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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8793 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA THURSDAY 9 MARCH, 2023

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Constitution: Samia wants panel to draw up first draft

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has pledged to collaborate with other political parties to form a committee that will specifically work on the drafting of a new constitution.

Gracing an International Women's Day (IWD) event organized by the Chadema Women's Wing here yesterday, she said that no one is opposed to the proposal that Tanzania can have a new constitution.

Affirming that the idea of a new constitution was now broadly accepted, she said CCM members

were not opposed to the idea, either. "We will soon form a committee to work on the matter," she stated.

President Samia's presence made the event a historic event where the ruling party chairman shares a platform with the leadership of the leading opposition party, a gathering that organisers said numbered upwards of 5,000 women from all regions.

Through negotiations nothing is impossible, she said, adding

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WATERSHED MOMENT, INDEED...: President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses International Women's Day meeting of the opposition Chadema's Women Council in Moshi municipality yesterday. Photo: State House

Nipashe journalist, eight other people killed in Geita accident



By Guardian Reporter

RICHARD Makore (pictured), a senior journalist with Nipashe newspaper, is among nine bus passengers who died on Tuesday evening in a road crash in Kasamwa ward, Geita Region.

Berthaneema Mlay, the acting regional police commander, said that the bus, T 922 ADC operated by Sheraton Co. was heading to Ushiroambo in Mbogwe District. Nine people died while 30 sustained injuries, she said.

Upon reaching Ibada-Kasamwa village, the vehicle's front-left tyre burst and threw the bus into the river, she said, noting that the injured were rushed to the Geita regional referral hospital.

“Our condolences go to his wife, children, relatives and friends. We are consulting his family for burial procedures,” he affirmed, elaborating that the body will be transported to Mwanza

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The Guardian Ltd women light up maternity ward patients to smile

By Correspondent Elizabeth Zaya

FEMALE employees at the Guardian Ltd yesterday celebrated the International Women's Day by presenting various gifts to patients at the Mwananyamala regional referral hospital in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam.

The gifts were presented at the maternity wards to expectant mothers, those who had delivered and old women admitted at the hospital. Among the gifts handed out were pairs of khanga, pampers, soap, sanitary pads and cartons of 'Kilimanjaro' mineral water.

Women workers at The Guardian Ltd

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The Guardian Ltd director Joyce Luhanga pictured in the publishing firm's Newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday cutting a cake as the company's staff celebrated International Women's Day. The company's women employees had earlier in the day driven all the way to the city's Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital and handed over an assortment of items for use by patients admitted to the facility. Related photos on Page 4. Photo: John Badi

Estonia to assist Tanzania in tax collection ICT tools

By Guardian Reporter, Doha

ESTONIA has pledged to assist Tanzania improve its ICT-based tax collection systems for better supervision to enhance transparency and accountability.

Marjin Ratnik, its deputy minister for Economy and Development, made the pledge in discussions

with Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba here yesterday on the sidelines of the 5th International Conference for Low Income Countries.

Estonia is ready to receive Tanzanian civil servants for practical ICT training on tax collection, while the minister said the government was glad for the invitation to send ICT technicians needing

“French minister affirmed that in addition to current engagements in France-Tanzania cooperation, there are other areas ...

to pursue training on tax collection.

The ministry has begun preparations for to send such officials in the next two months, he said, noting that the training will uplift the implementation of directives by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to improve tax collection, to enhance transparency and compliance rate.

Saada Mkuya Salum, the Finance and Planning state minister in the Zanzibar's President's Office said an improved tax collection system will enhance accountability among tax collection units.

Links are needed between different spheres of tax collection to ease prompt

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The Guardian Ltd women light up maternity ward patients to smile

FROM PAGE 1

arrived at the hospital on or around 10:30 in the morning, welcomed with ululations by a group of the hospital's women staff in particular. Before they started handing out the gifts, they were taken to a platform for introduction before a group of women who had lined up to visit their sick relatives, thereafter led to the wards to distribute gifts. The joyous moment started at 11:18am and lasted for an hour, whereupon Beatrice Bandawe, 'Nipashe' managing editor and leader of the women delegation, said that to mark this day of emancipation the staff decided that it was important to join with the patients to make them feel cared for by fellow women. Women workers with IPP Media opted to celebrate this day with fellow women many of who are undergoing hardships during delivery or suffering from various diseases, she said. "We decided we should celebrate the day together and handing them a

few items that we managed to obtain so that they may also be happy on this day," she further noted, expressing gratitude to the Mwananyamala Hospital administration for positively taking up the idea of a visit. Mwanahija Biamwale, the principal nurse at the women ward, said the gifts handed out to patients was a good deed that merits praise as the contributions helped to bring comfort and happiness to patients and hospital staff. The hospital staff was "glad for the coming of our sisters in The Guardian Ltd and for the many gifts brought for the patients to comfort them," she said, linking the patients' comfort with happiness of the hospital staff as service providers. "We know ourselves that we are here because of them and you have come to join us to comfort them," she further stated, this being the second visit at the referral hospital for a media group, the first taking place on the eve of IWD on Tuesday, media sources noted.

Photo on Page 4

Nipashe journalist, eight other people killed in Geita road accident on Tuesday

FROM PAGE 1

The driver lost control of the bus after the front-left tyre burst, she stated, specifying that bodies of the deceased are being preserved at the referral hospital and the injured were handed to Kasamwa health centre, with many expected to be referred to the regional hospital. Edwin Soko, chairman of the Mwanza Press Club said they were saddened by the death of their member, whose body is at the referral hospital as burial arrangements proceed. Emmanuel Matondo, TGL human resources manager, said the late Makore was a hard worker who loved his job. "The company trusted him, thus decided to make him the Lake Zone editor. During his lifetime, Makore lived well with his fellow workers; we have lost an important person," he said. "Our condolences go to his wife, children,

relatives and friends. We are consulting his family for burial procedures," he affirmed, elaborating that the body will be transported to Mwanza. Nipashe managing editor Beatrice Bandawe said Makore was among hard working journalists and as Lake Zone editor he worked closely with other journalists and commercial stakeholders. While in Mwanza, the late Makore established a strong network of news sources and advertisers. "His demise is a blow to us because we were getting all the news from Lake Zone regions on time," she said. Born on April 20th, 1978 he joined The Guardian Ltd in June 2015 writing for Nipashe. He was assigned a new role in Lake Zone regions on September 14th, 2020, the source added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives a 'Reconciliation' trophy from Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe, who presented it to her on behalf of the opposition party's Women's Council. It was shortly after she delivered an historic address at an International Women's Day meeting the party organised in Moshi municipality yesterday. Photo: State House

Estonia to assist Tanzania in tax collection ICT tools

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payment of taxes by business operators, she said.

Dr Nchemba also met with Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, the French state minister for Development and International Cooperation, who pledged to work

with the government in pursuing plans for the construction of a port that will serve Tanzania and neighbouring countries. France is also ready to assist in the growth of the private sector as it has been providing many employment opportunities for the youth, as well

as in uplifting the roads infrastructure, energy and solar power for various industries, he stated. The Zanzibar minister affirmed that France was committed to cooperate with Tanzania in boosting the tourism sector, pointing at its huge potential in raising

national income. France has been assisting Zanzibar boost various sectors including infrastructure, health and energy, she stated, while the French minister affirmed that in addition to current engagements in France-Tanzania cooperation, there

are other areas where cooperation between the two countries can be improved. She praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan in regard to her positions on gender issues, citing Tanzania's acceptance to host the Generation Equality Forum later this year.



These are some of the 120 Australian tourists whose ship, Coral Geographer Cruise, docked at Kilwa in Coast Region on Tuesday. They toured various attractions, including historic sites, before proceeding to Zanzibar. Story on Page 3. Photo: Guardian Photographer

Constitution: Samia wants panel to draw up first draft

FROM PAGE 1

that some countries had fallen into wars, and restored peace through talking across the table.

She doubted if the gathering wishes for a change in national leadership in 2025 while they know their fellow woman and leader is still there. Despite that all political parties have the goal of assuming power, "we should do politics in a respectful manner for our country to be respected worldwide," she emphasised.

"Our country is now respected globally. Let us keep up the spirit," she reiterated, affirming when she was invited to the

IWD function she did not hesitate "since, as the president I cannot say no to a call from my people. I wanted to hear from my fellow women as well as the party."

She urged that the opposition party or its women's wing seek her audience if there are issues to discuss "instead of using other platforms, including rallies."

The president did not wish to dwell on what the government has so far done in the two years she has been in office, saying she would use other platforms to take up the matter.

The sixth phase wishes to build a nation where people respect one another, he said, noting that proposing to the rul-

ing party that the government should allow political rallies elicited mixed sentiments.

"There are those who objected to the idea, but things went well," she said, pointing out that there are conservatives in both the ruling party and in opposition.

Freeman Mbowe, the party national chairman, said the party will remain firmly in opposition, saying Chadema "will without fear do what is right, what is certain, what is well researched so that you can straighten the country."

He expressed the hope that the president's determination "to keep the nation

together" will be taken up by leading cadres in CCM who are in the government and at various levels of justice institutions countrywide.

Demanding that "democracy should not be an option, but a must for better future of the nation," he asked the president to widen the scope of reconciliation in the drive up to the new constitution.

"I'd like to emphasize one important thing that will formalize our reconciliation in the nation and it is a new constitution and a better constitution," the chairman intoned, underlining that this demand was "the cry and voice of the nation."

Energy firm marks international women's day in style

By Guardian Reporter

IN marking the International Women's Day (IWD), Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd has supported women entrepreneurs with disabilities in Dar es Salaam by providing income generating activities.

Speaking yesterday, Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd managing director, Fatma Abdallah said the company has decided to celebrate this year's IWD with three-wheelers motorcycle (Bajaj) women drivers whereas they have been provided with free gas cylinders and stoves.

This year's theme for IWD is, 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality'.

Abdallah noted that a decision to provide women with the gas cylinders and stoves supports President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts towards reducing the use of dirty energy in cooking.

The President had set

the target of Tanzanian people using clean energy solutions, including LPG, to be at least 80 per cent of the population by 2032.

Over 33,000 Tanzanians die annually from using firewood for cooking. Biomass accounts for almost 90 per cent of the energy consumed by households across the country.

"We have celebrated the day with disabled women entrepreneurs, especially those in the transportation sector. Our company gears at ensuring more Tanzanians opt for cleaner energy sources," said the managing director, adding the women also had their fuel tank fully filled.

She said the oil marketing company recognizes the various works done by women in the country, especially those in the transport sector, and that it will continue to provide women entrepreneurs with different support to further encourage them in their

endeavours.

Abdallah added that the gas stoves will enable women to concentrate on their income generating activities knowing that when back home, they can conveniently prepare food for their families.

"Our company started to engage in selling LPG gas in recent months and has so far attracted a good number of customers. We are promoting the use of clean cooking energy to save Tanzanians from various health risks caused by the impact of high carbon footprint as a result of burning fossil fuels," she remarked.

Representing women Bajaj drivers, Sophia Abdala commended the energy firm for providing them with the gas cylinders and stoves.

She said: "We are thankful to the company because our fuel tanks are fully filled. This will boost our business as we will be driving more comfortably."



Puma Energy Tanzania managing director Fatma Abdallah (in specs) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday refuelling - free of charge - a three-wheeler belonging to Sophia Abdallah, a resident of Dar es Salaam's Mbagala Maji Matitu suburb with disability. It was an International Women's Day goodwill gesture meant for women with disabilities who are engaged in Bajaj and bodas-boda transportation business.. Photo: John Badi

120 tourists from Australia arrive in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE country's tourism industry got a boost after a luxurious Coral Geographer Cruise ship from Australia with 120 tourists docked in Kilwa, Coast region on Tuesday with visitors expected to explore various destinations in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

The visitors are part of more than 400 tourists who are expected to

come in the country through cruise ships between March 7th and 14th this year. Today, the Le Jaques Cartier-Ponant ship from France with 105 visitors will also dock at Kilwa.

A statement released yesterday by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said that on March 14th 2023, another ship-The Le Jaques Cartier-A & Luxury Expedition will arrive in the country with 138 tourists.

It said the arrival of tourists in the country follows efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in preserving natural resources and promoting tourism within and outside the country, as well as promotion of the tourism industry through the 'Royal Tour' film.

According to the statement, the government's mission is to work closely with the government of Zanzibar in promoting the available

tourist attractions since Tanzania is endowed with many tourist attractions in the Indian Ocean that are not found in any countries in the world.

The government is determined to increase the number of tourists to 5 million, thus making a \$6 million contribution to the national income by 2025.

Next week, the government will launch the first modern cruise boat

in the Indian Ocean that has been locally made and will operate under the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA). The boat will be equipped with modern equipment to make tourists enjoy their cruising trips.

It will also have special glasses and lenses that enable tourists to see various sea creatures without swimming. Through marine tourism visitors will see some attrac-

tions including endangered species that have been listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), but are found in Tanzania.

Tanzania has the richest biodiversity with beautiful coral gardens and more fish species than most places in the world. It has a total of 15 Wilderness Areas that are owned by the government.



BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

MILLS TRUNNION AND GEARBOX LUBE SYSTEM UPGRADE

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Supply of Containerized Trunnion Bearing Lubrication system and Containerized Gearbox Lubrication System Tender ref: NM008/2023

Pre-qualification criteria

- (1) Evidence of suitable HSE, OSHA compliance and site safety program
- (2) Copy of registration and incorporation certificate
- (3) Experience on similar projects by having list of clients with LPO/signed contract and certificate of completion.
- (4) Experiences on lubrication system and quality control methodology
- (5) Compliance with local content regulation by having local content plan approved by mining commission
- (6) Evidence of suitable resources availability - equipment, systems and qualified personnel (Applicators & Inspectors) on corrosion protection

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com.

Applicants must quote reference "Mills Trunnion and Gearbox Lube System Upgrade" in the subject line of your email.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI **15 March 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



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NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Construction of Gena Workshop

Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM010/2023	Construction of Gena Workshop	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience and successfully executed EPC contracts on a turnkey basis from design stage to commissioning of projects ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 5 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided iv. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment's to be mobilized required for completion of works, including facilities and intellectual property v. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel vi. Local Content Regulations compliance and a valid CRB registration, Class 4 contractor and above vii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations viii. Applicants to submit list of resources with CVs of all Personnel to be mobilized for completion of works ix. Applicants to submit Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and documentation x. Applicants to submit HSE policy and Procedures

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

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

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI **15 March 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

All in International Women's Day spirit...



Representatives of The Guardian Limited's women employees pictured at Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before handing over an assortment of items as an International Women's Day goodwill gesture to patients admitted to the facility. Heading the team is Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Airtel Tanzania managing director Dinesh Balsingh has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with 30 girls from various universities whom he brought together specially for tech innovation hub training. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



The Guardian Limited director Joyce Luhanga (3rd-R) and Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (to her right) lead the publishing company's women employees in Dar es Salaam yesterday in a toast to celebrate International Women's Day. Photo Guardian Correspondent



Serengeti Breweries Limited's Legal and Business Integrity director, Lucia Minde (L), and Airtel Tanzania's head of SME department, Alice Mashiku (2nd-L) present internet equipment with unlimited data for a whole year to innovative tech students at the Launchpad Tanzania women's centre hub in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking International Women's



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank's head of internal auditing, Joyce Maduhu (3rd-R, foreground) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting an assortment of items to Ocean Road Cancer Institute nursing manager Chausiku Chapuchapu for use at the hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Akiba Commercial Bank senior manager Magreth Mwasumbi (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the bank's launch of Waridi Account, which is meant for the exclusive use of women. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Tanzania Revenue Authority's Kinondoni region human resources officer, Mwanahamisi Ibrahim (in sunglasses), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting various items to CCBRT Hospital inpatient services manager Rehema Mahimbo as an International Women's Day goodwill gesture. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel



Tanzania Commercial Bank's communications and public relations manager Gloria Mutta (3rd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Ocean Road Cancer Institute social worker Devotha Kibanga for use by female patients undergoing treatment at the hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



JICA Celebrates 10th Anniversary of ABE Initiative

Overview

The year 2023 marks the 10th Anniversary of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth ("ABE Initiative"), an initiative offered by the Japanese government to African youth, that enables them to broaden their horizons and build strong connections with Japan and its private sector. The ABE initiative was launched in 2013 at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) and provides African youth with opportunities to study at Master's courses at Japanese universities as well as to experience internships at Japanese companies. It aims to develop human resource who will contribute to the industrial and business development in Africa and build business networks between Africa and Japan while serving as "navigators" for Japanese companies. Since 2014, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has accepted about 1,600 participants from all 54 African countries in this initiative.

The uniqueness of this program in comparison with other scholarship programs lies in what is called "Business Program", which is offered to the participants in addition to their Master's courses. For example, participants have chances to intern at Japanese companies during and at the end of the program to understand the Japanese corporate culture and build connections with Japanese private sectors. The ABE participants succeeded in getting posts in Japanese companies after their graduation or started business with them as business partners through these internships in many cases.

Another advantage of ABE initiative is its follow-up activities offered to ABE participants after returning to their home countries. For example, participants are offered many networking opportunities with Japanese companies as well as among alumni. One of the recent cases is an online networking event in March 2022, around 25 JICA Training Alumni including ABE Initiative Returnees from the 2nd Batch attended to share idea on how it would be able to connect with each other and exchange information with Japanese companies.

Additionally, in April 2022, JICA Tanzania Office launched HATUA Projects - HATUA is an acronym that stands for "Project for Highlighting Action-plans from Training-programs Utilizing Authentic ideas". HATUA Projects aims for ex-participants to utilize skills, knowledge and experience gained in Japan through JICA's Training Program to realize and/or scale up what they have kept in their minds to solve the issues. HATUA Projects, co-supervised by JICA Alumni Associations in Tanzania, support the realization of their ideas and continue vitalizing alumni's activities in Tanzania.

Furthermore, the ABE alumni themselves are quite active in fostering their networks and have established an organization called "KAKEHASHI Africa". With a good relationship, KAKEHASHI Tanzania will also broaden its activities in coming years.

Success Stories

The initiative has already remarkable success stories in the United Republic of Tanzania. For example, Mr. Gregory Mlay (2nd batch) & Mrs. Faith Mulungu (1st batch), after both of them completing their Master's Program in Japan, they returned to Tanzania and opened a registered company producing high quality, utility and functional designed leather bags for both men and women; known as "Fay Fashion Tanzania" in



Sendoff Ceremony for ABE 9th Batch in Tanzania (2022).

2018. Inspired by Japanese and Tanzanian culture, the couple are hoping bring innovation in Leather Bags and also Fabric and Canvas bags, making them durable and trendy at the same time inspiring the masses to explore new definition of fashion. They have kept a good relationship with a Japanese leather bag company where Ms. Faith had done internship for 6 months in Japan, and planning for further collaboration in the near future.

Another example from Tanzania is Mr. Gumdooka Mehuna, who completed his Master's Program in Japan, returned to Tanzania and established a company conducting business in Cloud-Financing, known as "Cashme Tanzania". Cashme Tanzania is a platform that offers a market place for borrowers to post their invoices and investors to invest their money against those invoices of interest on each investment. Invoice finance is a new field, especially in African countries, however, it is in high demand from the Tanzanian market and offers good opportunities for start-ups and SMEs in particular to raise funds quickly.

"JICA Development Studies Program" and "JICA Chair"

For many years, JICA has been facilitating mutual learning between Africa and Japan through its cooperation, including the ABE initiative. In recent years, JICA has been accelerating its efforts to share the experience of Japan's modernization by initiating new initiatives; "JICA Development Studies Program" and "JICA Program for Japanese Studies (JICA Chair)".

Japan is the first country that has modernized from a non-Western background to establish a free, democratic, prosperous, and peace-loving nation based on the rule of law, without losing much of its tradition and identity. It made mistakes, including aggression and war. Nonetheless, Japan was able to build a free, democratic, peaceful, and prosperous nation founded on the rule of law, without compromising its own traditions and identity.

The uniqueness of Japan's modernization in Meiji Era (between the late 1860s and 1910s) is that it succeeded in incorporating the good elements of Western civilization while

maintaining Japanese traditions. It is also worth noting that Japan built on what it had learned and made it its own. Initially, Western technologies taught in European languages in Japan. However, within 10 years or so, Japanese students who studied with the Western scholars replaced them and began to teach next generation students in Japanese language.

Just as Japan learned from others, JICA believes that it is important to also share our experience. This is why JICA initiated its Development Studies Program to invite future leaders from partner countries to Japan to share the experience of Japan's modernization, postwar reconstruction, and Official Development Assistance (ODA). In order to extend the similar opportunities outside of Japan, JICA started the "JICA Program for Japanese Studies" in collaboration with leading universities and other institutions in

partner countries.

JICA Tanzania Office in collaboration with University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) held the JICA Chair at UDSM on February 9 and 10, 2023. Under the theme, "Innovation for National Growth and Sustainable Development", the two-day event attracted more than 600 participants from Universities, the public and private sectors, both physically and online.

Prof. HASEGAWA Mariko, President of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI, Japan, who specializes in Evolutionary Biology and spent two years for the research of wild chimpanzees in Tanzania 40 years ago, gave lectures about the path Japan has taken through repeated trials and errors and the knowledge gained from those experience. As a testimony (lecturer) from ABE alumni, Mr. Gumdoka MEHUNA from Cashme Tanzania was also

invited to explain about his experience in Japan and initiative after coming back to Tanzania.

The call for all students and higher learning institutions of Tanzania was taken more attention to develop more innovative ideas and implement them utilizing various networks including relations with Japan. This program is expected to be conducted every year.

