanced market linkages, infrastructure upgrade and access to improved seeds.

"As we strive to support Africa to become food sufficient and more resilient, the mainstreaming of green growth in our funding portfolio and investments has taken center stage," Sanginga said during a forum on promoting climate adaptation for smallholder agriculture in the eastern African region through leveraging digital tools held in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Senior policymakers and researchers from 13 East and Horn of African States attending the forum discussed innovation and digital tools that can be adopted at the smallholder level to strengthen the resilience of food systems in the face of an unfolding climate crisis.

Convened by the AfDB and the Global Center on Adaptation, an international organization working as a solutions broker to accelerate action and support for adaptation solutions, the forum will also foster knowledge and experience sharing in order to boost the uptake of climate-smart farming practices in a continent reeling from hunger and malnutrition linked to recurrent droughts.

Sanginga noted that the lender's flagship initiatives such as Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) launched in 2018 have scaled up access to climate-smart agricultural technologies in diverse agroecological zones in the continent.

An estimated 12 million African farmers have produced 25 million metric tons of food since the launch of the initiative which has facilitated the seamless provision of technologies that promote climate-resilient cultivation of key staples, Sanginga said.

He added the just concluded Dakar Summit on Food Sovereignty, held in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, on Jan. 25-27, generated new momentum toward climate-resilient farming in the continent as a means to overcome poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Canada potentially downgrading ties with Moscow cannot be excluded, envoy says

OTTAWA

RUSSIA does not rule out that Canada could decide to downgrade the level of diplomatic relations, but Moscow will not initiate a similar move, Russian Ambassador to Canada Oleg Stepanov told TASS on Tuesday.



"Nothing can be excluded. If that happens, it will not be on our initiative, because we never initiate moves that could damage the interests of countries or peoples," Stepanov (pictured) assured. He also said that while keeping in mind what happened to its embassies in the Baltic states Russia would maintain communication with Canada as long as the North American country sticks to the spirit and principles of diplomacy.

According to Stepanov, the Russian embassy and general consulates in Canada have been playing the role of official channels of communication with Canadian government agencies and providing consular services to Russian nationals living in Canada, a mission that he said could be even more important than interstate diplomacy.

Diplomatic relations have been maintained "for the strategic interests of countries and nations," the Russian envoy emphasized as he urged Russian diplomats to make Moscow's position heard among the Canadians in the media, on social networks and through personal contacts.

"We should make our position clear, as ensuring predictability is a key task of any diplomacy," Stepanov explained.

On January 23, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Moscow was downgrading diplomatic ties with Estonia in response to a significant reduction in the number of Russian embassy personnel in Tallinn and amid an overall deterioration of relations. The Estonian ambassador was ordered to leave Moscow by February 7.

After that, the Russian ambassador in Riga, Mikhail Vanin, was summoned to the Latvian Foreign Ministry, where he was notified that the level of diplomatic relations with Russia would be downgraded starting from February 24.

UK set for biggest strike in years by teachers, civil servants

LONDON

UP to half a million British teachers, civil servants, train drivers and university lecturers will strike on Wednesday in the largest coordinated action in a generation which the government says will cause widespread disruption.

The mass walkouts will see schools close, the military on standby to help at Britain's borders, and no rail services running across much of the country.

Union leaders estimate up to 500,000 people will take part, the highest number for at least a decade, and there will be rallies

against a planned new law to curb strikes in some sectors, a proposal they argue will poison relations further.

"After years of brutal pay cuts, nurses, teachers and millions of other public servants have seen their living standards decimated - and are set to face more pay misery," said Paul Nowak, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the union umbrella group.

"Instead of scheming up new ways to attack the right to strike, ministers should get pay rising across the economy - starting with a decent pay rise for workers

across the public sector."

The government says "mitigations" will be in place but the strikes would have a significant impact.

"We are up front that this will disrupt people's lives, and that is why we think that negotiations rather than picket lines are the right approach," Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson told reporters.

With inflation running at more than 10 percent - the highest level for four decades - Britain has seen a wave of strikes from health and transport workers to Amazon warehouse employees and Royal

Mail postal staff.

They are demanding above-inflation pay rises to cover rocketing food and energy bills that they say has left them stressed, feeling under-valued and struggling to make ends meet.

Yesterday, about 300,000 teachers will take action, along with 100,000 civil servants from more than 120 government departments, and tens of thousands of university lecturers and rail workers.

Next week, nurses, ambulance staff, paramedics, emergency call handlers and other healthcare workers are set to stage more walkouts, while firefighters this week

also backed a nationwide strike.

'Most days lost for 30 years'

Between June and November, more days were lost to industrial action than in any six months for over 30 years, according to official data.

An Ipsos poll released on Wednesday suggested the public was divided on the multiple strike action, with 40 percent supporting the action and 38 percent opposed.

Sunak's government has so far taken a hard line with public sector strikes, saying that to give in to demands for large wage increases would only fuel inflation.

But with his governing Conservatives trailing the opposition Labour Party by some 25 percentage points in polls, the industrial action is adding to Sunak's political woes, and surveys indicate the public think the government have handled the strikes badly.

So far the economy has not taken a major hit from the industrial action with the cost of the strikes in the eight months to January estimated by consultancy firm the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) at about 1.7 billion pounds (\$2.09 billion), or about 0.1 percent of expected GDP.

Agencies

Russian envoy blames US for raising tensions around New START

WASHINGTON

MOSCOW has been irrefragably observing the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) and responsibility for the escalation of the treaty issues lies entirely with Washington, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said.

