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Dialysis services spread to regional referral hospitals

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

WITH kidney complications now affecting seven per cent of the Tanzanian population, dialysis machines have been distributed in all regional hospitals.

Dr Godwin Mollel, the Health deputy minister, issued this affirmation in responding to a question by Asia Halamga (Special Seats) who sought to know the status and numbers of patients suffering from kidney diseases

Underlining that lifestyle diseases are behind the surge in patients, he said the government was making efforts to improve public awareness on the disease while reducing treatment expenses.

The majority of kidney disease patients are those who live with underlying complications such as high blood pressure, diabetes and HIV/Aids, he stated.

He appealed to the public to develop a culture of regular check-ups on their kidney disease status for immediate response, as the government has spent a total of 290.9bn/- in purchasing dialysis machines, enabling the service to be accessed at regional referral hospitals.

The deputy minister had last week affirmed that the government was planning to reduce the cost of kidney dialysis from the current 350,000/- to 90,000/-, while discussions are being pursued on cutting the cost to 150,000/- or down to 90,000/-.

Lucy Sabu (Special Seats) had asked for government plans to reduce the cost of undergoing dialysis for the low-income people to afford.

He explained that in setting out estimates for the next financial year, the minister, Umyy Mwalimu was trying to figure how to lower costs for mother and child care as well as kidney dialysis.

"We have found out that instead of 350,000/-, there is a possibility that someone could access the service at 150,000/- or even 90,000/-," he said, asserting that the government plans to lower the costs.

He restated the possibility of exemption of paying for the treatment if the needy person has a letter from the ward executive officer.

Dialysis service is currently available at

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan presses a button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch Tanzania's hosting of the Africa Human Capital Summit Heads of State Summit. The event is scheduled to be held in the city on July 25 and 26 this year. It comes in response to engagements with government focal points on the need to draw attention to the role of human capital in economic growth and elevate discussion on the importance of investing in people. Photo: State House

Africa to seek joint solutions to youth bulge, jobs challenge

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AFRICAN countries must work to overcome human capital challenges besieging the continent's rapidly growing population at the Heads of State meeting on the issue in Dar es Salaam on July 25 to 26.

World Bank country and zonal representative Nathan Belete made this appeal at a preliminary meeting yesterday to launch preparations for the conference graced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He said that countries must address youth employment and gender equality challenges, noting that the Tanzanian experience shows that an increase of literacy uplifts household income.

The forthcoming summit will be crucial to amplify the human capital agenda, he said, noting that the overall theme of the summit is to link investments in human capital to economic growth.

Harnessing the demographic dividend requires countries to address 'learning

poverty' and the skills gap for youth and women, an area elaborated by the president in her address to the preparatory meeting.

She said, inter alia, that Tanzania has made considerable progress towards achieving various components of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), citing investment in human capital, urging for greater support for African countries to draw up and implement effective strategies.

The preparatory meeting was attended by former Zanzibar president Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, along with various cabinet ministers and heads of international organisations accredited to Tanzania.

The summit is important for African Heads of State to seek global solutions on the youth bulge and unemployment situation, as each country looks for ways to sort out the challenge by investing in human capital for sustainable development.

The July summit will be a unique platform to share best practices for economic growth.

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'Pursuing cashless, digital economy fosters inclusion'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government will in the next financial year direct more resources in creating conditions for a cashless economy and wider financial inclusion, elevating the

country's readiness for the fourth industrial revolution.

Nape Nnauye, the Information, Communication and Information Technology minister made this assertion to the National Assembly yesterday when

presenting estimates for fiscal 2023/24.

The government has completed preparing the ten-year national digital economy framework covering 2023-2033, set to facilitate initiatives to improve digital infrastructures and a conducive

environment for private ICT investments, he said.

The government in collaboration with the private sector seeks to push various programmes to promote the mass use of safe digital services and improve the required supporting infrastructure, he said.

A review of the National ICT Policy of 2016 will be conducted to provide a comprehensive framework for guiding the development and growth of the ICT industry to ensure it yields optimal

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VP: Slash interest rates to agro-sector margins

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

COMMERCIAL banks and other financial institutions need to reduce interest rates and requirements for issuing loans in a manner similar to what is being done in the agriculture sector, the government has stated.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango issued this appeal at a CRDB Bank shareholders' seminar here yesterday, ahead of its annual general meeting today, highlighting the fact that borrowing costs now stand at a single digit level in the sector, at nine percent.

Stating his conviction that interest rates can go down further, he urged commercial

banks to reduce interest rates when lending to sectors like small-scale mining, livestock keeping, fishing and beekeeping.

High interest rates make Dar es Salaam city be slotted at number 500 among 1,000 cities in the world in supporting the growth of startups. Kenya, by contrast is in sharp contrast as Nairobi city is being ranked at number 160 position out of 1,000 cities start up facilitation status for 2022, he remarked.

Supporting startups enables them to grow and create more jobs, generating incomes and boosting revenue to the government," he elaborated, similarly asking commercial banks to find ways of reducing non-performing loans.

There should be no new bad loans in the line with the targets of the central bank, he urged, widening his advice as to what commercial banks can do to enhance financial inclusion.

Financial inclusion hinges on promoting micro-financial services and ensuring consumer protection, he said, noting that rural populations are not widely covered



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye tables his ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2023/2024 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



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as each African country's effort for investment in human capital is key to improving people's lives and alleviating poverty.

"Achieving SDGs cannot be separated from human capital development, she stated, emphasising on the need for African countries to prioritise investing in human capital, particularly for youths and women.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance and Planning minister, said the summit is an important forum to bring together high level leaders

to share experiences on factors challenging human capital growth.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, said that hosting the summit is clear testimony of the country's commitment to further improve human capital.

Saada Mkuya, her Zanzibar counterpart, said that significant achievements have been recorded in the human investment capital in Zanzibar and the Mainland as the two governments have increased budgets to uplift health, education and clean water accessibility among the population.

Dialysis services spread to regional referral hospitals

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various hospitals like the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), the

Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) in Dodoma and regional referral hospitals, he added.

Young scientists outreach programme seen inspiring practical science education

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

SCIENCE and technology have long been recognized as catalysts for economic development, driving industrial production and empowering the workforce.

In Tanzania, Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) has emerged as a pioneering champion in the field of science and technology, dedicated to fostering a culture of practical science learning among secondary school students and teachers.

Since its establishment in 2011, YST has been steadfast in its mission to revolutionize science education in Tanzania.

By nurturing a culture of scientific research among young people in secondary schools across the country, YST aims to shift students' mindset from a purely theoretical approach to a practical one, enabling them to solve real-world problems.

The organization's primary focus is to support the government's initiative in enhancing science education for secondary students.

YST achieves this by providing coaching to science teachers, empowering them to improve the practical teaching of science subjects. Through its Science Outreach Programme, YST enriches the annual YST Exhibition by delivering essential scientific knowledge and skills to both students and teachers.

Aligned with the Tanzania National Development Plan and the African Union's Continental Education Strategy Plan (CESA 2015-2025), YST has implemented an innovative science outreach and mentoring programme throughout the regions of Tanzania.

The programme has played a pivotal role in expanding the scope and understanding of science among students and teachers alike.

Joseph Clowry, Co-founder of YST, emphasized the unique approach taken by the outreach programme this year, focusing on enhancing skills and exposure related to science and technology.

The programme incorporated capacity-building workshops for science teachers, equipping them with effective teaching methodologies, project supervision techniques, and scientific research development.

YST Project Manager, Nabil Karatela, emphasized that the science outreach programme has provided fundamental skills to students and teachers nationwide, empowering teachers to apply practical approaches to their lessons.

"This has instilled motivation and determination among participants to seek solutions to various challenges in sectors such as health, agriculture, energy, environment, economy, education, transportation, and information technology," he said.

Karatela explained that YST's methodology supports students in gaining a thorough and practical understanding of science, moving beyond mere theoretical concepts.

The 2023 outreach programme commenced in March, conducting workshops in 28 regions across Tanzania. A total of 343 schools and science teachers were trained, equipped with practical science skills, and more than 979 project applications were received from secondary school students.

Yusuf Karimjee, Chairman of Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation noted that YST provides an unforgettable experience of a lifetime for the students who participate, as it promotes a real sense of passion for ingenuity and innovation.

"We are thrilled to help cultivate and nurture the talent of Tanzania's future scientists and engineers through our collaboration with Young Scientists Tanzania," he added.

The capacity-building workshops for both teachers and students have fostered a fresh wave of innovative ideas, resulting in tangible science-based research that can offer practical solutions to existing problems.

YST's commitment to promoting practical science education not only benefits individual students and teachers but also contributes to Tanzania's overall scientific and technological advancement.

"As young scientists we continue to ignite a passion for science and technology, the nation can look forward to a future generation of skilled individuals equipped to tackle complex challenges and drive sustainable development in all sectors of society," said Karimjee.

He added: "YST owes its success and impact to the unwavering support of its partners. Among them, the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation has been the main sponsor of the YST Programme since its inception. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation for its continuous support and dedication to promoting practical science education in Tanzania."

The foundation's contributions have been instrumental in expanding the reach of the YST Programme, allowing us to inspire students and teachers from all corners of the country.

“We are thrilled to help cultivate and nurture the talent of Tanzania's future scientists and engineers through our collaboration with Young Scientists Tanzania”



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a quick word with leaders of a mosque in Unguja's Malindi Mkongwe zone shortly after afternoon prayers yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

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benefits to public agencies and to private operators.

A national ICT strategy directed at utilising emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and the 'internet of things' to enable the country to realise global objectives of the fourth industrial revolution, he said.

"In bridging the digital divide and bringing about digital transformation, the government needs private sector involvement, he said.

He remarked that the government commenced amendment of the Media Services Act, 2016 in the

outgoing financial year, submitted to the National Assembly for the first reading back in February.

The government expects to come up with a single law incorporating all the required components to govern the media industry, not a multiplicity of laws, he stated, insisting that the government wishes to transform the media industry, starting with a conducive environment for the sector to operate smoothly

The Personal Data Protection Act is being drawn up, along with establishing a national cyber-security commission for regulatory purposes. Upwards of 500 police officers were trained on cyber

security to foster competence in handling various cases and incidents, he specified.

The government is also reviewing the National Broadcasting Policy of 2003 to align with current changes in the media industry.

He reiterated the plan for Tanzania to have its own satellite to further strengthen communication and broadcasting services.

The government is also working to establish an Africa Radio channel in the national language to further promote the use of Kiswahili in the continent and elsewhere.

In the current financial year the information and communication technology sector grew by nine

percent, with internet users increasing from 29.9m last year to 33.1m by April this year, a 10.7 percent rise.

Up to last month 62.3m sim cards were electronically registered, he said, alluding to preparations for a national communication strategy aimed to increase ICT broadening internally and regionally.

The government will assess how to set up smart cities in the fast growing regions of Mbeya, Dodoma and Arusha, he said.

The minister sought approval for 212.5bn/- estimates, where 30.5bn/- is for recurrent expenditure and 182bn/-, for development projects.



Alfred Chengula (R), founder and executive director of agricultural tools producer Imara Tech, briefs Vice President Dr Philip Isidor Mpango in Arusha city yesterday shortly before the VP opened a seminar for CRDB Bank Plc shareholders on the empowerment of youths and women through the IMBEJU programme. Looking on (front row, from-L) are Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella, CRDB Bank group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela, CRDB Bank board chairman Dr Ally Laay and CRDB Bank Foundation managing director Tully Esther Mwambapa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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by financial services, banking in particular.

Only nine out of a hundred people are banked countrywide, he asserted, challenging commercial banks to enhance efficiency by greater use of ICT in service delivery.

This will enable them to reduce operating costs while reaching more people, he said, similarly pointing at

the need for setting up innovative windows, mainly targeting women and youths.

These groups account for the larger portion of the population, he said, underlining that banks should ensure that they create innovative strategies enabling them to reach the wide outlying market.

He applauded initiatives of the CRDB Bank Foundation targeting

startups and women entrepreneurs, saying they have substantial benefits to the economy.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, the CEO assured the VP that the bank intends to make this initiative sustainable, thus seeking to collaborate with different stakeholders to reach more youths and women, including the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) from

the start. An agreement with Care International will soon be signed, he stated.

Dr Ally Laay, the board chairman, said the bank is owned by Tanzanians by more than 80 percent, and increasingly investing in innovation. This has enabled the growth of shareholder investments, including the government, he added.



Former President Jakaya Kikwete (2nd-R), in his capacity as the current University of Dar es Salaam Chancellor, confers a PhD on Dr Wilberforce Joseph during the university's 53rd graduation held at the university main campus in the city yesterday. Left is the vice chancellor, Prof William Anangisye. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Giraffe poaching suspect appears in Babati court

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE suspect behind the notorious giraffe poaching racket in Babati District, Manyara Region, Bernard Meja who was arrested last month has appeared in court.

Meja is facing charges of illegal hunting in the Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Babati District, Manyara Region.

He was arrested on April 22nd, 2023 at Vilima Vitatu village in Burunge WMA precinct with parts of the giraffe he allegedly killed.

The suspect now faces economic sabotage case Number 7 of 2023,

which was mentioned before Babati District Resident Magistrate, Victor Kimaro.

Presenting the case before the District Magistrate Court, State Prosecutor Rose Kayumbo alleged that in the first case the accused faces the charges of illegal possession of government trophies and in the second matter, Meja is being accused of illegal hunting of an animal which is the national symbol of Tanzania, the giraffe.

The Prosecutor told the court that the accused committed the crimes on April 21, 2023 in the wilderness managed by Burunge Wildlife

Management Area in Babati.

Bernard Meja however has denied the charges. He remains in custody until June 5, 2023 when his case comes up for the second mention.

The other Prosecutor from the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Gertrude Kariongi told the court that the accused still faces other similar charges of illegal hunting and that once they are through with investigations he will again be brought before the court.

The Tanzania Wildlife Management together with the Chem-Chem association, which

invests in tourism activities in Burunge area, has been jointly patrolling the Wildlife Management Area which also features Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor linking Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks.

The Chem-Chem Association manager, Clever Zulu said the arrest of the suspect and his appearance in court was the outcome of cooperation in patrolling efforts between his firm, the local police and TAWA.

He said they recently also provided special training for rangers working in Babati District.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Morogoro South legislator Hamisi Taletale (L) in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

LHRC for collaborative efforts on impact of climate change affecting human rights

By correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has called for collaborative efforts in conducting training for officials mandated with upholding human rights and climate change management to facilitate mitigation and execute justice.

Dr Anna Henga, LHRC executive director gave the recommendations yesterday in Dar es Salaam as she officially launched research findings on impacts of climate change on social-economic and environmental rights in Tanzania.

The report shows how climate change directly contributes to the violation of human rights in many different ways including increased risks from climate extremes ranging from droughts to floods that lead to loss of shelter, food shortages, breakdown of critical infrastructure including schools and health facilities.

"Stakeholders can engage

in conducting orientation and sensitization sessions with responsible government officials to enlighten them on applicable human rights that are increasing at risk from climate change and their duties in addressing such risks," she said.

She also noted that the other tactic can be to promote mitigation and adaptation efforts that place people at the centre, are gender sensitive, and ensure the rights of persons, groups and peoples in vulnerable situations, including women, children, indigenous peoples and the poor.

"These could be informed by the use of human rights impact assessments to ensure that proposed climate actions contribute to securing important human rights, climate change and disaster management policies, strategies and action plans." She said.

She said as part of sectoral recommendation, it is time also as stakeholders they engage

in advocating for effective implementation of key national climate change frameworks including national climate response strategy (NCCRS, 2021), National Determined Contributions (NDC, 2021), the climate smart agriculture guidelines (2017) and other related policies and strategies with a view of addressing negative impacts of climate change on agriculture and human rights.

Backing up on the findings she said they noted reduction in fisheries production over the years 84 percent of respondent's alteration of places with fish abundance such as decrease of coral reefs 45 percent disappearance and or vulnerability of fish species due to increased aquaculture diseases 34 percent and 35 percent of unpredictable rainfall.

According to her the comprehensive findings from a study the data was collected from 360 stakeholders comprised of community representatives

(farmers, fisher-folks and pastoralists), village and ward governments as well as policy/decision-makers at district, regional and national levels in 20 villages, 10 districts and six regions namely, Mwanza, Kagera, Manyara, Dodoma, Mbeya and Coast region, between July and November 2022.

Felister Mauya, LHCR capacity building and accountability director said in line with the widely documented evidence of the impacts of climate change globally and at the national level, this study found that the effects of climate change on crop and national food production are already evident in all study regions namely Manyara, Dodoma, Mbeya and the Lake Zones Mwanza and Kagera regions.

"Farmers in the study regions notably, Dodoma and Manyara reported decreasing trends in productivity as a result of recent and recurrent droughts happening in their areas. Changes in temperature and rainfall precipitation were reported to negatively affect some crops especially cereal crops and legume crops such as rice, maize and beans in the study areas as shown in figure below," she said.

Experts: Integrated development crucial in conserving biodiversity

By Felister Peter

EXPERTS have underscored the need to consider biodiversity conservation issues in execution of development projects, especially those implemented near protected areas.

According to them, ensuring integrated development helps wild animals and other living organisms to continue living without being affected.

Speaking during a breakfast debate on Wednesday, Dr Elikana Ngallaba, Private Sector Engagement Manager from RTI-implementing partner for the USAID 'Tuhifadhi Maliasili' project said it is important to ensure biodiversity conservation in areas where projects are implemented.

Organized jointly by the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) in collaboration with the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity, the debate aimed to increase journalist's knowledge on biodiversity conservation issues for better reporting.

He added: "We cannot avoid development because it is part and parcel of our life; but as conservationists we continue advising responsible authorities to take into consideration biodiversity conservation to ensure integrated development. Human beings are part of biodiversity."

Dr Ngallaba stated that most of the countries including Tanzania decided to have bodies that conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before projects are executed. In Tanzania, such activities are done by the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC).

He said to ensure biodiversity and environmental conservation, the Vice President's Office (Environment) also came up with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

"Such kind of assessments enables our environmental experts to examine whether execution of certain human development activities may have a negative impact on the environment," he remarked.

He gave an example of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) where biodiversity conservation aspects were given priority by constructing an alternative caves bats. He said they have also fixed ropes at forest areas to enable monkeys to safely cross from one area to another.

He said similar efforts to protect wildlife are being carried out in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region where the government in collaboration with stakeholders is constructing an underpass along the Kidatu-Ifakara road to ensure safe passage of elephants and reduce road

kills.

Dr Ngallaba said there are many economic benefits of conserving biodiversity including enhanced tourism activities due to the presence of various creatures as well as wildlife. He said conservation activities also benefit individuals, especially rural dwellers who depend on forest for food and firewood.

"The different wild animals and other living organisms in our reserved areas contribute in attracting more local and foreign visitors," he said, adding that 80 percent of the country's tourist attractions are wildlife based.

He said although the forest sub-sector contributes 3.5 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the contribution of biodiversity is yet to be known.

Anna Lawuo, Head of Tourism Promotion at the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) said following the adverse impacts of climate change, the government has been taking various initiatives to ensure environmental conservation as well as its national parks and preserved areas.

She said Tanzania started to experience the negative impacts of climate change in 1976, but the government's interventions started in 2009 where a number of projects were initiated in different parts of the country.

"These interventions included the review of policies and establishment of strategies. The Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) embarked on studies to come up with the best tree types that could be planted in different regions," said Lawuo.

She said villagers were also trained on sustainable forest management whereas harvesting of forest products was done in phases to allow more trees to grow.

"We came up with Participatory Forest Management (PFM) programs that were jointly implemented by the government and villagers as well as the introduction of 'Greening the City' projects—currently implemented in various regions countrywide.

John Noronha, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager at RTI-implementing partner for the USAID 'Tuhifadhi Maliasili' project said Tanzania has nearly 30 percent of its land protected, something which helps in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

Noronha added: "Protected areas are an important resource in fighting against climate change and biodiversity loss. These areas are considered to be the lungs of the planet because they produce oxygen and absorb 37 percent of carbon dioxide."

Kigongo-Busisi Bridge now reaches 73.7 pct

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

CONSTRUCTION of the John Pombe Magufuli (JPM) Bridge crossing Lake Victoria between Kigongo and Busisi in Mwanza has now reached 73.7 per cent of completion, it has been established.

The 3.2 kilometres long bridge is being constructed by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation in collaboration with China Railway 15 Bureau Group Corporation (CCECC-CR15GJV), at a cost of 716.3bn/-

Speaking to The Guardian here yesterday, Manager of Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Mwanza Region, Engineer Ambrose Pascal said that the project started in February 2020 and is scheduled for completion mid-June next year.

Currently works going on at the bridge include finishing building pile foundation, pre-cast beams and pier columns among other things, said Pascal.

He noted that according to the design, the bridge will be 28.45 metres wide with two ways for vehicles seven metres wide each and pavement for pedestrians with 2.5 metres width including emergency car parking.

The design of the bridge has used long span bridge technology known as extra doped bridge and will have three pylons with 40 metres depth and distance of 160 metres from one pylon to another, among other things, he said.

He pointed out that upon completion, the bridge will be the longest in East and Central Africa and sixth in Africa for current statistics, after 6th October Bridge (Egypt) 20.5 km, Third Mainland Bridge (Nigeria) 11.8 km, Suez Canal Bridge (Egypt) 3.9 km, Mozambique Island Bridge (Mozambique) 3.8 km and Dona Ana Bridge (Mozambique) 3.67 km.

He underscored that the JPM Bridge, when completed will ease transport between the two points of the lake for 24 hours throughout the year, cut traffic congestion currently happening to passengers at the time of crossing as well as reducing travelling time.

The bridge will be an important pivot for Mwanza region and other surrounding regions but, also easily to and from countries located in the Great lakes region as well as reducing accidents that are likely to happen by using ferries, he said.

He noted that the bridge is one of the government's strategic projects to fast-track socio economic development in the country and a major catalyst for poverty reduction.