Conclusion

Throughout the TICAD process, Japan has been highlighting the importance of African ownership as well as solidarity between Africa and international community. In this regard, JICA particularly values investment in human resource development and the ABE initiative is among the top priorities for JICA in cooperation to Africa. JICA will continue and foster this initiative so that Japan and Africa can work together to create a new innovative future.



Discussion between ABE participants and in Japanese Company in Tanzania during a networking event in 2018

JICA FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/JICATanzaniaa/>



JICA WEBSITE

<https://www.jica.go.jp/tanzania/english/index.html>



Stop dirty politics, Z'bar CCM tells political parties

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

CCM in Zanzibar has called upon leaders of some political parties to stop the habit of misleading the people on the development projects that have been implemented by the Phase VIII of the Zanzibar government.

The call was made here yesterday by the Secretary of CCM-NEC Special Committee of the Department of Ideology and Publicity, Khamis Mbeto Khamis as he was addressing reporters at the party's main Kisiwandui office.

He said some political party leaders have started using badly the opportunity on holding political rallies by issuing incorrect statements regarding various government issues.

He said the government has been making various efforts to make sure development reaches Zanzibaris in time

disregarding party affiliations.

He said the government had set aside Itrn/- for implementing big development projects in various fields.

He explained that ACT-Wazalendo has been preaching hatred and confrontation and not arguing with points, the issue that has been bringing a bad concept regarding the political rallies that have now been allowed.

Mbeto further said the main intention of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is also CCM National Chairperson is to see political parties campaign in civilized manner in order to ensure their parties grow by wooing in more members, but not to criticize the existing government as ACT-Wazalendo does.

He called upon politicians to abide by the principles provided by President Samia to continue preaching peace and in case they want to criticize the government they

should do so in a civilized manner without abusing national leaders.

"It's not that we do not want to be criticized since we are not all accomplished, but when they want to do that, they should have valid points and not just words that are not factually correct," he added.

Mbeto also said CCM has made great strides in sending development to the people in the last two years as the development can easily be discerned by everyone with eyes to see.

He said under President Hussein Ali Mwinyi's leadership, big district hospitals have been built in all regions of both Unguja and Pemba, including roads, schools and safe and clean water supply.

He called upon politicians to stop misleading the people and instead conduct civilized politicking for the interest of the nation.



CRDB Bank Group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela delivers an International Women's Day address to the bank's women employees in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



PUBLIC NOTICE

Intention to Cancel Registration for Value Added Tax of Traders No Longer Possessing Registration Criteria

Dar es Salaam, 1st March, 2023:

The provision of **Section 28** and **Section 29** of the **Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148 (R.E 2019)** require persons who meet the set Value Added Tax (VAT) registration criteria, to apply to the Commissioner General to register for VAT. Among the criteria for VAT registration is the attainment of set turnover threshold. Moreover, **Regulation 14 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations 2015** clarifies the set registration threshold to be **One Hundred Million Shillings**.

The review of our database for VAT registered traders has revealed that, some of VAT registered traders have turnover below the required threshold hence have lost criteria for registration. In order to increase efficiency in administering VAT, the Commissioner General intends to exercise powers conferred under **Section 41** of the **VAT Act** to **cancel VAT registration** of all traders whose turnover have fallen below the required threshold and those who lost qualities provided under **Section 29** of the same Act. **However, this notice does not remove the obligation to pay tax liabilities or submit previous tax returns by taxpayers who are intended to be deregistered.**

In view of the above, the general public is notified that, **the list of taxpayers whose VAT registration will be cancelled is available in the TRA Website (www.tra.go.tz)**. Taxpayers who will be aggrieved with this decision, are required to file to the Commissioner General statement of reasons stating why they should not be deregistered from VAT. The statement should be channelled through respective **Regional Manager's Offices**, and be made **within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice**. The Authority will continue with the deregistration process without further notice upon expiration of the provided period.

For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or use the following contacts to reach us: -

Website: www.tra.go.tz
Toll Free: 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078
WhatsApp: 0744 23 33 33
E-mail: services@tra.go.tz or huduma@tra.go.tz

"Together We Build Our Nation"

A.J. Kidata
Commissioner General

Bank introduces 'Supa woman' product in celebration of International Women's Day

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has celebrated International Women's Day by officially introducing its new women-based product dubbed 'Supa Woman' account which, along with other benefits, aims to bring closer to and encourage banking services for women in the country.

The event for the introduction of the product with the slogan 'Unaweza Yote' was held earlier today in Dar es Salaam and was attended by female employees of the bank as a continuation of the introduction of the service which was initially launched at the end of last week by Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella.

The RC was officiating the opening of the 2nd Edition of The African Business Women and Youth Trade Fair and Summit 2023.

Agnes Kaganda, bank's head of branch network said in celebrating International Women's Day, the bank saw it fits to use the important platform to introduce the new product as a way of emphasizing its genuine commitment to economically liberating women in the country by offering special privileges through its services.

"Themed 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality' this year's International Women's Day resembles our product's DNA which is purely digital with the aim being to remove obstacles and the inconvenience which to a certain extent has been one

of the reasons for many women to avoid using official banking services," she said.

Kaganda said it aims to facilitate the running of business among women in the country by enabling them to get emergency loans of up to 90 percent of the amount in their accounts or bonds, mortgage loans and business loans.

"Through the service, our customers who are women will be able to get free life insurance service, their loan interests is being calculated and paid for a period that will be chosen by the customer herself. It also allows them to make purchases online or anywhere and even complete transactions through mobile phones, online or through our bank's agents."

"With our sincere commitment to be closer to women, this new service is a response to the opinions that we have been receiving from our various stakeholders, including our female customers who really have big dreams of success in their activities and we saw that we have a responsibility to do which is to go along with them in achieving their goals," she said.

Mtenya Cheya, bank's head of products and revenue assurance said the product has been introduced at the right time taking advantage of various business opportunities and the increase in commercial interaction among women in the East African Community and other neighboring countries.

Adopt digital health, technological innovations to boost services, African governments advised

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN countries have been urged to adopt digital health and other technological innovations to boost services across the continent.

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa made the call in her message to mark this year's International Women's Day in recognition of women and girls championing the advancement of transformative digital technology.

This year's theme, "DigitalALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," highlights the role of innovative technology in promoting gender equality and meeting the health and developmental needs of women and

girls.

She said globally, the increasing number and use of mobile phones and internet connectivity have facilitated access to health information and services.

According to him, the adoption of digital health and other technological innovations has positively impacted electronic medical records, health data management, security, and effective communication between health workers, patients, and community stakeholders.

She said: "Innovations have equally enhanced capacity building and knowledge translation through online training, webinars, and innovative tools for patient care—such as telemedicine, robotics, and artificial intel-

ligence."

Dr Matshidiso said: "Efforts at innovation have facilitated improved access to quality health care services and encouraged the participation of individuals, families, and community stakeholders in health care, especially during the COVID-19 lockdowns."

"We have seen that women can be innovators and contribute to transforming the health of all people on the continent. In December 2018, we organized the first WHO Africa Innovation Challenge. It was a deliberate effort to find solutions to Africa's unmet health needs and recognize home-grown innovations that could solve Africa's health challenges."

She said that more than a third of the over 2 400 submissions from 77 countries came from women-led enterprises, and one of them emerged among the top three awardees. "We need to encourage and support such dedication. I'm glad to see the enthusiastic scale-up of ICT-based innovation deployed to fight COVID-19 and other diseases in the region."

"These include using drones in Ghana, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Malawi; robots for clinical assistance in Rwanda; satellite imagery-driven vulnerability mapping dashboards in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone; and WhatsApp Chatbots in South Africa." Similarly, Angola, Nige-

ria, Ethiopia and Uganda are using self-diagnostic tools, contact tracing apps, solar-powered automatic hand washing tools—to mention but a few.

"In the area of reproductive health, innovative technologies such as YeneHealth, a digital innovation supporting women to gain self-agency; NoviGuide 2.4, a neonatal application helping to recognize and act when danger signs are noticed; and Safe Delivery smartphone applications being tested in eight countries, have shown added value to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescents services when deployed widely."

Dr Matshidiso said: "We must do more to remove

the digital gender divide, mainly impacting vulnerable women and girls, especially those in rural and remote areas with low education and socioeconomic status."

According to a 2021 report by the Association of Mobile Operators, inadequate infrastructure, lack of digital skills for the internet and ICTs, and gender-related barriers around access to and control over resources are the main obstacles to "meaningful connectivity" for women and girls.

"We can address this challenge by creating awareness about the digital gender divide, advocating for policies and legal frameworks to keep women and girls safe. Promoting women's participation in science, technology, and ICTs.

By doing these, we will ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable women and girls also benefit equitably from digital and technological innovations for their improved health and well-being."

"Let us also work to

ensure that women and girls are safe online. This will free them from online gender-based violence, including cyber stalking, sexual harassment, trafficking, and gross breaches of privacy."

"As we celebrate International Women's Day, I urge all stakeholders—from governments and partners to civil society and citizens—to support country-driven and gender-sensitive approaches to close the existing digital gender divide."



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba exchanges greetings with France's Minister of State in Charge of Francophony, Development and International Partnerships, Chrysoïa Zacharopoulou (R), at the ongoing (March 5 to 9) United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in Doha, Qatar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Brewer's network extends support to women in tech

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) through its Spirited Women network which comprises SBL's female employees has provided internet equipment with unlimited data for a whole year to women center innovation hubs, in efforts to contribute towards improving the inclusivity of women in the digital space, which is in line with this year's International Women's Day (IWD) theme, DigitalALL.

SBL's Spirited Women rendered this support in partnership with Airtel Tanzania PLC whereby the women-centered hubs received Wi-Fi routers, satellite connectors and other data-supportive equipment. This was part of SBL's Spirited Women commemorating this year's IWD, which calls for 'Innovation and technology for gender equality'.

The women's center innovation hubs that benefited from this support are LP Digital in Dar es Salaam, Twende in Moshi and Ennovate in Mwanza.

Speaking at the handover ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, SBL Communications Manager and Spirited Women network lead Rispa Hatibu said the Spirited Women network usually supports initiatives that would elevate women in workplaces and even in

socio-economic welfare, hence their support of women-centered hubs was in line with what they strive to do.

"Inclusion is one of our pillars and we have always been keen on advocating for the marginalized group hence as we commemorate this year's International Women's Day, it was important for us to do something to empower the women in tech in line with this year's theme, and I sincerely commend these women center hubs because they are enabling female entrepreneurs to grow in the digital space, and ultimately bridge the digital. Our support to these hubs is to provide them with a one-year internet service which will help them reduce operational costs and allow them to invest in further growing the hubs," said Hatibu.

She added by saying that SBL through the Spirited Women network will continue to extend support to initiatives and projects geared to empower women, not just on the IWD but throughout the year. SBL's Spirited Women representatives in Mwanza and Moshi along with Airtel Tanzania PLC paid a visit to the other two hubs in the regions to provide support.

The three hubs provide various courses ranging from digital marketing to

business strategy. Besides the programs offered, many female entrepreneurs visit the hub centers to exchange knowledge and find support on how to improve their innovative products.

Mining firm's women offer medical equipment to Geita council

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

A GROUP of female workers working for Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) have donated various medical equipment to help pregnant women at Nzela Hospital and the Kasota Health Center located in Geita District Council.

Group's vice chairperson Lina Sitta said women who work at GGML have been affected by the challenges of the shortage of medical equipment in the health centres in the surrounding villages.

"We have decided at the moment to start with the Kasota and Nzela villages which are closest to the GGML mine and mothers have been facing challenges such as lack of soaps, towels for mothers and diapers for children. We have given this support to celebrate International Women's Day," she said.

Stanley Samola Victor, Kasota health centre's assistant physician lauded GGML ladies for the support but also for the mine to help with the construction of the laboratory, the servant's house and the maternity building at the centre.

"You have done well on International Women's Day this year. Many patients here are very relieved from this support," he said.

The slogan of International Women's Day this year is Innovation and technological change: The catalyst for gender equality.

KIJANI HAI TANZANIA LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 139213513

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE CREDITORS TO PROVE CLAIMS OR DEBTS

IN THE MATTER OF KIJANI HAI TANZANIA LIMITED
IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION (CREDITORS') WINDING UP
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, CAP. 212.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-mentioned Company which is being wound up voluntarily, are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned, the Liquidator of the said Company on the address shown below on or before or on 24 March 2023 and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator to personally come in and prove the said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in the default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Geoffrey Dimoso
GEOFFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO

Dated this 24 day of February 2023

GEOFFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO
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An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

TENDER NOTICES

PROVISION FOR HEALTH POLICY ANALYST CONSULTANCY

The Embassy of Ireland under the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland, is responsible for promoting Ireland's interests and values abroad. The Department has over 90 Embassies and Permanent Missions around the world including 14 Embassies in Africa.

The Embassy of Ireland Tanzania implements the Department's foreign policy in a number of areas which include consular services, trade, political and development, all of which are guided by the 'Global Ireland, Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World' and other relevant policies. The Embassy of Ireland Tanzania is also responsible for diplomatic engagements with four countries of secondary accreditations (Burundi, Comoros, DRC, and Seychelles) and the East African Community.

The Embassy of Ireland has a substantial portfolio of partnerships in health in Tanzania, focused on primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition and human resources for health. The largest investment is via the Health Basket Fund. The Embassy is the current incoming chair of the Development Partners' Group on Health. Our Deputy Head of Cooperation will become the Chair on 01 July 2023 until 30 June 2024. The chairing of the DPG-Health provides an opportunity for the Embassy to position itself at the centre of health policy dialogue in Tanzania.

SPECIFICATION/REQUIREMENTS
The Embassy wishes to invite qualified health policy analyst to support the Embassy in engaging a wide range of health policy matters during the chairing of the DPG-Health. A suitable candidate should possess the following qualities:

1. Substantial, broad knowledge of health policy issues in Tanzania
2. Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English
3. Ability to distil and synthesise complex issues into succinct briefings
4. Excellent research and analysis skills

MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Applicants must submit both a Technical and Financial proposal including:

1. A Company profile and proof of legal certificates and affiliations;
2. Cover letter expressing interest;
3. Curriculum Vitae CV

Request for Tender is available on our website
(<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/tanzania/news-and-events/latestnews/request-for-tender-for-the-provision-of-a-health-policy-analyst-for-embassy-dar-es-salaam.html>)

Tenders should be addressed to the Ambassador, Embassy of Ireland and submitted by email to DarProcurement@dfa.ie not later than **18.00 on 29th March 2023**. Late bids will not be accepted.

The Embassy of Ireland reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Canvassing will result in automatic disqualification of the tender

P.O. Box 9612 Dar es Salaam, Plot 353 Touré Drive, Masaki
Tel: +255 222602355/2602356/2602361
Email - DarProcurement@dfa.ie
Website: www.dfa.ie/Tanzania

Form No.360b

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator: Voluntary Winding Up: for insertion in Gazette

Pursuant to section 360 of the Companies Act 2002

To the Registrar of Companies

Company Number 139213513

Company Name (in full) KIJANI HAI TANZANIA LIMITED

Type of liquidation CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

Address of Registered office THE ADDRESS, GROUND FLOOR, 1 BAINS SINGH AVENUE MSASANI PENINSULA DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA

Liquidator(s) Name(s) GEOFFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO

Liquidator(s) Address(es) C/O ANJARWALLA & KHANNA TANZANIA THE ADDRESS BUILDING 1 BAINS SINGH AVENUE MSASANI PENINSULA P.O. BOX 79651, DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA

Date of appointment 24 FEBRUARY 2023

By whom appointed CREDITORS OF KIJANI HAI TANZANIA LIMITED

Signed *Geoffrey Dimoso* Date 24 FEBRUARY 2023

NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS: GEOFFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO

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THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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We ought to chart strategies to reduce food-stress and drought

LOOKING back through the history of biological evolution and human civilisation, drought not only claimed lives of various creatures but also impeded the development of human civilisation.

The population of Tanzania's central region, comprising Dodoma, Singida and Tabora, is exposed to a range of serious drought-related diseases, in addition to the nutritional impact of lack of rainfall. Prevalent illnesses include malnutrition, trachoma (a sight-threatening eye infection), dysentery, cholera and diarrhoea. New research shows that by 2030, even if the drought frequency and intensity remain stable, 5 per cent of the region's population will go hungry. In addition, 5 per cent of the population will suffer from trachoma and almost 200,000 children under five from diarrhoea. This would be accompanied by many serious cases of cholera and dysentery.

According to a study, Tanzania has witnessed six major droughts in the last 30 years. The HYPERLINK "http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq709e.pdf" \t "blank" latest numbers from the UN suggest that 24 million people are facing food insecurity in eastern Africa alone, not counting millions of people in the southern region.

The government should therefore urgently evaluate the impact of drought and make short, medium and long-term interventions to save people's lives. Measures should include supplying relief food to households worst affected by food shortages, supplying more food to the market to stabilise prices and restricting cereal exports.

Such an evaluation would make

it possible to determine whether there was a need to import cereals or ask the private sector not to export grain and sell it domestically instead.

As for medium and long-term interventions the government should promote irrigation farming as that would guarantee good harvests even during periods of adverse weather. It is time Tanzania made the best use of the over 29 million hectares that is suitable for irrigation farming. This land is currently grossly under-utilised.

We also feel that the government should release food from the national reserve to stabilise skyrocketing cereal prices. Fears of famine were heightened when the Tanzania Meteorological Agency announced that the country received below-average rainfall in November and December, last year.

Mycenae, one of the cultural centres of ancient Greece, which had been prosperous for centuries, finally became ruins due to the severe drought and the following famine 1200 BC. The Mycenaean civilisation vanished along with the city as well. In modern times, damage caused by drought is more shocking.

According to statistics, five of the World Top Ten Major Natural Disasters happened in the 20th century are droughts; others are three earthquakes, one typhoon and one tsunami.

The severe drought in Africa (1968-1973) claimed 2 million lives, hit 25 million people in 36 countries and forced over 10 million victims to flee home. China is also frequently hit by drought and three out of the world five major droughts in the 20th century happened in China.

Education is fundamental to development and growth

THE human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth. For countries to reap these benefits fully, and Tanzania is no exception, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no better tool for doing so than education.

Twenty years ago, government officials and development partners met to affirm the importance of education in development—on economic development and broadly on improving people's lives—and together declared Education for All as a goal. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind. Because growth, development, and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform our call to action from Education for All to Learning for All. First, foundational skills acquired early in childhood make possible a lifetime of learning. The traditional view of education as starting in primary school takes up the challenge too late. The science of brain development shows that learning needs to be encouraged early and often, both inside and outside of the formal schooling system. In the primary years, quality teaching is essential to give students the foundational literacy and numeracy on which lifelong learning depends. Adolescence is also a period of high potential for learning, but many teenagers leave school at this point, lured by the prospect of a job, the need to help their families, or

turned away by the cost of schooling. For those who drop out too early, second-chance and nonformal learning opportunities are essential to ensure that all youth can acquire skills for the labour market.

Second, getting results requires smart investments—that is, investments that prioritise and monitor learning, beyond traditional metrics, such as the number of teachers trained or number of students enrolled. Quality needs to be the focus of education investments, with learning gains as the key metric of quality. Resources are too limited and the challenges too big to be designing policies and programs in the dark. We need evidence on what works in order to invest smartly.

Third, learning for all means ensuring that all students, and not just the most privileged or gifted, acquire the knowledge and skills that they need. Major challenges of access remain for disadvantaged populations at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. We must lower the barriers that keep girls, children with disabilities, and ethnolinguistic minorities from attaining as much education as other population groups. "Learning for All" promotes the equity goals that underlie Education for All and the SDGs. Without confronting equity issues, it will be impossible to achieve the objective of learning for all.

Achieving learning for all will be challenging, but it is the right agenda for the next decade. It is the knowledge and skills that children and youth acquire today—not simply their school attendance—that will drive their employability, productivity, health, and well-being in the decades to come, and that will help ensure that their communities and nations thrive.

Assimilation Vs Social Distancing



The billions allocated for infrastructure require more progressive procurement systems, oversight

By Zukiswa Kota

DELIVERING his budget speech on 22 February, this year Minister of Finance Enoch Gdongwana focused on the major infrastructure - electricity, water, and municipal projects. This heavy focus is understandable given that spending on public sector infrastructure over the 2023 medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) is estimated at r903 billion. Of this, state-owned enterprises (SOES) and public entities are the largest contributors to capital investment, at a projected r 302.1 billion over the next three years. Over this period, infrastructure spending on social services infrastructure will account for 17.6 per cent (down from 18.2 per cent in the 2022 mtef).

Health and education account for 5 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. And while this may pale in comparison to what the government calls "economic infrastructure", the importance of social infrastructure should not be underestimated in a country still gravely challenged with inequality, particularly in the delivery and access to quality health services.

This unequal access to quality health services was recently underscored when health minister Dr Joe Phaahla, in response to a Democratic Alliance MP's question in Parliament, confirmed that only 55 per cent of all clinics in the country have gained "ideal clinic status". An ideal clinic is a facility that must comply with a range of criteria, among which is good infrastructure. Yet, judged by observations by the community-led clinic monitoring project Ritshidze, there are many clinics across provinces with inadequate infrastructure - from broken toilets to waiting areas that are way too small and inadequately ventilated.

Effective procurement - a social justice imperative so, given the billions spent on addressing infrastructure challenges across sectors and the fact that poor maintenance and oversight of these big infrastructure projects are well-documented - monitoring closely these trends across the public sector, particularly where procurement and contracting are concerned will be vital. In the health sector, now also plagued with load shedding challenges that require its own infrastructure overhaul, this need for



transparency will be particularly pronounced as spending in the health sector is often a matter of life and death for patients.