The envoy was asked to comment on the US Department of State's report, which accused Russia of violating the treaty's terms but noted that Moscow could return to compliance by allowing inspections on its soil and agreeing to a meeting of the Bilateral Consultative Commission.

Antonov (pictured) pointed out that "first of all, it is noteworthy how quickly this annual report has been prepared." "Its previous versions, which did not contain 'sensational' accusations, were usually published in April or even later," he added.

"This year, against the backdrop of a frenzied confrontation with Russia initiated by the West, the Administration has been clearly eager to throw at us yet another set of unfounded claims in the area of arms control. And for the first time ever - regarding New START which our country has been irrefragably observing for all these years.

Unlike, by the way, Washington, on whose conscience lies the illegitimate removal of more than a hundred strategic weapons from the accountability under the Treaty," Antonov stated, as cited by the Embassy's press service. He stressed that "these actions concern the central limits of New START, undermining the key goal of the agreement - to maintain the balance of the parties' strategic offensive arms."

"As for the substance of the accusations regarding the temporary exemption of the Russian strategic facilities from the Treaty inspection regime and the postponed session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission, they follow the traditional US pattern. Washington refuses to see the root causes of the problem, shifting the blame to others," the Russian envoy emphasized.

He noted that Moscow had repeatedly "pointed out to the [US] Administration that the situation with New START is a direct result of the hybrid war unleashed by the West against our country." "We have warned that arms control cannot be isolated from geopolitical realities. In the current circumstances we consider it unjustified, untimely and inappropriate to invite the US military to our strategic facilities," the ambassador added.

"At the same time, Russia remains committed to the goals of the New START Treaty and continues to regard it as a useful instrument for maintaining strategic stability and ensuring predictability in relations between the major nuclear powers. We intend to continue observing the central limits of the Treaty and exchanging notifications and relevant data," Antonov said.

"Responsibility for the escalation of the New START issues lies entirely with Washington. There can be no progress on arms control without the United States reconsidering its policy of inflicting strategic defeat on Russia," the envoy concluded.

Suspension of inspections

Various restrictions imposed by the United States and its allies against Moscow make Russian inspections under New START impossible, Antonov said in response to a TASS question in August. According to him, the lack of regular flights between Russia and the US, the closure of airspace to Russian aircraft by US allies and problems in obtaining transit visas for inspectors and flight crews "created conditions, which impede, if not block, our ability to conduct inspections on the US territory."

Currently, the situation is not conducive for setting a new date for a session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission on New START, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said earlier in the month.

Moscow and Washington inked the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) in 2010. The document stipulates that seven years after its entry into force, each party should have no more than a total of 700 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and strategic bombers, as well as no more than 1,550 warheads on them, and a total of 800 deployed and non-deployed ICBM launchers, SLBM launchers and strategic bombers. Russia and the US extended the ten-year treaty for another five years in February 2021.

Donald Trump's fundraising for presidential bid sees modest start

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump's bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024 got off to a modest fundraising start, with his campaign ending the year with about \$7 million on hand while his Save America fund had about \$18 million, according to financial disclosures released on Tuesday.

After launching his third consecutive run for the White House on Nov 15, a week after a weaker-than-expected Republican performance in midterm congressional elections, the former US President did little campaigning, not hitting the trail until this Saturday.

Tuesday's filings with the Federal Election Commission suggest that Trump's fundraising was also sluggish, leaving him with a far smaller war chest than the more than \$100 million Save America had on hand through early 2022.

Trump (pictured) remained a prodigious fundraiser after leaving office in January 2021, holding regular rallies in which he repeated his false claims that his loss to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of widespread fraud.

But the Save America group that served as his main fundraising arm was registered to fund other campaigns, not Trump's own. That poses legal problems if Trump seeks to use Save America funds on his own campaign.

Last year Save America transferred some \$60 million to a pro-Trump Super PAC group which is expected to support his presidential run. The Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan watchdog group, has asked election regulators to probe Save America's money transfers.

Save America's financial disclosure on Tuesday showed the group spent more than \$3 million on lawyer fees in the final weeks of the 2022.

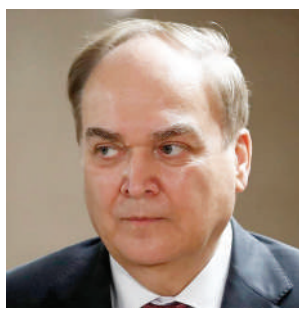
Trump remains the Republican party's most popular figure and is the only major candidate to have declared his intention to challenge Biden, who has not yet formally launched his own reelection campaign. But Trump could face challenges for the nomination, notably Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

He also faces a series of legal risks, including a possible investigation into hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels during his 2016 presidential campaign.

Trump on Saturday visited two early-voting states and held notably muted events. In contrast to the raucous rallies in front of thousands of devotees that Trump has held in the past, he spoke to about 200 people in South Carolina's capitol building.

In its disclosure to election regulators, Trump's official campaign committee reported raising \$3.8 million between Nov 15 and Dec 31, ending the year with \$3 million in the bank.

Most of that money was raised through another Trump fundraising group called the Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee, which reported having an additional \$3.8 million in the bank at the end of the year.



CAIRO

THE United States is attempting to enhance its presence in the Middle East through visits and military cooperation.

However, its influence on the region has been dwindling due to decades-long wars wreaking havoc on regional peace and development, its "unfair policies" on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and other factors, Egyptian analysts said.

In the name of democracy and freedom, the United States has waged cruel wars in the Middle East, causing huge casualties and displacing a huge number of people.

Observers believe U.S. military intervention has nothing to do with its so-called democracy, but aims for its own global and regional hegemony.