Also he said that project will be used as part of training for engineering cadre where until now there is a total 12 engineers undergoing practical training where three of them are from TANROADS and the rest nine are those past through Engineers Registration Board (ERB) under structured Engineering Apprenticeship Programme (SEAP).

DSE conducts executive course to curb challenges facing firms in Tanzania

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

AS part of its commitment to provide quality education, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) Investor Relations Academy conducted an executive course from May 17th to 19th, 2023 aiming to address specific challenges and opportunities facing Tanzanian companies in their quest to attract and retain domestic and international investors.

DSE invited renowned investor relations expert, Michelle Jourberg from South Africa to impart her wealth of knowledge and experience to Tanzanian professionals.

The three-day executive investor relations course, held in Dar es Salaam, attracted professionals from various industries, including finance, corporate communications, and investor relations, who were eager to enhance their skills and gain insights into effective investor engagement strategies.

Jourberg, played a significant role in shaping investor relations practices in South Africa and beyond. Her presence at the DSE's Investor Relations Academy marked a significant milestone in advancing Tanzania's investor relations landscape.

The executive course covered a wide range of topics, including investor communication techniques, building and maintaining relationships with investors, navigating regulatory frameworks, financial reporting best practices, and crisis management in investor relations.

The executive course was also structured to promote interactive learning, with a combination of presentations, case studies, group discussions, and practical exercises. Participants had the opportunity to engage directly with Michelle Jourberg and tap into her wealth of experience.

Mary Mniwasa, Acting CEO of the DSE highlighted the need for strong investor relations practices to attract capital and promote market growth.

She stated: "Investor relations plays a pivotal role in building trust, promoting transparency, and creating an enabling environment for investments. By hosting this executive course, the DSE aims to equip professionals with the necessary tools and

knowledge to effectively engage with investors, thereby enhancing the overall investor experience in Tanzania."

Participants lauded the course for its comprehensive and relevant content.

Maurice Kuwite, Chief Marketing Officer at Victory Financial Services expressed his satisfaction, saying: "The executive course provided valuable insights into investor relations practices that are vital in today's competitive business environment."

He said Jourberg's expertise and real-life examples enriched participants understanding and equipped them with practical strategies to engage with stakeholders more effectively.

The DSE's decision to invite the expert considering her vast experience in emerging markets and her deep understanding of the African investment landscape.

Her expertise and insights provided participants with valuable perspectives on how to effectively engage with investors, navigate market dynamics, and create sustainable investor relations strategies.

The dynamic learning environment fostered meaningful discussions, enabling participants to gain practical skills that they could immediately apply in their professional roles.

The executive course also offered an excellent networking opportunity for professionals within the investor relations community.

Participants had the chance to connect with like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, and build relationships that can further enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the industry. Such networks are crucial for fostering a vibrant and supportive investor relations ecosystem in Tanzania.

DSE endeavours to position Tanzania as an attractive investment destination with a strong commitment to transparency and investor confidence.

With continuous efforts and collaborative initiatives, Tanzania's capital market is poised to thrive, attracting both domestic and international investments, and contributing to the overall economic growth and development of the nation.



Airtel public relations manager Jackson Mmbando briefs National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) yesterday on an Internet router that he said can connect more than 30 people at a go. What is an internet router? A router is a device that provides Wi-Fi and is typically connected to a modem. It sends information from the internet to personal devices like computers, phones and tablets. The Speaker was on a tour of pavilions at a communication stakeholders' exhibition in progress at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DAWASA assures Mwembemania locality residents on access to clean water services

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

The Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA), has assured residents of Mwembemania Street, Chamazi Ward, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam of access to clean water services soon.

According to DAWASA, more than 6000 residents will get water through the implementation of the offline water project that is being implemented by the authority.

This was said yesterday during the visit of the Technical Committee of the Board of Directors of

DAWASA during the visit to inspect the implementation of the project.

The Chairman of the Committee, Gaudence Aksante, said the implementation of the project is going fast with the aim of ensuring that all citizens get services as intended.

"Currently, the implementation has reached 92 percent, and the exercise to connect customers with water service continues in various areas, and until now the authority has been able to connect 232 customers of this area, said Aksante.

The committee asked the contractor of the project, Advent company, to work day and night to

complete the remaining work so that people start enjoying clean and safe water.

Aksante also reminded people who started benefiting from the project to make sure they pay their water bills on time when they use water so that the service can be sustainable.

The committee also visited the implementation of the project for the construction of public service centers built by the authority with the aim of improving environmental sanitation in the area of Mwananyamala, Shekilango and External.

The committee has instructed

the project contractor to increase efforts in the implementation of the project so that it is completed on time and the service begins.

The Executive Officer of Mwembemania Street, Ismail Azizi said people in his area are in dire need of water services because they have no alternative to the services, so he has asked the authority to speed up the implementation of the project so that the services start being available.

Last week, the former Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makala called on the (DAWASA) to increase efforts in water production through deep wells in Kigamboni and other areas of the outskirts of the city.

He said by doing so they will increase the availability of water and meet the needs of the people especially during the dry season.

EAC Common Market CSG Scan report for 2022/23 is inaugurated in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

A cross-border legal and consulting services consortium that provides legal and consulting advisory in trade and cross-border business establishment and portfolio, ALP East Africa has launched the East African common market Common Services and Goods report CSG SCAN for 2022/2023 in Tanzania.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, the Head of ALP East Africa, Francis Gimara noted that the essence of the East African Community (EAC) is economic integration and regional trade integration is considered the primary, if not foremost, objective of the integration process.

He said the trade integration underpins the treaty and the protocols on the Customs Union and Common Market and is expected to be the mainstay of EAC Partner States' trade policies.

"As an integrated legal and consulting services consortium of country law firms in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and South Sudan, we offer a cross-border practice that provides legal and consulting advisory in trade and cross-border business establishment and portfolio," he said.

The CSG SCAN 2022 - 2023 provides advisory support in relation to trade and cross-border transactions is the premise of ALP East Africa's planned regular tracking and review of legal and regulatory measures by EAC

Partner States.

The objective of this regular exercise is to track and review the EAC Partner States' implementation of the Common Market Protocol (CMP) in terms of commitments in respect of the free movement of capital, services, and goods (CSG).

ALP East Africa considers the CSG scans as providing an understanding of the interface between national regulatory frameworks and the regional (EAC) trade framework.

The company understands the duality of stakeholders in trade spaces—in the public purview, the EAC governments (including their multi-faceted and multi-tiered actors), and, in the private purview, private-sector actors (investors, the business community, etc.)

ALP East Africa plans to issue the EAC Common Market CSG Scan 2022 - 2023 as part of its regular legal advisory support on the EAC trade integration.

The EAC Common Market CSG Scan 2022 - 2023 shall be launched as part of the broader introduction of ALP East Africa across several EAC Partner States. The EAC country launches are scheduled to take place from mid-May 2023 to June 2023.

Importantly, the CSG scan is to be seen against its likely impact on informing the EAC Partner States on the state of the CSG commitments under the CMP, as well as its great benefit to the trade integration actions of the EAC Secretariat, EALA, the Council of Ministers, and other Community institutions.



Motorcycle and bicycle dealers have moved to permanently display their merchandise on both sides of some streets in Dar es Salaam's commonly bustling Kariakoo market zone, seriously inconveniencing other road users. Correspondent Jumanne Juma captured this scene yesterday afternoon.

Chinese firm, GSM launch home appliances distribution

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

THE flow of investment is rising in the country after a Chinese company Haier which deals with distribution of home appliances, in collaboration with GSM, officially launched their products that will be available in various places in the country.

She said that they previously conducted research in order to see which company they could collaborate with, with the aim of bringing the appliances to Tanzania they need and that are in line with their economic situation, and that they were interested in Haier because they produce appliances

Speaking to journalists yesterday during an event held in Dar es Salaam GSM Marketing Manager

Rukia Yazid said various traders will have the opportunity to learn about various things including the quality of the products.

that are friendly to the Tanzanian market.

"Tanzanians know that we sale things that are compatible with our economy, so we hope this launch will be a success for businessmen in the country by officially introducing Haier's products in the country we are going to do more," said Rukia.

Haier Tanzania Country Manager, Leon Liuchi, said that they have been directing their efforts to ensure that they bring products that reach

the low-income people, as one of supporting the government to bring standards of life to Tanzanians in general.

"We have been involved in the production and distribution of these products and we have been leading the global for more than 40 years, and now we have decided to enter Tanzania because it is a country that has had a high development, so we have planned to ensure that we reach all Tanzanians," said Liuchi.

TAWA, GreenCop signs deal to develop largest carbon offset project in three game reserves

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), and a Singapore-registered GreenCop Development PTE Ltd yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop Africa's largest carbon offset project.

Witnessed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hassan Abbas, the deal aims to create a high profile Carbon Offset Project to tap into ecosystems comprising Selous, Msanjesi and Kilombero game reserves.

GreenCop will pay 8.4bn/-, (\$3.6 million) upfront to intensify conservation activities in the high profile ecosystem before the voluntary carbon offset project activities take off.

The voluntary carbon offset project will carry out a series of projects meant for avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere on the ecosystem that covers 2.4 million hectares.

TAWA and GreenCop jointly share a vision in the MoU to secure a long-term financial viability of the Selous, Msanjesi and Kilombero game reserves by protecting nature and addressing climate change.

Communities surrounding the ecosystem will financially and economically benefit from carbon credits to be sold to the international voluntary carbon market.

The TAWA Conservation Commissioner, Mabula Nyanda, signed the MoU on behalf of the government while the GreenCop CEO, Jean-Jacques Coppee, signed on behalf of the investors.

Dr Hassan Abbas, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, witnessed the ceremony held at the National College of Tourism in Dar es Salaam on behalf of the minister, Mohamed Mchengerwa.

Also, in attendance of the ceremony from the government were the Chairman of TAWA Board of Directors, Major General (rtd) Hamis Semfuko, Professor Eliakim Zahabu, the coordinator for National Carbon Monitoring Centre and Professor Suzana Augustino, the member of the TAWA Board of Directors. "Tanzania stands a great opportunity for benefiting from the emerging carbon market," Mchengerwa said in a speech read on his behalf by the Permanent Secretary.

About 307,800 square kilometres, equivalent to 32.5 per cent, of the land area with wildlife, forests and wetland resources the ministry mandated to protect forms strata for carbon sequestration to reduce carbon from the atmosphere as well as global warming, he said.

"The resources attract investment in carbon trading as an international initiative to mitigate the impact of climate change," the minister explained.

"We must tap the opportunity for enhancing environmental protection, economic development and community livelihood," stressed the minister, as he called on all institutions engaged in conservation to embrace the opportunity, provided they consulted and adhered to national

and international legal frameworks to achieve the intended outcomes.

Maj Gen Semfuko said the voluntary carbon offset project was part of the efforts TAWA had been making since its inception to diversify its revenue stream in a bid to enhance conservation and increase its contribution to the national coffers.

"We believe the carbon trading opportunity is a new venture to further unlock economic values in the conservation arena," he said.

The TAWA Conservation Commissioner said the voluntary carbon project aimed at avoiding unplanned deforestation and degradation or ecosystem conversion and at managing wildfire.

"The project is specific for carbon, but feasibility study will involve all types of carbons - forest, soil and water," said Nyanda, explaining that separate projects would be developed, pending establishment of potential of soil and water carbons.

Coppee said the MoU culminated a lifetime dedication of Pasanisi family and himself to wildlife and nature conservation in Selous which led them to create Wildlife Conservation Foundation of Tanzania.

The late former presidents Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, George H. W. Bush of the US and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France were patrons of the foundation which has been active for over three decades.

"With the downfall of the hunting industry, we believe it is essential to continue protecting the Selous Game Reserve, which is today exposed to deforestation, poaching, uncontrolled fires, and loss in biodiversity," he said.

He believed the voluntary carbon offset project was a unique opportunity for Tanzania to preserve its rich biodiversity, and acquire large financial and economic benefits from protecting the Selous.

The size and importance of the project would amplify Tanzania's position as an African leader in nature and wildlife conservation, as well as in carbon dioxide absorption.

It will position Tanzania as a leading advocate for sustainability and climate change mitigation, enhancing its global reputation as a responsible and forward-thinking nation.

"By demonstrating its dedication to Paris Agreements on Climate Change, Tanzania will be a valuable partner in international climate negotiations, allowing it to actively contribute to shaping global climate policies and strategies," the GreenCop CEO said.

The project's responsiveness to the needs and concerns of local communities, who will participate in its design and implementation, is critical to its success.

The communities will directly benefit from the distribution of revenues generated by the sale of carbon credits, in line with the applicable Tanzanian laws, regulations and guidelines.

The project will also stimulate the local economy, by providing employment opportunities, funding educational and health initiatives, and developing the use of renewable energies as well as other social-economic programmes.

Five-year strategic plan to raise awareness on environmental conservation in pipeline

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is finalising processes to come up with a five-year national strategic plan (2023-2027) aimed to intensively educate the public on environmental conservation for the country's sustainable development.

Deputy Minister, Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis told the National Assembly yesterday that the initiative will also involve educating the public on various laws and policies that supervises protection of the environment and water sources so as to reverse

nature loss.

The strategy, according to the minister, will also educate the public about the benefits of forests and adverse impacts that result from unsustainable behaviours and actions on forests.

He was responding to a question raised by Bonna Kamoli (Segerea, CCM) who sought for the government's plan to ensure that it provides education to people on environmental conservation, especially those conducting their activities near water sources and rivers.

"The goal of this strategic plan is to sensitize Tanzanians and the

public in general on sustainable development and environmental conservation. This strategy involves provision of education of conducting activities 60 meters in water catchment areas, trees planting to protect nature," the deputy minister explained.

He acknowledged that despite the government allowing citizens to carry out agricultural activities at a distance of 60 meters from water sources, there are still many challenges as some have continued to violate the regulations thus bringing major environmental damage.

He asked leaders and politicians to utilize their authorities to influence and mobilize communities on environmental conservation.

Firm pledges to provide cheaper gas for lowest-income population

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

LAKE Group of companies has pledged to support the government's determination to strengthen efforts to conserve and protect the environment by providing cheaper gas that the lowest-income strata of the population can afford.

The pledge was made by Ali Awadh, Chairman of the Lake Group of Companies, at the official opening of Lake Gas Limited's a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage depot in Tanga.

The depot, which has a capacity of 3,000 metric tonnes of LPG, is

the biggest in Tanga in terms of LPG storage.

According to Awadh, the availability of cheaper gas will encourage more people to use LPG, potentially reducing the use of charcoal and firewood. "We expect to distribute many gas cylinders through this depot to serve the region and neighbouring countries," he said.

He expressed regret that Tanzania, with a population of 60 million people, still consumes 10,000 metric tonnes of LPG per month.

"This is nothing when compared to such small countries as Mauritius, whose consumption is also 10,000

metric tonnes per month but for a population of 1.22 million," he said.

Obeid Laiser, Managing Director of Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, stated that LPG is the future of clean energy promising to continue supporting the company's efforts to increase investment in LPG supply in order to reduce the use of charcoal and save the environment.

The Lake group has been Absa's partner for a long time and has witnessed the company's growth in the oil sector. "They were now putting money into LPG. This is their biggest investment since beginning to invest in LPG in Tanga in 2018. They started with a capacity of 1,000 metric tonnes, but we helped them expand to a capacity of 3,000 metric tonnes," Laiser explained.



Zanzibar Health minister Nasser Ahmed Mazrui (C) looks on as Vodacom Tanzania Plc managing director Philip Besiimire (R) exchanges documents with USAID's Mission Director in Tanzania, Kate Somvongsiri, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. This was shortly after the signing of an 11.8bn/- MoU between the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and USAID for improving maternal health and emergency transportation systems in Tanzania through the government's m-mama programme. M-mama is available across 13 regions of mainland alongside all Zanzibar regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PPRA donates 200 bags of cement to Huruma orphanage center

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has donated 200 bags of cement worth 3m/- and other items to the Huruma orphanage Center based in Iringa municipality to support the ongoing construction of its pre-primary and primary school.

The centre is building a school that will provide an opportunity for education to the orphans, including those who have been subjected to violence, including rape and defilement, but are hidden in the homes for safety.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Director of IT from PPRA Michael Moshiro said that they have given the aid to support the efforts of various stakeholders aimed at providing educational opportunities to children living in difficult environments.

He said that they have been in

Iringa Region for more than a year now doing various activities and since they have lived well with the community, they have decided to return the benefits to the community by helping children in need.

During the event, PPRA ate dinner with orphans and other various guests prepared by that authority as part of showing love to the children who don't live with their biological parents.

According to the Chairman of the Construction Committee of the Huruma Center, Shadrack Nyaulingo, the cost of the construction of the pre primary school building is more than 185m/- upon completion, adding that the construction of the school has reached the stage of roofing.

Nyaulingo explained that the construction of the pre-primary and primary school in the Huruma orphanage started on 6/02/2023.

The manager of the centre, Reverend Joyce Ngadango has said

that the completion of the Huruma School will help the children from the danger of not having the opportunity of education due to the psychological effects they encountered after being victimized.

"We have children whose cases are sensitive, others are required to testify in court, so we keep them confidential and they are not allowed to leave the centre, they miss the opportunity to go to school until the cases are over," he said.

Iringa District Commissioner, Veronica Kessy hailed PPRA for the donation saying it will help speed up the construction of the school.

In addition to the 200 bags of cement, PPRA employees also provided various aids in the centre including 45 blankets, 90 sheets, 45 nets, hygiene equipment, cooking oil, 10 dozen exercise books, 100 kg of rice, 40 liters of oil and flour 100 kilos of wheat.

Huruma Orphanage center which is owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

(ELCT) Diocese of Iringa currently has 81 children and since its establishment in 1994 has served more than 800 children.

Bishop Blaston Gaville of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Diocese of Iringa, commended PPRA for the support they offered.

Bishop Gaville said that eating together breaks the boundaries of enmity and brings one family together, adding that this is not only patriotic but biblical.

"Even Jesus Christ before going to his father in heaven, ate with his disciples and even in the African environment, eating and staying with his enemy is very powerful for breaking the boundaries of enmity and moving us to become one family," he explained.

He added that as the church in collaboration with other leaders they will make sure that they fight against violence against children which are extreme in the region of Iringa.



A small-holder farmer (R) from Kipara Mnero in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region, shows district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo one of the types of roots she said they have been consuming as food after rogue elephants destroyed their farms. This was at a meeting held in the village on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent

Govt to implement a series of initiatives set to improve performance of beekeeping

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Singida

THE government is set to continue implementing a series of initiatives to improve performance of the agriculture sector, assuring beekeepers of the adoption of pollinator-friendly agricultural practices.

In his remarks at the opening of this year's celebrations to mark the World Bee Day which is observed at national level in Singida Region, Singida District Commissioner, Pascus Mulagiri said the beekeeping sub-sector is of paramount importance for the nation's economic gain and human health.

To assure the sector thrive in a desired tune, the DC expressed that the government through cooperation with the private sector has set useful plans to improve performance of the forest sector in order to fuel beekeeping across the country.

"The beekeeping sub-sector plays a meaningful role in fostering human health through production of various honey-based medicines, and above all, the sector provides a prestigious economic opportunity to enable farmers to come out from the shackles of poverty through marketing fresh and processed honey," he said.

The agriculture sector, according to him, is to a great extent banking on bees in terms of pollination, the vital process which allows plants to grow in abundance.

"As we celebrate this year's World Bee Day it is vital for us all to understand that bees are the most valuable insects and thus, we're all needed to protect them and make friendly situations for them to thrive," he said.

The government will continue to set punitive measures against illegal cutting of trees as well as bush fires, the negative practices against the beekeeping sector, he said.

Mulagiri said: "I want to assure you that the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism will work closely with stakeholders from the private sector to assist beekeepers in the country to scale up their performance, starting from beekeeping, honey harvesting as well as processing and markets," he expressed.

During the opening, the District Commissioner handed bee hives at Singida's famous Itigi thicket, the country's key 63,000 hectares forest hub for bees and other wild

animals, situated in Itigi Council, Manyoni District in Singida region.

This year's event has been organised by the Beekeeping Value Chain Support Project (BEVAC) with financial support from the European Union (EU).

BEVAC is a robust project which majors to support quality production, value addition and market access of the beekeeping sector in the country through effective implementation and supervision from the Belgian development agency, (Enabel).

Magdalena Muya, BEVAC National Coordinator said the project has so far benefited at least 10,000 beekeepers in different regions.

"We are focusing on various professional aspects of the apiculture sector, including how best to conduct beekeeping, preparations of bee hives, honey harvesting and processing, as well as packaging," she said.

Muya said the project also connects beneficiaries with potential markets from within and outside the country.

Held under the theme of 'Let's Protect the Bees for the Safety of the Environment and Food' this year's event attracts more than 190 institutes from the public and private sector, beekeeper farmers and processors to exhibit numerous bee's products, but also to exchange relevant experience and deliberate on viable means to solve the myriad challenges that upset the economic sector.

World Bee Day is observed across the world on May 20 whereby in the day, diverse beekeeping events are usually held with an eye to educate the general public about the importance of bees and beekeeping.

In this year's World Bee Day, there is a special emphasis on the role of bees as pollinators and how they help to revive forest cover.

Because the bee population is under threat, World Bee Day majors, among others, to inform how to protect bees.

Record shows that Tanzania stands 14th country for beekeeping in the world and 2nd in Africa with an estimated capacity of producing at least 138,000 tonnes of honey and 9,200 tonnes of beeswax per year.

The government will continue to set punitive measures against illegal cutting of trees as well as bush fires, the negative practices against the beekeeping sector

Mtwara port acts on residents' concerns on coal dust menace

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

SOME residents of Mtwara District have fled their homes fearing health risks posed by dust from trucks transporting coal to the port of Mtwara for export.

They say their homes have turned black owing to coal dust while their skins and the clothing they wear have also turned black.

Selemani Mohamed, one of the residents from Serengeti District, Reli Ward, Mtwara District that is near the Port Said:

"Due to the dust many of the residents have been complaining of chest pains which many believe is caused by coal dust. At times I have been forced to flee my home to save my health."

