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Samia makes census day a public holiday

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has decreed Tuesday next week a public holiday to allow most people to be near their residential premises ready for the housing and population census.

This decision was announced yesterday by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who also chairs the National Census Committee, officiating at a meeting to set out final directives towards the upcoming census exercise.

The meeting brought together cabinet ministers and their deputies, permanent secretaries and heads of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the counterpart office in Zanzibar.

He said the president made the decision from a request by the committee seeking to declare next Tuesday a public holiday and accepted the request.

"Therefore August 23rd will be a public holiday to allow every Tanzanian to take part in the census," he affirmed.

"It is our responsibility to ensure everything is properly organised for smooth implementation of the exercise. We have all the laptops and other equipment in place," he declared.

A cargo flight carrying 18,900 laptops has landed the consignment at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), filling up the gap in equipment supplies, he said, directed the minister responsible for local governments, Innocent Bashungwa to ensure that motor

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AfDB issues \$75.5m loan for input support project

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday signed a \$75.5m (174.9bn/-) loan agreement with the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Tanzania Agricultural Input Support Project (TAISP) aimed at accelerated replacement of imports of fertiliser, in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Emmanuel Tutuba, the Treasury permanent secretary, said at the signing ceremony that the funds will facilitate the supply of subsidized fertiliser to ensure food security and stable prices.

The money will also be used to undertake research and development on seed multiplication to cut wheat and edible oil importation, he stated.

Tanzania had already started experiencing spill-over effects of the war in Eastern Europe, thus the need for provision of fertilizers to enhance food production, he said.

The unfortunate situation is creating food insecurity within the country and exposing the country to food price inflation as world market prices gallop, he stated.

The seed and subsidy project will add affordable grain supplies to local markets especially in urban areas, in line with the third five year development plan, he said.

It is also part of the broad agenda to build a competitive and industrial economy anchored in human development needs by improving productive infrastructure, reliable



President Samia Suluhu Hassan inspects an honour guard mounted at Kinshasa State House grounds yesterday as she began a one-day official visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Left is her host, DRC President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi. Photo: State House

TIC: 'The Royal Tour' increases investments

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) is of the conviction that 'The Royal Tour' documentary has contributed to the large increase in investment flows in the country.

John Mnali, the TIC acting executive director, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that many tourists come for sightseeing and relaxation but businessmen are found among them, who seek to find out on opportunities to invest in the country.

Speaking to journalists on the centre's successes during the 2021/2022 financial year and priorities for the current fiscal year, he said that tourism is basically competitive, with every country attracting tourists to itself.

"That's why after seeing the fruits resulting from 'The Royal Tour' film, the main goal are to ensure that the centre is ready to serve even more investors, he stated.

The good image that is created by the documentary featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan has built up the view that Tanzania is a good and suitable place to invest, he said.

'The Royal Tour' has stimulated a huge

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Mozambique security top in summit communique

By Guardian Reporter

HEADS of State and Government from member states of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) have expressed concern on maritime security threats hampering the region's development aspirations.

The final communiqué of the 42nd ordinary summit held in the DRC capital, Kinshasa, said yesterday that the leaders urged member states to expedite implementation of the SADC Maritime Integrated Strategy and its Action Plan to curb threats on the Indian Ocean rim.

Appreciating the creation of the SADC

Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre (SADC-RCTC) based in Tanzania, they urged member states to strengthen cooperation and information sharing on terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism.

This year's summit was focused on 'promoting industrialization through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth,' earlier reports stated.

The summit elected DRC President Félix Tshisekedi as chairman of SADC and Angolan

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CRDB Bank Plc's acting director of retail customer services Bonaventure Paul (3rd-R), head of marketing Joseline Kamuhanda (L), head of card business Farid Seif (2nd-L), eastern zone manager Badru Idd (2nd-R) and card business senior manager Erica Mwaipopo pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday officiating at the launch of the bank's 'Tisha Na TemboCard' promotion competition. Winners stand the chance of going to Qatar for FIFA World Cup 2022, scheduled to run from November 20 to December 18. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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Mozambique security top in summit communique

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President João Lourenço as the incoming chairman.