The "main reasons for the U.S. pursuit of rebuilding a new Middle East" are to benefit from the large oil reserves in the region, control international navigation lines, and secure Israel; and the United States has been trying to achieve its goals through falsely spreading the principles of democracy and freedom, Egyptian political expert Akram Hossam told Xinhua recently.

The United States is obsessed with maintaining a unipolar system by maximizing its military and political power. And its failed military intervention in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen has destroyed its image as a democracy, he said.

"The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq dealt a blow to U.S. democratic theories and showed that the Western power could use power and interventions unwisely to the extent it causes instability," he added.

The U.S. botched retreat from Afghanistan, as well as its military withdrawal from Iraq and Syria, signaled that Washington had stumbled over its Mideast policies, said Hamid Faris, an international relations professor at Misr University for Science and Technology.

The Mideast policies pursued by



the current White House are of difference from the former administrations. Despite the wars in the region, the United States has never achieved security, stability and prosperity as it had promised, Faris added.

Despite calling for a resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the United States as a one-sided mediator has no way to increase chances of securing a peace deal, according to analysts.

In the eyes of Palestinians, the United States has been flagrantly backing Israel's assaults. Former U.S. President Donald Trump, in particular, orchestrated the transfer of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and cut aid for the main UN programme for Palestinian refugees, Hossam said.

On Monday, Egyptian President

Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry discussed with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken the ongoing escalation of tensions between Palestine and Israel.

As part of his three-day Mideast trip, Blinken arrived in Israel on Monday to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before traveling to Ramallah to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday.

His visit seems to ease the tensions on the surface; nonetheless, assuming a weak and unfair mediating role, his country has not presented anything new to serve the Palestinian cause in the past few years, according to Hossam and Faris.

Faris described Washington as one of the struggling parties, but not

a broker of a fair settlement based on the two-state solution.

Mokhtar Gobashy, vice chairman of Cairo-based Arab Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, doesn't expect the U.S. diplomat's visit to bring tangible results for the settlement of the decades-old Palestinian-Israeli conflict, though it "might lead to a surface calm for the interest of Israel."

Washington is reassessing its role in the Middle East amid changing geopolitical landscapes and "is keener now to return to fill in a political vacuum in the Middle East," Gobashy said. **Xinhua**

Chinese New Year holiday mirrors strong economic vitality of China

A rebound in travel and consumption during the 2023 Spring Festival illustrates the resilience of the Chinese economy.

The 2023 Spring Festival was the first public holiday held since China downgraded its management of COVID-19 from Class A to Class B on Jan 8.

Spring Festival couplets, temple fairs and Chinese New Year decorations were seen everywhere, bringing back the Spring Festival vibes that people missed in the past a few years.

The increasing numbers of orders received by enterprises, expanded production capacity, rebound of the catering industry and recovery of the tourism sector all indicated accelerated resumption of work and life.

People were seen returning home by high-speed rail, by plane and by bus to reunite with their families and friends. The Spring Festival travel rush, also known as "the largest annual human migration on earth", was in place again.

During the 2023 Spring Festival, the Beijing Daxing International Airport opened all of its nearly 200 gate positions, and over 40 flights landed on and took off from the airport every hour. Besides, the airport was seeing over 110,000 passengers per day on average during the festival.

At the Zhengzhou East Railway Station, a big hub of China's high-speed rail in Henan province, 120,000 passengers were seen taking trains each day during the Spring Festival holiday.

During the week-long holiday which started on Jan. 21 and ended on Jan. 27, about 226 million railway, road, waterway and air passenger trips were made in China, obviously higher from a year ago.

The Chinese movie box office made a strong comeback.



Photo taken on Jan. 27, 2023 shows tourists visiting Shanghai Disneyland theme park. (Photo by Wang Chu/People's Daily Online)

At 10:00 am on Jan. 22, the first day of the Chinese New Year, the tickets of many showings at a cinema in Huaxian county, Henan province, were already sold out.

"Fortunately I booked my tickets yesterday," said citizen Xu Yan who went to the cinema to watch movies, adding that a number of blockbusters were hitting the theaters during the Spring Festival holiday.

According to statistics released by China Film Administration on Jan. 28, China's movie box office revenue reached nearly 6.76 billion yuan (about \$998.5 million) during the Spring Festival holiday this year, making for the second-highest gross figures for this holiday to date.

The Chinese consumer market was booming.

In Yujiang district, Yingtan, east China's Jiangxi province, a home appliance store launched a grand promotional event and attracted large numbers of consumers. "Consumers can get a 300-yuan voucher for every payment of 3,000 yuan," said Chen Zhihua, who shopped at the store, adding that the promotion saved him

600 yuan.

During the Chinese New Year holiday, the 480 stores of Wanda Plaza, a Chinese commercial building chain, saw a total of 160 million visits and reported revenue of 12.68 billion yuan. Both figures hit a record high in history. Tourist attractions across China were crowded.

"I finally made the trip that I have dreamed about so long," said tourist Zhang Yile in the Harbin Ice-Snow World in northeast Heilongjiang province, where splendid ice sculptures were on display.

During the holiday, beaches in Sanya, south China's Hainan province were packed, and the Grand Tang Dynasty Ever Bright City, a commercial pedestrian street in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province, had to set restrictions on the number of visitors because of the huge influx of tourists. Besides, the outbound tourism market was also on a fast recovery.

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region received over 4.78 million visits during this year's Spring Festival holiday, up 32.79 percent year on year, according to the re-

gional culture and tourism department.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism estimated that 308 million domestic trips were made in China during this year's Spring Festival holiday, up 23.1 percent year on year, recovering to 88.6 percent of the 2019 level.