He appealed to concerned authorities to address the issue as there are many health effects from the coal dust.

Another resident, Hashim Tanga said the problem has also affected their businesses in the area as many people have fled the area.

He said as for now coal dust has been reduced due to rain but during dry seasons the area become uninhabitable, all are turns black.

Serengeti Street Chairman, Zuhura Majid says that dust from coal is a big problem to the residents saying many of them have fled the area.

The National Environmental

Management Council (NEMC) Manager from Mtwara South Zone, Eng Boniface Guni admits that coal dust is a big challenge facing the residents near the port area.

He said steps taken so far is to direct companies that store and transport the coal through Mtwara port to use nets and sprinkle water on the coal to prevent dust blowing away.

"In the past, the situation was even worse and we took appropriate and now, as you can see the dust has been reduced and we appreciate the firms for obeying our directives, as we want the country to earn income from coal exports," he added.

The supervisor of Aria Company, the firm that store and transport coal through Mtwara Port, Hamza Jahar said in the past it was hard to withstand the dust as they had no means to control it, but they collaborated with NEMC and devised a way to sprinkle the coal with water.

He said during the rainy seasons, the problem is not so grave, but only during the dry season that the situation becomes worse.

He said apart from sprinkling water on the coal using special machines, transporters have also been directed to cover their trucks that carry coal with tarpaulins to prevent coal dust blowing away along the way.



Emilia Siwngwa, director of the East Africa branch of the non-profit leadership education and training NGO Toastmasters International, makes remarks at the organisation's annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

One person dead as bus hits train at Dar's Kamata railway crossing

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ONE person has died while fifteen sustained injuries after the bus they were travelling in hit a deluxe train van at Kamata railway crossing in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam region.

A statement to the media on Thursday by Tanzania Railway

Corporation (TRC) said that the accident happened early in the morning at the Kamata railway crossing.

The statement said the accident involved buses with registration number T710DKJ operating between Machinga complex and Kigamboni that hit a brake van of

Deluxe train with number 8637.

The statement confirmed the death of one unidentified woman and said the fifteen casualties were sent to Muhimbili National Hospital for treatment and are recuperating well.

TRC said that out of the fifteen injured, 10 were female and five

were male while confirming the death of one woman during the incident.

"TRC calls the public to adhere to road safety regulations to prevent avoidable accidents and save the lives of innocent people," said part of the statement.



Some girls who dropped out of school for various reasons, including pregnancy, pictured at Himiza Development Organisation's Reach the Goal Centre at Mwanambaya in Mkuranga District on Thursday undergoing training on how to make anointing oil. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Basin water boards are fully responsible for regulation and planning of water resources'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has said the long-term strategy to control water sources is by empowering basin water boards to implement conservation plan at all water catchment areas in all the basins.

Deputy minister for Water Eng Maryprisca Mahundi made the remarks in the Parliament yesterday while responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Dr Christine Ishengoma (CCM).

In her main question, the lawmaker had wanted to know what the government was doing in order to protect water sources in Morogoro municipality, noting that human activities threaten most of them.

The deputy minister explained that one of the duties in management of water resources is to control destruction at water sources at all times. "The government continues with the process to identify all water sources,

demarcate them and announce them as conservation areas" she said, adding that by December, 2021, Mindu dam was announced as one of the conservation areas.

At the same time, she said seven communities of water users are engaged in protection of water sources and also some ten sports clubs comprising school students have been participating in sharing knowledge on the matter to the community. She added that up to March, 2022, a total of 96,500

trees have been planted in some of the water catchment areas and also stressed on the need for water basins, including Wami-Ruvu to strengthen protection.

The deputy stated that the protection plan has identified areas to be demarcated for conservation as water sources. Other things to be done in the areas, she said include planting of trees, planned agricultural activities, reclamation of the damaged areas and control of draining dirty water.

360 PwDs in Dar and Singida regions to benefit from 1bn/- worth empowerment project

By Beatrice Philemon

A total of 360 people with disabilities in Dar es Salaam and Singida regions will benefit from an economic empowerment project worth 1bn/-.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability said yesterday at the launch of the project, an event that took place in Dar es Salaam Region.

Under the project, people with disabilities will be supported to gain employable skills that aim to increase their opportunities for employment as well as trained on how to search for employment and be self-employed.

He called on Sightsavers to properly supervise the project and make sure the set targets are reached so as to attract more stakeholders to support people with disabilities.

Katambi said the government recognizes people with disabilities and has set up a new foundation to enable them obtain their rights, be treated with respect, kindness, dignity and ensure that Tanzania has an inclusive and empowered community.

Right now the Prime Minister's Office has been able to open a bank account for the foundation to enable people with disabilities to benefit from it, he said.

The Deputy Minister called on people with disabilities to protect their rights and report those violating them for the government to take legal actions.

Sightsavers' Country Director for Tanzania, Godwin Kabalika, added that the three-year project (2023-2025) will be implemented in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office-Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and Disabled Organisation for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Empowerment (DOLASED).

Others include The Voice of Disabled Women in Tanzania (VODIWOTA), Youth with Disabilities Organisation (YOWDO), Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS), Regional governments, district councils, Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Serengeti Breweries with funding from Sightsavers.

The main goal of the project, according to him, is to ensure that labour markets are inclusive for people with disabilities, bring hope for them and help them to have

confidence in what they plan to do.

He called on the Prime Minister's Office to improve policies designed for people with disabilities to improve the labour market inclusion of people with disability across the country.

The project will help disabled jobseekers to have confidence, link them with Serengeti Breweries Limited for easy marking of their crops to be cultivated in Singida Region and provide capacity building training to employers.

Kabalika noted that participants will be trained on entrepreneurship skills to enable them participate in agricultural activities and other economic issues.

"Our programmes in Tanzania focus on preventing and treating trachoma, providing cataract operations for those who need them and work to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities," he said.

Sightsavers is a UK-based international organisation working to prevent and cure blindness and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in over 30 countries across Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

Gidion Mandesi from the Disabled Organisation for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development (DOLASED) commended Sightsavers for introducing the project for people with disabilities across the country.

"As DOLASED, we will work in partnership with Sightsavers and the government to ensure the targeted people are benefiting from this project," he said.

Martin Chuwa, Senior Social Welfare Officer in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) called on Sightsavers to scale up this project in other regions across the country.

"We believe people with disabilities can change if they will get support from their relatives, parents, guardians and government as well, we need to create awareness to the public to change mindset about how they perceive people with disabilities," he said.



As DOLASED, we will work in partnership with Sightsavers and the government to ensure the targeted people are benefiting from this project

Mpango directs REA to fully supervise power distribution

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President, Dr Philip Mpango has directed the energy ministry to continue supervising the Rural Energy Agency project to enable it to be a saviour for the low income people in villages.

VP Mpango made the remarks Wednesday this week when launching the REA Phase III project at Sale area, Ngorongoro district, Arusha Region.

He said many youth born in poor families fail to realise their life dreams owing to the lack of essential services including electricity.

He said the government will continue to make sure essential social services reach the people to speed up their development, and called on TANESCO in Ngorongoro district to educate the people against middlemen in regard to power connection.

For his part, Deputy energy minister Stephen Byabato said the government continues to provide subsidies towards power connection in both urban areas and villages by reducing the real costs, saying connection charge is 27,000/- in rural areas while the actual cost is more than 800,000/-.

Meanwhile, the Vice President inaugurated the 49km Mto wa Mbu-Loliondo road project, at the event held at Sale area in Ngorongoro District.

Addressing members of the

public after launching the road project, Dr Mpango called upon the Ministry of Works and Transport to give a priority for the construction of the road at tarmac level along the Ngaresero-Engaruka stretch that has been a persistent trouble spot to the residents of Ngorongoro District and as well as to people from other areas.

He also called on the Ministry of lands to address farm conflicts at sale area and also called on the ministries of Livestock and Fisheries and that of natural resources and tourism to appropriately address the issue regarding livestock grazing areas for the residents of Ngorongoro District.

For his part, Works and Transport Deputy Minister Godfrey Kasekenya said the inauguration of the road has been satisfactory, and added that the government's goal is to connect all districts to their regional headquarters with tarmac roads by 2025.

TANROADS Chief Executive Officer, Eng Rogatus Mativila said the aim for building the road at tarmac level is to reduce transport inconveniences and the long-time taken to transport farm crops and livestock from the area.

Dr Mpango continues with his working visit in Arusha Region to inspect development activities as well as to listen to complaints from the people.



Prof Tandilwoga (C), acting rector of Dar es Salaam's College of Business Education, briefs journalists in the city yesterday on plans for today's (May 20) commemoration of World Metrology Day. She is with acting vice rector (Academic) Dr Nasib Rajabu (L) and vice rector (Administration and Finance) Prof Emmanuel Munishi. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzania has detected 152 underground water sources, National Assembly hears

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

TANZANIA has identified 152 underground water sources, with the government insisting that it was taking all possible measures to protect them, MPs heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Water, Maryprisca Mahundi said that the ministry through different water bodies in the country in collaboration with different stakeholders had a responsibility

to identify, protect, preserve and develop all water sources as well as identifying their capacities and the quality of its water.

The deputy minister issued the clarification when responding to a question by Shally Raymond (Special Seats) who wanted to know the number of areas that had been identified as sources of safe underground water and the steps that the government was taking to protect them.

"Until now, underground water

sources that have been identified are 152, out of which 30 have been demarcated and 10 of them have already been gazetted thus getting a legal strength," Mahundi said.

She added that the ministry was continuing to conduct research in 172 other areas which have got underground water so as to identify their capacity and quality of its water.

"Equally, the government through its water labs has been doing follow-ups on the quality of

underground water, and the follow-ups are being done through water wells drilled in different parts of the country," she added.

He said the samples ought to be taken from those wells and get tested and whenever changes on the quality of water occur, immediate measures were being taken.

"Different measures are being taken by the government to protect all areas that are identified as sources of underground water including demarcating them as well as gazetting them and educating nearby communities on the importance of preserving them.



Food vendors in business in filthy conditions just next to Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand yesterday. It is common practice in many urban areas in the country. One wonders when it is that municipal authorities will decide to act - and when those meant or expected as customers will decide to stay away... Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

BEVAC commemorates World Bee Day, encourages sustainable growth of sector

By Guardian Reporter

IN Tanzania, the beekeeping sector is among the most active and sustainable economic activities in the country, with about 2 million individuals employed in the value chain.

On World Bee Day, the Beekeeping Value Chain (BEVAC) support project is participating in the exhibition in Singida under the theme 'Bees for Environmental Conservation and Food Security'.

The BEVAC project is funded by the European Union (EU) and jointly implemented by the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) and the International Trade Centre

(ITC). Beneficiaries will showcase their progress and raise awareness of the importance of bees to the environment, ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of agrifood systems.

Speaking on the commemoration of World Bee Day 2023, ITC National Technical Advisor, Aina Dallo said the purpose of the event is to allow both expert facilitators, key stakeholders, and BEVAC project beneficiaries to engage directly and identify opportunities for the sector's economic growth.

"The BEVAC project - she added - helps stakeholders in the beekeeping sector build capacity to

identify and optimize opportunities for the growth of their honey products locally and equips them to produce quality products that can compete in the international market," said Dallo.

BEVAC Project Manager, Martin Mgallah from Enabel said: "Among key priorities is identifying strategies and investment needed to unleash the potential of the beekeeping sector and ensuring conservation of the environment through the allocation of protected areas for bee reserves and beekeeping zones."

He said honey production is a viable economic activity providing incomes and employment,

especially to women and youth.

The project aims to ensure good quality honey is produced in an environmentally sustainable manner that leads to increased market penetration. Our overall objective is to enhance the beekeeping industry's contribution to inclusive economic growth in Tanzania.

This year's Global Bee Day celebrations aim to highlight the importance of bees to the environment and people.

In Tanzania, beekeeping is among export products generating about \$61.4 million worth of honey and beeswax produced annually.

Continued collective efforts to improve honey production will ensure that the country taps into its endowment of 33.5 million hectares of forests and woodlands.

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NGOs must play worthy role as shown on being registered

NEWS that the government has de-registered upwards of four thousand non-governmental organisations over the past year are an illustration of uneven spread of the spirit of openness now prevailing in the country. There definitely was a stretch of reasons for each of the NGOs struck off, but in the final analysis it is a matter of policy. It is whether the government is as manifestly interested in the survival and hopefully success of NGOs as it is for businesses.

There is an ongoing tug of war in society and at an administrative level, between the Registrar of Societies and those seeking to be registered, as to where they fall in the current stand-off, chiefly relating to societal values. There is also another dimension where the government has periodically reminded donor agencies that their assistance programmes need to reflect government priorities. Is it not also fair that such projects be entrusted to public agencies?

In the development argument, this would more correctly reflect the policy thrust as well as the values underlining such effort, whereas with NGOs chances of 'mainstreaming' auxiliary agenda in such projects are high. In that case an NGO may be de-registered so that its tasks are taken over by public agencies, but this may not be forthcoming. It comes to a net loss, not indirect gain where a section of the public working with the NGO loses but the services are well maintained.

On the other hand, there are societal repercussions also aligned with the kind of issues that have been preoccupying the legislature during the budget session, namely the matter of graduate unemployment. NGOs have become the lifeblood of youth

engagement in society, where they put to use the skills they have gained in college, and exposed to incessant brush ups to sharpen their skills. Such engagements don't amount to actual employment or career but they count.

An irreplaceable aspect of NGO activity is that it provides a young person with a sense of belonging, whatever the level of earnings involved, and it thus ought to be a rule that such outlets for engagement be maintained, virtually at all costs. Rubbing out 4,000 NGOs stands to touch upon expectations of upwards of one million youths, not just the service providers but targeted communities. It isn't just incomes but the sense of community, exposure to organizational skills, etc.

The government has doing its best to attract tourists and business people to the country and for good reason, as it gives something to do to millions of people who do business with tourists or investors, or provide services. NGO activists are also tourists, like those that Muhimbili-based institutions often refer to as 'medical tourists,' patients or their relatives, seeking elevated medical care. With NGOs, the doctors come from outside and the patients are the ones here.

Shearing off thousands of NGOs where hopes of youths are being registered on a daily basis is comparable to the Kariakoo International Market situation of late or earlier, the closure of 79 city entertainment joints, slapped with fines of up to five million shillings each. These instances illustrate the habits of government agencies to pursue their quasi-feudal privileges quite far. Unlike the traders who are a nerve in the economy, the joints and NGOs can silently be snuffed out. Yes, indeed.

We need measures to reduce risk of road traffic injuries and deaths

THE UN General Assembly mandated World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN regional commissions to plan and host periodic UN global road safety weeks to serve as a platform for global and regional, but mainly national and local, activities to raise awareness about road safety issues and to stimulate and advance responses as appropriate for these settings.

There is urgent need to better protect pedestrians worldwide. More than 270 000 pedestrians lose their lives on the world's roads each year accounting for 22 per cent of the total 1.24 million road traffic deaths. The World Health Organisation called on governments to take concrete actions to improve the safety of pedestrians.

Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users. Studies indicate that males, both children and adults, make up a high proportion of pedestrian deaths and injuries. In developed countries, older pedestrians are more at risk, while in low- and middle-income countries, children and young adults are often affected. Both children and adults with disabilities suffer higher rates of injury as pedestrians compared to their non-disabled peers. 186 300 children die each year from road traffic crashes around the world - that's more than 500 children every day. In fact, road traffic injury ranks among the top four causes of death for all children over the age of five years. The 3rd United Nations Road Safety Week was dedicated to the plight of children on the world's roads.

Road traffic crashes result in the deaths of approximately 1.3 million people around the world each year and leave between 20 and 50 million people with non-fatal injuries. More than half of all road traffic deaths and injuries involve vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists and

motorcyclists and their passengers.

The young are particularly vulnerable on the world's roads and road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29. Young males under 25 years are more likely to be involved in road traffic crashes than females, with 73% of all road traffic deaths occurring among young males in that age. Developing economies record higher rates of road traffic injuries, with 93% of fatalities coming from low- and middle-income countries.

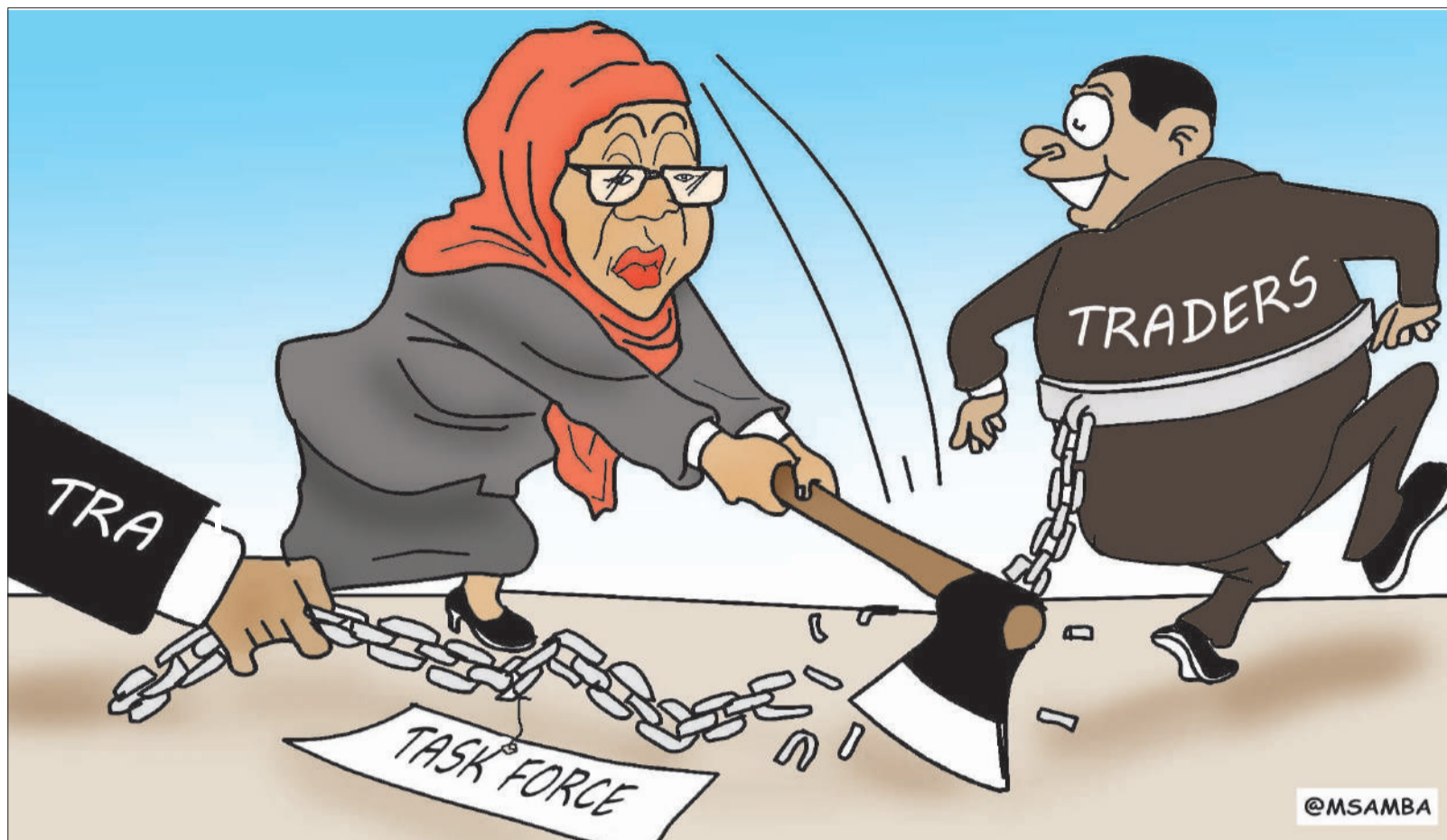
In addition to the human suffering caused by road traffic injuries, they also incur a heavy economic burden on victims and their families, both through treatment costs for the injured and through loss of productivity of those killed or disabled. More broadly, road traffic injuries have a serious impact on national economies, costing countries 3% of their annual gross domestic product.

Measures proven to reduce the risk of road traffic injuries and deaths exist and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set ambitious targets for reducing road traffic injuries.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in March, this year has issued a number of directives to the relevant authorities in order to reduce the alarming number of accidents in the country, the most critical of which, is the education to all road users regarding safety.

Based on the data provided by the Police Force, in the period of three years (2020-2022), there were 5,132 reported accidents that caused 4,060 deaths and 6,427 injuries and disabilities.

Majaliwa urged Tanzanians to reflect by being familiar with the rules and regulations of the road safety, because the number of fatalities and injuries was so high.



Will Nigeria's 2023 census hold and count for development?

By Adeolu Adekola

MOST importantly, the proper use of the data for policy and decision-making must be the priority. The past censuses have directly or indirectly contributed to Nigeria's underdevelopment. It is nearly impossible to plan adequately for a population you are not properly aware of in its various details, and while using estimates and projections may be a stopgap measure, this is not sustainable. When it holds, the result of the census must justify the means, and stakeholders must draw the line by understanding that development and nation-building supersede other interests.

Perhaps, the saying that when the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable should be framed and hung on the walls of every institution, especially in government. Understanding the reason for undertaking the census exercise by the Nigeria Population Commission (NPC) is crucial because there is the potential risk of embarking on a wasteful venture without it. Will the now postponed population census build the level of trust that has been eroded between the government and citizens? The trust deficit is not farfetched. The release of different data points, implementation of policies and, indeed, government activities should, in the end, impact the well-being of citizens considerably, and two examples can be cited.

The INEC and NSIP Case Study A school of thought may argue that the recently concluded general elections, with N305 billion budgeted for its execution whilst recording the lowest voter turnout since 1999, as well as the failure of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to fulfil its promise of leveraging technology for transparency, made the entire process a colossal waste. So, while winning the popular vote returned the incumbent party, its inability to garner the combined majority of all votes cast and the irregularities recorded have arguably formed a shadow of sorts on the legitimacy of the win. What use is an electoral process that leaves more room for numerous litigations questioning its conduct?