Receiving updates on the security situation in northern Mozambique, the summit approved extension of the SADC mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) also referring to updating related protocols towards that effect.

The Heads of State commended SAMIM personnel contributing countries for their solidarity and sacrifice in supporting the mission, expressing condolences to the governments and families of the nine deceased SAMIM personnel who died in the theatre of operations.

Following a brief report presented by Eswatini regarding the security situation in the country, and deploring the violence, the leaders mandated the head of the security organ to convene a summit of the organ troika (three member states on the security organ) plus Eswatini to find a peaceful and lasting solution to security challenges facing the country.

The summit expressed its dissatisfaction on moves in the United States against military units from

Russia taking definite roles in African conflicts. A motion for US censure of such countries was recently approved by the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the US Congress.

The communique reaffirmed the principled position of non-alignment in any conflicts outside the continent, directing that the matter be included in the agenda of the next summit of the African Union (AU).

The 42nd SADC summit was preceded by meetings of SADC senior officials and the council of ministers, preparing the agenda for the Heads of State and Government.

The council oversees the functioning of the SADC secretariat, grouping ministers of Foreign Affairs or Finance from member countries.

The ordinary summit is held annually and attended by 16 SADC member states, listed as Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, along with heads of continental and regional bodies as observers.

CSO-private sector partnerships key in mitigating social-economic development challenges - Nsekela

By Guardian Reporter

STRONG Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and private sector partnerships can help to mitigate social economic development changes in the country. Abdulmajid Nsekela, CRDB group CEO and Managing Director made the remarks yesterday during the launch of this year's CSOs week.

The week brings together key development actors and is aimed at the enhancement of relations and partnerships geared at bolstering civil society's engagement in Tanzania's development, forging new and strengthening existing collectives aimed at addressing key development challenges and to generate and exchange ideas around key development challenges.

He said that CSOs deliberate efforts to bridge the collaboration gap among civil society stakeholders are appreciated by the private sector for the advancement of people's development and nation's development.

He stated: "It is our belief that CSO-private sector partnerships are able to mitigate social-economic development challenges with greater success than individual CSO or private sector approaches."

Unfortunately, he said: "There have been limited private sector and CSOs collaborations in tackling development changes beyond philanthropic engagements. However, we are one. Inter-sectoral partnerships, between corporations, institutions, organisations, and populations, are one such innovation. We are building one nation and at large one global

community. We are developing our stories for our development. In the private sector we increasingly talk of impact investing."

Referring to investments made with the intention to generate a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return. The aim is advancing social development and economic stability.

The emphasis of social impact investment on both financial returns and social as well as environmental impact provides a great collaboration avenue to the private sector and civil society non-profit organisations. This is also in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Nsekela said: "We're looking forward to this year's CSO week, let's reflect on aligning private investment with sustainable social-economic development. Social impact investment is an important means to direct investment to further sustainable development."

"Let's celebrate people's development through stories of change made possible by civil society organisations but more importantly let's provide new channels for investing in social programmes through deliberate collaboration among varied stakeholders," he said.

Anna Henga, Legal Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Executive Director said that since its inception, there has been increasing appreciation among all stakeholders of the importance of CSO Week as a platform for comprehensive engagement between and among stakeholders.

Samia makes census day a public holiday

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of vehicles and motorbikes are on standby to ferry officials charged with the census drive.

Each municipal council will be lining up four motor vehicles and a number of motorbikes needed by census officers and clerks, so the respective directors must be in place to coordinate this work and pay census officers and clerks accordingly, he emphasised.

The officers need to be patient as the government works to ensure they are paid as per the signed agreement, he reaffirmed.

Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah urged the committee to work on all challenges to ensure the census exercise is conducted smoothly.

Dr Francis Michael, the Education, Science and Technology permanent secretary, said the last batch of 18,900 laptops from China had already been delivered.

The consignment will slash the gap

of 3,116 laptops initially reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), he said, praising the various stakeholders for working to ensure a successful census.

Apart from NBS, the key organisations include the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), along with embassies of China and South Korea.

Dr Albina Chuwa, the NBS CEO, said preparations for the census stood at 95 per cent, projecting expenditure for exercise at 400bn/-.

She assured census officers and clerks of timely payment, as the government had worked on the reported challenges, with the money channelled to municipal councils' accounts to avoid delays and improve efficiency.

NBS similarly projects that the census is likely to register 64m people on the basis of current estimates, she added.



CCBRT Hospital CEO Brenda Msangi (2nd-R) explains a point to Dr Bärbel Kofler (2nd-L), Germany's Economic Cooperation and Development deputy minister, when the latter toured the Dar es Salaam-based specialised medical facility. Germany and CCBRT are understood to be key partners. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Egyptian university to establish branch in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE University of Egypt has said it plans to establish its branch in Tanzania to provide education in various fields.

Education, Science and Technology Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda revealed this here last Tuesday when he met and held talks with the Egyptian ambassador in Tanzania Mohamed Gaber Abulwafa.

Prof Mkenda told the Egyptian envoy that the government of Tanzania has provided opportunities to investors to come to the country to invest in various sectors including the education sector.

He said as some other procedures are pursued in regard to the investment, the University can establish an association with any university in the country to start providing the intended education as soon as possible.

He directed the Ministry's Director

dealing with the country's universities, Dr Kennedy Hosea to make sure he starts discussions with various universities to see which among them is ready to join the plan.

Egyptian Ambassador to Tanzania Mohamed Gaber Abulwafa assured the minister that his country will continue with its relations with Tanzania in various sectors including education sector.

In their discussions they also talked

on how to start the MoU signed during the visit by Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan to Egypt.

Amb Abulwafa also extended an invitation from Egypt's Minister of energy at a meeting that will be discussing atomic energy issues as well as the invitation from his country's minister of education for in-depth discussions on the importance of boosting ties between the two nations in the education sector.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, Kinshasa, on Wednesday signing the joint communiqué issued at the just-ended two-day 42nd Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states. Photo: State House

Ummy hosts India, UAE investors in health sector

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has received investors from India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who have shown interest to invest in the health sector in the country.

This was disclosed in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday by Health Minister Ummy Mwalimu when she met and held talks with the investors. "The government continues to receive investors in the health sector aimed to enable Tanzanians and people from neighbouring countries access better specialist services," she said.

In the discussions the minister praised the two countries for showing interest to invest in the health sector and pledged more cooperation to the investors in pushing forward the country's development in the health sector.

"For a long time we have been working with India in the health sector, we have medical students studying in India, we have Indian investors in the country, the existing cooperation has been benefitting to both the government and Tanzanians," she added.

Ummy also showered praise on the UAE for being attracted to invest in the country's health sector.

She said the government's priority in regard to the health sector is quality of medical services; hence she welcomed investors into the country. She also called on the investors to place emphasis on opportunities for improving the ICT systems in the country's health sector saying there are still many challenges in the area.

The leader of the Indian investment delegation, Lav Aggarwal said their aim to come to Tanzania is to improve the existing relations between the two countries and expect to continue with that cooperation in pursuit of better medical services for Tanzania.

UAE Ambassador to Tanzania, Khalifa Al Marzooqi said the recent visit of Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan to the UAE opened more doors for investment from the Gulf nation in regard to the health sector.

Health Ministry Permanent Secretary, Prof Abel Makubi said the government, through the ministry, is working together with various health institutions from India and the UAE.

Prof Makubi welcomed the investors in regard to drug production saying Tanzania aims to be a producer of medicines.