"The demand for catering, accommodation, traveling, tourism and entertainment released fast during the Spring Festival holiday, which led to obvious recovery of the offline retailing, catering and hospitality, and culture and tourism industries. It demonstrated the strong resilience and huge opportunities of the Chinese market," said Yang Guangpu, associate researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council. **People's Daily**



Lugalo Golf Club Ladies' captain, Hawa Wanyache.

Women ought to play golf-call

By Correspondent Shufaa Lyimo

DAR ES SALAAM's Lugalo Golf Club Ladies' captain Hawa Wanyache has asked Tanzanian women to come out to play golf instead of focusing on less productive engagements.

Speaking to The Guardian in the city recently, she said that golf is a sport as is the case with other games, so women should hardly be afraid of it because it will help them secure employment, as well as promote their country elsewhere.

"I advise my fellow women to join this game, this is employment and it moreover improves health," Hawa pointed out.

The Lugalo Golf Club Ladies' skipper said she was pleased with the competition shown by female golfers in this season's Johnnie Walker Waitara Trophy tournament which was held at the Lugalo Golf Club last month, with various winners being presented with prizes.

"I am happy to see that many women have come to the Waitara Trophy tournament which ended last month. I believe that there will be an increase in the number of women in the next competition to develop this sport," she revealed.

Golf is a club-and-ball sport in which players use various clubs to hit balls into a series of holes on a course in as few strokes as possible.

Golf, unlike most ball games, cannot and does not use a standardized playing area, and coping with the varied terrains encountered on dif-

ferent courses is a key part of the game.

Courses typically have either 18 or 9 holes, regions of terrain that each contain a cup, the hole that receives the ball.

Each hole on a course contains a teeing ground to start from, and a putting green containing the cup.

There are several standard forms of terrain between the tee and the green, such as the fairway, rough (tall grass), and various hazards such as water, rocks, or sand-filled bunkers. Each hole on a course is unique in its specific layout.

Golf is played for the lowest number of strokes by an individual, known as stroke play, or the lowest score on the most individual holes in a complete round by an individual or team, known as match play.

Stroke play is the most commonly seen format at all levels, especially at the elite level.

The modern game of golf originated in 15th-century Scotland. The 18-hole round was created at the Old Course at St Andrews in 1764.

Golf's first major, and the world's oldest tournament in existence, is The Open Championship, also known as the British Open, which was first played in 1860 at the Prestwick Golf Club in Ayrshire, Scotland.

This is one of the four major championships in men's professional golf, the other three being played in the United States, The Masters, the U.S. Open, and the PGA Championship.

Culture, Arts officials urged to promote artists

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

DEPUTY Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pauline Gekul has directed all culture officers in Tanzania to effectively supervise the culture and arts fund to ensure all artists in their respective areas get loans through the fund.

Pauline issued the directives in Dodoma last week while winding up the National Arts and Culture officers workshop held in the region.

The Deputy Minister called on culture officers to effectively implement their duties of developing arts and culture in the country.

"Everyone must be aware of the arts and cultural activities are done in his or her area of administration... artists ought to be educated on how the Culture and Arts Fund will boost their works through loans, refunding, and other procedures to be followed," she said.

Pauline also insisted that the officers should supervise ethics and deal with immorality in communities by promoting patriotism.

According to Deputy Minister, the officers ought to visit schools and ensure that pupils and students are aware of the importance of the national anthem and it should be sung correctly.

She further asked them to supervise the collection of the government's long-standing debts whilst abiding by financial regulations and guidelines.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Said Yakub, had earlier explained that a total of 119 culture and arts officials had attended the workshop.

He said among others the specific objectives of the workshop will help in improving culture and arts officials' execution of their duties.

The workshop's participants were trained on improved culture and art guidelines, regulations, and acts for the benefit of the sector.

National Arts Council (BASATA) Executive Secretary, Kedmon Mapana, said the two-day workshop will further seek to solve revenue loss and vouch for effective supervision of culture and arts at the regional level.

TFF must get next Taifa Stars' coach choice right

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national football team, Taifa Stars, is currently without a head coach, and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) officials have said they are in the hunt to fill the vacancy with a new man.

Taifa Stars will have a new head coach following the departure of interim head coach, Honour Janza.

The Zambian gaffer had been appointed on an interim basis after the sacking of Danish tactician Kim Poulsen.

Poulsen was demoted to the national junior teams following Tanzania's 1-0 home loss to Uganda in the qualifiers for the 2023 African Nations Championships (CHAN) played in Dar es Salaam in August last year.

The Danish coach was appointed in February 2021, signing a three-year deal to replace Burundian Etienne Ndayiragije in what was the former's second stint with the Taifa Stars.

Poulsen's return to the Taifa Stars' head coach role sparked a series of mixed reactions from sections of the national football team supporters and well-wishers.

While some felt the Danish was the perfect candidate for the job given the fact that he is well acquainted with both Tanzania and African football, others believed he was not the ideal candidate to take the side forward as he had not achieved anything since his exit from the country's borders.

Poulsen did okay between 2012 and 2013 but his re-



Former Taifa Stars' interim head coach, Zambian Honour Janza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

turn was not inspiring, winning just seven of his 19 matches in charge.

However, there were positives including his attempt to infuse new blood into the senior national team. Having worked with the national U-17 team 'Serengeti Boys' class of 2017, he gave ample time to the likes of Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu', Dickson Job, Yohana Mkomola, Nickson Kibabage, Eric Nkosi, Kelvin Nashon, Ally Msengi, Ally Hamisi Ng'anzi, Israel Mwenda, Ramadhan Kabwili, and Aboutwalib Mshery.