Arguably less documented are the interventions to address these issues in an ethical and just manner through progressive procurement systems. Effective procurement is a social and environmental justice imperative which, in South Africa, additionally carries constitutional obligations to tackle the consequences of apartheid-era discriminatory policies. On a global policy level, targets within sustainable development goal 16 make the links between human rights, participation, and anti-corruption efforts clear. These aim to "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms" and to ensure "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels". This is important in the context of health infrastructure, which is outlined in the national development plan as a national priority.

So how do we, in the spirit of SDG goal 16, "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms", especially with eye-watering billions earmarked for infrastructure projects?

Notably, the national anti-corruption strategy (NACS) has identified the health sector as having a high vulnerability to the manifestation of corrupt or unethical practices. Who can forget the digital vibes scandal, where almost two years after it exploded in the headlines - no high-profile arrests have been made?

The looting of the health system by 'tenderpreneurs' that was exposed in the context of COVID-19 personal protective equipment and infrastructure purchases illustrated the need for full cycle procurement

structure projects?

One key answer, among others, in south africa is the public procurement bill, which essentially aims to streamline government procurement processes to enhance transparency. However, the silence on the public procurement bill in the budget speech accompanied by only fleeting references to important reform in an annexure of the budget review does not bode well for broader reform.

still, South Africa is in dire need of a more sustainable, social justice-oriented response to the devastating poverty and inequality in the country. Open government initiatives can offer significant safeguards against capture of the procurement system. They may also increase opportunities for more robust public and parliamentary oversight. The data from such platforms can be used by diverse stakeholders, including journalists and civil society, to identify signs of irregularity where competition and contracting are concerned. For instance, included in the 2023 public infrastructure updates for health is the construction of the Limpopo central hospital - a 488-bed hospital in Polokwane, which will form part of an academic health complex attached to the University of Limpopo's medical school. Others include the R10.4 billion Inkosi Albert Luthuli central hospital project (a public-private partnership), Tygerberg hospital (R 4.2 billion), and Klipfontein hospital (r 4.3 billion).

Now, imagine any member of the public having access to project plans, contractor and contract information, as well as expenditure and performance data for each of these projects at every stage of development. imagine all r 903 billion worth of infrastructure projects across SOES (yes Eskom too), departments, and public entities being open to direct, near real-time scrutiny. This is entirely possible.

However, in the absence of coherent policy, well-resourced plans, and institutions, as well as active political support for such reforms, the encouraging plans that can make this kind of transparency possible will be severely limited in their impact.

Either way, if we are to track and safeguard efficiently the promises for public healthcare infrastructure, we must urgently finalise South Africa's long-awaited procurement reforms.

So how do we, in the spirit of SDG GOAL 16, "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms", especially with eye-watering billions earmarked for infra-

Success in learning requires cooperation between parents and teachers throughout

FOR any activity to be successful cooperation between parties involved is critical. In education, a parent who is essentially a home teacher needs to cooperate with the school teacher so as to make teaching and learning a success.

Unfortunately, cooperation between parents and teachers appears to be lacking with the former seem to believe that the burden should be fully on the shoulders of the latter. That is true in a way because whenever a pupil fails an exam or performs poorly in a subject; all the blames go to teachers and not parents.

There are some factors which hinder co-operation between parents and teachers. Lack of awareness among parents is one of the barriers to effective cooperation between parents and teachers. There are some parents who believe that because teachers are paid to do their work, they are supposed to do it all alone. In fact, there are parents who set foot in their child's school twice only: reporting day and graduation day.

Parents who leave the entire process of teaching to a teacher are the ones who do not comprehend the value of home environment in the teaching and learning process. They do not fully understand how



This may affect a child in terms of changing behaviour and a challenge to a teacher in imparting skills into their mind.

they can stimulate education success of a pupil by working on directives and advice given by the teacher.

Also, these parents are the ones who hold the view that everyone has to do their job on their own unless they share their earnings with anyone who helps. But in educational spheres this notion may not apply as learning is behavioural, meaning that what the parent says to the child may affect the relationship between the pupil and the teacher.

The home environment gives support to the school environment. What is said in school should get emphasis at home so as to make the teaching and learning processes effective. If a pupil is tired of reading a book in school, there should be a pos-

sibility that they can read the same book at home. When teachers and parents cooperative, it is when teachers can advise parents on books to buy for their children so as to enhance the level of understanding among pupils.

The current economic situation has placed parents in a difficult situation which makes it hard for them to communicate with teachers. Parents are busy looking for the school fees and other school contributions and they can hardly get time to talk to teachers.

It is very true that a school especially a private one cannot be run without fees. But is follow up not important? Parents need to know how their money is spent by communicating with teachers

so as to get accounts on the performance of their sons and daughters and understand what they are supposed to do to improve or maintain the performance.

Regular communication between parents and teachers stimulate the sense of responsibility to both a parent and teacher. This motivates the pupil to study hard because the atmosphere does not support laziness and underperformance. When a parent and a teacher communicate effectively, it is easy to establish common objectives which both teachers and parents pursue jointly.

Another thing which promotes cooperation between parents and teachers is a teacher giving general observation of the child to the parent. This shows the parent that the teacher is serious in the performance of his or her duties. Sometimes complaints are escalated by absence of information about what is going on. A teacher may have good plans and initiatives but they do not communicate the same to the parent.

When there is effective communication between teachers and parents, the learning atmosphere is improved. Through cooperation, teachers and parents may plan on how to improve the performance of a pupil. This eliminates the pos-

sibility of wrong child upbringing which is something happening whereby parents and their children form a negative attitude towards certain school practices without communicating with teachers.

It is a serious mistake for a child who has to be shown a way by both teachers and parents to be involved in criticizing teachers who teach them. This may affect a child in terms of changing behaviour and a challenge to a teacher in imparting skills into their mind.

It is important for a parent share with a teacher what concerns the teacher so as to establish understanding on reasons for a certain practice or performance in school. Challenges are inevitable in a learning environment but the good news is that they can be solved if the right approach is applied. It is through cooperation that good policies and initiatives can be established in school for the betterment of all involved in the learning process.

Without cooperation between parents and teachers, learning is hindered. We should not rely on blame games. Let us prevent the possibility of blaming each other unnecessarily by increasing the level of cooperation between teachers and parents. Cooperation can lay a solid foundation for academic excellence. Teaching is cooperating.

By **Dr Valeria Silvestri, Vivian Mushi and Pankras Luoga**

IT is common to find a person with scabies (rashes) nowadays with statistics showing that more than 4 per cent of our population has the condition. However, most of the people are not aware of what is the origin of the problem, how it is transmitted and in what ways the problem is treated and avoided.

This leads to existence of stigmatization of people infected with the condition in our societies. The situation makes the problem continue to persist and causes a lot of health damages hence reduction of quality of life and huge economic loss that is an obstacle for the development of the Country.

The worse part is that scabies has not been taken as a serious health problem in our country because the disease is usually (but not always) not deadly. In that line, this article intends to highlight some of the common issues concerning the problem of scabies in the country and what can be done to prevent it or cure it.

What's scabies and what's its cause?

Scabies is a disease of the skin. It is caused by a parasite called *sarcoptes scabiei* that lives on human skin. Every year, a total of 455 million people are diagnosed with scabies globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) has included scabies among the neglected tropical diseases, which are those conditions that have a big impact on public health but for which insufficient funds are invested. Even though climatic, hygienic and population density may be factors that favour the spread of the diseases in tropical regions, scabies is a worldwide problem. Babies and adolescents can be more frequently affected with the disease.

How is scabies transmitted?

Scabies is transmitted by direct and long contact with an individual who has who has the disease, usually lasting more than twenty minutes. In addition, the transmissions are more prevalent in people who do not observe cleanliness of their body and the general environment where they live.

What are the symptoms and signs?

Scabies causes small lesions on the skin (2-3 millimetres), hard at touch, pink-reddish in colour that appear from four to six weeks of the parasite first invasion of the skin. Lesions are due to the reac-



Scabies: A neglected disease that inflicts enormous damage silently

tion to the parasite to its eggs and faeces which are produced inside skin tunnels that the female *sarcoptes scabiei* digs in to lay its eggs.

Frequently, lesions appear on the hands, feet, between fingers, on the wrist or ankles but also in the genital area, breast, buttocks and axillary region. Normally, itching can be felt which can increase at night. Itching can be a severe cause of distraction and school loss.

Is scabies a severe disease?

Infestation with *sarcoptes scabiei* can be treated with a topic therapy that can kill the parasite

and clear the skin from it but if not treated and if lesions spread and get chronic, the itch can lead to an overlapping bacterial skin infection. This kind of germs, like *staphylococcus aureus* or *strep-tococcus piogenes*, can spread to the whole body, causing severe damage to organs like kidney or heart. Frail patients and patients with reduced immunity can be more prone to these complications.

How is scabies diagnosis made?

Scabies is diagnosed by a dermatologist by ruling out other skin diseases that can cause

similar features. The diagnosis is clinical by visiting the patient and checking the typical appearance of the lesions on the skin with skin tunnels. The specialist can do an examination called dermatoscopy to better visualize the lesions, the eggs laid by the parasite and the parasite responsible for the itching. The diagnosis of certainty is made by a parasitologist who observes parasites on a skin scraping sample under the microscope.

What should be done?

There are two major ways of fighting against scabies. The first is observing environmental

hygiene practices by all members of the society at all times even when there is no reported case of scabies. This includes personal and general hygiene of the surrounding environment where members of the society live.

The second way is by seeking and applying proper treatments to those already infected. The society should not stigmatize any person with scabies instead they should assist them in seeking medical care.

After the diagnosis, the doctor prescribes a therapy. Usually, the therapy consists of an ointment with permethrin 5

per cent for children older than two months. Hygienic measures include washing clothes and linen with hot water (more than 50 degrees) and drying with hot iron. This helps reduce the spread of the infestation.

Note that sometimes patients may not show any symptoms in the early stages of the disease hence it is good to extend the environmental hygiene practice where one case has been diagnosed. This is important for protecting other members of the society against the disease.

Do patients acquire immunity after first infection?

The infestation with the parasite doesn't lead to immunity to the parasite. People can get scabies more than once in a lifetime. Therefore, there is no long lasting body immunity is developed by a person being infected by scabies. This calls for taking all necessary precautions to avoid contacting scabies.

The urgent call

We suggest that everyone in the society to be keen in protecting themselves against scabies particularly by making body and environment hygiene as the first priority. In addition, in case one member of the society starts presenting some symptoms and signs of scabies, members of the community should avoid stigmatizing the infected person.

It is always important for the society to assist the infected individuals in seeking medical care at the nearby health facilities and avoid leaving the problem untreated as well as avoiding the spreading of the condition for the wellbeing and economic benefit of the society.

Untreated scabies may increase health expenditure to an individual, family and the nation as well as adverse health outcomes, including long lasting complications that may contribute to deaths which could be prevented through hygiene or proper treatment of scabies.

Dr Valeria Silvestri, Msc in Parasitology and Entomology at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Vivian Mushi is Assistant Lecturer Department of Parasitology and Entomology at MUHAS and Pankras Luoga is Assistant Lecturer in Health Systems Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in Health at MUHAS.

International Women's Day 2023: The world parliaments could take another 80 years to fully achieve gender parity

By Thalif Deen

FOR the first time in history, says a new report from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), not a single functioning parliament in the world is "male-only".

Is the increasing number of women in parliaments a singular achievement for gender empowerment? Or is it the result of mandatory legislative quotas for women's representation in world's parliaments?

According to the latest IPU report, Women in Parliament 2022, women's participation in parliament has never been as diverse and representative as it is in many countries today.

The findings are based on the 47 countries that held elections in 2022. In those elections, women took an average 25.8% of seats up for election or appointment. This represents a 2.3 percentage point increase compared to previous renewals in these chambers.

Brazil saw a record 4,829 women who identify as Black running for election (out of 26,778 candidates); in the US, a record number of women of colour (263) stood in the midterm elections; LGBTQ+ representation in Colombia tripled from two to six members of the Congress; and in France, 32 candidates from minority backgrounds were elected to the new National Assembly, an all-time high of 5.8 per cent of the total.

The report said legislated quotas were again a decisive factor in the increases seen in women's representation. Thomas Fitzsimons, IPU's Director of Communications told IPS there are many factors that explain the successes of the countries that have made progress.

For example, he pointed out, technological and operational transformations, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the potential for parliaments to become more gender-sensitive and family-friendly.

"The influence of gender issues on election outcomes, with increased awareness of discrimination and gender-based violence, as well as alliances with other social movements, also helped drive strong results for women



Despite advances in gender representation in legislative bodies, the track record of women in the executive branches of government – as heads of state or heads of government – remains low.

in some of the parliamentary elections," he noted.

"But if we had to choose one primary factor, it would be legislated quotas. Legislated quotas enshrined in the constitution and/or electoral laws require that a minimum number of candidates are women (or of the under-represented sex)," he said.

Chambers with legislated quotas or combined with voluntary party quotas produced a significantly higher share of women than those without in the 2022 elections (30.9 per cent versus 21.2 per cent).

"As for the future, we need to accelerate the momentum which is still too slow. At current rates of growth, it will take another 80 years before we reach parity," Fitzsimons declared.

Antonia Kirkland Global Lead – Legal Equality and Access to Justice at Equality Now, told IPS it is encouraging to see IPU's data revealing that more women than ever are in political decision-making roles globally, and there has been an overall increase in the number of women in both government and parliamentary posts.

IPU's data clearly demonstrates that quotas on women's representation have had a positive, big impact. Countries applying quotas have enjoyed a 9.7% increase in women in parliaments in comparison to countries without, she said.

"However, it is lamentable that women are still so underrepresented at all levels of political decision-making, accounting for only 9.8 per cent of Heads of Government and just over a quarter of MPs. It is also deeply concerning that gender parity in parliaments is at least 80 years away if we continue at the current pace."

With the World Bank finding that only 14 countries have full legal equality between women and men, and UN Women gaging it will take another 286 years to eliminate gaps in legal protections, duty bearers must create a safe and empowering environment for women to engage in politics that fosters greater legal equality, said Kirkland.

She said more needs to be done to increase women's political representation by understanding and removing

obstacles that impede women's participation in the public sphere and decision-making.

"To accelerate gender parity in parliaments, we need an end to sex-discriminatory laws in all areas of life which hold women back from engaging in politics in the first place."

Political parties should highlight the importance and advantages of gender diversity, and implement initiatives that involve women in politics at all stages and within all branches of the political arena.

IPU's report, she pointed out, shows that a shocking percentage of women in parliament are subjected to gender-based violence and sexual harassment in their own parliaments, on the streets, and in the digital world. Concerted efforts are required to tackle head-on gender-based violence and abuse targeting women politicians both online and offline.

Governments, parliamentarians, the private sector, and civil society need to seize every opportunity – such as the upcoming UN Global Digital Compact – to work together so that women

are protected from online abuse. Perpetrates and those who facilitate or provide platforms for such abuse must be held accountable.

"Tackling this problem would result in less self-censorship by parliamentarians, greater interest from girls and young women to serve in government, and ultimately stronger democracies that are both more peaceful and gender-equal, declared Kirkland.

At the regional level, the report said, six countries now have gender parity (or a greater share of women than men) in their lower or single chamber as of 1 January 2023. New Zealand joined last year's club of five consisting of Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), at the top of the IPU's authoritative global ranking of women in parliament.

Other notable gains in women's representation were recorded in Australia (the strongest outcome of the year with a record 56.6 per cent of seats won by women in the Senate), Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, Malta and Slovenia.

High stakes elections in Angola, Kenya and Senegal all saw positive strides for women. Wide divides characterized results in Asia: record numbers of women were elected to the historically male-dominated Senate in Japan but in India, elections to the upper chamber led to women occupying only 15.1 per cent of seats, well below the global and regional averages.

The Pacific saw the highest growth rate in women's representation out of all the regions, gaining 1.7 percentage points to reach an overall average of 22.6 per cent women in parliament. Every Pacific parliament now has at least one-woman legislator.

In the 15 European chambers that were renewed in 2022, there was little shift in women's representation, stagnating at 31 per cent.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, seven chambers were renewed in 2022. On average, women were elected to 16.3 per cent of the seats in these chambers, the lowest regional percentage in the world for elections held in the year. Three countries were below 10 per cent: Algeria (upper chamber: 4.3 per cent), Kuwait (6.3 per cent) and Lebanon (6.3 per cent).

Bahrain is an outlier in the region with a record eight women elected to the lower chamber, including many first-time lawmakers. 73 women ran for election to the lower chamber (out of a total of 330 candidates) compared with the 41 women who ran in the last election in 2018. Ten women were also appointed to the 40-member upper chamber.

Women and girls: The case for innovation and higher education

By Giulia Ribeiro Barao and Bosen

Lily Liu

IN September 2020, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for women's rights celebrated its 25th anniversary. It was, however, a bitter-sweet commemoration, mixing joy for the progress in gender equality achieved since 1995, and the stark realization about the multidimensional gaps awaiting tackling and the new divides brought by the social consequences of COVID-19.

In 2021, UNESCO projected that 11 million girls were at risk of not returning to school after the education interruptions caused by the pandemic. Even though the educational disruption accelerated the way into innovative learning practices, including distance and online education, it was not an equal reality for all social groups, since those already marginalized were also overrepresented in the offline population, including girls and women, and especially those living in poverty and rural communities (ECOSOC, 2021).

In 2020, worldwide, 57 percent of women used the Internet, compared with 62 per cent of men (ECOSOC, 2021). In the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), Africa, and the Arab States, the gender gap in internet use remains more significant.

For instance, in LDCs, only 19 per cent of women are using the internet, which is 12 percentage points lower than men. Similarly, in Africa, 24 per cent of women use the internet compared to 35 per cent of men, while in the Arab States, the internet usage rate is 56 per cent, compared to 68 per cent of men.

Girls and women who are kept without access to Internet and digital literacy will not benefit from the technological revolution that is cur-



In 2020, worldwide, 57 percent of women used the Internet, compared with 62 per cent of men (ECOSOC, 2021). Credit: Canva via UNESCO



Women in STEM, taking part in research and development groups, although still underrepresented, are innovating in education.

rently transforming all areas of life, most centrally the educational sector and the job markets.

Even though innovation and technology for girls and women's education is undoubtedly a critical topic in the contemporary scenario, we should notice that innovation itself extends beyond the boundaries of the digital world.

To further explore the field of innovation in education, the UNESCO Young People on Transforming Education Project (YPTEP) focuses on innovative learning practices – technological or non-technological tools and techniques – initiated and led by learners themselves for meaningful

and transformative engagement in their own educational journeys.

One highlight of the project is on understanding the gender-responsive practices from girls and women.

Girls and women worldwide have long been innovative in fighting gender barriers and creating self-initiative and community strategies to accessing learning even when excluded from Internet access and other forms of innovation.

A female leader who creates a finance course for mothers, while providing turns of collective care for their children, is innovating in education. A girl who creates a book

club with her friends to read and debate publications on feminism is innovating in education.

Women in STEM, taking part in research and development groups, although still underrepresented, are innovating in education.

So, here we are – right at the crossroad where education, innovation and gender inequalities meet. Not paying attention to those issues will only aggravate previous gaps, hampering the advancement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

To contribute to this debate and pathways for solutions, the UNESCO team of Young People on Transforming Education Project (YPTEP)

at UNESCO IESALC hosted a Fireside Chat on "Women and girls, innovation, and higher education" on 6 March 2023 to reunite women and girls from different countries and regions and celebrate their success not only to overcome challenges, but also to become change-makers in the field.

During the chat, we had the opportunity to engage with ten female storytellers who shared their stories on innovative learning and expand our understanding of innovation, creativity, and transformation in education.

Stories approached, in a broader sense, innovative paths in getting access to higher education; innovative learning practices to get through education and achieve learning goals; innovative tools and techniques that have enhanced their experiences as learners both inside and outside the classroom; and studying and working initiatives to design new technology and broader forms of innovation for education.

Participation in the Fireside Chat is also open and expected from all those who wish to share their experiences on innovative learning and higher education. We have organized interactive activities and will have "open chatbox" and "open mic" for anyone who are willing to present yourselves typing and tell your stories live.

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IPS UN Bureau

Feminists urge increased funding to women, girl's empowerment projects

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN and girls rights stakeholders have issued an urgent call for increased funding in projects that promote human rights thus break the oppressive system that thwarts women and girls from realizing their full potential.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently during the conference to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Women Fund Tanzania-Trust (WFT-T), the stakeholders said that the current funding to women projects was still insufficient with most part of it not addressing the oppressive systems that affect women's development such as decision making as well as land ownership.

The discussion during the three-day event held from February 24 to 26, this year, centred on various issues including women's movement in the country, achievements, expectations and challenges where Dr Avemaria Semakafu, country coordinator of the Tanzania Women Cross Party (TWCP) - Ulingo platform commended the government for showing commitment fight gender-based violence (GBV) as well as violence against children.

She said there is a need to increase the quantity and quality of financial resources available for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in developing countries including Tanzania.

She said that there are oppressive systems that need to be addressed both at family and society level so as to make women free to engage in economic activities as well as enjoy life with their families.

"Studies have confirmed that while there are many promising opportunities to advance women's empowerment and gender equality in Tanzania, the high rates of gender-based violence in the country remain a serious concern, something which call for the government to continue to strengthen the policy and legal environment to protect the nation's women and girls," she said.

Maria Rusimbi, WFT-T co-founder said despite a huge step that has been witnessed in uplifting women, the majority of them are denied their rights due to oppressive systems in the society.