TIC: 'The Royal Tour' increases investments

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increase in investment seeking in the country, he said, figuring out that many tourists are businessmen who come on multiple objectives, including seeing what opportunities are available to invest in the country, he further noted.

TIC is developing a one stop shop to serve investors in an electronic format,

he said, implying that investors will be able to scan for opportunities or lodge applications from anywhere.

The window will provide a solution for receiving applications and providing services like issuance of permits, licenses and registration of investors in a rapid way, he said.

The online platform will facilitate the flow of information among the

concerned units to make it a one stop facilitation centre, making it easier for investors residing abroad to fill out their application letters and file them electronically, he explained.

Underlining that investment is competition like tourism, he stated that each country attracts investors to its country so that it benefits from those investments, widening employment

opportunities and the revenue base. TIC was improving its services, with an electronic format intended to make it easier for foreign and local investors to easily register and obtain permits.

TIC does not have an office outside the country so it liaises with diplomatic missions abroad to seek out potential investors.

Considerable success achieved in economic diplomacy will help TIC oversee higher investment flow motivation to this country, he added.



Athumani Ngoma (L), Vodacom Tanzania's Central Zone sales manager, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday presenting a certificate to student Catherine Sanga of Kingwe Secondary School in Bahi District, Dodoma Region. It was during the closing of one-week 'Code Like A Girl' training meant to hone ICT skills for secondary school girls held with funding from Vodacom Tanzania Plc. Right is the firm's human resources and training manager, Naiman Moshi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed gratitude to stakeholders working towards improving safety of girls and schoolchildren, saying sexual abuse remains a challenge in the country.

The appreciation was made by the acting Assistant Director for Social Welfare Service at the Ministry of State, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Amina Mfaki, noting that there are rampant cases of gender violence, including sexual abuse.

She noted that while the government has strategies laid from the central government to local authority levels, there is need for other stakeholders to join forces in the fight.

She made the statement during an orientation meeting with officials from WAJIKI, a community-based organisation (CBO) from Dar es Salaam.

"The government alone cannot completely eradicate such vices in the society, thus highly appreciate efforts from other stakeholders" she said, applauding for the good work it is doing in district councils in Dar es Salaam.

Mfaki also observed that members of the public should also fight such issues in the society, noting that without public involvement, the war cannot be won.

According to the acting assistant director, any kind of violence

Govt appreciates stakeholders' efforts in fighting sexual abuse

negatively impacts those affected and also slow development activities.

WAJIKI is implementing a gender campaign in Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke districts in Dar es Salaam.

The "Safe Journey for Girls and Schoolchildren without Sexual Corruption" Campaign, funded by Women Fund Tanzania, involves motorists and commuter bus drivers.

The organisation's Director Janeth Mawinza, in her presentation to the assistant director, said the campaign had been successful since its inception in 2018 because the involvement of motorists had brought about positive change in society.

She said they had decided to involve motorists and commuter bus drivers in the campaign because they were the ones who met many people so it would be easier for them to disseminate information to other members of the public.

She said motorists conveyed GBV messages through wearing T-shirts or placing stickers on their motor vehicles that denounced GBV against girls, women and schoolchildren.

Mawinza noted that motorists were believed to be among the groups spoiling and sexually abusing schoolgirls, fortunately they have helped change the mind-set and help report cases related to GBV.

She added that equally, the campaign had helped a lot in breaking the silence on GBV.

"Initially harmful acts were done to children and were hardly reported to authorities but to date, we have managed to break the silence through various campaigns," said the director.

According to Mawinza, data shows that seven in 15 women have experienced sexual violence, while three in 10 boys have been sodomised, while seven in 10 girls have experienced sexual abuse.

This, to her, is an indication that gender violence is still a problem in our society. It calls for concerted effort among members of the public and various stakeholders to fight against the vice.