A few months ago, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released figures stating that 63% of persons in Nigeria (133 million people) are multidimensionally poor. The concept of the Multidimensional Index (MPI) is such that it interrogates the multiple deprivations causing poverty. Therefore, while 133 million Nigerians may not be extremely poor (persons living on less than \$1.90 per day), the result shows the

number of people who experience deprivations in more than one dimension under health, education, living standards, as well as work and shocks. One will imagine that the MPI will be a crucial input into the Federal Government's National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) if the aspiration to lift 100 million people out of poverty by 2030 is anything to go by. By reaching 15 million people, with nearly N1.5 trillion spent between 2016 and 2022, one wonders about the feasibility of the programme and basis on which its decisions were made. It also explains why data, especially demography data, is the bedrock of development planning.

Questions have been raised about the timing and conduct of the census, which have contributed to its second postponement. The initial assumption by some stakeholders no longer holds, that having it after the elections and before the inauguration of the new administration will insulate it from political interference. From all the contentions recorded in the previous exercises, how the NPC will navigate the murky waters remains to be seen.

Historical Contentious Population Census In Nigeria

Nigeria last had a national census 17 years ago, in 2006. There is no other way to say that the country is long overdue for a census exercise. The issue has always been the political will and, just like the 2023 general elections, if the process will be transparent and credible enough to be generally accepted. There is a decennial or ten-year cycle practice of conducting population counts globally. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), it should be at least once every ten years. After witnessing the first census of any part of Nigeria in 1866, the Lagos colony under the British colonial government also had counts in 1871, 1881 and 1901. The 1911 census involved a wider area (Southern Nigeria) due to the merger of the Lagos colony with the Southern Protectorate. Following the 1914 amalgamation, a Census Ordinance was enacted in 1914, and the 1921 census was held. The 1931 census was not comprehensive, and no census took place in 1941 due to the second world war, so the last pre-independence census was staggered and it held between 1951 and 1953.

The first post-independent Nigeria census was in 1962. The results were cancelled after controversy emerged about the inflation of figures in some regions. Potentially, this is where the trust deficit in Nigeria began to surface. A recount exercise was held in 1963. The governors of Eastern and Midwestern Nigeria rejected the results, went to the Supreme Court to contest it but lost, and the Federal

Government accepted the results. The results of the 1973 census were not published, and the entire exercise was cancelled, even after announcing a figure of 79.76 million. The 1991 Census was executed after the NPC was formed in 1988, with Nigeria's population put at 88.5 million. The 2006 count gave a figure of 140 million and did not go without objections. Interestingly, President-elect Bola Tinubu, then the Lagos State governor, challenged the figure announced for the state. He based his rejection of the 9 million announced by relying on a parallel counting undertaken by the state government, which reported 17.5 million.

A Count For National Development

Questions have been raised about the timing and conduct of the census, which have contributed to its second postponement. The initial assumption by some stakeholders no longer holds, that having it after the elections and before the inauguration of the new administration will insulate it from political interference. From all the contentions recorded in the previous exercises, how the NPC will navigate the murky waters remains to be seen. Clem Agba, the minister of state for Budget and National Planning, in March, announced that N869 billion will be required for the census, including post-census activities up until 2025, and already N291.5 billion has been committed to the exercise by the Federal Government. Pre-census activities commenced since 2021, with the Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD) and several pre-test fieldworks. Obviously, much resources have been sunk into the process, but how well has the NPC communicated the exercise widely? Like the fuel subsidy removal debacle, all eyes will be on the incoming administration, but is this the best practice? As governance is a continuum and public institutions have their mandates defined, are we not seeing political interference already?

Most importantly, the proper use of the data for policy and decision-making must be the priority. How many schools, teachers, primary health centres, health care workers, etc., are needed in each local government? What should be done in adequately responding to climate events and disasters, such as flooding, that have displaced more people than conflicts in the last 13 years? How are Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) adequately accounted and catered for?

Demographic data is very important for national planning, and it is possible to conclude that previous controversial censuses have affected the proper implementation of government

policies in Nigeria. Census data cannot be seen only as a parameter for 'resource-sharing', the usual narrative provided. Population data is critical for decision-making to drive sustainable and long-term development. It is the backbone of good governance. Therefore, if all goes right, this census may give some direction for crisis prevention - whether security, environmental or humanitarian - for the incoming governments at the national and sub-national levels. Nigeria is on track on only one out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Goal 17, which is Partnerships for the Goals. Apart from the MPI referenced above, the 20 million out-of-school children data released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the 37% unemployment rate projected by the end of 2023 by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) is cause for concern.

More importantly, the credibility of the census is as important as its conduct itself. While the use of technology, including geo-fencing, has been put forward as reasons to ensure the integrity of the process, from data collection to collation, to storage and then to usage, this perhaps sounds like a broken record already. A census process that is not only seen to be credible but without political interference and manipulations may be the first step to building back trust between government and citizens. Most importantly, the proper use of the data for policy and decision-making must be the priority. How many schools, teachers, primary health centres, health care workers, etc., are needed in each local government? What should be done in adequately responding to climate events and disasters, such as flooding, that have displaced more people than conflicts in the last 13 years? How are Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) adequately accounted and catered for?

The past censuses have directly or indirectly contributed to Nigeria's underdevelopment. It is nearly impossible to plan adequately for a population you are not properly aware of in its various details, and while using estimates and projections may be a stopgap measure, this is not sustainable. When it holds, the result of the census must justify the means, and stakeholders must draw the line by understanding that development and nation-building supersede other interests.

Adeolu Adekola, a Policy and Development Analyst working on accountability in governance, civic engagement and investigative journalism, is the Project Manager, Open Climate Reporting Initiative (OCRI) of the Centre for Investigative Journalism, London.

How internal displacements cause sufferings to innocent citizens

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at what happened to the husband we had assaulted his wife, causing her to sustain wounds on various parts of her body and then fled from his home village to a faraway village to hide, but was found, arrested and prosecuted. He was charged with and convicted of the offence of assault and causing actual bodily harm contrary to Section 241 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022).

He was sentenced to serve a jail term of five years in his absence and in the absence of his surety. So, even if he hides, once he is found and arrested he will be sent to jail to serve his sentence. It is upon him to serve now or wait until he is found.

It is important to be aware that as the law stands, if a person is charged with spousal beating and is found guilty of the offence he or she will be sentenced to serve a jail term. There is no alternative penalty like paying fine.

Thus, we who are fond of assaulting our spouses or other persons should be aware that if we are convicted of the offence of assault and causing actual bodily harm to a spouse or to another person, we will be facing imprisonment. So, let us take care lest we face imprisonment simply because we like to take the law into our own hands where we should have abided by it.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 which was released recently. Internal displacement may be caused by many factors, including natural forces, but in many cases it is caused by human factors, such as conflict and violence.

It can be averted or minimised by prompt mitigating action.

By the end of 2022, according to this year's report, 71.1 million people across the world lived in internal displacement, which was a 20 per cent increase in a year and the highest number ever recorded. Conflict and violence internally displaced 62.5 million people across 65 countries and territories by the end of 2022. This means that about three-quarters of internally displaced people were in just 10 countries out of the 148 surveyed countries and territories across the world.

In sub-Saharan Africa, five countries with most internal displacements by conflict and violence were (with their number of internally displaced people in brackets) the Democratic Republic of Congo (4,004,000 people), Ethiopia (2,032,000 people), Somalia (621,000 people), South Sudan (337,000) and Nigeria (148,000 people). This translates to a 17 per cent increase compared to the previous year's statistics and that 95 per cent of conflict-caused internally displaced people in sub-Saharan Africa lived in just 10 countries.

Conflict and violence can result from arbitrary decisions. In countries in which the rule of law or equality before the law is problematic, conflict and violence become common. It is also the same in countries in which people are discriminated against on the basis of their nationality, tribe, place of origin, political opinion,



colour, religion, sex or station in life. Article 13(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states that: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to protection and equality before the law." Article 13(5) in particular prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of their nationality, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, sex or station in life.

A person lives in internal displacement if he or she is forced by circumstances to flee from his or her lovely home to elsewhere he or she didn't choose to live. People who live in internal displacement also face,

among other things, food, water and health crises, which aggravate their situation.

"Data available on food security and internal displacement is far from comprehensive, but it reveals how two phenomena overlap. Three-quarters of the countries where food security assessments were conducted had internally displaced populations," reads the report in part.

It is possible to mitigate this internal displacement phenomenon. As part of mitigating strategies, the report suggests that supporting internally displaced people to return or resettle elsewhere in their countries is essential. "Better data and

evidence on solutions are key to informing tailored prevention and response that allow to effectively measure the end of displacement. Conflict resolution, peace-building, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, food security and poverty reduction must all be strengthened."

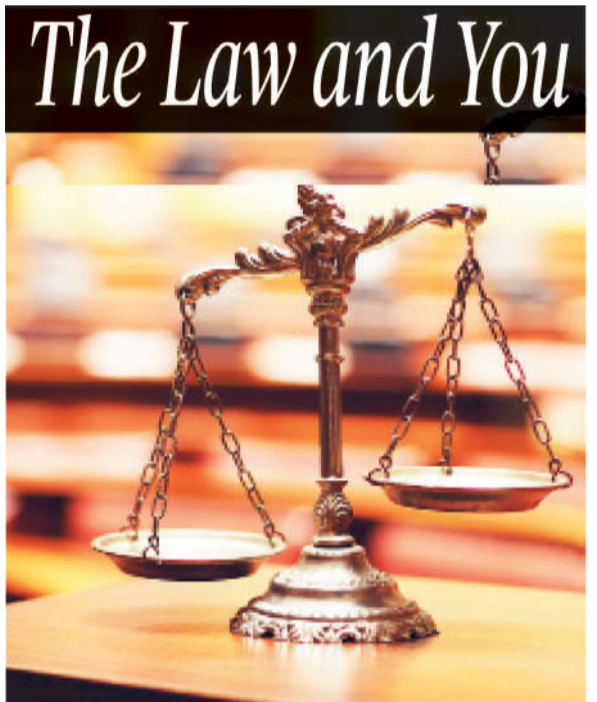
The report further suggests that developing internally displaced people's livelihood could help to facilitate durable solutions by increasing their food security and their communities and countries' self-reliance at the same time.

So, to minimise human-linked internal displacement phenomenon, let us develop a culture of treating

and seeing each other as being entitled to live as truly free persons who have human dignity. It is possible to change the trend of spiralling internal displacement phenomena if we promptly take mitigating action.

Today's proverb: "Fire is a good servant, but a bad master."

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The Law and You

Beekeeping can surely restore degraded land, improve livelihoods

By Dr Nyabenyi Tippo and Jhony Andia

CLIMATE change has made droughts ever more frequent and severe in many parts of the world. For many small-scale forest and farm producers, this has made it harder to find enough pasture for their animals to graze on. In northern Tanzania, pastoralist Maasai families have struggled as their main source of income has dwindled.

With the support of the Forest and Farm Facility of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Agriscord, a local network of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, MVIWAARUSHA, is helping Maasai men and women become beekeepers to survive the tough times.

MVIWAARUSHA has provided equipment and training in beekeeping techniques adjusted to their environment and, crucially, it has taught them to be savvy businesspeople. They produce, label and brand their products to maximise value, and combine forces with other beekeepers to access new markets.

In many cases, this has rapidly transformed



Maria Shinini, a beekeeper in Monduli District, Arusha Region, who processes up to 300 one-litre bottles of honey per season for sale at 10,000/- each. Photo: MVIWAARUSHA/Imani Hezron



lives, generating healthy incomes and the capacity to buy more hives. Beekeepers like Maria Shinini in Monduli District, Arusha Region, process up to 300 one-litre bottles of honey per season, selling for 10,000/- (USD4.50) apiece. She is able to send her children to school from the profits.

Honey has become a symbol of prosperity among the Maasai. Shinini says a future husband might now present the parents of his would-be bride with a large bucket of honey rather than a cow. At the same time, beekeeping is giving women new status in their communities as they become successful businesspeople. Wider opportunities are opening up for younger generations now their parents can afford to pay for their education.

Today is World Bee Day, and it provides an opportunity to highlight how beekeeping can be a crucial part of this country's solution to climate change. It can lift families and communities out of poverty and improve gender equity.

But this is not all. Bees have a vital role to play in conservation because their activity helps natural vegetation to grow again where land has been degraded. And beekeepers take care of the surrounding habitat to ensure the bees thrive, including forests where many plants grow that bees favour for nectar.

MVIWAARUSHA report that in parts of Arusha where the Maasai now keep bees, degraded land and forest is turning green and flourishing again. This in turn helps to reduce drought and increase production for the beekeepers.

Close to 75 per cent of crops that produce fruit and seeds for human use depend at least in part on pollinators. Local people see with their own eyes the important role that bees play everywhere in keeping ecosystems healthy.

Yet today, 40 per cent of invertebrate pollinator species - particularly bees and butterflies - are under threat from intensive monocultural production and improper use of pesticides which reduce their access to food and nesting sites, expose them to harmful chemicals and weaken their immune systems.

Funded by Germany, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, IKEA, the United States of America and Norway, the Forest and Farm Facility has been supporting seven forest and farm producer organizations since 2020, directly reaching 322,259 households responsible for 425,965 hectares across Tanzania.

Smallholders have been supported to develop and diversify their businesses, build resilience to climate change and develop sustainable farming practices. So far, close to 67,869 hectares of forest has been restored through various activities, including establishing tree nurseries, sustainable forest management and improved beekeeping technology.

And in 2023, the Forest and Farm Facility will support the establishment of honey and wax producer associations in five regions of Tanzania and the dialogue toward a National Federation.

Tanzania already has a thriving beekeeping sector, employing two million people in the production and sale of bee-related products. There is potential for growth to meet demand for honey and medicinal beeswax products both inside Tanzania and across Africa. And the potential rewards go far beyond the revenue generated.

Protecting bees and promoting pollinator-friendly farming practices is a key part of the change needed to make the global food system sustainable and ensure food security for all. Beekeepers can become conservationists who help the country through these very challenging times.

Dr Nyabenyi Tippo is Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in Tanzania and Jhony Zapata Andia is Forestry Officer at FAO.

Major global events likely to mark the end of US dollar supremacy

By Monica Hirst and Juan Gabriel Tokatlían

HALF a century ago, the dominance of the United States dollar in the international finance and trade system was indisputable.

By 1977, the US dollar reached a peak of 85 per cent as the prevailing currency in foreign exchange reserves; in 2001, this position was still around 73 per cent. But today, it is at approximately 58 per cent.

The dominance of the dollar and the hegemonic position of the United States have for long been intertwined. And the recent global transformations are affecting American's ability to sustain this: the gradual movement of the centre of gravity from the West to the East, the unravelling complexities of US domestic politics, the growing muscle of the international projection of China and an international assertiveness among the countries of the Global South have restrained the American dollar's supremacy and status.

And yet, the currency still holds by far the largest share of global trade, foreign exchange transactions, SWIFT payments and debt issued outside the United States. In fact, Western financial agents, government officials and renowned experts tend to downplay the so-called de-dollarization arguing that a relatively debilitated dollar doesn't necessarily mean its demise.

Notwithstanding controversial standpoints, it is undeniable that the world system faces more complex, diverse and plural challenges that involve currency competition and new inventive financial pathways.

Resistance against the US dollar

The so-called de-dollarization in global finance has its landmarks. The launch of the Euro in 1999 was crucial since the European currency, by now, represents 20 per cent of the global foreign exchange reserves. By the dawn of the 21st century, an Asian Currency Unit came to life as well: it represented a salad bowl of 13 currencies from East Asian nations (ASEAN 10 plus Japan, China and South Korea).

Along with the success-

ful spill overs of economic regionalisation, Western-led geopolitics also came to be a source of global financial novelties that affected the US dollar's pre-eminence.

The growing recourse to a sanction regime against countries such as Iran, especially since 2006, and Russia after the 2014 annexation of Crimea, encouraged alternative currency arrangements. As of today, Washington's sanctions policy punishes 22 nations.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022 and the extension of sanctions hampering the use of the US dollar encouraged even more de-dollarized practices. In response to the decision to disconnect Russia from SWIFT, Moscow advanced bilateral fuel transactions with partial payment in Rubles.

Simultaneously, Russia and a group of African countries initiated talks to establish settlements in national currencies, discontinuing both the US dollar and the Euro. Meanwhile, China is trying to insulate itself from the West and is attempting to internationalise the Renminbi, even though it represents less than 3 per cent of the official reserves worldwide.

Moscow and Beijing are coming closer in terms of financial cooperation, France and Saudi Arabia agreed to use the Renminbi in certain oil and gas deals, while Bangladesh became the 19th country to commerce with India in Rupees.

Last but not least, a gold rush is also picking up. As Ruchir Sharma has recently observed, key buyers are now central banks, which are procuring 'more tons of gold now than at any time since data begins in 1950 and currently account for a record 33 per cent of monthly global demand for gold and 9 of the top 10 are in the developing world.'

Besides, some African nations seem willing to trade in currencies backed by rare-earth metals. In the Global South, in fact, there is a growing perception that de-dollarization is a step towards a multipolar world in which new actors, interests and rules interplay. In that sense, it is becoming evident that a multi-currency trading regime is slowly emerging.

How Brazil 'de-dollarizes'



The US dollar's supremacy in the international financial system has long been beyond question. But countries like Brazil are attempting to break away. IPS

De-dollarization has been included in Brazil's foreign policy strategy. Since the inauguration of his third mandate, President Lula da Silva rapidly disclosed the intention of overcoming his discrepancies with Western rule-setting. An adjourned narrative that contests the Global North's preponderance in the World Order has resurfaced.

Demands for inclusive reforms in global governance, the condemnation of geopolitical worldviews leading to securitised methods and military escalation, and the questioning of the Dollar's dominance in international trade and finance have arisen. In the present context of tensions and rivalries between the Great Powers, Brazil strives to speak of an autonomous voice of the Global South.

And thus, Lula has tried to promote peace in Ukraine on the basis of negotiations that recognise the voices of all parties involved in the war.

Lula's de-dollarization standing has been stimulated by Brazil's association with

the BRICS, as well as its expanded bilateralism with China. The continuously record-breaking Brazilian-Chinese trade relationship reached a peak of \$150,5 bn in 2022 (while the Russia-China trade relationship for the same year was \$190,2 bn).

As bilateral ties are expanding further, during Lula's recent state visit to China, novel settlements are being negotiated, aiming to put trade and financial operations on track directly with Chinese Renminbi and Brazilian Reals.

Concurrently, the Brazilian government has decided to use the New Development Bank (NDB), the BRICS' multilateral bank, as a platform to defend a de-dollarized trade system among its members and with the countries that benefit from NDB credit lines.

By positioning former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff as the head of the bank, Lula has upgraded the Brazilian political commitment to this frontline. Most certainly, this will become a reiterated pledge in Brazil's performance in global governance arenas, with mention to its

2024 presidency of the G20.

It is remarkable how the Lula government has sought a prudent strategy balancing its anti-dollar hegemony signals among its BRICS partners with a constructive presence in a dollar-dominating terrain such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

By holding the presidency of the IDB since last December, supporting the candidacy of Brazilian ex-IMF official Illan Goldfajn, Brazil has stretched its footprint in international finance from Washington to Shanghai.

Beyond Brazil

Brazil has made a first attempt to bring in the de-dollarization card to its South American neighbourhood, particularly together with Argentina. Last February, bilateral talks took off to begin working on a common currency project that could reduce reliance on the US dollar. This could mean in-graining de-dollarization within the MERCOSUR area.

Following Brazil's example, Argentina has started to con-

sider the use of the Renminbi in its trade with Beijing. For Brazil, these are moves that could, step-by-step, lead to a regional financial terrain with relative distance from US dollar dominance. However, ongoing macroeconomic turbulences in Argentina, together with an extremely low level of foreign exchange reserves, will surely obstruct these plans in the short term.

Besides, more than two will be needed to tango. If a sustained economic recovery of Argentina takes place, Brazil will need to assure the support of extra-regional, heavy-weight, non-Western actors, particularly China and India, in investment and trade flows to trigger a renewed insertion of MERCOSUR into the world economy.

De-dollarization could become a part, among others, of a dynamic reconfiguration of financial and productive intersections of Brazil and its neighbours with other regions and economic powerhouses of the global economy. Needless to say, this is a long-term strategy. The key consideration is the role of

South America, that, in the near future, may play into the promotion of a multi-currency trading regime.

For now, while a strident flag of Lula's presidential diplomacy, Brazilian ties with the US Dollar can be reduced but remain of unquestionable relevance. Decision-making in Brazil is conducted by a complex inter-ministerial web responsible for the states' international sector that cannot avoid the influence of key production segments in the private sector.

Thus, transforming the Brazilian international financial modus operandi will depend on major accommodations that cannot overlook a broad domestic negotiation process, particularly if conjoined with the strengthening of democracy.

Monica Hirst is a research fellow at the National Institute for Science and Technology Studies in Brazil and Juan Gabriel Tokatlían is Provost at the Torcuato Di Tella University, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Climate change, habitat loss a sure threat to East African bird populations

By David Colgan

IN recent decades, scientists have produced countless studies on the effects of one environmental factor or another—climate change, deforestation or pollution, for example—on wildlife and habitats around the world.

But few have examined the interplay and overlap among multiple factors at the same time in the same location.

But understanding how such threats work together, and whether certain factors intensify or mitigate others, will be crucial for protecting plant and animal species in a rapidly changing world.

A new UCLA-led study takes that approach, analyzing how warming temperatures and fragmenting habitats—areas of wilderness that have been separated by agriculture and other human development—are affecting 24 species of tropical birds in the Usambara Mountains of East Africa, one of the most species-rich regions on the planet.

Over the course of the 34 years the researchers analyzed, from 1987 to 2020, nine of the 24 species were affected by both factors. But warming temperatures were the bigger threat, negatively affecting 14 of the species.

In the hottest year during the study, population growth rates declined 20 percent, even in the largest habitat fragment, which was 5.84 square miles.