"As we celebrate the court case, WFT-T realizes that there are hundreds of girls and women who are subjected to various acts of violence, who need the support of women and men in this country to stand up and say, "enough is enough" let our girls and women remain safe in their own home, in their communities and in this nation."

She said that despite the comprehensive framework for preventing and responding to GBV and Violence Against Children (VAC) through the National Plans of Action (NPA, 2017- 2022), and the establishment of ample government coordination mechanisms, violence against women and children remains a nationwide problem.

Rebecca Gyumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative called for urgent measures to change the legislative framework to address child-marriage as a key driver of GBV.

"In 2016 the High Court of Tanzania ruled that the minimum age for girls was unconstitutional, and this ruling was upheld subsequently by the Court of Appeal in 2019. As part of this ruling, the government was instructed that within one year it should change the minimum age of marriage for girls to be 18, however this reform is still pending, we still insist the government to take action and amend this law," she said.

The Marriage Act set the minimum age of marriage at 15 for girls and 18 for boys.

Theo Sowa, former CEO of the African Women's Development Fund, underscored the need for organisations and stakeholders to continue working in unity to empower women and girls uplifting them from poverty and various challenges.

"This therefore is an important celebration of the power of dreams, vision, hard-work to channel goals into reality and collective effort towards change of women. African women heroes are not mentioned enough. We do not acknowledge the stories of change championed by our African sisters," Theo said when she was opening the event.

She noted that despite bilateral institutions directing most of their funds in women's organizations, only 1 percent goes to support women's work emphasizing that adoption of feminist policies such as FAP by bilateral institutions like Canada has promoted resourcing women rights organisations (WROs) to 7 percent.

UN Women Country Representative, Hodan Adou said: "It has truly been inspiring to see how the Women Fund Tanzania has been able to grow from strength to strength ensuring women's human rights & voices are contributing in all of the policies that are important in Tanzania."

The Fund's executive director Rose Marandu said beyond celebrating the impactful work that has been done, the three-day event is also aimed to share knowledge, to engage, and to inspire other civic and non-civic actors to understand what role feminist funds have played around the world, with a particular focus on what role WFT-Trust plays in Tanzania, and how others can be part of this new feminist funding model.

What stake do Tanzanian women have in the country's automotive industry?



Norah Simkoko, one of the motor mechanics female students who participated in the special technical training provided by the CFAO Motors Tanzania, receives the certificate of participation from the company's CEO, François Bompert. All beneficiaries of the training received their certificates during the International Women's Day celebratory event held on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Reporter

LIKE other parts of the world, Tanzania's automotive industry has grown steadily over time and become an integral part of the country's economy. The Tanzania automotive market, size, share, outlook, and growth opportunities 2022-2030 report states that Tanzania's automotive market is witnessing a strong rebound in demand from the COVID downturn and post-COVID supply chain bottlenecks. The market is expected to grow at a significant compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2023 and 2030.

The automotive sector heavily relies on the importation of cars and car parts from major global manufacturers. Its significance cannot be overstated, as it serves as the backbone of several other sectors, including transport, logistics, and mobility. Without efficient transport and mobility, key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, mining, and trade would remain stagnant. In addition, service sectors such as healthcare, education, and financial services require effective transport and mobility to function optimally. Transportation and mobility services, which largely rely on automobiles, also play a significant role in daily human movement and navigation.

It is undeniable that for a long time, male dominance has been deeply ingrained in the automotive industry since society perceives the industry as masculine and women are seen as

unfit for it. Even though there isn't any quantitative information that can be used to show how men and women are involved in the automotive industry in Tanzania, it is clear that men are the majority in the automotive value chain.

Like other parts of the world, Tanzania's automotive industry has grown steadily over time and become an integral part of the country's economy. The Tanzania automotive market, size, share, outlook, and growth opportunities 2022-2030 report states that Tanzania's automotive market is witnessing a strong rebound in demand from the COVID downturn and post-COVID supply chain bottlenecks. The market is expected to grow at a significant compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2023 and 2030.

Despite the fact that the automotive industry is traditionally a male-dominated industry, there is a significant stake that women have in the automobile sector of Tanzania.

There are various ways through which Tanzanian women are involved in the industry and some of the largest car dealers in the country are taking deliberate efforts to promote gender diversity in the industry.

In recent years faces of women who participate in the sector can be seen taking important roles including but not limited to sales and marketing, drivers, and mechanics.

Apart from self-initiatives by a few women, dealers such as CFAO Motors have given women a chance to con-

tribute to the sector. Women are now holding important positions such as sales and marketing directors at one of the largest multinational automotive dealers such as CFAO. This indicates that women are now not only participating in the automobile industry but also occupying positions in which they can have an impact on the industry's development.

One of the few women in a male-dominated industry who holds a highly strategic position is Tharaia Ally Ahmed, Director of Sales and Marketing at CFAO Motors Tanzania.

When she was asked to share a sneak peek of her story, she admitted that even the few women who have the technical capability and are passionate about the automotive industry are reluctant to take chances due to dominant gender perspectives. Despite her confidence, she admitted that choosing the path was not easy for her.

"You are already aware of how challenging it is to persuade both men and women that a woman can have a greater understanding of the automotive industry than the majority of men. So, it wasn't easy; it took courage, and I'm grateful to CFAO Motors for believing in my abilities regardless of gender. After working here for some time, I've noticed that the company is moving in the right direction when it comes to giving women opportunities. We have saleswomen and other women in senior positions like marketing managers and others. In the past few years, this

was unthinkable," Tharaia said, with a dominant smile.

She went on to say that CFAO Motors' deliberate efforts are important in closing the gender gap in the industry.

CFAO Motors is not only implementing gender mainstreaming within the company, but it is also taking other significant measures to empower women in the automotive industry as a whole. The company has launched an initiative dubbed: "CFAO Motors Empower Her Future Initiative" through which they have trained women auto technicians from Tanzania's Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) to acquire the skills they need to compete in the automotive industry as part of the Women's Day celebration.

Customer service, vehicle inspection, and vehicle maintenance are among the topics to be covered in the program. CFAO Motors is doing this to support the development of the skills women need to succeed in the automotive industry.

Norah Simkoko, one of the training participants, thanked CFAO Motors for offering them the training, which she recognized will enable them to become familiar with modern automotive technologies and equip them to successfully compete for jobs in the industry.

"I've learned a great deal about the auto electrical system. I am really grateful to CFAO Motors for offering me this opportunity since it will help me become a better auto technician," said Simkoko.

Overall, women in Tanzania have a significant stake in the automobile industry. Women's participation is not only contributing to the sector's growth but also promoting gender diversity in a traditionally male-dominated industry. CFAO Motors' support for women's participation in the automobile industry sets an excellent example for large automotive manufacturers operating in the Tanzanian market. Such kind of initiatives will not only help to increase gender diversity but will also contribute to the expansion of Tanzania's automobile industry.

The Tanzania automotive market, size, share, outlook, and growth opportunities 2022-2030 Report states that Tanzania's automotive market is witnessing a strong rebound in demand from the COVID downturn and post-COVID supply chain bottlenecks. The market is expected to grow at a significant compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2023 and 2030.

WCFT offers Ikona WMA working tools worth \$32,000

By Guardian Reporter, Serengeti

WILDLIFE Conservation Foundation of Tanzania (WCFT) has extended over \$32,000 worth radio calls and rangers' uniforms to Ikona Wildlife Management Area situated on the fringes of Serengeti National Park.

The foundation will also rebuild a dam to relieve wildlife animals of thirst during dry spells, the Chairperson of the foundation, Eric Pasanisi, promised shortly after handing over the support at the office of the Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Serengeti District, Mara Region.

"This is not the last support, we'll be there for you," said Pasanisi, admitting that the foundation was dormant for three years following the death of its founder, Gerald Pasanisi, and its patrons, namely former presidents Gorge Bus of the US, Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France and Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania.

"My family has resolved to give WCFT a second life, we're devising fresh documentations and looking for new patrons. We hope in the near future we'll be in a position to provide more support," he said.

Receiving the 30 pieces of radio call, a booster and uniforms for 34 rangers on behalf of the Ikona WMA, the Serengeti district commissioner, Dr Vincent Mashinji, thanked the WCFT, saying the government would continue cooperating with the foundation.

"We consider the foundation as our fellow conservationist," said Dr Mashinji, urging the Ikona WMA management and rangers, in particular, to take care of the radio calls, uniforms and the water dam.



Chairman of Wildlife Conservation Foundation of Tanzania Eric Pasanisi (R) tests the radio call alongside with Serengeti District Commissioner, Dr Vincent Mashinji as the Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Chairman, Elias Chama in uniform watches.

Ikona WMA chairman, Elias Chama, said the WCFT supported them not because the foundation was rich, but rather because it was concerned with conservation of flora and fauna.

The head of the rangers, George Thomas, said with the uniforms, they would do their work confidently.

"We were using our mobile phone handset for communicating to each other," he said, explaining that the mobile phone handsets were ineffective in areas where network was not stable.

WCFT board member, Philemon Matiko, said the foundation was estab-

lished in 2000 to fight against poaching. It has since been donating vehicles, radio calls and rangers' uniforms for strengthening conservation and security of game reserves, particularly Selous. Ikona WMA was established in 2003 in line with wildlife policy which calls for participation of communities in conservation by investing in land, sustainable management of wildlife resources and benefiting from them. Currently, there are 22 WMAs country-wide.

Five villages of Robanda, Nyichoka, Nyakitono, Makundusi and Nata-Mbiso

established the Ikona WMA which covers an area of 242.3 square kilometres.

"The WMA is divided into two user zones of photographic and hunting," the Ikona WMA secretary, Yusuph Manyanda, said.

Ikona WMA serves as an assembly point for vast herds of wildebeest migrating annually north of Serengeti through crossing Mara River.

The pristine wilderness comprises elephants, waterbuck, black and white colobus monkeys, shy leopard and both the greater and the lesser kudu, among others.

International Women's Day 2023: Maiden women council of elders welcomed in North Eastern Kenya

By Joyce Chimbi

LOW literacy levels, a high prevalence of outlawed Female Genital Mutilation, early marriages, forced marriages, low contraceptive usage, multiple births, as well as high maternal, infant and child deaths, define the life of a woman in Kenya's vast North Eastern region.

Here, women are to be seen and not heard - as life is organized around the all-powerful male-dominated clan and sub-clan system.

But as Kenya marks International Women's Day, a once-in-a-year opportunity to assess the place of women in their respective countries and communities, Mahfudha Abdullahi Hajji has shown that a male-dominated system in a highly patriarchal society is not impenetrable.

"I vied for the Member of County Assembly (MCA) position in Ademasajida Ward, Wajir County, in 2013 and 2017 on the Orange Democratic Movement, the biggest political party in Kenya, but I was rigged out because I am a woman," she says.

Hajji says she fell victim to negotiated democracy. A political euphemism for unchallenged leadership where clans negotiate and share political positions long before a single ballot is cast. On the day of the general election, the informal agreement is formalized.

In a region where women are equated to children and are expected to defer to their sons, clans are neither eager to be led by a woman nor front a woman for political leadership. As such, processes to deliver negotiated democracy do not prioritize women's issues, least of all their inclusion.

"The absence of women in politics means that women are also absent where resources are shared. A woman can set budgetary allocations that are in line with the challenges facing us. Being represented by one of us is very important," Habiba Mohamed Situpia, a retired teacher in Wajir County, tells IPS.

Abdirashid Jelle, the Sultna of Degodia Council of Elders, speaks of the



Mahfudha Abdullahi Hajji is the second woman ever to be elected to a non-affirmative action political seat after renowned gender advocate Sophia Abdi made history by being elected Ijara MP, Garissa County, in 2017. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

challenge of women not being able to make decisions about their lives, "and then their lack of participation in politics, and this is dictated by clanism. Women have always been invisible in these clans, and this means we do not expect them to talk where it matters."

For politically ambitious women like Hajji, as she found out in the last 10 years, there is no happy ending in contesting for a political seat without blessings from leaders of the Council of Elders or Sultnas, as they are all male.

Against this backdrop, women in Wajir County, which alongside Mandera and Garissa Counties constitute the expansive North Eastern region, formed the first-ever Women Council of Elders. The first

such council in the entire region to enable them to negotiate with the Sultnas and other religious leaders toward the empowerment of women and girls.

"We first approached the Sultnas to make it very clear that the women's council was not in competition or opposition to the traditional system. We spoke about how the world is changing, and we needed to change with it. We said that where women are left behind, the entire community lags behind," Situpia explains.

In the beginning, she says, Sultnas in urban areas were more receptive compared to those in remote rural areas. In the end, the Wajir Woman Council of Elders was formed in 2020.

Kheria Kassim, one of the founding members of Wajir Council of Elders, tells IPS, "there is no resistance towards us because we concern ourselves with issues that hold us back. We want all our children to go to school and have an opportunity to make a living."

"We are saying that as daughters, wives, and sisters of these Sultnas when we are left behind, the entire community falls behind other communities where women are more empowered."

A few months before the 2022 general elections, Kassim says Hajji was already being referred to as a 'mheshimiwa' - Swahili for an honourable member of parliament.

"The Sultnas had finally agreed to support her. With their blessings,

we all knew way before the general elections that she would win the MCA seat, and she did. Something that no woman has ever done in the whole of North Eastern region," she says.

Hajji is the second woman ever to be elected to a non-affirmative action political seat after renowned gender advocate Sophia Abdi made history by being elected Ijara MP, Garissa County, in 2017.

Additionally, Situpia says the Women's Council of Elders has made notable steps towards addressing Violence against Women and Girls, rampant in the strongly patriarchal community where the subjugation of women is normalized.

Even in such serious cases of rape or defilement, there is a preference for Maslaah and strong resistance to these cases being heard through formal judicial processes. Maslaah is a male-dominated, male-friendly traditional system akin to a kangaroo court and will, at best, confer a small fine to perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

"Today, it is very rare to find Sultnas dealing with sexual violence cases. We now work closely with Wajir Central police station and police officers in all six sub-counties in Wajir County to ensure that offenders are taken to court. It is also a way to warn potential offenders that they will experience the full force of the law," Kassim expounds.

More so, a number of women have been absorbed into the male Council of Elders through the endorsement of the Sultnas.

"I belong to the sub-clan of the Degodia Council of Elders in Wajir; we are two women and six men. We sit together and consult as equals. Something that was unheard of before," says Safi Abdullahi Adan, a senior member of the Women Council of Elders.

She further says that the Wajir Women Council of Elders has opened membership to women outside of the County to include those in Mandera and Garissa, "we share the same culture and religion, same challenges, and there is no winning for Wajir when our sisters are left behind. We do not know how many members we have because we are growing day by day."

As Hajji settles down in a win that is very much a milestone for other women in the North Eastern region, she represents a new dawn of more girls in school, more women in gainful employment and progressively, increased participation in critical decision-making processes.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Anne Githuku-Shongwe and Eva Kiwango

RECENT crises have pushed the gender inequality gap even wider and new technology has brought new threats to women's autonomy and safety. This year's International Women's Day celebrated under the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality" is an opportunity to strengthen efforts to uplift and empower women and girls' digital participation to ultimately improve their lives.

Sima Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women has described it as "digital poverty": the digital divide which "disproportionately affects women and girls with low literacy or low income, those living in rural or remote areas, migrants, women with disabilities, and older women".

On a continent that contributes only 13% towards global internet users, nearly 45% fewer women than men have access to the internet in sub-Saharan Africa.

That means alarmingly high numbers of African women and girls are left out of digitally-enhanced opportunities such as employment, mobile money transactions and banking.

From a health perspective, excluding women and girls from digital participation restricts their access to life-saving information. That can have dire consequences in a region such as eastern and southern Africa where young women and girls carry the burden of HIV. In our region, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, accounting for 63% of the region's new HIV infections in 2021. HIV infections are three times higher among adolescent girls and young women (aged 15 to 24 years) than among males of the same age.

The factors fueling this reality are

Our AIDS response must acknowledge and bridge gendered digital inequalities



In our region, women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, accounting for 63 per cent of the region's new HIV infections in 2021, write the authors. Credit: Shutterstock



Such barriers discourage young women and adolescent girls from approaching healthcare centres for their sexual reproductive needs.

power, deep-set inequalities and limited access to information among other factors.

Our report *Dangerous Inequalities* highlights that sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) barriers, lack of quality comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and restrictive and contradictory policy frameworks make it difficult, if not impossible, for adolescent girls and young women to access essential SRHR and HIV prevention and treatment services.

Furthermore, sociocultural norms, stigmas, discrimination,

perceptions and age of consent laws impede young women and girls from accessing HIV testing and SRHR services.

Such barriers discourage young women and adolescent girls from approaching healthcare centres for their sexual reproductive needs.

This leaves girls with insufficient knowledge and skills to protect themselves from unsafe and unhealthy sexual practices, leading to HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions and sexual violence.

world gives us a space to create boundaries and interact at a seemingly safe level for school, work and socialization, online violence against women is proving to be pervasive.

A UN brief shares physical threats, sexual harassment, stalking, zoombombing and sex trolling as examples of some of the attacks women face online.

It is therefore important to accelerate internet literacy for women and girls and equip them with precautionary and reactionary measures to ensure their digital safety before online violence permeates the physical world leading to serious challenges such as physical stalking, abduction and trafficking.

In spite of the challenges and safety concerns, the digital world can be an empowering space when harnessed correctly. Safe digital spaces hold the potential to disseminate life-saving, evidence-based information on SRHR, HIV prevention, treatment, GBV reporting and related support mechanisms at the click of a button.

Initiatives addressing SRHR and HIV ought to be framed with an inclusive digital lens at the fore. Multi-stakeholder collaboration is key, particularly with the private sector, internet service providers and data hubs.

At UNAIDS, we have partnered with UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women to launch the 'Education Plus' Initiative. The initiative accelerates actions and investments to prevent HIV by ensuring adolescent girls and young women in Africa have equal opportunities to access quality secondary education, alongside key education and health services and support for their economic autonomy and empowerment.

The UNFPA "Seeing The Unseen" report highlights that 13% of all young women in developing countries begin childbearing while still being children themselves. In eastern and southern Africa, the overall weighted pregnancy prevalence among adolescent girls and young women (10-24 years of age) is alarmingly high at 25 per cent.

We have completely normalised the abnormal. That is a crisis in itself. However, closing the gender equality gap will give us the opportunity to change the inequality trajectory for women and girls.

Technology and the digital space should be made more inclusive and accessible in our region and beyond. Virtual medical consultations, SRHR apps and searchable information should be options our young women and girls should be able to explore in a shame-free, destigmatised environment.

We applaud African developers who have created multiple free apps such as In Her Hands developed by the Southern African Development Community with the support of UNAIDS. Such apps work to empower young women and girls with SRHR information as well as expand HIV prevention outreach.

However, all our efforts to make the digital world accessible and inclusive should also be safe. Unfettered access to information and unscrupulous persons leave women vulnerable to misinformation on the very health issues they would seek to treat.

Furthermore, while the virtual



Thursday 9 March 2023

Rupee bear StanChart now sees gains to highest since August 2022

NEW DELHI

STANDARD Chartered Plc, which was among the most bearish forecasters for the Indian rupee over the past couple of years, is turning more upbeat on the currency amid an improvement in the nation's trade deficit and a softer dollar.

The British lender now sees the base case for the rupee at 81 per dollar by end-2023 but says the currency can easily gain to even 79 levels. Parul Mittal Sinha, head of financial markets for India, said in an interview. That would be the highest since August and imply a gain of 4% from current levels.

"The balance of payments behavior has started improving with the January trade deficit showing a healthy decline from previous months," Sinha said, adding she expects the dollar to weaken in the medium term as focus shifts to US growth slowdown worries and Federal Reserve rate cuts even as the greenback remains sensitive to US rate-hike repricing and risk aversion in the near term.

The rupee has gone from being emerging Asia's worst-performing currency last year to rank the second best so far in 2023 after the Indonesian rupiah. The nation's trade deficit contracted sharply in January, fueling expectations that the current account gap will widen less than earlier estimates.

"If we continue to see positive news on services export growth, commodity prices correcting and dollar index not ratcheting higher, rupee seems to be in a very good place," StanChart's Sinha said.