The CBO's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Hancy Obote on his part said they conduct campaigns by moving from "house to house" to fight sexual violence and promote "safe journey without sexual corruption" for girls and students with the aim of rescuing girls who live in a state of depravity and extreme mental stress.

On achievement, he said that the entity has succeeded in empowering women to get rid of social, political and economic challenges by knowing their rights.

Mikumi National Park experience influx of tourists

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TOURISTS are flocking to Mikumi National Park in Morogoro Region making a total of 66,890 arrivals compared to 46,517 visitors received in 2021.

This was revealed on Wednesday by Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Fatuma Mwasa in her address to delegates who attended a handover event where Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango delivered 44 special trucks worth 14.77bn/- to the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) for the purpose of promoting tourist attractions in the Southern Circuit.

The trucks have been purchased through the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project.

She said in addition to these achievements contributed by the campaign to advertise the country's tourist attractions via the 'Royal Tour Film' in which President Samia Suluhu Hassan starred and launched, there was a challenge regarding wildlife being knocked by passing vehicles.

"For example in the period of 2015 to 2021, a total of 1,889 wild animals were hit by passing vehicles along Morogoro-Iringa Highway that cross the middle of the national park," said RC Mwasa.

She appealed to the government to finalise the construction of an alternative road circumventing the national park area that will reduce death to the wildlife.

She also advised the restoration of barriers at both ends of the road crossing the park area; saying that this

will help nabbing those hitting wildlife on the road as well as those who throw trash along the road.

The RC said about 138 kg of trash is thrown along the road every day and that in the period of 2015-2021 over 14,959 kg of trash was thrown.

Speaking after launching the vehicles, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, among other things, mobilised investors to utilise the increased number of tourists to invest in the building of various classes of modern tourist hotels.

He also called on workers at tourist hotels to provide excellent hospitality to visitors so that they advertise Tanzania well when they go back to their countries.

He also warned hotel owners to stop hiring workers from foreign countries.

Complete Inyala lorry inspection centre, TANROADS told

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE Traffic Department in the country has requested TANROADS to quickly finish the Inyala Lorry Inspection Centre in Mbeya District along Dar es Salaam-Tunduma Highway to enable it start operating.

The request comes a few days after a string of accidents that happened on the dangerous 'Mlima wa Nyoka' gradient, including the recent one that involved four vehicles and claimed 19 lives with 29 people left injured.

The Commander of Tanzania Traffic Police Division, Wilbrood Mutafungwa made the request yesterday here during his visit to the area to inspect work progress of the centre.

He said even though the inspection centre is not yet complete, they have already started stopping Lorries at the

area before they start their descent along the dangerous gradient. He said that accidents that happen in the area have been claiming lives and destruction of motor vehicles due to the narrow, steep road gradient.

"Hence we request TANROADS to help us to erect road signs along all areas, but at the spot where the recent accident occurred they are supposed to erect some embankments which could have saved lives as these were totally absent," said Road Traffic Commander Mutafungwa.

He also directed road traffic police to make sure they fully inspect all vehicles that appear defective and prevent them from moving forward with all those needing repairs.

He further said the Traffic police will start a special operation in regard to road traffic offences.

He named the offences they deal

with as including those involving goods and passenger vehicles, buses that overload passengers, tractors and trailers thereof that use the roads without any special warning signs on them.

He added that they will prepare a task plan for traffic personnel when dealing with these offences in order to stop frequent road accidents.

Two days ago, Police Forces Head of Operations and Training, Awadh Juma Haji also visited the area, saying the cause of the recent accident was negligence and stubbornness on the part of the lorry driver.

He said before the accident, the driver was stopped by traffic officers but did not stop thereafter the accident happened.

He added that they are still hunting for the driver as he fled after the accident.

Five dead, 15 injured in Singida bus crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

FIVE people including a Special Seats Councillor have died while 15 others sustained injuries after a bus overturned along Singida-Dodoma road on Wednesday.