While Poulsen appeared to have a long-term target of building a side that would last for years, he was always going to be judged on instant results.

Unfortunately, that is the nature of modern football, it is all about now and it came as no surprise the axe fell on Poulsen.

In came Janza who was only a part-time head coach. His main job was with Namungo FC, so, for Taifa Stars, he had nothing to lose, irrespective of how the national team performed.

The national soccer body

should not allow such an arrangement again - one that holds the Taifa Stars' head coach to no KPIs and account.

In the past five years, Taifa Stars has been handled by five different coaches, an average of one coach per year.

This trial and error appointment and firing approach to stop to get the country out of the current quagmire. TFF must get the next head coach choice right.

The incoming coach will be tasked with delivering Tanzania to the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations finals slated to take place in Ivory Coast.

Taifa Stars are in the tight group that has Niger, Uganda, and Algeria. The first task for the new head coach will come in March in a double-header against Uganda's Cranes.

Soccer stakeholders must realize that it is a difficult task for the new coach to qualify Taifa Stars for the next AFCON, especially after Poulsen drew one and lost one of his two qualifying games.

Taifa Stars need the right appointment, but is there an out-

standing candidate willing to take the position?

Tanzania cannot ill-afford to gamble as it is at real risk of falling further behind. The country's FIFA ranking speaks for itself, given the country, as far as international football is concerned, is lowly ranked.

Interestingly, in the aftermath of Poulsen's failure to deliver the AFCON and CHAN tickets, there is a section of the country's football fans who have grown disillusioned with the perceived continuous hiring and firing of foreign coaches and would like to push for a return to local appointments.

As much as some people would like to see a Tanzanian tactician given a chance to take the team forward, this job should be the pinnacle for a coach who has come through the ranks in the country and worked his way into a position where he is considered for the top job, what the country needs is a very competent coach.

A coach who will help it achieve objectives and not because he is a Tanzanian or a foreigner. TFF has to pick the best man for the job, whatever his nationality.

All soccer fanatics want is a good coach. The next Taifa Stars' head coach must be strict, have a clear philosophy, and be a man of his own without taking orders from others.

He does not necessarily have to be an experienced coach but he must be one who truly understands the game, someone who will make players understand his philosophy.

The nation needs a coach who can help identify young talents by putting in place proper guidelines to scout Tanzanians both at home and abroad.

Simba SC polls as first major test of cohesion since fifth phase clean up

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CITY football giants Simba SC were holding polls in the thick of the middle stages of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, where the league's top positions are as usual held by the outfit and its next-street rivals, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

The Msimbazi Street club is the only local side remaining in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, with their rivals surviving in the second-tier tourney, CAF Confederation Cup.

They retain the influence around the continent while being inconclusive and unreliable at home with rival club loyalties.

It appeared that Simba SC Chairman Murtaza Mangungu was facing little threat from his listed rivals by the time the polls neared, noticeably with Geoffrey Nyange 'Kaburu,' who has scarcely recovered from the fifth phase's shock investigations and prosecution.

That event, which durably prejudiced the capacity of a portion of leaders of the outgoing generation to stand, was a coincidence of powerful winds blowing locally and internationally.

At home, the fifth phase had staked its prestige in governance clean up, while the US-led inquiry into how the 2022 FIFA World Cup finals venue was handed out or voted, was at that time hobbling loyalties at FIFA.

In that case, FIFA skipped its traditions of standing by the leaders of federations



Simba SC's Chairman, Murtaza Mangungu, addresses the club's members at the Annual General Meeting and election which took place at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

authorities insisted on a majority of shares remaining with members - and implicitly the power itself.

The current polls are the first major polls in a competitive sense since the start of the company format, as when earlier polls or rather reconstitution of club leadership took place, the sponsor was in his own right a leader of the club.

As this role exposes him to plenty of contact at every level, it was likely to show too much of his sentiments for comfort, and then carry other people's errors as if they were official positions.

There was a need for a minimum separation from the roles of sponsor and club leader.

So the current polls are a remaking of the club following a new definition of investment-cum-sponsorship and leadership as such, in a situation where there is something like a gap in managerial cohesion as the CEO for the past few years is leaving.

It seems it has been a bit of a climb to who becomes the next CEO, as usually that would have been rapidly settled just as the holder of the post announces immediate or scheduled departure.

But seemingly due to club rifts, it is possible it is uncertain who makes the decision, and indeed if it was made and

then held up for some reasons, etc.

What is still being done fairly well is the recruitment of players and regular rectification of the technical bench, especially replacing the head coach if weaknesses are obvious.

This has been a point of the test and visibly cohesion has been reigning there, despite that there was a cultural tug of war as an interim local coach showed to have massive support chiefly from a string of CAF Champions League wins.

Neither at Msimbazi Street nor Jangwani Street does the top leadership believe in the local coach ideology, as upper-level tournament experience is vital, regularly seen in the UEFA circuit.

On the whole, the polls went on as expected but as preparations and holding were drawn out, reaching into the middle stages of the night results to be known, it was clear tension was on the margin.

While the relative autonomy of the members who pick leaders is now easier to take note of than was the case earlier, it remains true that the key sponsor can put the brakes on any faulty initiatives at the club leadership level.

If he fails, the model breaks down, in which case it is unavoidable that the center still holds.

Ten Hag slams Carroll tackle that sidelined Man United's Eriksen

LONDON

ERIK ten Hag has urged football authorities to stamp out the type of reckless tackle that left Manchester United midfielder Christian Eriksen sidelined for three months.

Eriksen suffered an ankle injury when he was caught by an ugly challenge from Reading striker Andy Carroll during United's FA Cup fourth round win on Saturday.