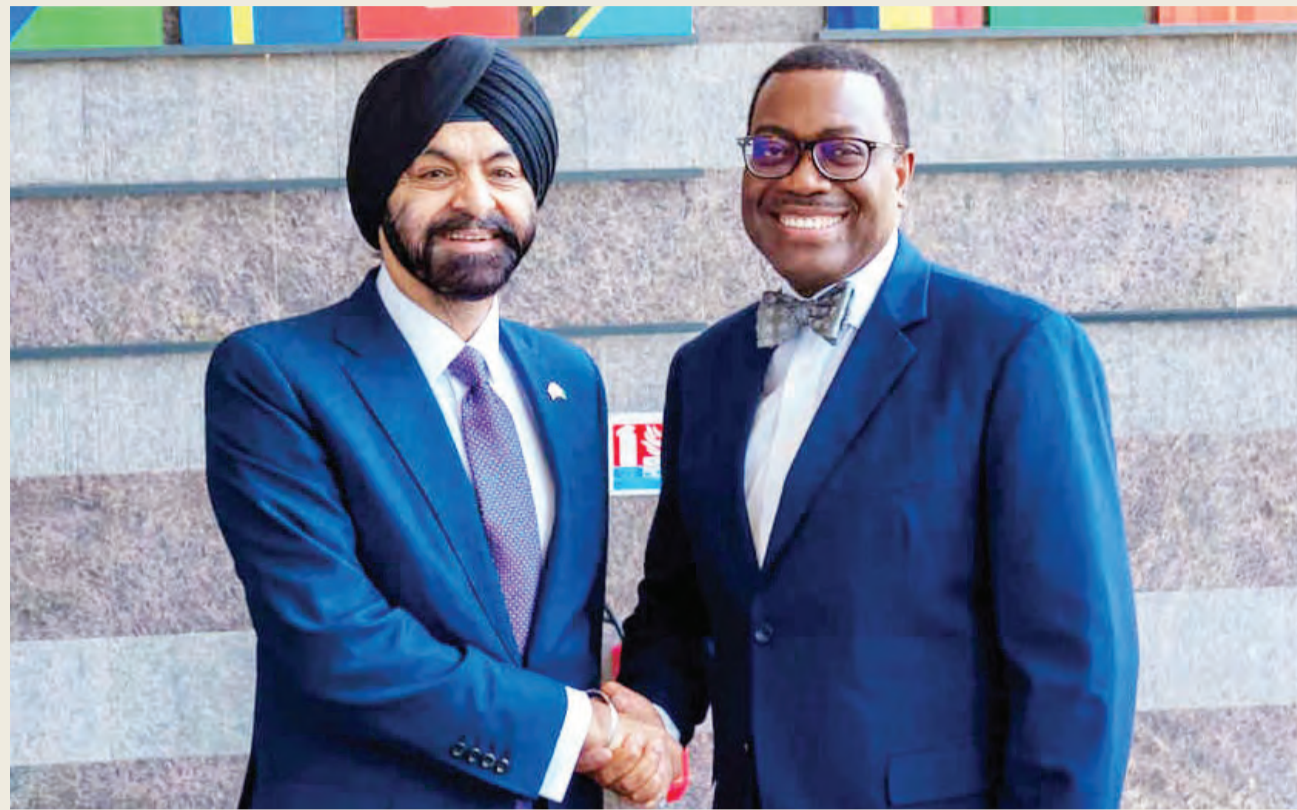
Sinha's latest forecast comes after she rightly predicted a fall in the Indian rupee in 2021 and the currency's drop to 82 per dollar last year. StanChart isn't alone in turning bullish on the rupee. BofA Securities Inc and Citigroup Inc. have also recently forecast further gains for the currency.

The currency fell 0.2% to 82.10 per dollar on Wednesday after Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the central bank may need to increase the pace of rate-hikes.

However, risk to the bullish rupee view stems from the possibility of the Reserve Bank of India buying dollars around 81 levels to rebuild its reserves which were used in defending the currency last year, according to Sinha.

India's forex reserves fell for most of 2022 as the central bank intervened to shield the rupee, which weakened past 83 to a dollar in October. Reserves in Asia's third largest economy started increasing again later in 2022 as major currencies strengthened against the dollar. The stockpile of foreign currencies stood at a five-month high in January.

"If the RBI steps off from buying, the dollar/rupee can fall very sharply," Sinha said. The only reason why the rupee is appreciating gradually is because the RBI is rebuilding its reserves, she said.



Ajay Banga, US nominee for World Bank Group President (left) met Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank President in Abidjan to begin his world tour.

WB president nominee to collaborate with AfDB for transformative results

ABIDJAN

US nominee for World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga has pledged to develop a strong partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group that would help deliver transformative results.

He said this early this week in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire where he met the AfDB Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina, senior management and Board of Directors.

The candidate for the World Bank top job highlighted three major issues affecting many parts of the world, which he said were of significant concern to him, according to a statement

issued by AfDB.

He said these were inequality, tension between humanity and nature, and the tendency to apply short-term solutions to long-term problems which only delivers poor results.

Banga said the challenges facing the world got complicated because of the Covid 19 pandemic, environmental degradation, and the impact of the Russia-Ukraine War.

The former Mastercard CEO emphasized the role of technology in helping to tackle challenges facing the world. He also talked about the role of the private sector in mobilizing much-needed capital resources for significant economic development.

He said this applied both to private

sector capital, as well as to private sector ingenuity and innovation, which are needed to tackle the many challenges facing the world.

AfDB President Adesina said Banga's call for a regenerated partnership resonated with him. He stressed the need for a new way of working between the World Bank and the AfDB.

"It is more than financial. It's more about how we work to optimize resources by engaging governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to deliver meaningful change," he said.

Adesina said climate change remained the most serious existential threat to humanity.

"Climate change is decimating lives,

displacing people, creating refugees and deepening poverty," he stressed.

He warned: "It is what I call the triangle of disaster. You have increasing poverty, rising youth unemployment and environmental degradation, and this is breeding ground for terrorism."

The African Development Bank head called for a global security council on environment and biodiversity, issues which he said were not getting the attention they deserved, compared to other global challenges such as war.

Adesina called for a new way of measuring the wealth of nations instead of basing it on gross domestic product. "This does not consider important factors like a country's contribution to carbon emission and impact on biodiversity."

"Globally, there is need for greater responsibility to tackle the impact of climate change, environmental degradation, and protect biodiversity," the AfDB head said.

Adesina underscored the need for increased economic opportunities, particularly in rural areas, where infrastructure investment is crucial.

He said thirty-four heads of state attended the recently held Dakar 2 Food Summit and committed to country food and agriculture delivery compacts. He said that close to 52 billion dollars of intended support to agriculture and food security had been identified from developing partners for the next three-year period.

Adesina called for a similar approach to solving the problem of lack of energy in Africa, where more than 600 million people lack access to energy.

He explained that this could be resolved through initiatives like the African Development Bank-led Desert to Power initiative, which aims to deliver green electricity to more than 200 million people across eleven countries by using solar capacity.

On the 23rd of February, President Joe Biden announced Ajay Banga as the United States' nominee for President of the World Bank Group.

The institution's current president, David Malpass, recently announced his intention to step down by the end of June 2023.

Absa Bank director urges women to aim high

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN have been urged to motivate themselves, be strong and confident and strive to achieve their best in life instead of waiting to be pushed up in the ladder in their work places.

Absa Bank Tanzania's Director of Legal and Compliance Irene Giattas, who also doubles as the President of Women's Group at the bank said yesterday while commemorating the International Women's Day in Dar es Salaam.

Themed, "Innovation in digital and technology" the bank commemorated Women's Day by participating in an 8kilometre charity walk signaling support for women's health and development in the country and the world at large.

Ms Giattas said Absa Bank has been a good motivator of women to ensure they excel in their various positions and achieve their life ambitions.

"We have various positions being headed by women at Absa Bank Tanzania, this mean that the bank promotes women who believes and have what it takes to perform better at work," she said.

She said women need to learn new



A section of Absa Bank Tanzania Women accompanied by men's workers, participating in a 8 km walk to mark the International Women's Day celebrations in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

things while at work and put extra efforts so that their work can be recognised in their various work positions.

According to her, women are able to do much more in their various professions if given the opportunity, saying women need therefore to put

extra efforts and push themselves up and apply for various positions just as President Samia Suluhu Hassan is doing, showing that women are able to do their best in leadership.

One of the employees with the bank, Ms Aikande Kimaro, who also

participated a charity walk yesterday, said she took the walk to appreciate women's capacity but also the power of women.

"This charity walk is also a part of exercises to keep our bodies feet and health," she said.

Morogoro women urge for more financial inclusion

By Beatrice Philemon

As Tanzanians are commemorating the International women's day, women in Lulongwe village, Mvuha in Morogoro Region have called on President Samia Suluhu Hassan to help them obtain loans service in their localities,

which will help them to invest in economic activities, promote financial inclusion as well as achieving gender equity and poverty reduction.

The Village Natural resource Committee (VNRCs)'s Treasury, Aisha Said said this on Tuesday that rural women are still lagging

behind in development due to lack of credits that would enable them to establish income generating activities and improving their lives.

"Access of credits can open up economic opportunities for women in rural areas," she said. "We need loans so that we can

utilize it to build dams for irrigation farming, to mitigate the impact of climate change because drought is also very high, causing serious food shortages," she said.

Women are now inviting financial institutions and even the district council to visit in their lo-

calities because they have never seen any person from both institutions visiting the village.

Also many parts in our village are now experiencing the highest spike of food prices and are now struggling to shift from rainy season farming to irrigation farming that's why they need government

intervention so that can access loans to utilize it for farming activities and dams construction for irrigation farming.

"We believe if the government will provides loans to us we will change our life, achieve gender equity and poverty reduction," she said.

How Vodacom is powering Tanzania's digital economy

With the government continues to formulate policies and improves infrastructure to promote digital economy, mobile telecom becomes an important sector to accelerate adoption of digital economy in Tanzania. The Guardian Reporter conducted an interview with Vodacom Tanzania managing director PHILIP BESIMIRE on his company vision towards supporting digitization agenda.

Who is Philip Besimire and how do you fit into the TZ digitization agenda

Philip is first a husband and father of two. I have a passion for tech driven social impact and advancing digital inclusion for youth and women. Being at Vodacom - a company geared towards changing lives through technology I am at the right place to further drive this agenda. These goals foster a sense of purpose and are ones that can potentially change the lives of other people

Vodacom Tanzania unveiled their vision to digitize Tanzania and transform lives through technology in 2016, what has been the progress so far?

Over the years, Vodacom Tanzania has successfully delivered on this vision by providing high quality services to Tanzanians in both rural and urban areas. This has enabled Vodacom Tanzania to become the leading telecoms service provider in the country. Vodacom Tanzania's commitment to ensuring that Tanzania is connected on a global scale is evidenced through its investments and expansion strategies.

This investment has enabled Vodacom Tanzania to provide a wide range of services for consumers and enterprise including; voice, data, messaging, financial services, and enterprise solutions to over 18 million customers.

Vodacom has reinvented itself through innovation and partnership to a total technology communication company that is providing digital services that are touch the lives of Tanzanians. The impact we are seeing from services such as M-Pesa, M-Mama, VodaBima, E-Fahamu M-Kulima and many more is the reason I can confidently say that Vodacom Tanzania is well placed to continue to deliver on this commitment.

What have been the challenges and what opportunities do you foresee?

The opportunity to bridge the digital divide in Tanzania is massive but cannot be undertaken by only one entity. We require a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach to drive various initiatives and activities that collectively will contribute to the digital inclusion agenda.

There are the usual challenges of adopting a digital economy such a lack of enough skillset, availability of affordable hardware and limited digital services, which I can say are also opportunities for us to explore and accelerate digitization.

It has been cited that public-private partnerships (PPP) are crucial to accelerate development and meet SDG targets, has Vodacom been part of this and what is the plan going forward?

Yes that's true, PPP exploits synergies in the shared use of



resources and in the application of management knowledge to optimally attain the goals of all parties involved. SDG 17 calls for PPP and has shown potential to drive other targets. As a company we believe our work in Tanzania complements government efforts in driving development targets in Tanzania.

Health: We have been working with the Government, to drive maternal health in Tanzania through the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation projects such as Fistula Inatibika, Preemie Donations and a project such as M-mama makes use of technology to meet health targets of driving down maternal mortality in the country

Financial inclusion: Vodacom M-Pesa and its related products such as M-Pawa, Songesha M-Koba help to drive financial inclusion in a big way by touching the unbanked members of the community both in urban and rural areas. According to Finscope (2017), 60% of Tanzanian access formal financial services via mobile money services hence making the channel the main way for Tanzanians to access financial services while only 13% reported using commercial bank services.

Education: working with government agencies such as UCSAF to advance digital inclusion through the provision of ICT equipment and connectivity to public schools across the country through our school connectivity program. As a bonus, the schools get access to our zero-rated e-learning platform e-Fahamu which has learning and teaching materials for students and schools respectively. We go a step further to provide teachers with trainings on digital skills and the use of our platform

Agriculture: Our M-Kulima solutions seeks to provide farmers with digital identities which then opens them to opportunities such as agri-loans, insurance and advisory services. We partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and TFRA to facilitate the digital registration of farmers for the fertilizer subsidy program across the country where close to 3 million farmers have been registered so far.

You just launched 5G in Tanzania, how has the uptake been and do you think it was the right move considering there are areas in Tanzania that do not even have 3G? Is Tanzania ready for 5G?

Yes, I believe it is the right move. 5G adoptions in Tanzania is inevitable, it is the future and presents benefits for the country's technological advancement. Africa cannot always play catch-up as far as technology is concerned, we all know that technology has the potential to solve societal challenges and help countries meet SDG targets.

As a country, we are on the right track to benefit from the possibilities that 5G offers in terms of speed, connections, and interactive technology. The high speed and low latency 5G provide will lead to relevant use cases in Africa Tanzania such as: healthcare advancements and telehealth using Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR), efficient agriculture production through use of agri-sensors, factory and warehouse automation and many more. So yes 5G adoption is critical for businesses and individuals who are looking for efficiency.

Furthermore, our 5G routers address the needs of SMEs and small businesses looking for multiple connections and steady internet speeds. Similarly, homeowners can enjoy excellent browsing speeds and the capabil-

ity to connect to multiple devices such as TVs, fridges, security systems etc. In short our 5G fixed wireless accesses is a great solution for those interested in smart homes.

I also admit that there are things that need to be put in place for consumers to better access and benefit from 5G such as devices and infrastructure. We are working with partners such as Nokia, Samsung, iPhone, Tecno etc to ensure 5G mobility via smartphones.

Vodacom has been very vocal about bridging the digital divide; Are we making strides, what has Vodacom done so far and do you feel like the government and private sector are doing enough to bridge the gap?

Digital inclusion is one of Vodacom's main purpose pillars which drive our strategy. We believe that while technology has the opportunity to transform lives and creates economic and social opportunities where none existed, it can also create a gap called the digital divide when some reap the benefits of being connected and others have no access.

Access to the internet and data services is now an essential part of many people's lives, and key to facilitating economic development, we are committed to promoting digital inclusion and democratising data. We are bridging the digital divide through our affordable products and services, making devices affordable and promoting digital skills among the youth.

Moreover, we have programs in place that help bridge the digital divide such as Code Like A Girl which trains girls aged 13 to 18 in coding and website development.

To date the program has reached over 1600 girls across 5 regions and mainly focuses on girls who wouldn't otherwise have access to such training due.

Another program is the Vodacom Digital Accelerator that supports early to mid-stage startups to take off through immersive coaching and mentoring on various topics ranging from branding, finance, partner selection and how to be investment ready among others. The program is on its second season with participants having innovative solutions to financial services, Agriculture, Education, health etc.

We also know that for many Tanzanians, their first digital experience will be via a mobile phone, and often these are not affordable. Working with the mobile phone suppliers we have introduced device financing, a service that enables customers to purchase a smartphone and pay for it in installments over a number of months.

I think the issue of affordability of services for all consumers is one that requires collective effort largely driven by the government through its relevant authorities TCRA and TRA.

A GSMA report of digital inclusion and mobile taxation in Tanzania has cited the heavy taxation imposed on the mobile sector as a hindrance to digital adoption.

What role is Vodacom Tanzania playing in helping the government agenda for 80% broadband coverage and getting more people online?

The government ICT vision for 2025 includes a targeted broadband coverage to reach 80% of the population. Vodacom Tanzania is aiming to reach 90%. Vodacom continues to heavily invest in expansion and modernization of its network infrastructure to ensure more Tanzanians are connected.

Just last year we participated in the spectrum auction and acquired blocks in the 700MHz, 2300MHz and 2600MHz bands which we have been deploying to improve our customer and network experience in most major towns and subsequently to the rest of the country. We recently leased additional capacity in the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) to deliver high speed internet across Tanzania. Additionally, we have been partnering with Universal Communication Service Access Fund, (UCSAF), to build telecommunication towers in areas that have poor returns on investment in Tanzania. We will not stop till every Tanzanian is connected.

Vodacom once launched a US\$20 smartphone in Tanzania in a bid to drive smartphone penetration, how was it received? Do you believe this is affordable? What else can be done to reduce the cost?

SmartKitochi was well received in the market and the many customers acquired the device. It was a low priced smartphone that addressed the challenges of cost and durability in the market. It went on to win an international award at the AfricaCom Virtual Awards.

As a company we have a strategy to accelerate smartphone adoption which includes targeted smartphone campaigns, innovative device financing schemes and payment terms, open market initiatives, as well as compelling value propositions for customers and our sales team. This has impressive year-on-year growth on smartphone penetration amongst Vodacom customers. This is well complemented by our network which is widespread across the country connecting more people.

I say more can be done, for example to encourage smartphone adoption we encourage the Government to exempt Value Added Tax (VAT) on imported smartphones. I believe tax reduction or exemption can help drive digitization objectives. We need to collectively create an environment that enables all of Tanzania to gain access to mobile telephony and its benefits.

What is your message to Tanzanians (customers and shareholders)? What should they expect from Vodacom Tanzania?

Firstly, at the core of everything we do at Vodacom, it's important that it's towards living and fulfilling our purpose. Through our three purpose pillars; digital society, inclusion for all and Planet - we aim to positively transform lives, drive a better digital future and reduce our environmental impact. This needs to be embedded in all our plans, be it short, medium or long term.

In the short term it's important to meet and exceed our stakeholder expectations, be it customers, employees, Government and shareholders. In the long term, we're committed towards bridging the digital divide, and expanding financial inclusion through innovative solutions for Tanzania.

Digital technology and financial inclusion are a sure way to equalize society. In many cases, the first time people have interacted with technology and digital solutions is through the mobile phone.

We're conscious of this responsibility and that we have to create value for all. Lastly, we will continue to obsess about being customer-first driven, pushing for simplicity in the solutions we provide while striving for growth.



Jeremy Awori leads Ecobank Group as the new CEO

Lomé

Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI), the parent company of the Ecobank Group, the pan-African banking group recently announced that Jeremy Awori has officially assumed his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Ecobank Group.

Jeremy Awori, commenting on his new role, said: "It's a fantastic opportunity to take Ecobank to

the next level of its growth strategy. Despite current global challenges, Africa offers promising prospects. Ecobank is uniquely positioned to provide systematic change across the banking sector at a pan-African level, using the geographic footprint it has already established."

"Through our single gateway platform, we are well-positioned to provide the necessary financial products and solutions for

countries, corporates, and SMEs to capitalise on the continent's vast resource, trade and investment opportunities. We also provide relevant, accessible, and affordable financial services that address the evolving needs of a vibrant, youthful, and entrepreneurial continent. Ecobank's brand and heritage continue to be a source of pride," Jeremy Awori concluded.

Alain Nkontchou, Ecobank

Group Chairman, added: "Jeremy Awori's exceptional and proven qualities as a result-oriented effective leader with an extensive knowledge of the African banking landscape, make him the ideal choice to steer the growth of the Ecobank Group through the current era of rapid global and continental changes." The Group Chairman further noted that Jeremy has the full support of the ETI Board.

Jeremy Awori brings with him over 25 years of experience in the banking industry, including close to a decade serving as CEO and Managing Director of Absa Bank Kenya Plc. Prior to joining Absa, Jeremy served in leadership roles at Standard Chartered Bank across the Middle East and Africa. His extensive expertise, skills, and industry know-how make him a valuable addition to the Ecobank Group.

Collecting old naira notes from banks risky, central banker warns

LAGOS

INDICATIONS have emerged that customers who are accepting old N1000 and N500 notes from their banks are doing so on their own.

This is because such customers would not be able to deposit the same old notes in banks at the moment until the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) orders commercial banks to start paying and receiving the old notes.

Following the ruling of the Supreme Court last week that the old notes should remain legal tender till December 31, 2023, some commercial banks have started paying customers the old notes.

A bank official, who does not want to be named, confirmed to DAILY POST that some banks paid the old naira notes on Monday and Tuesday.

However, he said some stopped the payment when they noticed it may trigger another crisis as it was not yet authorised by the CBN.

While some paid through the Automated Teller Machines (ATM), other banks paid the old notes over the counter to customers.

The bank official told DAILY POST banks will not allow any deposit in the old notes unless the CBN gives further directives, saying those who had generated CBN codes to make deposits earlier would no longer be allowed to make another deposit.

"CBN hasn't given any directive yet. But commercial banks are partially paying the old notes to customers. Though it is not compulsory for customers to collect the old notes as banks won't take them back from customers for now."

"As I speak with you, we are still on a one-off deposit once you generate the code from the CBN. So, imagine how they will deposit the cash if they've already deposited before," the bank official said.

On why commercial banks decided to pay the old notes when they know the CBN has not given the order to do so, the source explained that banks are aware of the lack of cash in the economy, saying most of the officials are not happy seeing their customers under the sun and in the rain waiting for new notes that are not available.

The banker stated that banks decided to pay to ease the issue of people not having cash, adding that "the CBN remains adamant to change the new policy."

Meanwhile, Nigerians are appealing to President Muhammadu Buhari to obey the order of the Supreme Court to allow the old notes to co-exist with the new ones.

However, some have predicted that the President would not act on the order of the court until after the March 11 governorship election so as to prevent candidates from buying votes with the old notes some of them have already stashed in their coffers.



Meiyer Mushemakweli, Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania PLC Head of Customer Experience

As quality services delivery an important tool in helping businesses to prosper; companies are currently working hard in ensuring customer expectations are met to the maximum to attain business goals. The Guardian reporter MARY KADOKE spoke to MEIYER MUSHEMAKWELI, the head of customer experience, Diamond Trust Bank's on her journey that has enabled the bank to win the "Most preferred International Bank on Customer Service"

(Mid-sized) award in 2022.

When and how did you reach to a position of head of customer experience at DTB Tanzania?