Singida Regional Police Commander, Stella Mutabihirwa said in a press statement here Wednesday that the accident of the bus with registration number T 916 DNU owned by TANZANITE bus firm transpired around 3:30pm at Mbwasa Village along Singida-Dodoma road.

He named the deceased as including Mwinjuka Mkumbo (40), Iramba District Special Seats Councillor (CCM), Alicia Flagence; a child aged one-year and three others whose names were not immediately available.

RPC Mutabihirwa said the injured were rushed to Dodoma General Hospital for treatment and 11 were discharged while one was referred to Dodoma Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, Dodoma.

The injured who are still at Dodoma General Hospital receiving treatment include Sharifati Mwipi (32) Rudia Kadila (59), Said Mbwana (39) and Abdul Ramadhani (32) while one, Mwamba Saidi was referred to Benjamin Mkapa Hospital.

She said initial investigations indicated that the cause of the accident was high speed by the bus driver, Abdul Kingwande who was unable to control after which the vehicle overturned on the right side of the road.

RPC Mutabihirwa said the bus driver who fled after the accident is being sought after by the police.

"The police are calling on all motor drivers to abide by road traffic laws to avoid unnecessary accidents," she said.

Iramba District Council Chairman, Innocent Msenyi said he received with great shock the information of the death of the councillor whom he said had made a great contribution to the council.

On Tuesday, 19 people were reported dead following a road carnage in

Mbeya with 10 others sustaining severe injuries.

The accident which involved a lorry, a bus and a car happened at Shamwengo near Inyala Gas Station in Mbeya Region.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei confirmed the accident, explaining that it appeared that the brakes of the lorry carrying a container had failed causing it to hit Super Rojas Bus travelling from Mbeya to Njombe, and the lorry continued to descend hitting a car which led to the death of 19 people and 10 others with severe injuries.

Tanzania has experienced deadly accidents recently in the regions of Mwanza, Kagera, Simiyu, Arusha and Shinyanga.

Following the accidents, traffic police commander Wilbrood Mutafungwa announced a nationwide operation to control road carnage. He said the operation would also involve 'alcohol tests' to drivers, to nub drivers driving under the influence of alcohol.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Project Overview

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ACHIEVE is funded by USAID in Tanzania to implement a four-year activity (October 2020 to April 2024) which aims: (1) to improve national- and community-level social welfare systems in order to sustain support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and families affected by HIV and (2) to strengthen the capacity of local organizations to deliver OVC services and (3) to deliver high-quality OVC services and DREAMS interventions for AGYW 9-14 years.

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Application Deadline: Thursday -25th August 2022

Position:	Compliance and Internal Review Officer	(1 position)
Project:	ACHIEVE Tanzania	
Position Location:	Dar es Salaam	
Contract Duration:	1 year	

Job Description and Application Link:

<https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/594044000008734121/Compliance-and-Internal-Review-Officer-%E2%80%93-ACHIEVE-Tanzania-project?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline: Thursday -25th August 2022

Position:	Grants and Compliance Finance Officer	(1 position)
Project:	ACHIEVE Tanzania	
Position Location:	Dar es Salaam	
Contract Duration:	1 year	

Job Description and Application Link:

<https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/594044000008740852/Grants-and-Compliance-Finance-Officer?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline: Monday -29th August 2022

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Education ministry to conduct follow-up studies on vocational training graduates

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has launched a committee of experts to conduct a follow-up study, "tracer study" of vocational training graduates from vocational colleges across the country.

Speaking after the launch of the committee, Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda expressed hope that the study would determine the quality, skills, and abilities of those students.

Prof Mkenda added that the study also would suggest better ways of improving vocational training according to contemporary market needs.

He said that the major thrust is on skills issues, so the information that will be collected by the committee will have a significant contribution to ensuring that the education offered provides skills that will enable graduates to have skills that will enable them to be employed or self-employed.