The 30-year-old Denmark star had played a vital role for United in his first season at the club, making 31 appearances in all competitions.

But now United say Eriksen will be out until "late April or early May", hampering Ten Hag's hopes of a successful end to the season.

Carroll avoided a booking for the tackle in the second half, but the former Liverpool player still ended up being sent off after bookings for fouls on Tyrell Malacia and Casemiro.

"I am disappointed about that," Ten Hag said of the lack of a booking for Carroll's challenge. "I think football has to set limits, restrictions, that you protect the players.

"I think what football wants is the best players being available on the pitch.

"This tackle and the two tackles after, they don't belong on the football pitch because it's a high risk to injure your colleague, so I think it's worse. So, I am wondering about that."

Ten Hag said it was not the first time he has noticed players in the Premier League getting away with aggressive fouls.

"For instance, I am wondering more in Crystal Palace when there is an elbow on (Lisandro) Martinez and I don't even know if it was a whistle for a free-kick. But no one is interfering then," Ten Hag said ahead of Wednesday's League Cup semi-final second leg against Nottingham Forest.

"I am wondering about such things because it's a risk of injury for the player."

United hold a 3-0 lead over Forest from the first leg but the League Cup is not their only priority.

Qualifying for the Champions League via a top four finish in the Premier League is the main aim and Eriksen's absence is a blow.

When Ten Hag was asked if United could replace Eriksen's qualities, he said: "I think you can never fill that because every player has his own characteristics, identity.

"Another player will always fill it in a different way but that doesn't mean you have to be less successful.

AFP

'Only we can lose it now': Serie A title fever in Naples

MILAN

SERIE A title fever is sweeping Naples as the football-mad city hopes that rampant Napoli will end more than three decades of waiting to be crowned kings of Italy.

Sunday night's 2-1 win over Roma and the sudden collapse of defending champions AC Milan's title defence allowed Napoli to extend their lead at the top to a whopping 13 points.

No team has had such a huge advantage on the chasing pack after 20 games played since Serie A switched to three points for a win in 1994, and the chance of a first Scudetto since the days when Diego Maradona wore Napoli's blue has filled fans with both anticipation and trepidation.

"At this point only we can lose it now. It's all in our hands," one supporter, Mirko Brandini, told AFP.

The 18-year-old travelled to Naples from Tuscany with three friends and hung around outside Napoli's Stadio Maradona to bathe in the euphoria of a thrilling win against one of their fiercest rivals.

Napoli have dropped just seven points all season and on Sunday came through a tough test against resilient Roma.

The visitors' forward Stephan El Shaarawy equalised Victor Osimhen's opener to silence the boisterous home crowd before super-sub Giovanni Simeone grabbed the win with an 86th minute goal.

It was Napoli's eighth straight home league win, the longest winning run in Naples since they racked up 11 on the bounce between December 1989 and April 1990 - the season Napoli last won the title.

However despite their massive advantage and a four-match winning streak since losing at second-placed Inter Milan at the start of the month, anxious Neapolitans won't believe it's over until it's really over.

"You can't say anything yet, we're superstitious in Naples," said Esther from the nearby Amalfi coast.

She spoke to AFP in Naples' central Spanish Quarter, in front of a famous fresco of Maradona painted after Napoli's last title triumph in 1990.

- No guarantees -

Luca, an employee at a toy company, remembers Italy's last World Cup win in 2006 and the recent European Championship triumph but at 30 years old is too young to have any memories of Napoli's last Scudetto, won at the tail end of Maradona's tumultuous time in Naples.

"It's not guaranteed yet, we need to take it game by game," he says.

"I experienced the World Cup and Euro win but this would be something else entirely! We've been waiting for so long." AFP

Chelsea pay record fee for Fernandez as Cancelo joins Bayern

LONDON

CHelsea paid a Premier League record fee of 121 million euros to sign Enzo Fernandez as Joao Cancelo made a surprise move to Bayern Munich and Jorginho joined Arsenal on a frantic transfer deadline day in Europe.

Premier League clubs have once again massively outspent their rivals in a desperate scramble to strengthen their squads for the second half of the season.

Graham Potter's struggling Chelsea went on a staggering spending spree in January, bringing in a clutch of players including Mykhaylo Mudryk, Benoit Badiashile, Noni Madueke and Joao Felix, who joined on loan from Atletico Madrid.

World Cup winner Fernandez, whose transfer was announced by Portuguese club Benfica in the early hours of Wednesday, is Chelsea's eighth signing of the January window.

The £106.8 million fee eclipses the previous record of £100 million that Manchester City paid Aston Villa for Jack Grealish in 2021.

Fernandez, named Best Young Player of the World Cup for his displays during Argentina's successful campaign in Qatar, only joined Portuguese giants Benfica in July last year, for a re-



FILE - Argentina's Enzo Fernandez with the ball during the World Cup final match between Argentina and France in Qatar. (AP Photo)

ported fee of around £10 million.

The 22-year-old is understood to have signed an eight-and-a-half-year deal that will run until 2031.

Todd Boehly's consortium has spent hundreds of millions since buying Chelsea at the end of last season but the club are languishing in 10th place in the Premier League.

- Cancelo joins Bayern

Bayern Munich signed Manchester City wing-back Cancelo on loan until the end of the season and have an option to buy him for a reported 70 million euros.

The 28-year-old Por-

tuguese defender joined City from Juventus in 2019 but has been a peripheral figure in Pep Guardiola's team since the World Cup.

"FC Bayern is a great club, one of the best in the world, and it's enormous motivation for me to now play alongside these extraordinary players," Cancelo said.