I took up this role a year ago with a vision of putting up a team to spearhead customer experience, which can set the highest standards of service delivery in the industry. I'm happy to say that, I have been able to accomplish this target immensely. I also believe there is still a huge room for improvement. Prior to joining DTB Tan-

Meiyer: How to serve stressed, happy customers

zania, I worked as a manager; managing Service Excellence (Quality Assurance) department in one of the bank for 8 years and 2 years in operations. During this period, my core responsibility was to review and set quality assurance standards.

It's during this period that I developed extensive skills in working with both happy and stressed customers. The key is to find a way of making the customer happy no matter what the situation is. That is the customer expectation.

How do you set standards and the level of service delivery at DTB Tanzania?

Service delivery is a set of principles and standards that guides the way service is offered to customers. Customers across the globe have expectations on how they should be served [efficient and timely]. Whenever customers are not served as per their desired expectations, they resort to either walking away or complaining. The customers who complain give us an opportunity to improve our delivery standards which thus is a key for our existence and sustainability of the business.

I can therefore confidently say that our standards are pretty decent! We recently won "Most preferred International Bank at Customer Service" (Mid-sized) Financial Services category in the 2022 Consumer Choice Awards Africa [CCAA] by a majority vote.

I'm very proud of the out-

standing service delivery standard across all our touch points, from the responsive staff who tirelessly attends to our customer requests to the friendly processes that ensure timely delivery.

This award is a sheer demonstration and appreciation by our customers of the banks' exemplary service delivery.

On an individual level, I'm happy to have won "Head of Customer Experience" Award in the Top 100 Executives awards 2022. This was a banking Industry competition pitting all banks in the same pool.

What major challenges you are facing in your day to day operations?

There are quite a few, changing people's mentality that customer service is not a department, but rather an attitude of offering service.

Secondly, its often, its perceived that Customer Experience is a department; this can be a topic of debate but simply put - everyone in an organization is part of Customer Experience; remember that good service delivery will improve the reputation of the company and further generate word-of-mouth is a great Public Relations tool for many business entities.

As the world is commemorating the International Women's Day today, what is your message?

As we celebrate International Women's Day, it's

important to raise awareness against the bias that surrounds women and celebrate their achievements. The 2023 International Women's Day theme is #EmbraceEquity. This campaign theme advocates for Equality in the distribution of opportunities.

Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities while Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances, and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome

Equity isn't just a nice-to-have; it's a must-have. My message to all Women out there, let's go and compete for the equities since we are able to compete and voice our opinions and ideas in the boardrooms, don't wait!

What would you advise young girls in relations to IWD 2023?

Just as it is fine not to be absolutely certain of what you want all the time, it's also fine to fail sometimes as long as you have applied what you have learnt going forward. The opportunities are boundless given the vast opportunity presented in the service industry.

My advice to all young ladies, please work hard and make an effort in nurturing your careers'. It takes a combination of dedication, hard work and ability to learn with a view of improving our professional weakness gaps!

Fintechs tipped to drive digital banking shift

NAIROBI

BANKS and financial technology (Fintechs) firms have been tipped to deepen collaborations as customers continue to disrupt traditional models of banking.

Speakers at the seventh edition of Connected Banking Summit themed Accelerating Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Transformation said banks and fintechs will increasingly become

collaborators as opposed to competitors to build digital banks.

The summit's series offers a platform for financial sector players to discuss ways of building future-oriented banking models that fit changing needs of customers without compromising on security and privacy.

"Banks are partnering with fintechs to meet speed and agility and this collaboration has to continue into the

future. Fintechs cannot be seen as competitors who are eating into the income of banks," said Winnie Syowai Onyancha, senior transaction banking manager at KCB Group.

Customers are increasingly turning to digital channels such as mobile and internet banking in search of speed and convenience as opposed to visiting physical branches.

Banks have been asked to collaborate with Fintechs to develop local solutions that can strike a balance between convenience, security and privacy.

"Most of the developments we see are foreign-based so we would like to

urge the sector to look at local solutions for local issues through research and development," said Timothy Were, the deputy director of ICT at the ministry of ICT and digital economy.

"There has been a public outcry of people losing money through online scams, insider malpractices and collusion with telcos operators. That whole ecosystem needs to be looked at."

Director of information technology at Safaricom, George Njuguna said the experience with M-Pesa 'super app' shows collaborations hold the key to cutting costs, increasing convenience and solving challenges such as cyber security.

LONDON

THE European Banking Authority wants supervisors across the EU to crack down on banks and investment companies that flout rules on promoting diversity after its research showed more than a quarter of groups are still ignoring requirements introduced in 2014.

The EBA, which writes the rule book enforced by the European Central Bank and national supervisors, on Tuesday said that 27 per cent of almost 800 European banks and investment companies it reviewed had still not created the diversity policies that became a legal requirement almost a decade ago.

The EBA's report also charted the painfully slow progress of banks and investment companies in improving the diversity of their top management teams and supervisory boards, which remain almost 75 per cent male and continue to pay men more than women for their services.

The report comes almost a decade after the EU created legal requirements mandating banks and other financial services companies to address the largely white, male and middle-aged profile of their boardrooms and executive committees in the wake of the financial crisis.

The rules included a demand that all companies set a diversity policy for their management boards, and that larger companies set targets for improving the diversity of their leadership teams.

Adoption of the policies was better among larger institutions, where



EU banking regulator urges crackdown on flouting of gender diversity rules

compliance was 94 per cent among a group mainly composed of large banks. But the EBA criticised that group's approach to setting mandatory targets, with almost 40 per cent found to have set "very low" goals, including some that aspired to less than 25 per cent female representation on boards.

Describing the number of companies flouting the rules as "simply not acceptable", Bernd Rummel, policy expert at the EBA, said the Paris-based rulemaker would carry out a "specific exercise" to see if supervisors were rising to the task.

The EBA wants them to use supervisory powers to force banks and invest-

ment companies to comply with rules. Those options could include higher capital requirements and restrictions on business.

The EBA claims enforcing the standards would not only make businesses fairer but also safer by combating groupthink.

Rummel said a discussion among

the EBA's board of European supervisors had suggested there was "a lot of willingness" to fix the problem.

Banking supervisors have already made complying with diversity rules one of the elements of their annual supervisory reviews. If a bank was found to have repeatedly breached its diversity obligations, "then the measures taken by supervisors will get harder", he said.

The EBA also wants supervisors to examine whether companies' pay policies are "gender neutral" - as required under EU law. The EBA review found that female executive directors earned an average of 9.5 per cent less than male peers, even excluding the pay of chief executives. Female non-executive directors earned almost 6 per cent less.

The EU's policies promote diversity of gender, age, educational background and geography, but policy work has chiefly focused on gender.

Overall, the EBA found that women accounted for 18 per cent of banks and investment companies' executive directors, up from 15 per cent three years earlier when the data also included the UK. "The effect is not huge," said Rummel, detailing how the number of institutions analysed only dropped from 834 to 791 as both the UK and Norway dropped out.

Women's representation on supervisory boards rose from 22 per cent to 26 per cent over the 2018-21 period, while the percentage of female chief executives rose from 8 per cent to 11 per cent.

WORLD



A woman walks up decorated stairs in Frankfurt, Germany on Tuesday on the occasion of the International Women's Day. (PHOTO / AP)

UN: Women barely there in govt leadership roles

GENEVA

MORE women than ever hold political decision-making posts worldwide but gender parity is still far off, according to a report jointly released Tuesday by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the UN Women.

The report, presenting the latest rankings and regional distribution of women in executive positions and national parliaments as of Jan 1 of this year, showed the number of women in political leadership roles has increased overall.

However, women are still deeply under-represented in government leadership roles, and remain a minority as heads of state and government, according to the report.

At the very start of this year, 11.3 percent of countries have women heads of state (monarchy-based systems excluded), and 9.8 percent have women heads of government. These represent an increase from a decade ago, when figures stood at 5.3 percent and 7.3 percent respectively.

According to the report, only 13 coun-

tries, mostly in Europe, have gender-equal cabinets, with 50 percent or more women cabinet members serving as ministers. Nine countries have no woman cabinet member heading any ministry.

The report also showed that men continue to dominate policy areas such as economy, defense, justice and home affairs portfolios. Women only comprise 12 percent of cabinet ministers leading defense and local govern-

ment portfolios, 11 percent in energy, natural resource fuels and mining portfolios, and 8 percent in transport portfolios.

"We're witnessing ongoing progress in the number of women in politics this year, which is encouraging. However, we still have a long way to go to reach gender equality when we see the current rates of growth," said IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong.

Xinhua

China champions peace, development, confronts 'jackals, wolves' head on

BEIJING

CHINA on Tuesday pledged its commitment to global peace and development, as well as its readiness to confront "jackals or wolves" head on to defend its sovereignty, security and development interests.

Foreign Minister Qin Gang stated China's commitment to an independent foreign policy of peace and a mutually beneficial strategy of opening-up at a press conference held on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress.

Qin emphasized China's opposition to decoupling, the severing of industrial and supply chains, and unilateral sanctions, saying the country firmly opposes hegemony and the Cold War mentality.

China champions an open and inclusive world economy and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, offering more Chinese insight and solutions to help meet humanity's common challenges, he said.

NEW TYPE OF INT'L RELATIONS

Qin said China pursues coordination and sound interactions among major countries and promotes a new type of international relations.

In terms of major-country relations, Qin stated that China-Russia ties are characterized by strategic mutual trust and good neighborliness, and they serve as a model for a new type of international relations.

The China-Russia relationship "is not a threat to any country, nor is it subject to any interference or discord sown by any third party," Qin said.

"The more unstable the world becomes, the more imperative it is for China and Russia to steadily advance their relations," he said.

Regarding China's relations with the United States, Qin said China "pursues a sound and stable relationship with the United States."

The China-U.S. relationship should be determined by common interests and shared responsibilities of the two countries, and by friendship between the Chinese and American people, rather than by U.S. domestic politics or hysterical neo-McCarthyism, he said.

"The U.S. claims that it seeks to out-compete China but does not seek conflict. Yet in reality, its so-called competition means to contain and suppress China in all respects, and get the two countries locked in a zero-sum game," Qin said.

He said the U.S. rhetoric of "establishing guardrails" and "not seeking conflict" simply means China should not respond in words or action when slandered or attacked. "That is just impossible."

"If the U.S. does not hit the brake but continues to speed down the wrong path, no amount of guardrails could prevent derailing and there will surely be conflict and confrontation," Qin said.

In response to a question about the Ukraine crisis, Qin said China chooses peace over war, dialogue over sanctions, and cooling down the situation over fueling the flames, calling for calm, reason and dialogue among the parties involved.

China has not provided any weapons to either side of the Ukraine conflict and it always makes its judgments independently, based on the merits of the issue, he said.

"There seems to be an invisible hand pushing for the protraction and escalation of the conflict," using the Ukraine crisis to serve certain geopolitical agenda, Qin said.

Qin expressed China's hope that Europe will achieve true strategic autonomy as well as lasting security and stability, saying China is willing to work with Europe to uphold "true multilateralism" and deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership.

Concerning the United States' "Indo-Pacific Strategy," Qin said its real purpose is to "encircle China," warning that such an attempt will only disrupt the ASEAN-centered open and inclusive regional cooperation architecture, and undermine the overall and long-term interests of countries in the region.

Qin said that China always treats Japan with goodwill and hopes for friendship and good-neighborliness. "Yet, should some people from the Japanese side choose a beggar-thy-neighbor approach rather than pursue partnership, and even take part in a new Cold War to contain China, bilateral



Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang (2nd L, rear) attends a press conference on China's foreign policy and foreign relations on the sidelines of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, capital of China, on Tuesday. Xinhua

relations would only suffer new wounds when the old ones are yet to be healed," he said.

Also during Tuesday's press conference, Qin noted that developing countries account for more than 80 percent of the global population and more than 70 percent of global economic growth. "People in developing countries are entitled to better lives, and developing countries are entitled to greater representation and a louder voice in international affairs," he said.

CHINESE PATH TO MODERNIZATION

According to Qin, Chinese modernization serves as an important source of inspiration for the rest of the world, particularly for developing countries.

Qin said the Chinese path to modernization fits in well with China's national conditions, and its success "proves that every country has the right and ability to choose its own path and hold its future firmly in its own hands."

China's modernization is characterized by peaceful development and "is not pursued through war, colonization or plunder," he said, calling it "a new path different from Western modernization."

Qin said the right of every country to pursue a modernization path tailored to its national reality should be respected.

The Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI), a high-quality public good initiated by China, has benefited the world.

Over the past decade, the BRI has brought nearly a trillion U.S. dollars of investment, established over 3,000 cooperation projects, created approximately 420,000 jobs in countries along the routes, and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty.

In response to allegations that the BRI can lead to debt traps, Qin said it is never China that should be accused of creating so-called debt traps, and that multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors account for over 80 percent of sovereign debt in developing countries.

Qin expressed his belief that, as China accelerates high-quality development, promotes high-standard opening-up and fosters a new development paradigm, it will surely bring new opportunities to all countries in the world.

CONFRONTING 'JACKALS, WOLVES' HEAD ON

At the very heart of China's core interests, the Taiwan question is the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and "the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations," Qin said.

Qin urged the United States to cease containing China by exploiting the Taiwan question, and to

return to the fundamentals of the one-China principle.

The real threats to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are the separatist forces seeking "Taiwan independence," he said, noting that the one-China principle serves as a solid anchor and the three China-U.S. joint communiqués serve as genuine guardrails.

"Mishandling of the Taiwan question will shake the very foundation of China-U.S. relations," he warned.

No country has the right to interfere in Taiwan affairs, as resolving the Taiwan question is China's own business, he said, emphasizing that "one should never underestimate the firm resolve, strong will and great capability of the Chinese government and people to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Responding to another question, Qin said that so-called "wolf warrior" diplomacy is just a narrative trap fabricated by those who either know little about China or its diplomacy, or have a hidden agenda that disregards the facts.

"There is no shortage of kindness and goodwill in China's diplomacy, but in the face of 'jackals or wolves,' Chinese diplomats have no choice but to confront them head on to protect the motherland," Qin said.

Xinhua

Indian, Aussie PMs to meet on boosting economic, defence ties

NEW DELHI/SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrives in India yesterday seeking to strengthen the new momentum in ties between the two countries through deeper trade, investment and defense relations.

The three-day visit by Albanese, the first by an Australian prime minister since 2017, comes days ahead of a visit by Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, another member of the so-called Quad group.

Quad includes the United States and India besides Australia and Japan. Australia is due to host a Quad leaders summit in Sydney later this year.

"India and Australia share warm and friendly relations based on common values and democratic principles. The Strategic Partnership between the two countries was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement ahead of the visit.

"Prime Minister Albanese's visit is expected to provide further momentum to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

Speaking in Sydney on Tuesday, Albanese said Australia wanted "greater diversity in who we trade with - and greater variety in what we trade, meaning our economy is more resilient and more secure."

The two countries signed last year a free trade agreement called the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), the first signed by India with a developed country in a decade.

It has resulted in the immediate reduction of duty to zero on 96 percent of Indian exports to Australia in value and zero duty on 85 percent of Australia's exports to India.

However, a much larger Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement has been stuck in negotiations for over a decade. Discussions began in 2011 but were suspended in 2016 as the talks were gridlocked.

The negotiations resumed in 2021 but a deal has yet proved to be elusive. Australian Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell is a part of Albanese's delegation and the visit is expected to provide an opportunity to hasten the ambitious deal.

Bilateral trade was \$27.5 billion in 2021 and India says it has the potential to nearly double to \$50 billion in five years under the ECTA.

Agencies

Russian president congratulates women on International Women's Day

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin congratulated Russian women on International Women's Day, adding that respect for women and motherhood is cherished in Russia as an "unconditional value."

"Reverence and respect towards women and motherhood is an unconditional value for us, something we have been passing on from generation to generation," Putin (pictured) said in a video address, recorded against the backdrop of the statue of Russian Empress Catherine II the Great in the Kremlin's Senate's Palace.

The president went on to say that in Russia, International Women's Day "is always filled with special warmth and meaning, with the most kind, joyful and sincere feelings."

In his words, on this day everyone is "addressing words of love and admiration to their mothers, grandmothers, sisters, wives, daughters, and girlfriends, eager to please their loved and dearest ones, to hug them and say something they might not have time to say every day amid the fast flow of events, to give their love, convey the kindest feelings and say the most sincere words to those who believe in them and wait for them at home in times of trial and separation."

Putin also emphasized that many things in life depend on "hard work and generous souls" of women, and praised the effort they "put into taking care of children and ensuring love, comfort and harmony" in their families.

He said that women's "unwavering responsibility," their ability to take into account the minutest details and all aspects of their job, as well as all their best qualities shown in various professions deserve particular recognition and respect.

"Dear women, on this new spring day, I want to wish you love and mutual understanding with the people you love, and may the warmth that your hearts so generously share return to you and keep you warm too," the Russian leader added.

Agencies

'China to see recovery of industrial economy this year'

CHINA'S industrial economy is expected to recover in 2023, said Jin Zhuanglong, Minister of Industry and Information Technology.

The minister made the remarks while attending the first Ministers' Corridor press briefing of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), which was hosted at the Great Hall of the People on March 5.

During the press briefing, he answered questions from journalists on hotspot issues such as stabilizing industrial growth, improving and transforming traditional industries, and the goals and focuses of 5G develop-

ment this year.

Last year, China's value-added industrial output for the first time exceeded 40 trillion yuan (\$5.78 trillion). Industry has further demonstrated its role as a ballast stone in macroeconomy.

In particular, the value-added output of manufacturing accounted for 27.7 percent of China's GDP, and China has maintained its position as the world's largest manufacturing hub for 13 straight years.

The minister said that the optimized COVID-19 response, combined with existing and incremental poli-

cies, will boost market confidence, with the vitality of market entities, consumption potential, and the driving force of industrial upgrading effectively released.

He added that China has the confidence, conditions, and capability to promote a stable recovery of the industrial economy.

China will take steps to stabilize industrial growth by fostering growth in key industries, expanding investment in manufacturing, and expanding the purchase of new energy vehicles and other big-ticket items.

The upgrading of traditional industries, which serve as the foundation of the modern industrial system, concerns the overall construction of the system.

According to Jin, traditional industries make up over 80 percent of the Chinese manufacturing sector.

The ministry will promote traditional industries to move from the low- and mid-end of the industrial chain towards higher positions, focus on high-end manufacturing, and implement projects for upgrading foundational industrial infrastructure and developing key technologies

and equipment.

It will focus on smart manufacturing and build a batch of intelligent factories and supply chains in key industries, and it has vowed to achieve carbon peaks in iron, nonferrous metal, construction material, and petrochemical industries.

Jin told the press conference that China has built the world's largest and most technically advanced 5G network, and 5G has been applied in over half of the country's 97 major economic categories. He said 600,000 5G base stations are expected to be built and put into use across the country

this year.

According to him, China has covered all counties with 5G networks and will keep expanding the network connection to industrial parks. Over 10,000 5G factories will be built during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), he disclosed.

While summarizing the experiences in promoting the 5G technology, relevant industries, universities and research institutes will strengthen international cooperation on the development of the 6G technology, the minister said.

People's Daily

Zimbabwean govt to begin identifying locals needing help to relocate from South Africa

HARARE

THE Zimbabwean government will begin a 20-day physical mapping exercise on March 12 to identify locals who wish to be helped in relocating from neighboring South Africa before their special work permits expire on June 30.

About 180,000 holders of the Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEP), which allowed them to work in South Africa under a special dispensation, will have to return home at the expiry of the permits unless they acquire special skills visas that qualify them to stay on.

These are part of an estimated 800,000 Zimbabweans staying in South Africa, most of them illegally and surviving on menial jobs where they are often taken advantage of by unscrupulous employers.

A public notice, issued on Monday by Zimbabwean Ambassador to South Africa David Hamadziripi, said the government would help repatriate its nationals who wanted to voluntarily leave the country, as had been previously announced.

"The Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in South Africa wishes to recall its announcement on 2 February, 2023, that the Government of Zimbabwe has taken a decision to assist and facilitate the repatriation of its nationals, holders of the Zimbabwe Exemption Permits, who voluntarily wish to return home before the expiry of their permits on 30 June, 2023," the notice said.

"In that regard, an in-person/physical mapping exercise will be undertaken across all the provinces of South Africa from 12 to 31 March, 2023, to identify and register ZEP holders and their dependents who may require assistance or facilitation to return to Zimbabwe," the notice said, giving locations where the exercise would be done.

Initially, the permits were to expire on Dec. 31, 2022, but the South African government extended them to the end of June to allow holders to apply for main-stream work permits.

However, there have been reports that the number of applicants has remained low because the Zimbabweans are not sure that they can convince the authorities to keep them in the country. One of the affected Zimbabweans said he would definitely be returning home in June because he did not possess a special skill that would qualify him for a work visa.

"Also, employers must show proof that they are paying you a salary that is in line with the standard one, for example, for a teacher.

To avoid this, companies have to apply for waivers for employees. It is a complicated process," said the Zimbabwean who declined to be named. Zimbabweans and other foreigners have often come under attack from xenophobic South Africans who allege that they are stealing their jobs.

Xinhua

US media leaks on Nord Stream sabotage intended only to confuse – Russian embassy

WASHINGTON

US media leaks from anonymous sources about the sabotage attacks on Nord Stream pipelines are intended only to confuse those who are trying to find out the truth, Minister-Counselor of the Russian Embassy in the United States Andrey Ledenev said.

Commenting on an article in the New York Times, the diplomat said: "First of all, we took notice of the fact that the mentioned article instantly got a 'green light' in the local information field, literally being all over the media in a heartbeat."