"The ministry is monitoring the vocational training curriculum in an effort to meet market's demand needs and where we are going, we want these graduates to be hot cake in the market," said Prof Mkenda.

The minister expressed hope that the committee is led by Dr Hamisi Mwinymvua from

the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Other members are Prof Deogratius Mushi (UDSM), Dr John Chegere (UDSM), Dr Claude Maeda (SUA) and Dr Ibrahim Kadigi (SUA).

Minister Mkenda has used the opportunity to ask all those who will be involved in the research to cooperate because the goal is to improve and achieve the great goals of the nation which is to provide skilled education.

Meanwhile, the leader of the committee, Dr Hamisi Mwinymvua has said that the research that will be conducted will involve VET graduates from 2017 to 2021 who obtained the education through various training systems.

He said that the research will be conducted across the country and will involve graduates of various government and private colleges, employers who have hired VETA graduates and those who have not hired those graduates, teachers and trainers of those colleges, sector councils, the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), the Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and other stakeholders.

He said some of the areas they will look at in the research are whether the graduates are employed, how they use their expertise in the work they do, the challenges and whether the skills they have acquired are compatible with the job market.

Mkenda to officiate graduation ceremony for over 400 students who studied abroad

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MINISTER for Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolph Mkenda is expected to officiate a graduation ceremony for over 400 students who attended universities abroad.

Director of Global Education Link (GEL), Abdulmalik Mollel told this paper yesterday that the graduation which is scheduled for August 21st 2022 will also be attended by ambassadors and high commissioners from the countries where graduates have studied.

He said officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education Zanzibar, NBAA, Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and Medical Council of Tanganyika will be present at the event.

"We will have parents too, because they are the ones who have struggled to ensure children achieve their targeted education goals," he said,

adding they have also invited students who are expected to go abroad for studies.

He urged students who will travel abroad for studies to market the country in a way that it will attract investors and tourists.

"We have seen how President Samia Suluhu Hassan travelled in different countries to market the country's tourism attractions. She has marketed our country's natural resources; but we need to support her efforts to lure more tourists," said Mollel.

Mollel urged students to make sure they study and pass their examinations so that they bring back to the country the acquired knowledge and skills.

He added that the graduation will be for all students who have studied in universities abroad regardless of the fact that they were not under the Global Education Link (GEL). He said to participate; graduates are required to register themselves through the GEL website.



Lilian Malekia, a senior business manager with NMB Bank Plc's Business Banking Department, addresses businesspersons at an NMB Business Club forum in Kahama municipality yesterday. The bank has been organising such events in various parts of Tanzania chiefly to help businesses grow. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Trade within EAC below 20pct, exports to US nearly USD 5.3bn

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

WHILE trade within the East African Community is stuck below 20 per cent, statistics show that EAC exports to the United States margins at nearly USD 5.3 billion.

East African Countries export their locally manufactured goods to the US through the African Growth and Opportunity Act, simply known as AGOA.

AGOA is a legislation approved by the U.S. Congress in 2000 to improve economic relations between the United States and the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

On the Other hand, the East African Community exports to the European Union stands at USD 2.67 billion.

"The EAC bloc now needs to boost its transactions under the regional and international trade agreements and

opportunities of the African Continental Free Trade Area," said the chairperson of the East African Business Council, Angelina Ngalula.

Speaking in Arusha, Ngalula adds that the ACFTA should complement existing business arrangements under African Growth and Opportunity Act, Economic partnership agreement.

The EABC chairperson points out that despite the opportunities, East Africans are yet to fully utilise these agreements as trade is still fractional due to low productive capacity, fragmentation and infrastructure challenges.

"With the AfCFTA, there are no boundaries of doing business in Africa, but the EAC bloc should be well-prepared to export competitive professional services and skills to the continent," said Ngalula.

The chairperson expounded that EABC will

create a 'Business-to-Business,' networking opportunities to boost bilateral trade ties and unlock Non-Tariff Barriers.