One reason that fragmentation didn't account for more damage was that most of the area's habitat loss took place decades before the period analyzed in the study, said UCLA ecologist Monte Neate-Clegg, the paper's lead author.

The researchers were particularly interested in learning whether the temperature changes and habitat fragmentation had synergistic effects—meaning that each factor made the other worse. Although they found a few such examples, the overall picture was



complex.

"It wasn't what we expected," Neate-Clegg said. "Some species even seemed to be doing better in small fragments than in larger ones. We're not sure exactly what's going on, but higher temperatures may be increasing the production of fruit or some other resource."

Overall, however, the future of birds in the Usambara Mountains looks difficult, Neate-Clegg said. As temperatures rise and threaten local populations, suitable new habitat is scarce or difficult for them to reach. Unlike other birds, tropical birds in the region are often unable to fly long distances. Some even avoid crossing

small gaps such as roads.

"Over time, this trend is likely to push these species to consistent declines," Neate-Clegg said.

The researchers studied species including flycatchers, spot-throats and several sunbirds, which look and fly a lot like hummingbirds. All of the species they studied play critical roles in a wildlife hotspot, pollinating and dispersing seeds of plants that serve as habitat for a wide range of animals, including black and white colobus monkeys, chameleons and elephant shrews. Because they eat insects that spread diseases and maintain forests that help regulate water supply, the birds

also help humans.

Aside from such practical value, tropical birds contribute to natural beauty that, by attracting tourists, can help sustain livelihoods and communities.

"There's a lot to be said for ecotourism when it's done right," Neate-Clegg said. "If the forest were healthier and there was more wildlife, more people would come and bring more money into the area."

Wildlife protection efforts have helped bring billions of dollars to places like Costa Rica and the Serengeti. According to a 2021 World Bank report, investments in protected areas generate six times their

value in economic return.

Conservation is key to making such investments work, but it must be done strategically.

"Poorly considered conservation can be like whack-a-mole—if you only address one problem, another one pops up," said UCLA ecologist Morgan Tingley, a co-author of the paper. "Conserving the world's biodiversity requires addressing multiple, simultaneous threats. We can't focus only on habitat preservation or climate change mitigation. We need to consider the entire picture."

Injectable HIV-prevention drug to be made in South Africa for the first time

DURBAN

AN affordable version of a ground-breaking HIV prevention drug will be made in South Africa for the first time, potentially giving millions of people at risk of HIV infection in Africa access to a two-monthly jab that can almost eliminate their chances of contracting the virus.

The Indian drug company Cipla confirmed that a generic version of the prophylaxis, long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA), would be manufactured at its plants in Benoni, near Johannesburg, or Durban.

Cabotegravir blocks HIV from entering a person's cells. Studies have shown that it reduces to almost zero an individual's chances of getting infected with the virus through

sex. As it is easier to take regularly, CAB-LA has also been found to work better than a daily HIV-prevention pill, which is available for free in South Africa and several other African countries.

The confirmation follows an announcement in March that the developers of CAB-LA, ViiV Healthcare, and the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), had granted licences to three companies, including Cipla.

The other two companies, Aurobindo and Viartis, are also Indian corporations that are already producing antiretroviral drugs for HIV treatment.

The branded version of CAB-LA sells for about \$3,500 (£2,800) for one injection in the US - a price that puts it out of reach for lower-income countries. Even at a lower,

"not-for-profit" price at which the manufacturer said it would sell the medicine to 90 poorer countries, including South Africa, the brand-name version is probably too expensive for the South African government to buy.

Last year, celebrities and leading figures in healthcare, including Winnie Byanyima, executive director of UNAids, called for ViiV to lower the price of the drug. But being granted a licence to produce a generic version of a branded medicine is only the first step.

"CAB-LA is a sterile, injectable product with a very complex manufacturing process," Kimberly Smith, ViiV's head of research, told Bhekisisa, a health news site, last year. For a pharmaceutical company to make a generic version of the

medicine, the technology behind the manufacturing must be shared, so it could take up to five years before the product is on the market.

ViiV holds the patent for CAB-LA until 2031 in South Africa, which means that unless licences were granted for other generics, the company would have no competition for at least eight years.

Even one new contender can dramatically affect medicine prices, according to an analysis by the Food and Drug Administration, the US medicines regulator. It estimated that one generic manufacturer entering the market cut the price wholesalers paid manufacturers for a drug by 39 percent.

Products with six or more generic producers were on

average 95 percent cheaper than when only a single branded option was available, the report found.

Less than 40 percent of the medicines Africa needs can be made on the continent, and only 38 countries are estimated to have any drug manufacturers. Where they do exist, the companies rarely make medicines from scratch.

When ready-made and packaged medicines are imported, they can be expensive and it is significantly cheaper to import the raw materials to make the medicine locally, according to an analysis by the consultancy McKinsey.

Intellectual property deals such as the one brokered by the MPP can also lessen the impact of medicine shortages because alternative suppliers

are available. Poorer countries suffer without such an agreement, as they did during the Covid pandemic, when the west bought up most of the stock of vaccines.

By the time Africa had enough doses to vaccinate about 9 percent of the continent's population in early 2021, Canada had paid for enough jabs to vaccinate its population five times over.

In 2020 India and South Africa led a campaign at the World Trade Organization for intellectual property rights to be waived on Covid vaccines, medicines and tests, proposing that pharmaceutical companies should explain how to make the drugs as well as what was in it.

In June 2022, a watered-down version of the proposal was accepted, but it only cov-

ered vaccines until 2027 and not medicines, treatments or tests. And it only applied to patents, not technology transfers, so generics firms would only know the ingredients and not the manufacturing process.

Licensing generics did not remove the risk of drug shortages, said Esteban Burrone, MPP's head of policy, explaining that the lower profit margins could deter manufacturers from producing generics.

For this reason, pharmaceutical companies seeking a sub-licence must agree to create "broad access" once awarded manufacturing rights. For CAB-LA, Burrone said they "zoomed in on the three manufacturers who are most ready" to address demand rapidly.

Uganda says construction of long-delayed modern railway will start this year

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

UGANDA said on Thursday that construction of its much delayed \$2.2 billion Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) will commence this year, a welcome development for importers and exporters in the landlocked country who had long endured sky-high transport costs.

"Government of Uganda... is in advanced stages of engaging M/s Yapi Merkezi (Turkish firm) to undertake the development of the SGR eastern route. Plan is to commence construction this calendar year," the Ministry of Works and Transport said in a statement.

Uganda in 2015 entered into an agreement with Chinese firm China Harbour and Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) to implement the project on condition the firm helps secure funds for the railway from the Chinese government.

After years of fruitless talks with the Chinese on the funds however Uganda early this year terminated the agreement and instead commenced negotiations with Yapi Merkezi to undertake the project.

In the statement the ministry said "sourcing for alternative financing from Europe is on-going." It did not name which specific European funders Uganda was wooing.

The 273 kilometre (170 miles) line will head from Uganda's capital Kampala to the country's border with Kenya where it is expected to link with Kenya's own Standard Gauge Railway line that connects to the Indian Ocean seaport of Mombasa.

Uganda is banking on the railway to boost the speed and lower the cost of transporting exports such as coffee and tobacco. It currently relies on costly and slow road links and a century-old narrow gauge rail line built by former colonial power Britain.



Nothing beats bushmeat despite known risk of diseases, study finds

By Busani Bafana

MEAT from wild animals is relished across Africa and widely traded, but scientists are warning that eating bush meat is a potential health risk, especially in the wake of pandemics like COVID-19.

A study at the border settlements of Kenya and Tanzania has found that while people have been aware of the risks associated with eating bushmeat, especially after the COVID-19 outbreak, they don't worry about hunting and eating wild animals that could transmit diseases.

On the contrary, the demand for bushmeat has increased, the 2023 study by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and TRAFFIC and other partners found.

No beef with bushmeat

Bushmeat is a collective term for meat derived from wild mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds that live in the jungle, savannah, or wetlands. Bushmeat comes from a variety of wild animals, including monkeys, pangolins, snakes, porcupines, antelopes, elephants, and giraffes.

The study – the first ever to look at disease risk perceptions of wild meat activities in rural communities in East Africa – was conducted in December 2021, and 299 people were interviewed in communities on the Kenya-Tanzania border.

Key findings of the study revealed that levels of education played a critical role in understanding zoonotic disease transmission; a majority of the people interviewed who had higher levels of education were more aware of the risks of disease transmission.

Nearly 80 percent of the respondents had learned about COVID-19 from mass media sources, but this did not impact their levels of wild meat consumption. Some even reported increased consumption. Hoofed animals, such as antelopes, gazelles and deer, were found to be the most consumed species, followed by birds, rodents and shrews.

Scientist and lead study author at ILRI, Ekta Patel, commented that it was important to commence the study in Kenya given the limited information on both rural and urban demand for wild meat and the potential risks associated with zoonotic diseases. The Kenya-Tanzania border is a known hotspot for wild meat consumption.

Zoonotic diseases are those that originate in animals – be they tamed or wild – that then mutate and 'spill over' into human populations. Two-thirds of infectious diseases, from HIV/AIDS, which are believed to have originated in chimpanzee populations in early

20th century Central Africa, to COVID-19, believed to have originated from an as-yet undetermined animal in 2019, come from animals.

Confirming that there is no COVID health risk of consuming wild meat, Patel said that given the COVID-19 pandemic, which is thought to originate from wildlife, the study was investigating if the general public was aware of health risks associated with frequent interactions with wildlife.

Patel said some of these risks of eating bush meat include coming into contact with zoonotic pathogens, which can make the handler unwell. Other concerns are linked to not cooking meats well, resulting in foodborne illnesses.

"The big worry is in zoonotic disease risks associated with wild meat activities such as hunting, skinning and consuming," Patel told IPS.

Africa is facing a growing risk of outbreaks caused by zoonotic pathogens, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). The global health body reported a 63% increase in zoonotic outbreaks in the region from 2012-2022 compared to 2001-2011.

Control or ban?

Scientists estimate that 70 percent of emerging infectious diseases originated from animals, and 60 percent of the existing infectious disease are zoonotic. For example, Ebola outbreaks in the Congo basin have been traced back to hunters exposed to ape carcasses. She called for governments to implement policies to control zoonotic disease transmission risks through community engagements to change behaviour.

The study, while representative of the small sample, offered valuable insights about bushmeat consumption trends happening across Africa, where bushmeat is many times on the menu, says Martin Andimile, co-author of the study and Research Manager at the global wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC.

Pointing to the need to improve hygiene and standards of informal markets while at the same time providing communities with alternative protein sources, Andimile believes bushmeat consumption should be paused, citing the difficulty of regulating this source of meat.

"I think people in Africa have other options to get meat besides wild meat although some advocate that they get meat from the wild because of cultural reasons and that it is a delicacy, government systems cannot control the legal exploitation of wildlife," Andimile told IPS. "I think bushmeat consumption should be stopped until there is a proper way of regulating it."

Andimile said while some regu-



Fresh bush meat is consumed in many parts of Africa even though it may have health risks. IPS

lation could be enforced where the population of species are healthy enough for commercial culling to give communities bushmeat, growing human populations will impact the offtake of species from the wild.

"Bushmeat consumption is impacting species as some households consume bushmeat on a daily basis, and it is broadly obtained illegally (and is) cheaper than domestic meat," Andimile told IPS.

Maybe regulation could keep bushmeat on the menu for communities instead of banning it, independent experts argue.

"Wild meat harvesting and consumption should not be banned as this goes against the role of sustainable use in area-based conservation as made clear by recent CBD COP15 decisions," Francis Vorhies, a member of the International Union for Conservation

of Nature (IUCN) Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULI), says. He called for an enabling environment for sustainable and inclusive wild meat harvesting, which means better regulations and voluntary standards such as developing a FairWild-like standard for harvesting wild animals.

Another expert, Rogers Lubilo, also a member of the IUCN SULI, concurs that bushmeat consumption should not be banned because it is a major source of protein. He argued that local communities who live side-by-side with wildlife would like to access bushmeat like they used to before, but the current policies across many sites incriminate bushmeat when acquired from illegal sources.

"There is a need to invest in opportunities that will encourage access to legal bushmeat," Lubilo

said. "The trade is big and lucrative, and if harnessed properly with good policies and the ability to monitor, would be part of the broadened wildlife economy."

Eating species to extinction

There is some evidence that the consumption of bushmeat is impacting the species' population, raising fears that without corrective action, people will eat wildlife to extinction.

The IUCN has warned that bushmeat consumption and trade have driven many species closer to extinction, calling for its regulation. Hunting and trapping are listed as a threat to 4,658 terrestrial species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, including 1,194 species in Africa.

At least 5 million tons of bushmeat are trafficked every year in Central Africa. Africa is expected

to lose 50 percent of its bird and mammal species by the turn of the century, says Eric Nana, a member of the IUCN SULI.

Nana notes that bushmeat trafficking from Africa into European countries like France, Switzerland, Belgium and the UK remains a largely understudied channel. He said estimates show that more than 1,000 tons are trafficked yearly.

"Much of the reptile-based bushmeat trade in Africa is technically illegal, poorly regulated, and little understood," Patrick Aust, also a member of IUCN SULI, said, adding that reptiles form an important part of the bushmeat trade in Africa and further research is urgently needed to better understand conservation impacts and socioeconomic importance.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA'A WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAO 13:50 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS NANI ZAIIDI 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Ecobank ready to support businesses eyeing competitive AfCFTA markets

By Guardian Correspondent

ECOBANK is positioned to support and facilitate the growth and development of African businesses as they grasp the immense single market opportunities created by the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Alain Nkontchou, Ecobank Group Chairman said at the bank's 35th annual general meeting (AGM) held in Lomé, Togo on Wednesday that the bank is pledged to play its role as the powerhouse in the African banking landscape. "Ecobank is the solution for SMEs and corporations. The strength of our borderless payment, collection, working capital and financing solutions exemplifies this," he said.

At the meeting, shareholders approved the accounts and the appropriation of profits for 2022.

Shareholders used the meeting to vote for the re-election of Mr Simon Dornoo,

Professor Enase Okonedo, Dr George Donkor, Deepak Malik and Zanele Monnakgotla as directors of ETI. The co-opting of the managing director, Jeremy Awori, as a director, was also ratified.

Shareholders also approved the resolution authorising to raise senior-ranked debt, additional Tier 1, Tier 2-qualifying subordinated debt or a combination of any of these forms of instruments as the board of directors may deem appropriate.

Jeremy Awori, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group, said in 2022, Ecobank demonstrated strong financial results and performance, despite the challenging economic conditions of high interest rates, inflation, and Ghana's debt restructuring.

According to him, the success can be attributed to the bank's diversified business model, digital expertise, innovative approaches, growth momentum, and efficiency.



"These strengths allowed the bank to navigate the adverse economic environment, absorb the impact of the debt restructuring, and continue to thrive," he said.

He said the holding company's (ETI) profit for the year was \$222 million compared with \$295 million in 2021.

The Group's profit before tax, net revenue and total assets increased by 13 per cent, 6 per cent and 5 per cent, to \$540 million, \$1,862 million and \$29,004 million, respectively. In addition,

the return on tangible equity of 21.1 present in 2022 is the highest Ecobank has achieved in the last decade. "For the first quarter of 2023, our Group performance results are showing momentum as we continue to benefit from our pan-African and diversified business model, efficiency, balance sheet stability, deep customer relationships and the hard and smart work of all Ecobankers," he added.

Ecobank is one of the leading banking groups in Africa and by far the largest in terms of coun-

tries of presence. It is renowned for its continuous delivery of innovation and excellence in customer service to its broad range of consumer, commercial, corporate and Investment banking customers.

The bank has significantly invested in its digital capabilities, including mobile banking, internet banking and payments infrastructure. This focus on digital banking enables it to reach more customers, reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Ecobank Group is the leading

private pan-African banking group with unrivalled African expertise.

The Group was established in 1985 with a pan-African vision and mandate to drive financial integration. Today, Ecobank Group is present in 39 countries, including 35 in sub-Saharan Africa, an affiliate in France and representative offices in the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and China.

Its unique pan-African platform provides a single gateway for payments, cash management, trade and investment across the continent and beyond.

CBE leads the bloc in offering metrology science courses

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE College of Business Education (CBE), has pleaded to parents to encourage their children to pursue metrology science as job opportunities are abundant across the East African countries.

The call was made yesterday at the college by the Acting Dean Professor Edda Lwoga, while briefing about this year's World Metrology Day which is celebrated on May 20 of every year.

This year's theme is: "Measurements supporting the global food system."

It emphasizes the important role that measurements play in ensuring food quality and safety.

She said that the metrology training programme is offered only at the college in the East Africa region thus it is easy for students who qualify to find employment elsewhere in the world.

She said that the college has been providing training at the levels of certificate, diploma and degree in metrology science adding that currently there are 761 students studying the course.

She said they have been doing research on the quality of infra-

structure as well as identifying areas to promote technology and new methods of testing various products.

"We have also been improving the curriculum and last year we improved the curriculum to be in line with the science and technology of measurements and standards in the world, so we invite you to bring your children to study these courses that we have improved more," she said.

She also said that they have been giving practical training to students and they have started a 10-storey construction project which will be called Metrology Complex where there will be a

modern laboratory which will be internationally certified to provide training.

She said that there will also be a workshop where measurement science students will be studying in practice where there will also be lecture halls and added that the building will have the capacity to accommodate more than 4,460 students.

Professor Edda said the goal of celebrating World Metrology Day is to recognize the importance of correct measurements in business in the world.

She said that when the world's population reaches 8 billion, it is more important than ever to en-

sure that the supply of food and various products is safe.

"We are facing challenges due to climate change and other environmental factors, it is more important than ever to have accurate and reliable measurements," she said.

She said that CBE will celebrate World Metrology Day like other countries and they will have various events and activities that show the importance of accurate measurements.

She mentioned that these activities include seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and public lectures in collaboration with scientists, measurement and

standards experts across the country. She said the college has been providing technical support to the government and to private institutions in providing professional advice in the area of metrology.

She said they have been also helping to promote good practices in the development and implementation of quality infrastructure, metrology, Standards and quality assurance of products and services through training programs, research, and technical assistance.

"In general, CBE as a training institution has an important role in developing the skills, knowl-

edge, and infrastructure needed for quality assurance and the implementation of national and international standards in order to do international business," she said.

Professor said in order to achieve that goal, the college has been giving budget priority to the development projects of the Department of Standards and Metrology by developing human resources, especially the lecturers to do their master's and doctoral degrees abroad.

She also said that the college has been increasing laboratory equipment and workshops for teaching students each year.

Employers advised to embrace leadership training programmes

By Francis Kajubi

THE public and private sectors have been urged to embrace in-house employees training programmes on leadership and effective communication as a way of preparing native competent leaders with the privilege of acquiring managerial positions mostly occupied by foreigners.

Inaugurating the Toastmasters East Africa Conference (TEACON) 2023 in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Zlatan Milisic UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania said sustainable development can be achieved by both the public and the private sectors through grooming skillful and competent leaders.

He said in achieving this goal human capital should be put at the center of the strategic plans. However, the transfer of leadership skills for the young generation is of great importance.

According to him, the ability to self-expression cannot be ignored if young leaders are to inspire deci-

sion makers, policy developers and employers. He said Tanzania is rich in diverse opportunities in the areas of business, investment and innovation that wait for entrepreneurs and innovators to grab.

Atteeya Sumar, Country Director Aga Khan Foundation argued that something is wrong with the leadership skills among Tanzania's young graduates and elites as most of the top positions in corporate entities and private institutions are held by foreigners.

"Teaching our children about the internet of things and embracing innovation programmes from the early stage of learning, training them how to overcome fear, creating space for creativity and confidence is one of the best ways on the way forward," said Sumar.

She argued that in order to generate competent leaders, employers should learn that it is not being productive that matters at the workplace but giving room for employees to grow their experiences to become more competent.

Catherinerosé Baretto Founder Dar es Salaam Global Shapers Hub said that in order to get more youth graduating from leadership and communication skills, vocational training centers should be transformed into delivering knowledge that suits graduates from colleges and universities.

"The curriculum for vocational centers should not be confined to technical skills but also making graduates acquire knowledge that can build them into becoming future leaders," said Baretto.

Emilia Siwingwa District Director Toastmasters East Africa said that Toastmaster has over 120 members in Tanzania. The members are in six clubs of which three are in Arusha city and three in Dar es Salaam.

"We really need people to form the Toastmasters clubs as many as they can. We are lagging behind compared to Kenya which has over 800 members from over 50 clubs," said Siwingwa.

She said that communication skills are inevitable for Tanzania's



Toastmasters' International president Matt Kinsey (C) clarifies a point to Emilia Siwingwa (R), district director of Toastmasters East Africa. Left is Jeanine Kinsey, the NGO's former director for Florida and the Bahamas. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

young generation to become competitive on the region's employment market and globally. Not less than 20 people are required in forming and registering a Toastmaster club.

Wilson Asiimwe, District Club Growth Officer Toastmasters East Africa said the organization runs a com-

munication and leadership programme that teaches employees how to conduct effective meetings, practice time management and enhance their listening skills.

"Employees are also taught on how to sharpen their presentation skills, boost team collaboration and

By Guardian Reporter

A total of \$700,000 (1.6bn/-) was raised at the launch of GGML Kili Challenge gala in Dar es Salaam yesterday to support the government's efforts in the fight against HIV/Aids.

The campaign dubbed 'GGML Kili Challenge' is coordinated by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) in collaboration with the Tanzania AIDS Control Commission (TACAIDS).

This year, the campaign, which involves climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, starts on

July 14th, 2023 and is scheduled to end on July 20th. The goal is to raise 2.3bn/-.

About 1.6bn/- was raised at the launch gala led by former President Jakaya Kikwete on Thursday.

Speaking during the fundraising event, Kikwete commended GGML and TACAIDS for collaborating on such a campaign which supports the government fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country.

"Keep up promoting the GGML Kili Challenge through various ambassadors and celebrities to raise its profile around the world," he said.