"This is especially noteworthy given the attempts of the local officials and journalists to blatantly silence the resonant material of the Pulitzer Prize winner Seymour Hersh on the same topic.

As well as the administration's opposition to launching a comprehensive and independent investigation into this act of international terrorism against critical energy infrastructure," Ledenev was quoted as saying on the Russian embassy's official Telegram channel.

In his words, "it looks like local authorities have something to hide given the fact they openly threatened the operation of the gas pipelines, and afterwards overtly savored their destruction," especially since mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia and Europe "has always been like a thorn in Washington's side."

"We have no faith in the 'impartiality' of the conclusions of the US intelligence. We perceive anonymous 'leaks' as nothing more than an attempt to confuse those who are sincerely trying to get to the bottom of things in this egregious crime.

Shift the blame from the statesmen who ordered and coordinated the attacks in the Baltic Sea to some abstract individuals," the Russian diplomat continued.

"We are convinced that in the end justice will prevail. We shall spare no effort for this to happen," he added.

The New York Times reported earlier on Tuesday, citing anonymous sources, that US intelligence has so far been unable to identify the mastermind of last September's sabotage attacks that targeted the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 pipelines, which transported natural gas from Russia to Europe.

The anonymous officials interviewed by the newspaper said there had been no firm conclusions about those responsible, thus leaving open "the possibility that the operation might have been conducted off the books by a proxy force with connections to the Ukrainian government or its security services."

Meanwhile, Germany's Die Zeit newspaper wrote that German investigators had allegedly identified the vessel used in the attack. The company that leased it was owned by Ukrainian citizens.

On September 27, 2022, Nord Stream AG reported unprecedented damage that occurred the day before on three strings of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 offshore gas pipelines.

On September 26, 2022, Swedish seismologists registered two explosions on the pipeline routes. The Russian Prosecutor General's Office launched a criminal case based on charges of international terrorism.

UK's Jeremy Hunt to keep tight budget with eye on 2024 election

LONDON

BRITISH finance minister Jeremy Hunt looks set to keep his grip on the public finances in next week's budget, refraining from big tax cuts or spending increases until the next election comes closer into view.

Lawmakers in Hunt's Conservative Party want him to halt April's sharp jump in the corporate tax rate to kick-start an economy on the verge of recession.

At the same time, trade unions and opposition parties are demanding bigger pay rises for nurses, teachers and other public-sector employees whose incomes have been hit by double-digit inflation.

A 30 billion pound (\$35.59 billion) windfall in the battered public finances has added to the pressure on Hunt to relax the fiscal stance he took when he was rushed in as finance minister in October, after former prime minister Liz Truss's "mini-budget."

Her plans for sweeping, unfunded tax cuts triggered a bond market meltdown, leading to her replacement in Downing Street by Rishi Sunak. He and Hunt told investors that Britain was not ripping up the economic orthodoxy after all.

Their pledge to have Britain's 2.5 trillion-pound debt mountain falling as a share of the economy in five years' time will constrain Hunt in his March 15 budget statement.

About two thirds of the 30 billion pounds of wiggle room in his existing plans comes from one-off factors, according to the Resolution Foundation think tank.

The remaining 10 billion pounds, from stronger-than-expected tax revenues, would be enough to pay for another three months of subsidies for households hit by soaring energy bills and another 12-month freeze on fuel duty, but little else to ease the cost-of-living squeeze in the approaching 2023/24 financial year.

However, Hunt's restraint now is also seen as a political choice: the Conservative Party will need all the help it can get



Britain's Chancellor Jeremy Hunt leaves 11 Downing Street to attend Parliament in London, Nov 17, 2022. PHOTO / AP

next year to overcome the opposition Labour Party's big opinion poll lead before a national election expected in 2024.

"The reason he's waiting until next year isn't really the fiscal rules, is it? It's the election timetable," Resolution Foundation chief executive Torsten Bell said in a panel discussion about the budget this week.

Analysts at BNP Paribas also said keeping room for tax cuts ahead of the next election would be a priority for Hunt, meaning he would probably use only half of the 30 bil-

lion-pound windfall in the public finances in next week's plan.

Gloomy outlook?

Hunt's future room for manoeuvre could be further constrained if Britain's fiscal watchdog turns gloomier about the economic outlook in its forecasts that underpin the budget.

Until now, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has been less pessimistic about growth than the Bank of England (BoE).

The OBR said in its last forecasts in November that gross domestic product would slump by 1.4 percent this year but expand by 1.3 percent and 2.6 percent in 2024 and 2025.

Last month, the BoE said GDP would show no growth at all over 2024 and 2025 after a 0.5 percent fall in 2023.

Even if the recent drop in gas prices softens the expected recession this year, a shortage of workers, long-standing productivity problems and the after-effects of Brexit risk hobbling the economy.

Britain is the only Group of Seven country whose economy has yet to recover its pre-pandemic size.

Hunt has said he will lay out economic growth measures in the budget, including ways to address the fall in the size of Britain's workforce.

He is also expected to announce tax incentives to get businesses to invest more, boosting productivity, even as the corporation tax rate jumps to 25 percent from 19 percent in April. **Agencies**

UK tells small-boat migrants: We will detain and deport you

LONDON

BRITAIN has set out details of a new law barring the entry of asylum seekers arriving in small boats across the Channel, a proposal some charities say could be impractical and criminalize the efforts of thousands of genuine refugees.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made stopping boat arrivals one of his five key priorities after the number of migrants arriving on the south coast of

England soared to more than 45,000 last year, up 500 percent in the last two years.

The new legislation will mean anyone who arrives this way will be prevented from claiming asylum and deported either back to their homeland or to so-called safe third countries.

Anger over immigration has played a defining role in British politics over the last decade and Sunak's Conservatives hope that by taking a hard line they can rebuild their popularity as

they trail the main opposition Labour party by around 20 percentage points in opinion polls.

The UN's refugee agency said it was "profoundly concerned" by the proposals, which would deny people the right to asylum "no matter how genuine and compelling" individual cases may be.

The government said on the first page of the draft legislation that it may not be compatible with Britain's obligations under the European Convention

on Human Rights, meaning it could face legal challenges if made into law.

Sunak said he would do "whatever is necessary" to stop the small boats and was ready to fight any legal challenges.

"We're up for the fight, I wouldn't be standing here if we weren't - but we're actually confident that we will win," he told a press conference.

The legislation will allow the detention of migrants without bail until they can be removed, interior minister Suella Braverman said, and those en-

tering Britain illegally would no longer be able to use anti-slavery laws to try to block removal.

Only children, people who are considered too ill to fly or those at a "real risk of serious and irreversible harm" will be allowed to claim asylum in Britain.

Just under two-thirds of those who arrive on small boats are currently granted asylum or another form of humanitarian protection, interior ministry figures show. **Agencies**

China steadfastly promotes high-quality development

By Zhong Yin, Du Shangze

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined a deliberation with deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu province at the first session of the 14th National People's Congress on March 5.

Eying on high-quality development, the top priority in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects, Xi stressed that China must fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts and a better balance must be maintained between effective rise in quality and reasonable growth in quantity.

Deputies must stay committed to deepening reform and opening up, further transform the growth model, and must take meeting the people's expectation for a better life as the ultimate goal.

Deputy Wei Qiao from an agricultural machinery cooperative in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu province, is a "new farmer" in the new era.

After learning that the woman has grown more than 20,000 mu (1,333 hectares) of rice, Xi commended her efforts, saying it mirrored the efficiency of large-scale agriculture, which enables the application of agricultural machineries and modern agricultural approaches.

Shan Zenghai, a deputy from Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group Co., Ltd., a Chinese multinational state-owned heavy machinery manufacturing company based in Jiangsu's Xuzhou, sat opposite Xi during the deliberation.

The company's endeavors in sci-tech innovation over the recent years have left a deep impression on the Chinese President.

After listening to Shan's report on the company's performance, Xi said China has complete manufacturing categories and needs to move the sector towards higher ends.

This is the essence of high-quality development and the manufacturing industry is always indispensable to China's development, he added.

He noted that China must have control over its own food supply and build strong the manufacturing sector. A major country with more than 1.4 billion people must rely on itself in terms of food security and manufacturing development, as "one-trick pony" doesn't work well in the international market, Xi said.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has had a



A drone sprays pesticide over a wheat field in a modern agricultural park in Xinbei district, Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu province, March 6, 2023. (Photo by Chen Wei/People's Daily Online)

science-based grasp of the trend of China's development, pursued high-quality development as the general aim, advanced supply-side structural reform as the main task, comprehensively implemented the new development philosophy, and created a new pattern of development, so as to make development more balanced, coordinated and inclusive, and strive to realize development with a higher level of quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security.

The 20th National Congress of the CPC has made plans on the goals and policies in the cause of the Party and the country for some time to come, as well as major deployment on accelerating the building of a new pattern of development and promoting high-quality development.

The "four-must" remarks by Xi this time is a profound summary of China's high-quality development in the new era and mirrors the CPC's deepened understanding of the law of economic and social development, charting the course and serving as an important guide for promoting high-quality development as China embraces a new journey of building a modern socialist country.

High-quality development concerns the overall situation of the country's socialist modernization drive.

China will move faster to realize sci-tech self-reliance and self-strengthening at higher levels, a route that it must take to promote high-quality development, to open up new areas and new arenas in development and foster new driving force and new strengths.

Giving high priority to fostering a new pattern of development, which helps promote high-quality development, the country should make sure that its implementation of the strategy to expand domestic demand is integrated with its efforts to deepen supply-side structural reform, and continue to focus on development of the real economy.

China must adhere to the philosophy that strong agriculture is the foundation of a strong modern socialist country and promoting agricultural modernization is a prerequisite for achieving high-quality development.

It should secure the stable and safe supply of grain and important agricultural products, take industrial development as the top priority of rural revitalization and speed up the building of a beautiful and harmonious countryside that is desirable to live and work in.

The country should focus on the ultimate goal of meeting the people's expectation for a better life, improve the governance system for urban and rural communities, and take more measures that can improve people's livelihood and warm the cockles of their hearts, in a bid to promote common prosperity and achieve a high quality of life.

People's Daily

M23 rebels in eastern DR Congo ignoring AU-called ceasefire - UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE M23 rebel group is ignoring the ceasefire starting on Tuesday in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a UN spokesman said.

"Our peacekeeping mission, MONUSCO, indicated that fighting between the Congolese army and the M23 armed group continues in North Kivu province, despite the ceasefire," said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Haq said that the ceasefire complies with recent decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa. Clashes were also reported Monday in parts of Rutshuru and Masisi territories and in the town of Sake.

"The secretary-general reiterates his call on the M23 to respect the ceasefire to create conditions for its full and effective withdrawal from all occupied areas in eastern DRC," the spokesman said, recalling the UN chief's appeal on Monday.

"He condemns all violence against civilians and renews his call on all Congolese and foreign armed groups to lay down their weapons and disarm unconditionally." The role of peacekeepers assigned to the UN mission is to support the Congolese army and protect civilians, MONUSCO chief Bintou Keita has said.

Earlier Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) on Tuesday accused the March 23 Movement (M23) rebels of violating the ceasefire agreement. Via a statement, the FARDC affirmed that the fighting "is ongoing" between the army and the M23, though the latter is supposed to respect the latest ceasefire agreement taking effect at noon on March 7.

The Congolese army alleged that M23 rebels attacked several FARDC positions in eastern North Kivu province, where tensions have been escalating for several months. In addition, the FARDC accused the M23 rebels of firing

Monday, which left three people dead and six more injured in the city of Sake, located 27 km from Goma, the capital of the North Kivu province.

After several aborted ceasefires, on March 3, the Angolan presidency, designated by the African Union as a mediator for this crisis, announced this new ceasefire taking effect at noon Tuesday, when the M23 should stop all military activities.

Despite local media reports of M23 advancements early Tuesday, the M23 declared a cease-fire to pave the way for dialogue with the Democratic Republic of the Congo government.

"The M23 hereby declares a cease-fire effective from this Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 12:00 noon to pave way for the political process," the rebels' spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka said in a statement.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the M23 Monday to respect this latest ceasefire, in order to create the conditions necessary for its total and effective withdrawal from all occupied areas in the east of the country.

Since the beginning of this year, fighting has intensified between the M23 and the army in several areas north of Goma. Fighting has forced thousands of people to flee their homes to find refuge.

Apart from the mediation by the Angolan presidency, member countries of the East African Community (EAC), a regional bloc, set up a regional force last year to intervene in the ongoing situation in eastern DRC, in particular, to counter the M23.

The first contingent of Burundian soldiers was on the ground in Goma Sunday under the mandate of the EAC regional force. Since last November, a contingent of the Kenyan army has been on the ground around Goma for military intervention.

Additional troops, including those from South Sudan and Uganda, are also expected on the same mission.

Biggest challenges facing new Taifa Stars boss Adel Amrouche

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ADel Amrouche is the latest name to take on the prestigious yet poisoned chalice that is the head coach position for Taifa Stars.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) announced the appointment of former Kenya's Harambee Stars tactician, Amrouche, as the new Taifa Stars head coach in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The TFF also revealed that the experienced tactician's salaries and allowances will be fully catered for by the government.

His appointment comes at a crucial point in time when Tanzania is about to embark on preparation for the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers' clash against Uganda.

However, despite the optimism that a new coach brings, Amrouche has several serious issues facing him as he takes the reins.

Find a good locally-based assistant coach

While Amrouche is familiar with East African football from his stints in Kenya and Burundi as well as DR Congo, it is unlikely he has watched much of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

There are only three weeks before Taifa Stars takes on Uganda in a crucial African Cup of Nations qualifier doubleheader.

Either way, Amrouche will surely need local help and must make sure he gets someone who can help him settle in quickly to the job. That would ideally be someone with an in-depth knowledge of the NBC Premier League which provides the back-



Taifa Stars' new head coach Adel Amrouche. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

bone of the Taifa Stars squad.

TFF has to help him settle on a local coach who has an excellent rapport with Tanzanian players.

*Start scouting players and speaking to club coaches

As much as an assistant can help Amrouche out, the head coach will have to travel the length and breadth of the country to scout the players he wants, and start up a rapport with coaches at all the NBC Premier League clubs and beyond.

After all, no coach knows a player better than those in charge of their respective teams.

Discussions over their character, their best positions, and tactical adaptability will all be important.

After all, international coaches have so little time with players

that it is often better to simply play them in the role they are used to at the club level.

And like in the NBC Premier League, it will be good for Amrouche to speak to the coaches of the likes of Mbwana Samata and Kelvin John at KRC Genk, and Novatus Dismas at Zulte Waregem, as well as the players.

Amrouche may also seek to unearth some youngsters that Tanzania has not seen much of yet, especially if he is going to build a side focused on younger players.

*Getting Taifa Stars back into the AFCON finals

Amrouche's primary mission will be to put Tanzania back on the right track in Group F of the qualifiers for the next African Cup of Nations finals which will

take place in Côte d'Ivoire.

Taifa Stars are in Group F along with Niger, Uganda, and Algeria and currently occupy third place tied with Uganda in points.

Algeria sits at the top of the group with six points followed by Niger (two points). Taifa Stars were beaten 2-0 at home by Algeria following a 1-1 away draw with Niger in Benin in their first Group Stage outing.

The double-header with East African rivals Uganda later this month will be crucial for Amrouche and the Taifa Stars. Uganda will host Tanzania in Egypt since Kampala does not have stadiums approved by CAF.

*Integrate youngsters into the team

Mandates always come up in these circumstances, with Amrouche expected to qualify for the 2024 African Cup of Nations finals.

There might be differing opinions on exactly if it is a realistic target. To some, it is a clear, achievable, and realistic target.

To others, that might be too simple a demand that does not account for the quality of opposition in the group.

But, whichever camp you fall into, there is too much of a sense that the development of a youthful squad should take priority.

The bulk of the squad that qualified for the 2019 AFCON finals in Egypt is still available for Tanzania. Even the more senior players, Samatta, Simon Msuva, and Himid Mao still have something to offer.

But inevitably, there will be some new faces bringing freshness to the Taifa Stars squad.

What is fascinating is where and how Amrouche makes space for the new blood in his squad.

Tanzania Wushu Association election pushed back to March

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Wushu Association's election, which was set to be held in Dar es Salaam on February 25 this year, has been pushed back to March 24.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the National Sports Council (NSC) information and relations officer, Najaha Bakari, said that the move has come about due to the lack of candidates for some of the positions in the association.

"We have decided to move this election forward because there are some positions where there were no candidates, so we have given them time to complete the leadership," Najaha said.

According to the NSC official, the candidates' forms were issued on March 5 this year at NSC and claimed that the interview will be held on March 22 this year.

Najaha mentioned the positions to be contested for as chairman, vice-chairman, secretary-general, assistant secretary, treasurer-general, assistant treasurer, technical director, and information director.

Other posts are the director of planning and investment, the director of foreign affairs, and six members.

Najaha moreover revealed that the candidates' qualifications demand that they must be Tanzanian citizens and have never been found guilty of a criminal offense.



Dar es Salaam judo players demonstrate some of the sport's techniques at a past occasion organized by Japan Karate Association/World Federation-Tanzania. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAPAN KARATE ASSOCIATION/WORLD FEDERATION-TANZANIA

Yanga SC now call teams interested for want away Feisal for negotiations

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has opened doors for discussion to any club that is demanding the services of the club's midfielder, Feisal Salum, who has been pushing to leave the club from December 24, 2022.

Ally Kamwe, Yanga's Information Officer, pointed out that no one has stopped Salum from leaving the club and they want football stakeholders to understand that.

The official insisted the Jangwani Street club's position is to ensure that the player leaves in an orderly manner.

He disclosed that there is a concept that has been created by some football stakeholders who think that Yanga is deliberately blocking Salum.

According to him, the truth however is that what is happening means protocols are to be followed.

The official stated either breaching transfer rules or the termination of his contract unprofessionally is not a proper way for the footballer to leave.

"We are not stopping Salum from leaving but the procedure must be followed. The team that wants him has to come to our office and talk, the doors are open

and let us leave the merry-go-round talks," the official revealed.

"Holding endless meetings every day is meaningless at the moment. If there is a team that is interested in the performance of our president, Hersi Said, let's talk about it too, because there are other teams that want him," Kamwe noted jokingly.

According to a statement released by the club on Monday evening through the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Andre Mtine, the club is ready to release the midfielder as per contract procedures and players' transfer requirements stipulated by TFF and FIFA.

The information further revealed that they have received a review of the contract case by TFF's Legal and Players Status Committee hence requiring the player to return to his outfit's camp immediately.

"Feisal should report to camp and join his colleagues to serve his current contract until May 30, 2024," the statement revealed.

"The club is ready to welcome him and include him in the squad, according to the policy of the club, to increase the remuneration of best-performing players, the club is ready to discuss it with either Salum or his representatives if they concede," part of it noted.



Feisal Salum

Mkwakwani Stadium floodlights set to boost Tanga's economy



Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdullah (2nd R), presents a trophy to Coastal Union's skipper, Mtenje Albano, after a friendly match between the squad and African Sports held at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga recently. The tie, which ended with Coastal Union beating African Sports, was used to officially launch floodlights installed at the stadium. Others are Tanga Regional Commissioner Omari Mgumba (R), Tanga's CCM Regional Chairman, Rajab Abdulrahman (2nd L), and Tanga Member of Parliament Ummu Mwalimu (L). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI

and accurately.

Apart from providing better illumination security at the Mkwakwani Stadium had improved with better lighting.

All objects are lately clearly visible, a situation which attracted entrepreneurs to look for other business areas around the stadium premises.

Business activities have flourished at night, prompting entrepreneurs to set up their makeshift tables around the stadium after sunset.

The tables of well-arranged oranges, mangoes, coconut drink, strawberries, blackberries, sweet red tomatoes, apples, pineapples, french fries and fried chicken, and octopus soup, a delicacy mostly preferred by middle age people, dominate the night business activities.

Fitness centers have increased within a short time and the time for training sessions has been extended.

Fitness instructors are busy with batches of clients who seem

to overlap each other at doorways.

This has made the fitness centers' owners every reason to smile, given their income has soared high due to the tremendous increment of clients.

The wide range of activities boosts part of the city's economy whereby the revenue collection has increased.

The night could be associated with evil, predominantly violent incidents brought about by alcohol consumption, crime, and other anti-social behaviour.

Security however is reliable, given there are Maasai guards and trained paramilitary guards from security companies attentively making sure people and their properties are safe.

In an interview with The Guardian, some economists and sports stakeholders commended the installment of floodlights, revealing the initiative will not only improve economic status but also benefit stadium owners and soccer clubs.

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

MINISTER for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, recently graced the official launch of newly installed floodlights at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

"Tanga's football followers now have a new entertainment spot refreshment, so, I'm obliged to make sure that I turn this stadium into a modern facility that meets all international standards by putting artificial turf alongside renovating important areas," Ummu, who doubles as Tanga Constituency's Member of Parliament, disclosed.

The launching was officially graced by Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdullah, on February 4.

People from various areas of Tanga turned up at Mkwakwani Stadium, ready to witness such a historical event.

Before that, there were a series of social and recreational activities including blood donation and various types of entertainment. At night, Tanga soccer followers witnessed the famed Tanga derby between African Sports and Coastal Union, which had taken place after a seven-year hiatus.

The derby was a good entertainment that the Tanga soccer supporters had missed since African Sports suffered relegation to First Division League (FDL) after a below-par showing in the then Vodacom Premier League in 2016.

Since the floodlights were placed, Tanga city has been busy with people doing business at night, boosting the city council's revenue collection in the process. Tanga's economy has certainly improved following the installation of the floodlights at Mkwakwani Stadium.