Premier League leaders Arsenal snapped up Italy midfielder Jorginho from Chelsea for a reported fee of £12 million.

Jorginho, who is understood to have signed an 18-month deal at the Emirates Stadium, told Arsenal.com: "I'm very excited for this new

challenge and I just can't wait to be on the pitch.

"Everything has happened so fast. I was a bit surprised, but I took the opportunity of this amazing challenge."

The Gunners, bidding to win their first Premier League crown since 2004, signed Belgium forward Leandro Trossard from Brighton and Poland defender Jakub Kiwior from Italian side Spezia earlier this month.

Arsenal's north London rivals Tottenham announced the signing of defender Pedro Porro from Sporting Lisbon minutes before the deadline.

The right-back has signed on loan until the end of the season with an obligation to make the move permanent at the end of the season.

Manchester United announced they had signed Bayern Munich midfielder Marcel Sabitzer on loan early Wednesday.

United were forced into deadline-day action on Tuesday following an ankle injury to Christian Eriksen, which is set to rule the Denmark midfielder out until early May.

Manager Erik ten Hag completed the loan signing of Netherlands forward Wout Weghorst earlier in the month.

AFP

New competitions open international doors to MLS clubs

By SIMON EVANS

THE days when football clubs from the United States and Canada were largely restricted to domestic competition, barely noticed by the rest of the world, are about to end.

When the Seattle Sounders take the field on Saturday in the Club World Cup, they will be 90 minutes away from a meeting, in official FIFA competition, with one of the greatest names in world football - Spanish giants Real Madrid.

The Sounders must beat the winners of the first round tie between Egypt's Al Ahly and New Zealand's Auckland City to make the clash with the 14-times European champions in Rabat, Morocco, a reality.

Not surprisingly the prospect of facing Carlo Ancelotti's star-studded European champions, has captured the imagination in the Pacific Northwest city.

"The players are excited for this. They love the fact that they have an opportunity to be on a world stage," said Sounders head coach Brian Schmetzer.

The Sounders are in the competition as winners of the CONCACAF Champions League, until recently the only official international competition open to clubs from Major League Soccer.

It is the first time a U.S. or Canadian team has played in the FIFA tournament for continental champions.

It is perhaps fitting that the Sounders are the ones to make his-



Seattle Sounders' victory in the CONCACAF Champions League has opened up the chance of a Club World Cup clash with Spanish giants Real Madrid. (Agencies)

tory -- next year they will celebrate the 50th anniversary making them the oldest American club in MLS having played in the now defunct North American Soccer League (NASL) and other leagues before MLS debuted in 1996.

- Two new competitions

MLS teams have been far from successful in regional competition, with the Sounders victory last season only the third time a club from the US or Canada has triumphed in the Mexican-dominated tournament.

But the volume of international fixtures for MLS clubs is about to significantly increase with the addition of two new competitions and changes to the Champions League.

In July, all MLS clubs will be involved in a new month-long 47-team, CONCACAF-sanctioned Leagues Cup, alongside teams from Mexico's Liga MX. The competition will be organised similar to a World Cup and feature a group stage before knockout fixtures.

al rivalries. It will also provide more international relevance to our club competitions, and a very competitive pathway as clubs strive to qualify for the FIFA Club World Cup and succeed on the global stage," he said after announcing the changes.

If all those games aren't enough chances for MLS teams to test themselves against international opponents, last week Montagliani announced another competition.

Currently under the working title of 'Final Four', the event will see two teams from CONCACAF take on two from the South American CONMEBOL region.

While the exact details have yet to be worked out, it is likely that the two finalists from the CONCACAF Champions League will play either the finalists of the Copa Libertadores or the champions of that tournament and the winners of the secondary Copa

Sudamericana.

Whatever the final name or qualification route, it means a chance for American clubs to face off against the elite of South American football - if they can beat Mexican and other regional rivals first.

That tournament is slated to start in 2024 and people with knowledge of the discussions say it is possible that this year's CONCACAF Champions League and South American competitions could already be used for the first route to the potentially lucrative games.

It all means that, in 2025, a team which was successful in the Leagues Cup, Champions League and qualified for the Club World Cup, could face as many as 22 official international games.

For clubs used to a domestic league with 34 regular season games before a short playoff campaign, it is a whole, new world.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chelsea pay record fee for Fernandez as Cancelo joins Bayern

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Singida Big Stars' head coach, Hans van der Pluijm. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA BIG STARS FC

Singida Big Stars duo wins 2022/23 NBC Premier League monthly awards

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Big Stars have cause for a double celebration as Hans van der Pluijm and Bruno Gomes collected the 2022/23 NBC Premier League coach and player of the month awards respectively for January.

Pluijm, who is a former Yanga and Azam FC head coach, led his current club to two back-to-back victories in January, as Singida Big Stars moved level on points with third-placed Azam FC on the log standings.

The two victories have given the coach's side a strong chance of securing a CAF Confederation Cup spot for the first time in the club's short history.

After their exploits in the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup tournament where they lost in the final against Mlandege, fourth-placed Singida Big Stars resumed league action with a 1-0 win over Kagera Sugar, then beat Azam FC 1-0 at Liti Stadium.

With nine matches to go, Singida Big Stars have opened up a 12-point gap with fifth-placed Geita Gold FC.

The Dutch coach came out tops ahead of the Simba SC's Robert Oliveira and Yanga's Nasreddine Nabi, after votes from a panel of media and football experts that forms the award committee.

This is Pluijm's second monthly award this season following his first back in September 2022.

Brazilian attacking midfielder Bruno has been enjoying an impressive run in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League since he joined Singida Big Stars at the start of the season. He is Singida Big Stars' top scorer with eight goals in the league.