1.6bn/- raised in GGML Kili Challenge

Kikwete said the government alone cannot eradicate HIV/Aids and needs the support of the private sector to ensure that there were no more deaths caused by the disease by 2030 as per the targets.

"We have come a long way in the fight against HIV/Aids and have managed to reduce the number of annual HIV-related deaths from 72,000 in 2016 to 54,000 in 2021," he said, calling on people to join the effort.

"The problem is still big. The most important thing is that

the money raised through the GGML Kili Challenge reaches the intended beneficiaries," he said.

GGML Executive Director, Terry Strong thanked the government for supporting the campaign, which has now become an international fund.

According to him, the GGML has received support that has enabled it to involve climbers and cyclists from about 20 countries on different continents.

The volunteers are climbing

Mount Kilimanjaro to encourage donations from the public which will go towards the HIV/Aids response fund.

Simon Shayo, AngloGold Ashanti's Vice President for Sustainability in Ghana and Tanzania, said various groups have benefited from the campaign, including the establishment of an orphanage called 'Moyo wa Huruma in Geita' which also cares for other vulnerable children.

The first group of children who grew up at the centre are

now studying at university, including two who are studying medical subjects.

He said the campaign has also enabled the establishment of HIV awareness centres in high-risk areas such as Manyoni and Segera, where lorry drivers also benefit from the awareness programmes.

"Whatever you donate or have donated today will help achieve three zeros, which means no infections, no stigma and no deaths from HIV," he said.

TACAIDS Executive Director, Dr Leonard Maboko said the money collected is always disbursed to private institutions engaged in the fight against HIV.

He gave an example from the 2019/2020 financial year where 550 million shillings was distributed to 20 organisations, including eight led by people living with HIV.

According to him, the fight against HIV needs more support from locals, especially at this time when foreign donations are declining. During the event, GGML donated \$500,000.

TARI to produce over 1 million banana seeds

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government through Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) is in the next fiscal year expected to produce a total of 1.5 million modern banana seeds that are resistant to drought, pests and diseases.

The Grand Nain variety, the seeds will be distributed to farmers in various regions in the country including Kagera, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mbeya, Kigoma and Arusha.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, David Silinde told the House yesterday when responding to a question raised by Saashisha Mafuwe (Hai) who wanted to know the government's plans to bring new banana seeds that will bring productivity to farmers.

According to him, to fulfill this, the government will work in collaboration with private laboratories of Crop Bioscience and Maua Mazuri. Silinde who responded the question on behalf

of the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe said in 2022/23 financial year, the government has succeeded to produce new and high yielding banana variety called Tariban and has four strains of Tariban 1, Tariban 2, Tariban 3 and Tariban 4 as well as FHIA 17 and FHIA 23.

He said the variety which has been developed after many years of research is also resistant to common pests and diseases compared to the traditional varieties. The hybrid was developed using the tissue culture technology undertaken at the TARI centres at Tengeru in Arusha Region, Uyole (Mbeya) and Maruku in Kagera.

According to him, up to April 30, this year a total of 30,000 seedlings of the new hybrid produced using tissue culture were distributed to farmers in the regions of Kilimanjaro (5,000 seedlings), Kigoma (9,000) and Kagera (9,000) where the exercise to send the seedlings is ongoing in the regions of Morogoro, Mbeya,



Sightsaver director Godwin Kabalika delivers a speech at the launch of the disabled economic empowerment programme held yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Arusha and other areas.

In her supplementary question, MP Njau wanted to know the government's

plans to totally address banana wilt disease which has been affecting farmer's productivity and development.

The deputy ministry acknowledged that banana wilt disease has been a great threat to the crop but the government has invest-

ed its efforts in research to further come up with new seeds that are more resistant to diseases and drought.

Wage bill bursts budget by Sh16bn on President Ruto major hirings

NAIROBI

THE wage bill for the National Government in the third quarter of this financial year burst the budget by nearly Sh16.55 billion, signalling the expenditure pressure that came with fresh appointments by President William Ruto's administration.

Expenditure on salaries and wages amounted to slightly more than Sh152.63 billion in the January-March period against a target of Sh136.09 billion, according to the data the National Treasury published.

The over-expenditure of 12.16 percent came at a time President Ruto was at the tail-end of completing the reconstitution of his government through appointments to key positions.

Kenya has for years struggled to contain a ballooning public sector wage bill that has squeezed funds for development, forcing the State to borrow for financing capital projects and paying salaries.

Dr Ruto has, however, vowed not to borrow funds to pay salaries or other recurrent expenditures to support the maintenance and operation of government offices.

That policy led to delays in the payment of salaries for a section of public servants in March, the first in decades, as the government gave

priority to debt repayments amid under-performance in tax collections.

"Some characters thought I was joking when I told them, 'Listen we are going to live within our means'," Dr Ruto told a media engagement session last Sunday. "Even if we are going to delay salaries for two, three days, we will so that people begin to internalise that we cannot continue borrowing [for recurrent expenditure]."

The Kenya Kwanza administration has further struggled to implement austerity measures that Dr Ruto said when he took power targeted to cut the recurrent budget as much as Sh300 billion to bring "our country to sanity" where the State does not borrow to "finance recurrent expenditure".

"The problem is that there are serious question marks about policymakers' ability to keep tightening the fiscal purse strings sufficiently. For one, Kenya's historical track record is weak when it comes to sustained improvements in key fiscal metrics," Virág Fórizs, an Africa-focused researcher for UK-based Capital Economics wrote in a note on Kenya on May 3.

"And crucially, it's not clear to what extent the Ruto administration can deliver additional ex-



President William Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Prime Cabinet Minister Musalia Mudavadi take a group photo with the newly sworn-in Chief Administrative Secretaries at State House, Nairobi.

penditure savings beyond one-off big-ticket items such as the petrol subsidy scheme."

Dr Ruto is arguably presiding over one of the most bloated executive arms of the government since Kenya's Independence.

This is after increasing State departments to 51 from his predecessor's 44 and further appointing 50 chief administrative secretaries (CASs) whose occupation of office has been suspended by the High Court against 29 previously.

The Kenya Kwanza administration had by March put in place its top leadership team.

The only major exception was that for the CASs whose appointments were made mid-March, but the High Court stopped them from assuming office slightly more than a week later, pending the determination of a case filed by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) and Katiba Institute.

The increased wage bill in the review period— Sh13.38 billion or 9.61 percent more than the same period last year—put a lot of pressure on government revenue that has been stretched by a jump in debt repayment.

That brought the nine-month expenditure through March to Sh416.86 billion, surpassing the budget for the period by nearly Sh12.20 billion — the first budget overshoot for the period in nearly a decade.

The public wage pressure on taxes will mount in the coming months when all 35,550 teachers hired at the beginning of the year start receiving salaries, in addition to further hiring in other essential sectors such as security and health.

The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) in January employed 9,000 teachers on permanent and pensionable terms and a further 21,550 interns for Junior Secondary Schools.

The TSC also hired 1,000 teachers and 4,000 interns for primary schools. Dr Ruto has pledged to hire a similar number of teachers in the financial year starting in July.

Kenya has maintained a moratorium on new employment in civil service that restricted hiring to essential sectors such as security, education and health since December 2013 in a bid to rein in the public wage bill.

The Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) in 2021 further capped allowances at 40 percent of gross monthly pay as the State moves to lower the public sector wage bill and free up more funds for development projects.

Streamlining of the allowances was aimed at ensuring that basic salary accounts for not less than 60 percent of the gross monthly pay, a shift from the previous unregulated model where allowances accounted for up to 259 percent of the monthly take-home for the public servants.

Public servants are set to earn bonuses after they hit targets as the government moves to boost productivity in the Civil Service.

The Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) says it has established a new framework aimed at recognising productivity and performance in public service.

It is expected to set the procedure for the linking of financial rewards to measurable productivity and performance.

SAFPS partners with TGPDC to tackle fraud

CAPE TOWN

THE South African Fraud Prevention Service (SAFPS) and software firm the Good People Data Company (TGPDC) have partnered to fight money laundering, fraud and impersonation crimes in the country.

The two will collaborate using multiple technology solutions in tackling these challenges, with the support of the SAFPS member base.

SAFPS is a non-profit organisation preventing fraud as a result of identity theft and impersonation, and it plays a critical role in identifying and reducing the impact of fraud in the country.

Correspondingly, TGPDC is a software company and a reseller credit bureau, which has developed three products focused on digital verification, proptech (tenant management), and forensics (anti-money laundering, fraud and collusion).

TGPDC is also part of the Empire Partner Foundation tech hub, which promotes the use of technology in solving societal challenges, including crime.

The TGPDC and SAFPS partnership comes as the country has been greylisted by the international Financial Action Task Force, due to a rise in money laundering, fraud and impersonation crimes.



JK Du Toit, TGPDC founder and CEO

Money-laundering, fraud and collusion cost the South African economy billions, with estimates ranging from R500 million to R5.4 billion per annum, according to various organisations including the South African Banking Risk Information Centre, the South African Commercial Crime Investigation Unit, and

the South African Reserve Bank.

In an interview with ITWeb Africa, JK Du Toit, TGPDC founder and CEO, says the alliance with SAFPS is 'necessary and urgent' as the entities have the expertise to fend off these crimes.

"We decided to throw our names in the hat to assist with addressing

these issues. The relationship is crucial for the wider South African economy," he says.

Du Toit says the greylisting is due to deficiencies in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures, there is need to combine efforts and restore the country's standing.

He explains: "This greylisting means that South Africa is now considered a 'high-risk' country for money laundering and terrorist financing, and the impact of this is significant with potential restrictions on international trade and financial transactions, increased scrutiny from international markets and significant damage to South Africa's reputation."

He adds: "Our partnership is not only important to our respective businesses, but also to the wider South African economy, as we work together to combat the impact of the Greylisting and prevent further damage to our country's reputation."

In terms of the partnership, TGPDC will use its digital solutions to assist SAFPS in combating money laundering, fraud and impersonation.

Du Toit explains: "Our software has two key impact areas: it significantly reduces the time required to investigate fraud and improves the accuracy of the results."

"It also provides data and insights that were previously unavailable to markets and corporations and creates data maps cross-entity, cross-industry and links into a range of databases within our data lakes."

"Our technology also allows investigation teams to cover more ground, more accurately, with proper risk weightings, in record time. We plan to track the delta in fraud cases reported each month and quarter, as well as changes in the types of fraud being perpetrated."

"By monitoring these deltas, our teams will be able to identify trends and patterns in fraudulent activity, and adjust prevention strategies accordingly."

He continues: "Beyond the tech, our partnership with the Empire Partner Foundation's Innovation Campus has enabled us to develop a young and highly skilled team of robust developers that bolster our team of highly skilled technology professionals and for the youngsters to grow. I believe that we are in a good position to accelerate the fight against unwanted financial activity in partnership with SAFPS and industry."

Manie van Schalkwyk, CEO, SAFPS, comments: "The new partnership will assist not only the SAFPS database, but our members will benefit with additional tools in the fight against financial crime."

"We are looking forward to a long mutually beneficial relationship in serving our current members and expanding horizons to new markets together"

WORLD

UN calls for more global efforts to reduce disaster risk

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN warned on Thursday that insufficient global progress in disaster risk reduction is jeopardizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and called for more concerted efforts to address the issue effectively.

"Our world is at a defining point in history. As we review our journey half-way to 2030, we must acknowledge that progress has been weak and insufficient," UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told the General Assembly on Thursday.

Representatives of countries are gathering at the UN headquarters in New York to review progress on implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction - a landmark 2015 agreement to reduce damage, losses and deaths from natural and man-made hazards by the end of the decade. As countries did not meet climate and sustainable development commitments, natural disasters that could have been prevented have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and forced millions to be uprooted, mainly women, children, and other vulnerable groups, said Mohammed.

The situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the "triple crisis" of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, the rising cost of

living, skyrocketing inequality and the Ukraine crisis, she added.

The high-ranking UN official continued to note that further threats stem from structural governance omissions within the banking and global financial systems, while scientists warn of cascading and irreversible impacts of global warming.

Addressing these challenges means changing our response to risk through systemic thinking, collaborative action, and the smart, agile deployment of responses to prevent, manage and mitigate global risks," she said.

For General Assembly President Csaba Korosi, the midterm review was the "last chance before 2030 to collectively change course," underscoring the critical need for action.

Korosi noted that recent events, such as the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, as well as the devastating Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar and Bangladesh, have demonstrated that "disasters know no borders."

Addressing disaster risks and bolstering resilience have become "a priority for all countries," irrespective of their geographic location, he added.

Reflecting on the progress made since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015, Korosi acknowledged that the international community's efforts have not kept pace with the urgency of the



In this file photo dated June 30, 2022, people wearing face masks to protect against COVID-19 ride a subway in Paris. (PHOTO / AP)

current situation, calling for "a fundamental reevaluation" of the decision-making processes and systems.

He emphasized the need to align global actions with the finite nature of natural resources and to account for the true costs of the choices of countries.

Korosi also stressed the importance of shifting away from profit-driven approaches and towards "inclusive and sustainable development."

Mami Mizutori, the head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, noted that it has not been all storm and strife since 2015.

For example, she said, a growing number of governments have established or upgraded national loss accounting systems, and there has been a significant increase in the number of countries with national strategies for disaster risk reduction.

However, progress remains unequal. Risks that become disasters continue to disproportionately impact the world's least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing and African coun-

tries, as well as middle-income countries, Mizutori said.

With risks left unattended and disasters outpacing our capacity to manage, the consequences for individuals, communities, and ecosystems are becoming increasingly severe, said Mizutori, noting that "the imperative to realize the outcome, goal and targets of the Sendai Framework is more important today than ever before."

This point was further emphasized by Mustafa Kemal Kilinc from Türkiye, who survived the devastating earthquake in February that killed upwards of 50,000 people.

"I am here today because our building did not collapse. This is because our contractor had applied high standards to make our building earthquake resistant," said the 23-year-old university student.

"We cannot predict natural disasters. But we can certainly be prepared whenever and wherever they happen," he said. "I hope that as a result of your work, there will be fewer disaster victims like me around the world."

Xinhua

Xi chairs milestone summit, hails new era of China-C. Asia ties

XI'AN

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday hailed the new era of China-Central Asia relations and announced a slew of proposals and measures to strengthen their cooperation, as he chaired a high-profile summit in the northwestern city of Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

China and Central Asian countries have joined hands over the past decade to usher in a new era of their relations, Xi said while delivering a keynote speech at the China-Central Asia Summit, the first in-person summit attended by heads of state of China and the five Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The relations between China and Central Asian countries have great vigor and vitality in the new era, Xi said.

Highlighting the important geographic location of the region, Xi said the world needs a Central Asia that is stable, prosperous, harmonious and well-connected.

The sovereignty, security, independence and territorial integrity of Central Asian countries must be safeguarded, the development paths independently chosen by Central Asian people must be respected, and the efforts made by the region to pursue peace, amity and tranquility must be supported, he noted.

"No one has the right to sow discord or stoke confrontation in the region, let alone seek selfish po-



President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote address at the China-Central Asia Summit held in the city of Xi'an, Northwest China's Shaanxi province on Friday, May 19, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

litical interests," Xi said, adding that the region has the right foundation, condition and capability to become an important connectivity hub of Eurasia and make unique contribution to the trading of goods, the interplay of civilizations and the development of science and technology in the world.

From Wednesday to Thursday, Xi met or held talks with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

Speaking to Xi, the Central Asian leaders expressed their confidence and resolve to strengthen cooperation with China and pursue common development.

In Xi'an, the historical starting point of the ancient Silk Road, Xi held a banquet for the leaders Thursday evening in the Tang Para-

dise, a complex based on the site of the original relic of an imperial garden dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

In 2013, Xi put forward the initiative of jointly building a Silk Road Economic Belt in Kazakhstan, which was met with enthusiastic response and active participation from Central Asian countries.

Over the past decade, the joint development of the Belt and Road Initiative between China and Central Asian countries has yielded fruitful results, playing an exemplary role in Eurasia and even in the international community.

China-Central Asia community with shared future

In his keynote speech at the summit, Xi said that to build a China-Central Asia community with a shared future, efforts should be made to stay committed to the four principles of mutual assistance,

common development, universal security, and everlasting friendship.

China and Central Asian countries should deepen strategic mutual trust, and always offer clear and strong support to each other on issues of core interests such as those involving sovereignty, independence, national dignity and long-term development, he said.

Xi called on the six countries to continue to set the pace for Belt and Road cooperation, to fully unlock the potentials in traditional areas of cooperation such as economy, trade, industrial capacity, energy and transportation, and to forge new drivers of growth in finance, agriculture, poverty reduction, green and low-carbon development, medical service, health, and digital innovation.

The six countries should resolutely oppose external interference in the internal affairs of regional countries and attempts to instigate "color revolutions," and maintain a zero-tolerance stance against the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, he said.

They should carry forward their traditional friendship, enhance people-to-people exchanges, do more to share their experience in governance, deepen cultural mutual learning, and increase mutual understanding, he added.

Closer cooperation

The summit has been lauded for creating a new platform and opening up new prospects for China-Central Asia cooperation.

In his speech, Xi made an eight-point proposal for strengthening cooperation, ranging from expanding economic ties to promoting cultural exchanges and safeguarding regional peace.

China proposes the establishment of meeting and dialogue mechanisms on industry and investment, agriculture, transportation, emergency response, education, and political parties, Xi said.

More trade facilitation measures will be rolled out and bilateral investment treaties will be upgraded to push two-way trade to new heights, he said, pledging to support the development of the trans-Caspian international transport corridor and encourage capable enterprises to build overseas warehouses in Central Asian countries.

China will formulate a cooperation program for poverty reduction through science and technology, Xi said. Chinese companies in Central Asian countries will be encouraged to create more local jobs. China will provide Central Asian countries with a total of 26 billion yuan (about US\$3.7 billion) in financing support and grants.

China is ready to help Central Asian countries strengthen capacity building on law enforcement, security and defense in an effort to safeguard peace in the region, Xi said, adding that efforts should be made to leverage the role of the coordination mechanism among Afghanistan's neighbors, and jointly promote peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan. Xinhua

PM Modi leaves for Japan in first leg of three-nation visit

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday left for Japan to attend the G7 Summit in Hiroshima in the first leg of his three-nation visit during which he will also visit Papua New Guinea and Australia.

India has been invited as a guest country for the G7 summit. The broad terms of the G7 summit preferences regarding their outreach with the invited guest countries are nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and economic security, regional issues, climate and energy and food and health and development. During his visit, PM Modi is likely to have a series of bilateral meetings including with Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Friday that there is a plan for Quad leaders meeting in Hiroshima. The Quad meeting, which was scheduled to be held in Australia, was cancelled after US President Joe Biden deferred his visit due to the crucial debt-ceiling talks in Washington.

In his departure statement, PM Modi said his presence at the G7 Summit is particularly meaningful as India this year holds the G20 Presidency. G7 Summit will be held in Japan's Hiroshima from May 19-21.

"I will leave for Hiroshima, Japan to attend the G7 Summit under the Japanese Presidency at the invitation of Mr. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan. It will be a pleasure to meet Prime Minister Kishida again after his recent visit to India for the India - Japan Summit. My presence in this G7 Summit is particularly meaningful as India holds the G20 Presidency this year," the statement said. ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi enplaning for Japan to attend G7 Summit at the invitation of Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan, in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

Iran condemns G7 for financial allegations

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Thursday "strongly" condemned the finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) for "baseless" accusing Iran of being a source of "illicit financing risk."

Nasser Kanaani made the remarks in a statement published on the Iranian Foreign Ministry's website, in response to part of a joint statement published by the G7 finance ministers after their meeting in Niigata, Japan, on May 13, in which they said: "We are deeply concerned with illicit financing risk emanating from Iran."

"We vehemently condemn that part of the G7 finance ministers' statement that levels a baseless and delusional accusation against Iran," said Kanaani.

Kanaani urged the G7 and its members to stop their "deplorable" compliance with the US "illegal" sanctions, which he says have violated the fundamental principles of international law and Iranian people's human rights.

He added the G7 members should, instead of participating in and approving of such "unilateral and unfair positions," be held accountable for their "flagrant violations" of international regulations.

The US intensified its unilateral sanctions on Iran following its pullout from a nuclear deal in 2018. The deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, was signed between Tehran and world powers in July 2015.

The G7 is an intergovernmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States. The European Union is a "non-enumerated member."



This file photo was released on Thursday, August 11, 2022, by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani speaks in Tehran, Iran. AP

NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi reschedules USA visit, now to fly on May 28

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi who was scheduled to fly to the United States for 10 days on May 31 has postponed his tour and will now embark on his journey on May 28, sources said.

Rahul Gandhi (pictured) will attend a programme at Stanford University and meet the Indian diaspora on May 29-30. He was earlier scheduled to embark on a 10-day visit to the USA beginning on May 31.

Rahul Gandhi dominated the headlines as he returned from London after giving speeches at Cambridge University, critical of the government and throwing light on Indian democracy. In March 2023, Rahul Gandhi deliv-

ered a speech at Cambridge University, at a convention organized by the Association of Journalists in London, and finally during an in-conversation session at the Chatham House think tank in London.

"Everybody knows and it's been in the news a lot that Indian democracy is under pressure and under attack. I am an Opposition leader in India, we are navigating that (Opposition) space," Rahul Gandhi said at Cambridge University in the UK.

"The institutional framework which is required for a democratic Parliament, free press, the judiciary, just the



idea of mobilization, moving around all are getting constrained. So, we are facing an attack on the basic structure of Indian democracy," he had added.

The remarks by the Congress MP gave fresh ammunition to the ruling BJP, who demanded an apology from Gandhi.

Several of his statements in the UK stoked controversy in India. BJP intensified its attack on Rahul Gandhi with party chief JP Nadda alleging he is a "permanent part of the anti-India toolkit"

The BJP leader demanded an apology from the former Wayanad MP.