Sports floodlights are one of the most important pieces of equipment for any sports facility.

They provide the much-needed illumination to ensure that the game can be played safely

Prosecutor calls XXXTentacion's alleged killers 'predators'

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

A FLORIDA prosecutor told jurors during closing arguments Tuesday that three men on trial for the 2018 slaying of rapper XXXTentacion were "predators" who waited outside a motorcycle shop to rob and shoot the rising star, escaping with \$50,000.

Prosecutor Pascale Achille played cellphone videos the defendants allegedly took hours after the killing that showed them smiling and dancing as they flashed handfuls of \$100 bills. Michael Boatwright, Dedrick Williams and Trayvon Newsome are all charged with first-degree murder and face mandatory life sentences if convicted.

"This is who they are. This is their real character. Killers that within 24 hours after shooting the victim dead and stealing \$50,000 from him, this is what they do," Achille told the jury as she played the video. "Look at how happy they look. Look at how excited they look."

She also played surveillance video from the motorcycle shop and from where two of them allegedly stashed an SUV that she says link the men to the killing. And she recounted statements from a fourth man, Robert Allen, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last year and testified against his former friends.

George Reres, Newsome's attorney, implored the jury not to convict his client based on Allen's testimony or evidence implicating the other two defendants, saying, "He was not there." He said Allen, a 12-time convicted felon, should not be believed and Newsome's DNA was not found on any evidence.

He told jurors they should not believe Newsome is guilty simply because of the video showing him flashing money with the others, arguing he may not have even known where they got it.

"He did some stupid things - he posed with some money," Reres said. "Guilt by association is not something the law permits."

Mauricio Padilla, Williams' attorney, called Allen a "liar." He said the prosecution's witnesses contradicted each other and Broward County sheriff's detectives didn't look at other possible suspects, including the Canadian star rapper Drake - he and XXXTentacion had an online feud. He said his client did tattooing and other work that paid him in cash, so the video of him flashing money means nothing.

Padilla also sought to cast doubt on the evidentiary value of the surveillance video, saying that while it may show his client in the store and walking back to the SUV, there are moments where the vehicle is blocked and Williams could have gotten out and left.

Boatwright's attorney was expected to give his closing argument Wednesday, followed by Achille's rebuttal and then jury deliberations. The trial began a month ago.

XXXTentacion, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, had just left Riva Motorsports in suburban Fort Lauderdale on June 18, 2018, with a friend when his BMW was blocked by an SUV that swerved in front.

Surveillance video showed that two masked gunmen emerged and confronted the 20-year-old singer at the driver's window, and one shot him repeatedly. They then grabbed a Louis Vuitton bag containing cash that XXXTentacion had just withdrawn from the bank, got back into the SUV and sped away. The friend was not harmed.

Boatwright, 28, is accused of being the shooter, while Newsome, 24, is accused of being the other gunman. Williams, 26, is accused of being the driver.

Prosecutors say the men, along with Allen, set out that day to commit robberies and went to the motorcycle shop to buy Williams a mask. There they spotted the rapper and decided to make him their target. Allen and Williams went inside the motorcycle shop to confirm it was him. They then went back to the SUV they had rented, waited for XXXTentacion to emerge and ambushed him, according to prosecutors.

The rapper, who pronounced his name "Ex ex ten-ta-see-YAWN," was a platinum-selling rising star who tackled issues including prejudice and depression in his songs. He also drew criticism over bad behavior and multiple arrests, including charges that he severely beat and abused his girlfriend.

AP



Potter and Marc Cucurella silence the boo boys on night of the Chelsea underdogs



Kai Havertz's penalty early in the second half meant Potter's men scored more than once for the first time since December 27. (Agencies)

BY MATT LAW

As the owner of Hollywood's Golden Globe Awards, Todd Boehly knows a good underdog story when he sees one and Chelsea duo Marc Cucurella and Kai Havertz defied their critics to help keep the club's season very much alive.

In the immediate aftermath of the Champions League last-16 success against Borussia Dortmund, co-controlling owner Boehly made his way to the Chelsea dressing room with a beer in hand to toast Graham

Potter and his squad after watching Cucurella and Havertz give A-list performances. The only boing Cucurella would have heard on Tuesday night was as the fourth official signalled for six additional minutes and when the final whistle went, the Chelsea defender hung around on the Stamford Bridge pitch long enough to have his picture taken with the man-of-the-match award.

Last time out against Dortmund, Cucurella had not been able to get off the pitch in Germany fast enough after being booed onto it by the trav-

elling Chelsea supporters as a substitute.

Potter had left Cucurella out of his match-day squad entirely for the three Premier League games that followed the Champions League first-leg defeat and yet the Spaniard was drafted straight back into the head coach's starting line-up for Chelsea's biggest game of the season.

And, boy, did Cucurella respond. The £60 million man did not put a foot wrong on the left side of Potter's back three as a replacement for Benoit Badiashile, who cannot play for Chelsea in the

Champions League, and linked up brilliantly with Ben Chilwell, who produced an excellent performance of his own.

This is what former head coach Thomas Tuchel had envisaged when he gave the green light to the Cucurella signing before he was sacked and, finally, the Chelsea fans could see just why the club invested so much money in him to beat Manchester City to the 24-year-old's signature.

It wasn't just how Cucurella played that will have endeared him to the Chelsea fans who had doubted him, either.

When Chilwell was set upon late in the game by Marius Wolf, it was Cucurella who was first on the scene to back up his team-mate.

Cucurella also argued with Dortmund midfielder Jude Bellingham at the end, refusing to give up any ground even when the match was over and Chelsea had safely progressed to the quarter-finals. This is what the fans have wanted to see - fight and commitment, and it felt like wounds were being healed on the pitch on Tuesday night.

"Obviously, when you're having a bad time like we've had, you ac-

cept the criticism, you have to deal with it," said Potter. "Marc has dealt with it well. We've tried to shield him a little bit at the same time and pick the moment. I thought, regardless of his situation, the crowd were going to get behind us because of it being the Champions League."

"With Benoit not available, Marc just gave us that left foot and balance on the back three and, thankfully, delivered a top performance."

There was a certain irony in the fact that Cucurella started his rehabilitation process while Mykhailo Mudryk, the player who had seemed to grow frustrated with him, sat out the entire second leg of the Dortmund tie on the substitutes' bench.

Just like Cucurella, Mudryk will get another chance and is far too talented to be seriously doubted so soon. But maybe this is also a good lesson in humility for the £88 million signing, whose ego might just have been inflated by having his name used as the bio on Chelsea's Instagram account for a time.

Cucurella was not the only Chelsea underdog to have his day this week, as Havertz responded to the faith placed in him by Potter and accepted the responsibility of being made the club's new designated penalty taker - even if it did take him two attempts to score from the spot.

The way in which Havertz refused to be rattled by missing his first penalty to score from the retake showed a strength of character and maintained his perfect club career record from the spot.

Still mindful of the fact Havertz scored the goal that won Chelsea the Champions League under Tuchel, the 23-year-old had not been targeted by supporters in the same way Cucurella had. But it was high time he gave them a reminder of his talent and this was it.

Boehly must now hope there is a Hollywood ending for Cucurella, Havertz and Chelsea in this season's Champions League.

THE TELEGRAPH

'Special night' relieves pressure on Chelsea's Potter

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Graham Potter breathed a sigh of relief after his side finally delivered some return on a world record one-season spend in the transfer market on Tuesday by reaching the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

The Blues overturned a 1-0 first-leg deficit by beating Borussia Dortmund 2-0 at Stamford Bridge thanks to goals from Raheem Sterling and Kai Havertz.

Potter's job appeared to be on the line had his side exited Europe following a dreadful run of form in the Premier League and early exits from both domestic cup competitions.

Chelsea's new ownership has remained loyal to the former Brighton boss despite just three wins in 16 games before Dortmund's visit.

Co-owners Todd Boehly and Behdad

Eghbali were all smiles as they made their way across the pitch after full-time having witnessed the best result of their era in charge after splashing over £500 million (\$600 million) on new players.

"Things are never bad forever, but it felt like that sometimes," said Potter on the pressure he has been under in recent weeks.

Potter still has issues to contend with though. Chelsea's profligacy over the two legs that left the tie in the balance all the way to the end remains to be resolved.

Sterling got the crucial opening goal just before half-time but was also guilty of wasting plenty more big chances.

Havertz, meanwhile, was handed a lifeline when his penalty came back off the post.

The German international made the most of a second chance after a VAR review found Dortmund players had

encroached on his first attempt.

But there was finally some relief for the Potter, who has now worked his way up from coaching in the ninth tier of English football to the last eight of Europe's biggest stage.

"It was a special night," added Potter. "To win a game to go into the last eight of the Champions League is up there in terms of wins and games in my career."

Chelsea's two previous Champions League-winning campaigns in 2012 and 2021 came via unexpected runs after sacking a manager mid-season.

With over a month to go until the quarter-finals there is time for lightning to strike for a third time if Potter can generate greater cohesion from his cast of expensively assembled stars.

If there remains work

to do up front, Potter does at least appear to be building a solid foundation at the back.

Dortmund arrived in London on the back of a 10-game winning streak, but they were largely kept at arm's length by Marco Reus' first-half free-kick that forced Kepa Arrizabalaga into a flying save.

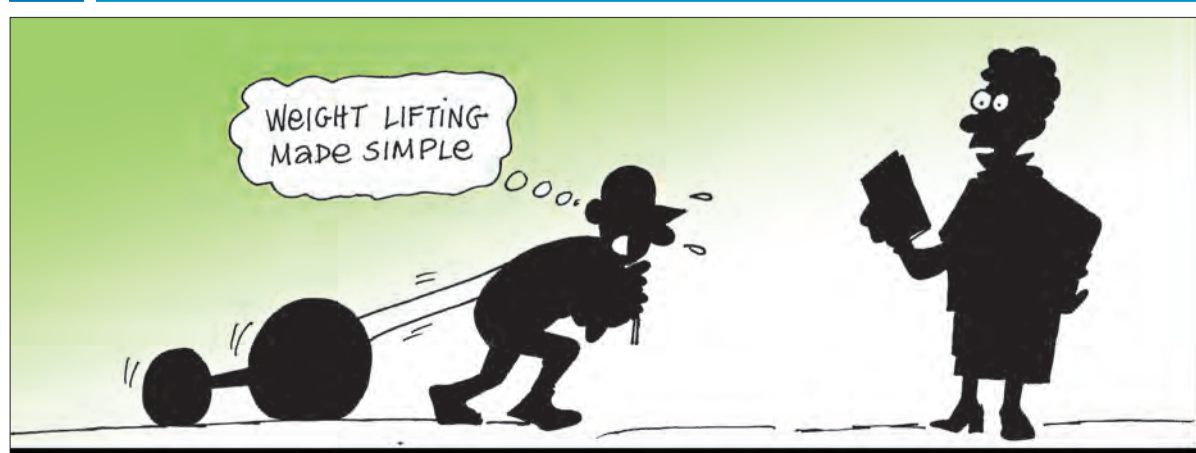
The return from injury of Reece James, Ben Chilwell and Wesley Fofana

has made a massive difference with Chelsea claiming their fifth clean sheet in nine games against the Bundesliga title challengers.

"It's not easy," said Dortmund coach Edin Terzic on breaking Chelsea down. "It's not just that they spent money, they brought in some quality players. You can feel that they are always dangerous."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Graham Potter and Marc Cucurella silence the boo boys on night of the Chelsea underdogs

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KMC desperate for points in PL, hosts Kagera Sugar today

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KINONDONI Municipal Council FC will play host to Kagera Sugar at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam this afternoon with the two clubs in completely different areas of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table.

The home side continues to look over its shoulder towards the second tier of local soccer tournaments.

The hosts are in bad shape in the relegation zone, one point from the safe zone line and nine points behind today's counterparts, meaning a win here would be of huge significance for head coach Thierry Hitimana and his troops.

They come into the game on the back of a disappointing 1-0 loss in a tie against Mtibwa Sugar in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s Round of 16. That result means Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has lost five of the club's six most recent fixtures in all competitions.

There have been defeats in ties against Azam FC and Ruvu Shooting away, Yanga and Namungo FC at home, and a draw away to Mtibwa Sugar in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League.

Trends show Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has managed just five wins in the squad's last 24 league games. They are on a losing streak of two straight home matches in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League. They have failed to keep a clean sheet in their last seven league games.

Kagera Sugar travels to Uhuru Stadium having also suffered a loss at home in this season's ASFC Round of 16's duel on Sunday.

They were eliminated from the competition at the hands of Mbeya City FC, losing 1-0.

The match seemed the perfect opportunity to get a win against a team sitting in the bottom half of the league and qualify for the quarterfinals but Kagera Sugar was poor and conceded a penalty and red card in the second half at Kaitaba Stadium to go down 1-0.

Away form in the Premier League shows Kagera Sugar have lost two of their last five fixtures. The defeats have come in games against Singida Big Stars and Dodoma Jiji FC.

They triumphed on the road against Prisons and Ruvu Shooting while their only draw came in a duel against Polisi Tanzania.

In head-to-head stats, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Kagera Sugar have met in nine league matches. Kagera Sugar has won four matches while Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has claimed only one win with the other four ending in stalemate.

When the teams met earlier this season, in Bukoba in November 2022, Kagera Sugar claimed a 1-0 away win thanks to a second-half strike by Anuary Jabir.

Jabir, who decided the previous meeting with the winner, will be vital for the visitors while the hosts will look to former Yanga forwards, Matheo Anthony and Waziri Junior, for goals.



KMC FC head coach, Thierry Hitimana.

Robertinho: Vipers made Simba SC work hard

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC head coach Robert Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho', has admitted that the win against Uganda's Vipers SC in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League did not come easy in the end but hailed his players for fighting to pull it off.

The Tanzanian representatives completed a home-and-away double over Vipers SC to raise their points tally to six and keep their hopes for quarterfinal qualification alive.

Clatous Chama scored Simba SC's winner at the stroke of halftime when he squeezed the ball between the keeper's legs from a tight angle on the left.

Before that goal, Simba SC had enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the opening half and had good chances to go ahead, with Saidi Ntibazonkiza denied by an acrobatic save from the keeper with a swinging shot before his header came off the bar.

In the second half, Vipers SC started strongly and almost thought they had scored their first goal in the Group Stage, but goal-getter Yunus Sentamu's effort was chalked off for offside.

In the 89th minute, Vipers SC's Nigerian striker Abubakar Lawal should have done better when a recycled corner was brought back into the area, but his effort with an audacious backheel spiraled straight to Simba SC keeper Aishi Manula's arms.

Simba SC now needs to earn at least four points from their next match to qualify for

the next round.

They have an away trip to Raja Club Athletic and a home duel against Horoya Athletic Club and they must win both to have a realistic chance.

Speaking to the press after the game, Robertinho detailed how difficult it was for his side to get maximum points against Vipers SC, a club he described as a counter-attacking side that allowed them little space to maneuver in the attack.

Robertinho said: "It was a difficult game because we needed to win, we scored a goal in the first and there was too much stress."

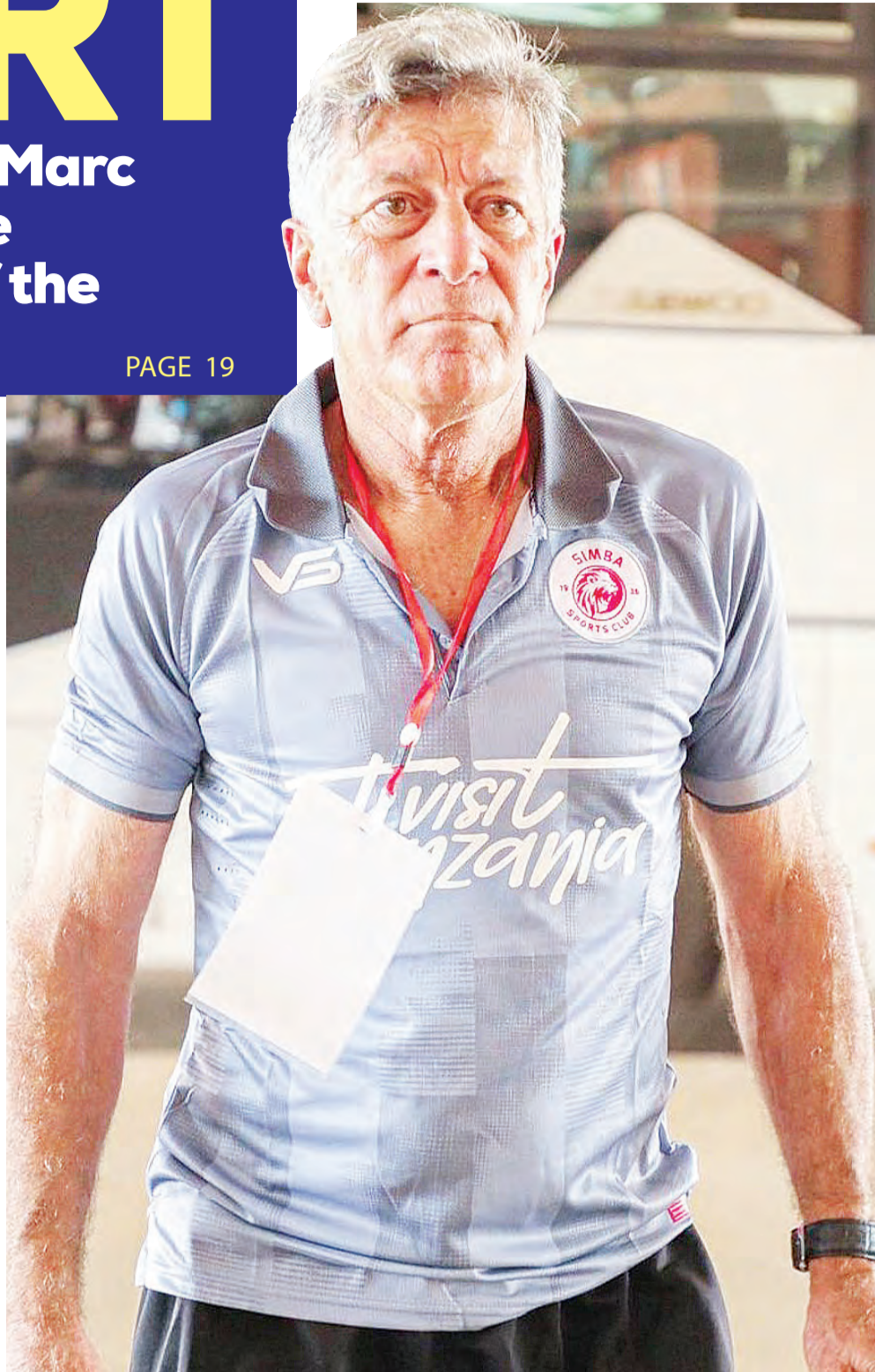
"Our team played very well, our possession was very good and I am very happy about our midfield compactness," the gaffer noted.

"For example Joash Onyango and Henock Inonga every time they had space to cover did because you cannot give too much space in the midfield. We trained about this important detail," the Brazilian stated.

"Our team attacked with five players in the midfield and one striker while our opponents used 4-3-3 to counterattack."

Robertinho pointed out: "It wasn't easy because they stayed behind, built a strong wall. It wasn't easy to get space and spot a good pass but I am happy because in the Champions League and with my 28 years of experience coaching outside Brazil I can say it is never easy."

Simba SC will now shift focus to the 2022/23 NBC Premier League with a game against Mtibwa Sugar scheduled for Saturday at Manungu Stadium, Morogoro.



Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Dar comedian, musician turn brand ambassadors

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A sports betting firm, WinPrincess, has disclosed it is committed to promoting Tanzania's talents by, among others, supporting the sports and arts sectors.

The company's country manager, Hakan Aric, revealed when he unveiled two prominent members of the entertainment industry, comedian Lucas Mhavile, and artist Gift Stanford, as the company's brand ambassadors.

Mhavile, popularly known as 'Joti' and Gift, alias 'Gigy Money', will be responsible for promoting the company's brand. Aric said his company opted for the two because of their undisputed talents.

The official noted: "We are here in Tanzania for nine years now, and over the years we have been involved in the promotion of arts and sports."

"We promise our continued support to the two sectors and other sectors as we aim to have an impact on the communities we operate in," he said.

Artist 'Gigy Money' said she is proud to be associated with the



WinPrincess sports betting firm's Marketing Officer, Winnie Macha (L), speaks at an occasion for introducing Tanzania's comedian, Lucas Mhavile, and artist Gift Stanford, as the company's brand ambassadors in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are the firm's country manager, Hakan Aric (2nd R), and officials from the Gaming Board of Tanzania. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

WinPrincess sports betting firm.

"I'm happy to be a member of the WinPrincess family and I would like to take this opportunity to invite other people to register and bet through our company, I can assure you of winning," she said.

The company unveiled the duo at a function to launch the new online sports bet-

ting game, known as 'Ushindi Papo Hapo' (immediate payout).

A Marketing Officer from the company, Winnie Macha, said the online sports betting and casino games conducted by her company come with many benefits that bring real excitement.

"We believe in trust and we are here to give trust to our

customers by promoting our slogan, known as 'Ushindi ni Papo Hapo', which means the winner should rest assured of an immediate payout of his or her winning, we have the best odds and immediate payout," she said.

An official from the Gaming Board of Tanzania, who graced the event, hailed WinPrincess for its contribution

to the country's social economic development.

He said the company pays taxes to the government and it has also employed a lot of Tanzanians.

The company, which is available in over 30 countries, has been in existence for more than 40 years globally but it has been operating in Tanzania for nine years.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