In January, he was on target against Kagera Sugar, scoring the all-important goal of the game.

He followed it with another winner against Azam FC, scoring through a well-taken free kick that he curled over the defensive wall to beat Ali Ahamada between the posts.

Other notable performers during January included striker Ibrahim Abdallah of Namungo FC and Congolese striker Henock Mayala of Polisi Tanzania.

Abdallah scored a hat trick against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and became the fourth player to do so this season after Fiston Mayele of Yanga and Simba SC duo of Said Ntibazonkiza and John Bocco.

Mayala, who joined Polisi Tanzania during the December-January mid-season transfer window, scored a brace against Namungo FC to help the law enforcers end a seven-match winless streak.

For their awards, Pluijm and Bruno will receive a plaque and 1m/- prize money apiece courtesy of league sponsors, NBC Bank.

The Award Committee also selected Mbarali's Highland Estates Stadium manager, Malule Omary, as groundsman of the month.

Yanga caught up in shirt sponsorship row



Yanga's president, Hersi Said, speaks at a function for the signing of a short-term sponsorship contract between the club and a Chinese multinational home appliances and consumer electronics company, Haier, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Monday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA has been caught up in an off-field row over shirt sponsors.

On Monday evening, the club unveiled Chinese multinational home appliances and consumer electronics company, Haier, as the outfit's shirt sponsors for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage campaign in a deal worth 1.5bn/-.

The usual Yanga jerseys with the logo of the outfit's main sponsor, SportPesa, will not be used in the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage because of conflicting interests with IxBET, who are CAF betting partners.

The 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group stage campaign begins next week.

During the launch of the new jerseys that will bear the Haier brand, Yanga's

president Hersi Said explained SportPesa had agreed to the arrangement.

Said noted: "SportPesa will continue to be our main sponsor in the NBC Premier League and other competitions which have no betting firms restrictions and the good thing is that they (SportPesa) have understood us."

However, the deal has drawn criticism from SportPesa who is the club's main sponsor. SportPesa Tanzania's official partnership with Yanga started in 2017, on an initial five-year deal that expired in 2022.

The deal was renewed on improved terms worth \$5.25m over three years with an option to extend.

In a press release to the public, SportPesa aired frustration over the deal, citing a breach of the existing contractual agreement and added they reserved the right to seek compensation.

The firm noted in the statement: "SportPesa is deeply disappointed with the decision taken by the management of

Young Africans SC to breach our existing contractual agreement and launch new alternative jerseys with the name of another sponsor."

The statement added: "SportPesa would like to inform its customers and the public that it is still the club's main sponsor and has the exclusive rights to use the front of the shirt for every official Kit of Young Africans SC for the football year 2022-2025."

"Yanga's request to get another sponsor for the next stage of the CAF competition was in breach of our agreements and was very disappointing when presented to us."

"SportPesa is fully aware of CAF directives and rules regarding existing advertising/sponsorship and had used the 'Visit Tanzania' slogan for a replacement of our assets to be used in compliance with the conditions required from CAF."

The statement added: "This VisitTanzania alternative campaign had successfully promoted the entire country for two previous CAF seasons, but our proposal was rejected as the club had already decided to sell these rights regardless of the existing contractual terms with SportPesa."

The statement noted: "SportPesa reserves its right to seek compensation and recourse from the relevant authorities for the damages caused."

Sigh of relief to Simba SC as Robertinho returns



Simba SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC fans can breathe a sigh of relief after the club's head coach, Robert Oliveira 'Robertinho', jetted back into the country on Wednesday morning to continue with his duties at the outfit.

The Brazilian left Tanzania to attend to a family matter immediately after his club's 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash with Dodoma Jiji FC early last week and missed Simba SC's Azam Sports Federation Cup's round of 16's tie against Coastal Union.

There were doubts whether he would have returned on time for Friday's NBC Premier League game against Singida Big Stars.

The coach revealed: "I am tired but that's normal, it is good that I am back more motivated because I prepared our program for CAF Champions League, Azam Sports Federation Cup, and the Premier League."

He added: "The most

important thing for me is that Simba SC has consistent positive results, this is very important."

The tactician revealed: "Secondly if there is a possibility of playing well and winning and thirdly I try to allow everyone."

Oliveira pointed out: "Now that we have new players, experienced ones and we have young ones, it is up to me to give them playing time as a group."

While in Brazil, the team was under assistant coach Juma Mgunda who steered them to the Azam Sports Federation Cup's last 16 following a hard-fought 1-0 home victory over his former club, Coastal Union, in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Robertinho will resume his head coaching duties against high-flying Singida Big Stars, who forced a 1-1 draw with the coach's outfit in Singida earlier this season.

Simba SC will go into the Friday game whilst sitting second and having a six-point margin

with leaders, Yanga, in the title race.

Singida Big Stars are sitting fourth in the standings and are seven points behind Simba SC.

This month will be packed with a series of big matches for Simba SC and likely to set the tone for the rest of their remaining season.

After hosting Singida Big Stars, Simba SC's fixture list is expected to get harder with a trip to Guinea's Horoya AC in the opening match of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign on February 11.

After that, Simba SC will travel back home to host Moroccan giants Raja Athletic Club on February 18.

Three days later, it will be another home game with third-placed Azam FC in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

Simba SC will travel again to the Ugandan capital for their third CAF Champions League Group Stage match against Vipers SC slated for February 25.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DEAR, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

I THOUGHT WE HAD NOTHING FOR DINNER LAST NIGHT?

NOTHING

I MADE IT LAST TWO DAYS!