The second leg of the Budget session of Parliament witnessed deadlock. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wanted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to apologize for remarks that he made in London about democracy in India; the Congress insisted on the constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe allegations of dubious financial transactions and dishonest business practices against the Adani Group of companies.

On April 11, Gandhi was disqualified from his position as a Member of Parliament after his conviction in a defamation case. He was disqualified

in accordance with Article 102(1)(e) of the Indian Constitution read with Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951. ANI



The remarks by the Congress MP gave fresh ammunition to the ruling BJP, who demanded an apology from Gandhi

AU Commission chief calls for African solidarity on continental security

KIGALI

AFRICAN Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat has called for African solidarity in dealing with security issues on the continent.



Speaking during a panel discussion Thursday on "Foreign Interference in Africa: The Enduring Destabilizing Factor" during the ongoing National Security Symposium in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, Faki (pictured) said there is a need to operationalize African institutions and theoretical instruments designed to achieve the "collective security of the continent."

He said undermining Africa's established mechanisms opens a window for external forces to interfere in African issues. "There is also the weakness of intra-African solidarity," Faki said.

"Very often governments justify their calling upon other forces due to the fact that they are not able to face certain situations.

They resort to external forces in order to maintain peace in their territories." "It is not by pointing fingers at others that we are going to solve the problem. We have to question our behavior," he said.

The three-day conference, which opened on Wednesday, drew defense chiefs, policymakers, diplomats and scholars from across the continent and beyond.

Under the theme "Contemporary Security Challenges: The African Perspective," the symposium offered an opportunity to deliberate on practical solutions to address complex security issues across the globe and on the African continent in particular. Panelists cited various cases of foreign interference in Africa's conflicts, such as the conflict in Libya.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta said since the colonial era Africa has experienced foreign interference with external forces seeking to exert control over the continent in order to exploit its resources.

"Foreign interference is not a new phenomenon and it is not just about Africa. It has existed in various forms throughout history and it will persist in the years to come," he warned.

The discussions focus on good governance, migration and brain drain, foreign interference, the African Continental Free Trade Area, foreign technologies, and peacekeeping operations. Over 300 participants were attending the symposium co-organized by the Rwanda Defense Force Command and Staff College, and the University of Rwanda. **Xinhua**

Egypt working to turn archaeological museums into green sites, say official

CAIRO

EGYPT is implementing a strategy to turn its museums into green sites using clean energy, an Egyptian official has said.

"There is a plan to use clean energy, such as solar energy, at Egypt's museums to turn them into green ones," Moamen Othman, head of the Museums Sector at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, told Xinhua in an interview ahead of the 2023 International Museum Day on Thursday, with the theme of Museums, Sustainability and Well-being.

Othman said the plan will start in five museums, including the Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, the Manial Palace Museum in Cairo, the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, and the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo. "There is an experiment that is being done in the Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandria to be a pioneering experience by converting it into a green museum," he said.

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), which will be open soon, will be Egypt's first eco-friendly museum, with several services provided to meet the required standards for sustainability in its environmental, economic and cultural dimensions.

Othman said Egypt has 43 archaeological museums, which house about 730,000 displayed or stocked artifacts. "There are museums that represent a specific type of heritage, such as the Mummification Museum, the Crocodile Museum in Kom Ombo in Aswan.

Xinhua

China-Russia cooperation robust, has great potential – Chinese Foreign Ministry

BEIJING

COOPERATION between China and Russia is very strong with great potential, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a briefing yesterday.



"Cooperation between China and Russia, the largest neighbors and major countries with forming markets, is very robust, it has great potential," the diplomat said, commenting on a visit of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin to China. He noted that during the visit, the sides "will hold a profound exchange of opinions on the subject of practical cooperation and the issues of mutual interest."

The spokesman added that Beijing hoped that the Russian prime minister's visit to China "will give a potent impulse to the recovery of the global economy."

Earlier, the Russian government's press service said that Mishustin would visit Beijing and Shanghai on May 23-24. At talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang he will discuss cooperation on industry, energy, transport and agriculture.

On March 21, during his Moscow visit, Xi Jinping invited the Russian prime minister to visit China as soon as possible to establish close ties. **Agencies**

Israel's 'Flag March' in Jerusalem rattles Palestinians

JERUSALEM

TENS of thousands of Israeli nationalists marched through the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's walled Old City under heavy security on Thursday in an annual event that drew condemnation from Palestinians.

The parade is the main celebration on Jerusalem Day, when Israel marks its capture of Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war. The event has become a show of force for Jewish nationalists and, for Palestinians, a blatant provocation meant to undermine their ties to the city.

Despite fears the event could spark a renewed violence following days of cross-border fire with Palestinian militant fighters in Gaza last week, the march ended with no major security incidents.

During the afternoon, rowdy crowds of Jewish youth danced and chanted, and there were heated confrontations, with shouts of "Death to Arabs" and other slogans. A number of journalists covering the event were attacked by marchers.

As the march ended in a mass gathering in front of the Western Wall, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the march to go ahead despite security concerns. "Jerusalem will stay united forever," he said.

Around 2,500 officers were assigned to the march to keep it peaceful, according to police who prepared for all scenarios, including violence and anti-Arab chants by some marchers toward Palestinians.

As crowds gathered at the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City during the afternoon at the start of the march, a handful of flags belonging to Lehava, a far-right anti-Arab group, could be seen among the mass of blue and white Israeli national flags.

Many Palestinian shopkeepers shuttered their businesses in the Old City, where march organizers hung Israeli flags along the narrow alleyways.

Earlier on Thursday, hundreds of Jewish pilgrims, including



Israelis wave national flags and shout slogans towards Palestinians during a march in Jerusalem's Old City, on Thursday. AP

members of parliament, toured the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in the Old City. The site, which Muslims call the Noble Sanctuary, is the third holiest in Islam and also revered by Jews as the Temple Mount, a vestige of their faith's two ancient temples.

The visits passed without incident, but Palestinians have been angered by the rising number of Jewish visitors to the compound, some of whom defy a ban on non-Muslim prayer there.

Jordan, which has a custodial role over the Muslim and Christian holy

sites of Jerusalem, condemned the visits as a provocation that risked escalating tensions.

Flag marches

Palestinians view the heavily policed Jerusalem Day procession as part of a broader campaign to bolster Jewish presence across the city to their detriment.

Israel, which decades ago annexed East Jerusalem in a move that has not won international recognition, regards the entire city as its capital. Palestinians want East Jerusalem, the part captured by Israel in

1967, as the capital of a future state that would include the West Bank and Gaza.

"Jerusalem, with its Islamic and Christian sanctities, is the eternal capital of the State of Palestine," Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said in a statement.

Palestinians organized their own flag marches across the Israeli-occupied West Bank and in Palestinian Islamist-ruled Gaza on Thursday, with some processions only a few hundred meters away from the Israel-Gaza separation fence.

In Gaza, senior Hamas official Bassem Naim said the group was not interested in an escalation of conflict with Israel.

During the 2021 march, Hamas, the Islamist group that governs the blockaded coastal enclave, fired rockets into Israel that triggered an 11-day war which killed at least 250 Palestinians in Gaza and 13 people in Israel.

Last month, an Israeli police raid in the Al-Aqsa compound drew rocket fire from groups in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria.

Hamas has cast itself as a defender of Jerusalem's Palestinians and Muslim holy sites in recent years. But with another round of fighting between Israel and Gaza militants ending only last week, in which 34 Palestinians and an Israeli were killed, the appetite for more hostilities appeared low.

Egypt, which mediated Saturday's truce, spoke to Israeli and Palestinian factions ahead of the march in efforts to reduce tensions.

Agencies

Radioactive cloud from Ukraine's eliminated munitions drifts to Europe – Security Council

SYKTYVKAR

THE destruction of depleted uranium munitions supplied by the West to Ukraine has caused a radioactive cloud that is drifting towards Europe, Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev said at a conference in Syktyvkar yesterday.

He drew attention to the fact that US President Joe Biden arrived in Japan on Thursday to attend the G7 summit.

"Including to uphold, as the Americans believe, 'common democratic values.' The heads of Western countries under US pressure will also discuss aid to Ukraine," Patrushev pointed out.

He noted that "the Americans have 'helped' other countries in this way more than once in history.

"They 'helped' Ukraine too, by putting pressure on their satellites



Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Nikolay Patrushev

and supplying depleted uranium munitions. Their elimination has caused a radioactive cloud that is now moving towards Western Europe. An increase in radiation levels has already been registered in Poland," Patrushev warned.

In addition, he continued, "the US is developing and already using chemical and biological weapons, including in Ukraine."

Patrushev recalled that in August 1945, without any military necessity, the US dropped A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which caused "disastrous consequences and the death of a huge number of civilians."

"They didn't apologize! And they are not going to apologize for what they have done. They keep brainwashing the Japanese to make them think that it was the Soviet Union, not the United States, that used nuclear weapons against them," Patrushev stated. "That's what American aid and democracy is all about!" **Agencies**

Countdown begins for G20 meet in Kashmir

SRINAGAR

THE stage is all set for the third G20 tourism working group meeting scheduled to take place in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir from May 22-24, 2023 under India's presidency.

According to a report, there has been a resurgence of confidence among the youth that foreign tourists would soon start travelling to Kashmir in great numbers.

Tourism, the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy absorbs the labour force from unskilled to the unorganized sector, which gives impetus to educational unemployment.

Kirmani Aafaq, a recent pass-out graduate from Government Degree College, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district expressed his optimism that the summit would give the tourism sector a much-needed boost and help youth to earn their livelihood.

"Unemployed youth here in Jammu and Kashmir is hopeful that the countries that had put

travel advisories restraining their citizens from travelling to Kashmir will be lifted.

As we know dignitaries from 20 different countries will attend this summit here in Srinagar and discuss tourism, unemployment, and socioeconomic development in different regions, with this event we will see a huge footfall of foreign tourists here in the valley.

And definitely after a huge footfall, there will be more employment to unemployed youth" said Kirmani.

"Kashmir is heaven on earth but over the year terrorism has made it hell on earth. Now the Government of India has accelerated the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir, which had been neglected for decades.

Now there will be a further boom in tourism after the G20 summit, which holds more relevance in J-K, as it will go a long way in controlling the menace of terrorism in the Union Territory," Kirmani further said.

In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Today, the

development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, is one of top priorities.

Whether it is women empowerment, opportunities for youth, the welfare of the downtrodden, or oppressed our government is taking decisions for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir."

According to the report, with great potential to grow further, tourism has a great contribution to employment generation.

With its abundance of pilgrimage, and ecotourism destinations, J-K has the potential to transform its entire economy by creating more jobs.

"Tourism is one of the most important sectors of the economy here in Jammu and Kashmir. Tourism is providing employment to a large number of people in UT.

Due to its labour-intensive nature, this industry has a large potential for creating jobs and requires less investment than other economic sectors," said Hanan Qadir, a Business student from south Kashmir's Kulgam district. **ANI**

Chinese enterprises participate in Kenya's university job fair to scout for talent

NAIROBI

TWENTY Chinese enterprises participated in the innovation and job fair organized by the University of Nairobi, Kenya's oldest university, from May 17 to 19.

Convened by the University of Nairobi and its Confucius Institute, the 2023 Nairobi Innovation Week and University Student Job Fair attracted hundreds of visitors, including students, faculty members and potential employers.

The three-day innovation and job fair sought to enhance academia-industry linkages, help local and foreign companies, including the ones from China, showcase their products and interact with potential employees.

Six of the 20 Chinese enterprises participating in the jobs fair showcased their innovations, while 18 of them placed nearly 200 jobs for qualified university students to apply. The Chinese firms were keen to recruit engineers, sales representatives, marketing specialists, lawyers, translators, accountants, digital commerce and human resources specialists.

In addition, nine representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Kenya and Chinese enterprises participated in various forums to highlight strides in scientific research and innovation as well as enterprise development in the Asian nation.

During a panel discussion, representatives of Chinese enterprises operating in Kenya expressed the desire to recruit local youth who are qualified in diverse disciplines like engineering, digital technology, human resources and marketing.

Wang Desheng, manager of

Unique Human Resources Group, said that university graduates with outstanding qualifications as well as soft skills like empathy, teamwork and perseverance are in a vantage position to secure gainful employment.

"Your confidence is also important to help you secure a well-paying job. We are also keen to hire students with some proficiency in Mandarin (standard Chinese language)," said Wang. Mathew Kiptoo, a recruitment specialist at Huawei Technologies Kenya Company Ltd, said the Chinese telecoms firm is willing to forge robust partnerships with tertiary institutions to help groom the workforce of the future.

Huawei, according to Kiptoo, has been recruiting university students who have excelled in various disciplines like software engineering, besides mentoring them to become competent employees.

Johnson Kinyua, the dean of students at the University of Nairobi, challenged students aspiring to work in Chinese firms to improve their proficiency in Mandarin, endeavor to sharpen their skills in emerging technologies and embrace the team spirit. According to Kinyua, Chinese enterprises have been providing Kenya's university students with industrial placements where they are trained and mentored to improve their capacity to secure well-paying jobs in the public and private sectors.

Stephen Njuya, a 20-year-old education major at the University of Nairobi, said that during his visit to booths of Chinese firms, he was impressed by their products and the employment opportunities they were offering to local youth.

Xinhua



Your confidence is also important to help you secure a well-paying job. We are also keen to hire students with some proficiency in Mandarin (standard Chinese language)

Kenya invites private firms to develop 100 dams, tackling water scarcity

NAIROBI

KENYA on Thursday placed a bid for private firms to develop 100 dams country-wide amid intensified efforts to tackle water scarcity occasioned by climate change and population pressure.

Alice Wahome, cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation, said the government will provide financial incentives and a conducive regulatory environment for private companies to develop water storage and irrigation infrastructure.

"We have embarked on a process of increasing the water storage capacity that includes the construction of 100 large dams through

the public-private partnership model in order to mobilize additional resources for investments in the sector," Wahome said during an investors conference in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

To win bids for developing the 100 dams, private companies must demonstrate financial autonomy, technical expertise, and commitment to environmental conservation, Wahome said.

Kenya's total water storage capacity for hydropower, domestic use and irrigation stands at 5.03 billion cubic meters, translating into 107 cubic meters per capita, below the recommended global average of 1,500 cubic meters per capita, Wahome said. She

added that increasing water storage capacity in the country in the face of soaring demand for the commodity-linked to rapid population growth, intensive farming, and industrialization, required innovative financing and policy realignment.

Wahome noted that Kenya's annual per capita freshwater endowment estimated at 406 million cubic meters in 2022 risks declining further due to recurrent droughts, depletion of catchments and unregulated extraction of the commodity.

She said that President William Ruto's commitment to building 100 dams to cater for domestic water supply and irrigation will be implemented in full, so as to realize

a people-centered economic transformation agenda.

At present, Kenya has seven large dams with an estimated 3.976 billion cubic meters of stored water for hydropower generation and another 99 medium and over 3,000 small dams and pans with a storage capacity of 160.25 million cubic meters of water for domestic supply and irrigation, Wahome said.

She said that five large dams that are currently under construction will add 894 million cubic meters of water, and boost access to the commodity in the mushrooming rural towns.

Xinhua

SPORT



Youth basketball players during a training session at JMK Park in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Stage acting tough game for artistes, stamped with images of characters

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

AN undercurrent of the cultural and artistic situation in the country at times comes up on airwaves, as of late an actor and broadcasting pundit has been trying to put the record straight on what kind of person he is. He made a routine profile of a man who they say in French is 'sans histoire,' someone without a trail of bad language about him, about this or that negative event. Yet this is precisely what he was bent on putting out, arising not from real-life situations but the roles he did on TV, etc.

Depending on anyone's actual exposure with the matter in the past or at present, there is some memory of actors finding it has to socially interact, engage in business associations or suchlike, as those who meet them show a fear of such links. The reason is that the fellow plays the role of an ingenious trickster on film, and it socially becomes his real character, which is decidedly a lamentable view of the matter. The first time this matter came up (at least in relation to the above fellow and there is need not to cite names) was ten years ago or so, but it persists.

There is an expression that when an anomaly is noticed twice in different times and in comparable circumstances, it must be valid as an impression, which makes the recent expression of impact of stage roles a fact of society. If someone would have explained ten years ago that people aren't as yet sufficiently used to stage roles and thus see them as real facts of life, it is unlikely that one could say the same thing today. Who really is unaware of the difference between acting and living, in Dar?

While there is scarcely a dearth of 'education' on the difference between what one does on television and what does in life, it appears there is a systematic fault at the level of society to adhere to this distinction. This much cannot be denied or be wished away, and thus it will impair the development of artistes or taking up roles locally, or prefer roles that are socially harmless.

It means certain kind of film that has acute portraying in one or another will be victim of this vast societal handicap.

Indeed one has to ask around if the famous well-built artiste who played roles of a fraudster in films around 2000-2006 at most would still be in the film industry, or doing some other thing, audiovisual or elsewhere.

It wasn't a slight matter on his part, being permanently stamped with 'the mark of Cain'

and most people avoiding any actual dealings with him. He protested, and perhaps opted to slip out, silently.

Evidently that option is also available on the youthful protestor of the past few years, not in the generation of actors or television jesters at the turn of the century, but facing more or less the same situation. He was telling the public on a sister radio with this newspaper that he is a normal guy, in which case those he meets need not have worries about this or that, and in that regard, perhaps he receives queer smiles from ladies, the all-knowing, gleeful gesture. It would actually hurt.

But the problem remains as to why this confusion between acting and social life persists, why it has failed to go away even after two decades of dozens of films shown on local TV with individuals playing various roles? Part of the reason is that films, like other audiovisual programmes, have an unavoidable touch of reality surrounding them, and using a marker pen to lay the limits is a problem. In that sense the proximity between acting and life is negligible; only aptitude sorts it out.

There comes the thousand dollar question as to how far there is a real deficit of social attitudes where too many people can't distinguish between life and fiction.

Chances are that there is no deficit but there are worries that what is being acted can apply in life, for the simple reason that the level of trust between one person and another is severely limited, so we tend to worry over anything we know or are made to believe about someone/Acting a fraudster leads to bad mouthing; it sticks.

That is perhaps where the shoe pinches, that as a society we are more inclined to pay attention to rants about this or that bad thing either happening or believed to be happening, without actually trying to evaluate how true it is. At times people add colour or the proverbial salt to what they hear, so that it is sweeter, and end up believing not just what they heard but also what was added.

When recounting the take to someone else, at another street corner talk shop, they will add even more 'salt,' that that the reality is totally obliterated.

No more stage role; just a fraudster, and when one meets the victims or enthusiasts of those street constructions of his character, chances are that he would not exactly wish to meet them any time soon.

SPORTS

EAC bid commits 'to deliver' nine Afcon stadiums

By Special Correspondent and agencies

WHEN the news of East Africa's joint bid to host the Africa Cup of Nations in 2027 broke on April 28, the biggest question that arose was; how?

In fact, it has raised more questions than answers and optimism owing to the deep infrastructure challenges and due to the history.

On the latter, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, the three countries involved, have no track record of pulling major sports events.

In fact, Kenya has twice won the rights to stage continental tournament finals, the Afcon in 1996 and the African Nations Championships (Chan) in 2018, but both times was stripped of hosting rights due to the lack of internationally-approved stadiums.

The actual bid document remains a top secret as our endless efforts to secure it are yet to yield fruits.

However, it has been learnt that the manuscript that was due to be submitted recently had each of the three countries agreeing to avail three stadiums.

Kenya Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba on May 9 said Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania had agreed to present three stadiums each in the document dubbed the East African Community (EAC) "Pamoja Bid" for the 24-team tournament.

Uganda has had no Caf-approved stadium for nearly three years since Namboole was blacklisted in 2020 for being substandard, and Caf inspectors recommended an overhaul.

To date, the country has not been able to complete the renovation valued at Shs. 97b.

*Only Tanzania

Of the three East African nations that submitted the joint bid, Tanzania is the only country with a Caf-approved stadium, casting doubt on the bid submitted by Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to compete with Egypt, which has more than five Caf-approved stadiums.

Besides East Africa's joint bid and Egypt, Algeria and Botswana have also registered an interest in hosting Africa's premier football showpiece.

However, Fufa president Moses Magogo, who is also a Caf executive member, has often said that the continental soccer body does not base its decisions on a country's current infrastructure but rather on the country's plans to fulfil the requirements for hosting the tournament before the actual dates, as well as the commitment of the respective governments of the interested countries.

While asking for Parliament's support earlier this year, Magogo, also a legislator, further argued that submitting the bid would lead to an automatic enhancement of sports infrastructure, as this would form part of the conditions for hosting the event.

"When we host, the issues we are discussing about infrastructure will automatically be solved because there will be a requirement for us to improve on the



Benjamin Mkapa Stadium

infrastructure that we have," Magogo said.

"Fellow Ugandans, get out of the occupied mindset of negativity, Afcon hosting is awarded on plans not guarantees, not what you have," he tweeted this week.

Just like Uganda, there has been no mention of building any new stadium in Kenya. Namwamba said Kenya will present the 30,000-seater Nyayo National Stadium and the 60,000-seater Moi International Sports Centre (MISC). Reports indicate that Kipchoge Keino Stadium will be the third venue. Tanzania's Benjamin Mkapa meets Caf requirements.

The Chamazi Complex, also in Dar-es-Salaam, requires minor upgrades. The government pledged to upgrade seven stadiums on July 11, 2022.

CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza, Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha, Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, and Amani Stadium in Zanzibar were listed.

*Aspiration

In Uganda, Magogo has been leading the charge for cooperation between the three East African countries to host the event in their region since early 2022.

This aspiration gained momentum in July of the same year, when Caf President Dr. Patrice Motsepe, on a two-day visit to Uganda, encouraged Uganda and Tanzania to bid to co-host Afcon and offered his endorsement.

"President Museveni and Janet Museveni (Minister of Education and Sports) and the parliament have already approved the guarantee to host," Magogo tweeted.

On Monday, Kenya president William Ruto received his country's joint bid. Namwamba and Football Kenya Federation Nick Mwendwa presented the document to Ruto at State House, Nairobi.

The president mandated Namwamba to engage his counterparts from Uganda and Tanzania so that the three East African nations can successfully win the bid to host the biggest football competition in the continent.

"The work of prosecuting our joint bid now begins in earnest, and Kenya intends to make its full contribution to it. Hon Ababu Namwamba, Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, is duly seized of this assignment, and is mobilising his team, liaising with his counterparts in Uganda and Tanzania to formulate a winning bid so that the people of our countries can look forward to participating in a successful 2027 tournament," said Ruto.

There hasn't been the same kind of backing from the head of state in Uganda. In fact, all we have heard about President Museveni's backing is from Magogo.

Caf has set May 23 as the deadline for member associations to submit their final bids for the 24-team tournament. The first inspection visit by Caf is scheduled for between June 1 and July 15.

*Actual cost

To successfully host the 2021 Afcon, Cameroon built

three new stadiums – the 60,000-seater Olemo Stadium in Yaounde, the 50,000-seater Japoma Stadium in Douala and the 20,000-seater Bafoussam Omnisport Stadium in Bafoussam.

The 42,500-seater Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium in Yaounde, 20,000-seater Limbe Sports Stadium in Limbe and 30,000-seater Roumde Abja in Garoua were refurbished.

According to newafricanmagazine.com Cameroon spent approximately \$885m (about Sh2.02 trillion) on infrastructural development for the games.

Initially, Cameroon was supposed to host the 2019 Afcon edition but due to slow progress in preparations, it was stripped of the rights that were awarded to Egypt.

For each of the nine stadiums, countries will be required to build triple that number in training pitches.

Therefore, Uganda will also have to build nine training pitches next to the stadiums that meet the required hosting standards set by Caf, including quality of the turf, enclosed washrooms and dressing rooms. The training pitches must also be fenced and secure.

Caf's demands for any country hosting its matches are that the venues must be near an airport, level five hospital and a five-star hotel.

Each of the venues must also be accompanied by at least three training grounds.

Parimatch launches 'Chomoka Na Boda' campaign

By Guardian Correspondent

THE online sports betting firm, Parimatch Tanzania, has launched a new campaign dubbed 'CHOMOKA NA BODA' in which its customers and Tanzanians, in general, will have opportunities to win brand new motorcycles and VIVO Y22 smartphones.

Speaking during the ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Parimatch Tanzania's head of marketing department, Levis Paul, said the campaign is specific to all Parimatch customers with accounts and even new customers who will join in this period towards the end of various leagues in the world.

"From today (May 19) to June 19, this year, a Parimatch customer who bet on any game through www.parimatch.co.tz will enter directly into the draw to compete for a Hero Hunter 125cc motorcycle and a VIVO Y22 smartphone.

"Every day we will be giving out one smartphone and the winners will be announced through our social pages while a motorcycle prize will be given once a week on Fridays through a draw that will be aired live on ITV," he said.

He added: "Parimatch Tanzania has offered this opportunity to all Tanzanians, irrespective of gender, if an individual is aged 18 and above the platform is his/hers to try his/her luck today."

However, he said that TVBET, Live Casino, New Casino and Virtual games are not allowed to participate in the

campaign.

Parimatch Tanzania, according to the Information and Communication Officer, Ismael Mohamed, is the leading online betting firm that has been offering a huge invitation bonus of up to 1,000,000/- for new customers joining the firm.

The firm has been operating in

Tanzania since 2019, providing good service including fast payments, large odds, and exciting promotions in football, casino, and virtual games.

Parimatch Tanzania moreover offers hundreds of daily events on tennis, UFC, basketball, cricket, baseball, and many other live and pre-match games.



Parimatch Tanzania's head of marketing department Levis Paul (2nd R) speaks during the launch of 'CHOMOKA NA BODA' campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He was accompanied by Parimatch Tanzania director Erick Gerald (2nd L), and Parimatch Tanzania's ambassadors, Masatu Amon Ndaru (L), and Steve Mweusi. (PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT)

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If someone would have explained ten years ago that people aren't as yet sufficiently used to stage roles and thus see them as real facts of life, it is unlikely that one could say the same thing today. Who really is unaware of the difference between acting and living, in Dar?

Bayern face resurgent Leipzig with Dortmund nipping at their heels

BERLIN

WITH two rounds of the Bundesliga season remaining, Bayern Munich face a tricky trip to their title hopes, at home against a resurgent RB Leipzig on Saturday.

One point ahead of Borussia Dortmund atop the Bundesliga table, Bayern know winning their next two games will ensure a record-extending 11th straight Bundesliga title.

While perennial bridesmaids Dortmund face a tricky trip to Augsburg, Bayern face a team who have won seven of their past eight.

Promoted for the first time before the 2016-17 season, Leipzig has since emerged as a realistic challenger for Dortmund's status as the best German team after Bayern.

Champions League semi-finalists in 2019-20, Leipzig are the current German Cup holders. The Saxons have qualified for this year's final, their fourth trip to Berlin's showpiece event in the past five years.

Leipzig sit third and can guarantee Champions League football next season with a win in Munich.

Leipzig manager Marco Rose, who spent the 2021-22 season as Dortmund coach, said he knew what was at stake but was focused on his own side.

"The fact is I don't begrudge Dortmund fans from wanting to win the title, but at the end of the day it's about us."

A title race going to the final weeks is rare in the Bundesliga and it could be decided this weekend, if Bayern win and Dortmund drop points on Sunday.

Even if Leipzig manage to claim a point or better, Dortmund face an unpredictable opponent in Augsburg, who beat Bayern at home in September.

Augsburg manager Enrico Maassen, who spent several years coaching Dortmund's juniors, told German tabloid Bild said he knew how much his "old home" wanted to win the title.

"I would be happy if Dortmund became champions" Maassen said on Tuesday, but added Augsburg would "give everything" to win on Sunday.

Bayern President Herbert Hainer promised Augsburg a truck filled with beer if they manage to take a point off Dortmund.

Maassen said "we don't have

many beer drinkers in our team, but our fans would certainly be happy about it."

Fighting for a top four spot in the Premier League, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said on Tuesday he would "cross his fingers in front of the TV" for Dortmund to take the lead in the title race this weekend.

Klopp was at the helm the last time Dortmund won the Bundesliga back in 2011-12.

"I believe the boys can do it" Klopp told Germany's Sportbild on Tuesday. "After 11 years, the shield belongs back in Dortmund."

One to watch: Jude Bellingham (Borussia Dortmund)

Jude Bellingham's importance to Borussia Dortmund could be seen in Saturday's win over Borussia Moenchengladbach, when the 19-year-old was asked to take a penalty with his side leading 1-0.

Bellingham, who played part of the second half with the captain's armband, converted the penalty, his 14th goal of the season in all competitions, and Dortmund won 5-2 to stay one point behind Bayern with two games remaining.

"It was a high-pressure moment and I thought I could handle it so I wanted to take the penalty" Bellingham said in an interview published Thursday.

"In the end, maybe I got a little lucky but if it goes in then that's all I care about."

According to Borussia Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl, more than just the German title might be at stake in his side's final two games of the season, away against Augsburg and then at home to Mainz.

"I don't see us as not having a chance" of retaining Bellingham, whose contract runs until 2025, Kehl said on Sunday.

"I believe that if we become German champions this year, it shows you are very ambitious -- and beating Bayern also sends a signal."

AFP

“

I would be happy if Dortmund became champions" Maassen said on Tuesday, but added Augsburg would "give everything" to win on Sunday

Valencia aiming for vital win over reeling Madrid

MADRID

VALENCIA are hoping to take advantage of a shell-shocked Real Madrid on Sunday at Mestalla to earn vital points in their La Liga survival bid.

Los Che won last weekend at Celta Vigo with a last-gasp winner while their relegation rivals Espanyol, Getafe, Real Valladolid, Cadiz and Almeria all lost.

It left them 14th, three points clear of the drop zone with four matches remaining, as they head into a crucial clash with last season's champions.

Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid travel to Spain's east coast on the back of a painful thrashing by Manchester City in the Champions League semi-finals, a week after rivals Barcelona ripped the La Liga title out of their hands.

Valencia will hope Madrid arrive a broken team, desperate for the season to end, rather than aiming to make a point and play for their pride as Dani Carvajal threatened on Wednesday.

"There are still games to go, we want to finish as high as possible (and) respect opponents who still have a lot on the line," Carvajal told Movistar in the wake of City's triumph.

"We'll judge our season on June 4." However, Madrid looked lost at the Etihad Stadium, with veteran midfielders Luka Modric and Toni Kroos over-run, Karim Benzema uninvolved, wingers Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo isolated.

Defender Eder Militao scored an own goal, continuing his bad run

of form, while Eduardo Camavinga was exposed out of position at left-back, undoing his progress there.

Ruben Baraja's Valencia have plenty of talented attackers who can try to take advantage of Madrid's defensive woes, including on-loan Atletico Madrid winger Samuel Lino.

The Brazilian has become crucial for Los Che, with three goals in his last five La Liga games.

"We never thought we couldn't achieve salvation," Lino told DAZN earlier this week.

"We've always had a strong mentality, we've had very tough defeats and we've always thought keeping working, that everything is going to work out.

"Nothing is done, but we have to continue working and give everything we have to stay in the top flight."

Both Lino and striker Justin Kluivert, on loan from Roma, have both said they are open to staying at Valencia next season if possible.

But first they need to keep the six-time champions in La Liga.

Valencia were the last team outside of Spain's big three to lift the title, triumphing in 2004, before Barcelona, Madrid and later Atletico, monopolised domestic glory.

The lowest they have finished in the top flight since promotion in 1987 was 14th, the following year.

Madrid, second, are 14 points behind newly-crowned champions Barcelona and two ahead of rivals Atletico Madrid, third, who host Osasuna on Sunday.

AFP

Relentless Man City on the brink of Premier League glory

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are preparing for their Premier League coronation -- the first leg of a potential treble that would write the club's name into the history books.

Victory at home for Pep Guardiola's side against Chelsea on Sunday would seal the deal but it will be all over the previous day if Arsenal lose to relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest.

Liverpool are still in the hunt for a top-four finish after seven straight wins while Leicester and Leeds look destined for the drop.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the weekend's action in the English top flight.

City chase history

Last season City were pushed to the limit by Liverpool, only sealing the title after a thrilling comeback from 2-0 down against Aston Villa on the final day of the season.

This year they are in a more comfortable position after winning their past 11 games to take a vice-like grip on the Premier League.

Arsenal, for so long front-runners, must avoid defeat at Forest to keep the race alive but it is now a question of if, rather than when, for Guardiola's team.

Even if Arsenal win at Forest, few would back against City beating Chelsea at the Etihad and becoming Premier League champions for a third straight year.

It would be their fifth title in six years, underlining their dominance in the richest league in the world.

Once they have lifted the trophy, City will have the luxury of focusing on the FA Cup final against Manchester United and the Champions League final against Inter Milan as they seek to emulate United's unique 1999 treble.

Newcastle dare to dream

Newcastle are within touching dis-



Pep Guardiola

tance of a top-four finish for the first time in two decades just 19 months after the launch of their new era.

A Saudi-backed consortium bought the club in October 2021 with the Magpies in the doldrums and made it clear they were dreaming big.

Newcastle, without a major trophy since 1969, have outstripped expectations under manager Eddie Howe and will be assured of a top-four finish if Liverpool lose to Aston Villa on Sunday.

They can complete the job themselves if they beat struggling Leicester on Monday.

Fourth-placed Manchester United, three points behind Newcastle but with a game in hand, need two more wins from their final three games to guarantee Champions League football next season.

If either slip up, Liverpool are waiting to pounce, seeking to qualify for the Champions League for the seventh consecutive season.

Exit looms for sorry Leicester

Jamie Vardy still believes 19th-placed Leicester can survive in the Premier League after a horrific season but the odds are heavily stacked against them.

The 2016 champions and 2021 FA Cup winners started the campaign with six defeats in their first seven games and their sporadic mini-revivals have petered out.

The Foxes' 3-0 home defeat against Liverpool on Monday left them two points from safety with two games remaining -- against Newcastle and West Ham.

"It'll be tough but we know we've got the talent in that dressing room," said veteran striker Vardy. "It needs to click.

"We've got two games left and the minimum we can have is two wins just to give ourselves a chance."

Leeds, just one point ahead of Leicester, also face a bleak situation, with matches to come against West Ham and Tottenham.

Everton are just one point clear of the drop zone but their two remaining games are against Wolves and Bournemouth, neither of whom have anything to play for.

The other team still in real danger of joining relegated Southampton in the Championship are Forest, who host an Arsenal team with a point to prove after their painful 3-0 defeat at the hands of Brighton.

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

Today

Tottenham v Brentford (1130). Bournemouth v Man Utd. Fulham v Crystal Palace. Liverpool v Aston Villa. Wolves v Everton. Nottm Forest v Arsenal (1630)

Tomorrow

West Ham v Leeds (1230). Brighton v Southampton (1300). Manchester City v Chelsea (1500)

Monday

Newcastle v Leicester (1900)

AFP

Great joy' as Mourinho's Roma hold firm to make Europa League final

BERLIN

JOSE Mourinho's Roma remain on track for a second European trophy in two seasons after a goalless draw at Bayer Leverkusen sent them through to the Europa League final 1-0 on aggregate on Thursday.

The Europa Conference League holders created little in attack but defended doggedly, as the increasingly frustrated home side peppered their goal in search of an equaliser.

The visitors held on through eight minutes of added time and will face six-time winners Sevilla in the final in Budapest on May 31 after the Spanish side overcame Juventus in extra time in the other semi-final.

Mourinho told Sky Sport "today there is great joy after reaching another Europa League final".

Toasting his "unbelievable team", Mourinho said "I don't know if I can ask for more but these guys deserve something special."

Roma captain Lorenzo Pellegrini told Sky Sport Italia: "There are many things which Roma can and must improve, but as a true group, as a family, we have succeeded in this small feat."

Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso said "I'm not going to cry", telling the post-match press conference his side had "many reasons to be optimistic".

"I am happy, pleased and proud of the players and the way they tried until the end. We must continue, with our heads up and continue.

Leverkusen midfielder Kerem Demirbay accused Mourinho of using "ugly" defensive tactics.

"It's a shame that in a semi-final at such a high level that this type of play can be rewarded," he told Germany's RTL. "They made things very ugly at the end."

- Roma hold on -

Roma came into the game with a narrow 1-0 lead, thanks to a sec-



AS Roma coach Jose Mourinho has piloted his side to another European final.

ond-half goal from Rome-born midfielder Edoardo Bove in the first leg.

Mourinho has stayed true to the defensive tactics for which he is known during this Europa League campaign -- Roma conceded just three goals in eight knockout games on the way to the final.

Leverkusen started the game the brighter team, with 20-year-old creator Florian Wirtz pulling the strings in midfield.

Wirtz linked with France international forward Moussa Dia-

by after 12 minutes and the former Paris Saint-Germain youth product rattled the crossbar.

The same combination linked again ten minutes later, Diaby heading just wide.

Iran striker Sardar Azmoun was pulled down on the counter-attack on the edge of the box with the first-half winding down but the referee waved the incident away despite the protests of the home players.

Alonso brought on French winger Amine Adli and the French winger almost created the equaliser, finding Azmoun in the box but the Iranian dragged his shot just wide.

With the clock winding down, the home fans became increasingly incensed with the visitors' stalling tactics, resulting in eight minutes of added time.

As the full-time whistle went, an elated Mourinho went directly to the elated visiting fans.

For Roma, who are six points off fourth spot in Serie A with three games to play, the victory not only means a shot at a maiden Europa League title, but also a chance at making next year's Champions League.

Despite the elimination, Leverkusen's short-term future looks bright, with Alonso, who has lifted Leverkusen from the relegation spots to a European semi-final since taking over late last year, declaring he would be at the BayArena next season.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Guardiola's masterpiece puts Man City on brink of ending Champions League wait

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Jakaya Kikwete Sports Centre youth team players during a training session at Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Championship promotion and relegation play-offs take centre stage

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TWO NBC Premier League promotion places have already been decided - and there's one more spot left to fill through the playoffs.

Two teams have also been automatically relegated but four more are yet to guarantee their Championship status next season.

Champions JKT Tanzania and first runners-up Kitayosce will all play in the NBC Premier League next season, while Ndanda and Gwambina have been relegated and this weekend sees the beginning of the Championship League promotion and relegation play-offs.

At the top half of the table, Pamba and Mashujaa FC, who finished third and fourth, will contest the Championship promotion play-off.

On Sunday, Kigoma-based Mashujaa FC will host Pamba at Lake Tanganyika Stadium. Mwanza-based Pamba will host the return leg at Nyamagana on Sunday next week.

The aggregate winner between Mashujaa and Pamba will face the aggregate loser of the NBC Premier League relegation playoffs between the teams that finish 13th and 14th respectively to determine which team claims topflight status next season.

The first leg will be played at the home of the Championship side on June 7 and the second leg will be hosted by the Premier League team on June 10.

The two-legged tie will be preceded by the Premier League relegation playoffs to be played on May 31 and June 3. With two rounds to go, the NBC Premier League relegation playoffs candidates are yet to be confirmed.

As it stands, Mtibwa Sugar and KMC are occupying the relegation playoff spots but seven other teams, including Polisi Tanzania, in the automatic relegation place are still in the mix.

Ruvu Shooting have already dropped down to the Championship.

At the bottom half, the Championship relegation playoffs kicked off yesterday with four clubs vying to retain their status.

Pan Africans hosted Green Warriors at Uhuru stadium. Green Warriors will host the return leg on Friday next week at the same venue.

This afternoon, African Sports will entertain Copco at Mkwakwani stadium, Tanga. Mwanza-based Copco will host the second leg at CCM Kirumba on Saturday next week.

The aggregate winners of the championship relegation playoffs retain their status while aggregate losers have another chance to fight for survival in relegation and promotion playoffs with First League teams.

The promotion and relegation play-offs were introduced to the Premier League and Championship in 2018/19 following the expansion of the top tier to 20 clubs.

The league was later reduced to 16 teams but the playoffs were kept with few alterations made.

The first leg will be played at the home of the Championship side on June 7 and the second leg will be hosted by the Premier League team on June 10

Taifa Stars face tough qualification road to 2026 World Cup

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TAIFA Stars' chances of qualifying for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations finals are still hanging in the balance following a disappointing 1-0 home loss to Uganda Cranes in March, and now captain Mbwana Samatta (pictured) and team-mates face an even more difficult route to the 2026 World Cup.

Taifa Stars face a difficult path to secure a spot in the 2026 World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. This comes as a result of the qualification format announced by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on Friday.

The CAF Executive Committee approved the format and dates of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers. The new format has been adapted in line with FIFA's expanded FIFA World Cup format and will involve all the 54 member associations of CAF who will be divided into nine groups, each comprising six teams.

Winners of each group will automatically qualify for the FIFA World Cup 2026. Africa will have a total of nine teams, with the possibility of a 10th team, participating in the upcoming World Cup.

To determine the tenth representative from Africa, CAF introduced an additional opportunity.

The four best runners-up from the groups will play in a CAF Play-Off tournament. The winner of this playoff will then face a team from the CONCACAF zone for a chance to secure the tenth and final spot in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The CAF Executive Committee announced that the Official Draw of the FIFA World Cup 2026 African Qualifiers will be on Wednesday, July 12, this year in Cotonou, Benin - the night before the 45th CAF Ordinary General Assembly.

The qualifiers are scheduled to take place from November 2023 to November 2025, spanning a period of two years. The first and second match days are set to be played in November 2023, followed by the third and fourth match days in June 2024. From the fifth to the tenth match day, matches will be held throughout the entirety of 2025. Tanzania, with its population of 61 million people, has never played in the World Cup finals.

Since 1966, Taifa Stars have made ten unsuccessful World Cup qualification attempts.

In the last attempt, Taifa Stars finished third in a group that had eventual winners DR Congo, second placed Benin and Madagascar who ended bottom.

Fifa rankings will be used to determine the seedings and given that Taifa Stars are outside the list of the top 20 teams on the continent, they will be paired with at least one of the continent's big teams, which will make qualifying for the World Cup finals tough indeed.



Cedric Kaze refuses to complain about Yanga busy schedule



Cedric Kaze

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans assistant coach Cedric Kazeis has refused to complain about the heavy fixture schedule that they are faced with, saying it is part of the price of being successful as a team in all the competitions they are participating this season.

The NBC Premier League champions secured a thrilling 2-1 away victory in the CAF Confederation Cup semi-finals second leg against South Africa's Marumo Gallants to advance to the final.

Young Africans found the back of the net thanks to goals from Fiston Mayele and Kennedy Musonda, while Ranga Chvaviro scored the consolation goal for Marumo Gallants.

The victory at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium saw them progress 4-1 on aggregate, having won 2-0 in the first leg played in Dar es Salaam last week.

They become only the second Tanzanian side to make the final of a Continental showpiece, with arch-rivals Simba having qualified for the final of the then CAF Cup in 1993.

The victorious Jangwani side will now turn their attention to the domestic when they take on Singida Big Stars on Sunday at the Liti Stadium as they look to book a ticket to the Federation Cup final.

Despite only having arrived in the country yesterday dawn with only one day to recover before facing Singida Big Stars, Kaze expects a tough encounter as the match takes place in a few days' time but has refused to complain about the hectic fixture schedule as Young Africans keep chasing an unprecedented treble.

"I can't say the schedule is not fair. I can

say that these are the challenges of being successful. If we had crashed out of the CAF Confederation Cup or Federation Cup, we would have had an open schedule like our colleagues. When you reach this far in all the competitions, you get a scheduling challenge, but I can't complain," he said.

Young Africans have played a total of ten matches since April as they find themselves competing in three different competitions. In all those matches, the team has been in great form.

They have been victorious in eight of the matches, only losing once to Simba in the derby and drawing against Nigeria's Rivers United in the CAF Confederation Cup quarter-final second leg in Dar.

They successfully defended their NBC Premier League title with two games to spare following a thrilling 4-2 comeback victory over Dodoma Jiji last week at Chamazi Complex.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