The Equity Bank on the other hand, has set up a US\$ 7bn fund to support business growth and such initiatives.

The Chief Executive Officer of EABC John Bosco Kalisa said the council with support from GIZ developed a Barometer on East African Trade in Services to gauge the growth of the service sector in the region.

Kalisa said the EAC region currently exports services worth USD 12.9 billion compared to USD 933.6 million of its global imports as of 2019.

The Confederation of Trade and Industries (CTI) Northern Outreach, Anup Modha, is of the view that once the full implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol is realised, then business will flourish.



eastafrika
RADIO

East Africa Television Ltd

P.O. BOX 4374, Mikochehi Light Industrial Area,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa.
Tel: + 255 (22) 2775914/6
Fax: +255 (22) 2772752
Email: info@eatv.tv

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

EAST AFRICA TELEVISION LTD, the number one youth channel that has grown to a regional with vigor content of educating and entertaining programs. EATV is looking for suitable and qualified people to fill in the following vacancy:

Job Titles: PRESENTER

Job purpose: Inform and entertain our audience by presenting information in a concise and precise manner, in order to maintain, attract and increase listenership of the station.

Responsibilities:

- Contribute to get ideas and stories as per show's target audience and station goals with its distinctive style that will give the station the edge.
- Present shows as assigned according to established journalistic standards.
- Present assigned shows in attractive ways and according to station programming guidelines and systems.
- Be able to use audio and digital equipment's for on-air operations and productions purposes and deliver content in appropriate medium and to the highest professional standards.

Skills : Excellent Communication Skills, fluent in English and Kiswahili

- Qualification:**
- * News & Current Affairs across the World
 - * Media experience (above 3 years)
 - * Diploma in Journalism/ Mass Communication
 - * Media business knowledge *added advantage

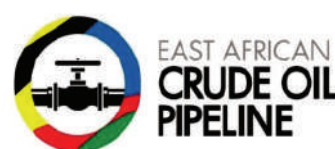
Interested candidates who meet the above criteria should send in their applications enclosing a detailed CV addressed to the:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
EAST AFRICA TELEVISION LTD
P.O. BOX 4374
DAR ES SALAAM - TANZANIA
Or by Email address: jobs@eatv.tv**

Or deliver to EATV Studios at Mikochehi Light Industries Area, Mwenge - Dar es Salaam

Deadline 22nd August 2022, Shortlisted candidates will be notified.

27700701



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE



wasco

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

ISOAF Tz Limited is a Tanzania-incorporated company with its head office in Dar es Salaam and its plant in Nzega District, Tabora Region. The Company is expecting to commence its operations as a Thermal insulation System Contractor for East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: TAX MANAGER
COMPANY: WASCO ISOAF TZ LIMITED
ACCOUNTABILITY: PROJECT - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY

The tax manager is the main player of all the tax related issues for Wasco Isoaf Tz Limited.

Responsible for Planning, Managing, control and advise on all the company's tax matters.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manage the project's tax financial reporting obligations
- Responsible for the Company's tax compliance, tax planning, accounting for taxes and preparation and submission of tax returns
- Maintaining relation with TRA, tax advisers and advise other department on all tax matters
- Point of contact for tax authorities.
- Monitoring and advice executive management on tax matters
- Close relationship with senior management when required
- Coordinate tax audits and other regulatory review and investigation
- Manage the VAT process and recovery
- Prepare, review and update tax related policies of the company, including TP policy
- Monitor and manage tax risks across the project.
- Manage relationships with external tax advisers as and when required to include monitoring advisor fees
- Work closely with Payroll and HR teams on employment tax issues

NOTE:

- Please note that the foregoing is not totally exhaustive and that other duties may, by sufficient notice and consultation with you, be assigned to you in addition, to satisfy business dictates. Also note that this job description may change from time to time so as to reflect emerging business trends and accommodate Company Management re-engineering needs.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- Bachelor's degree or Equivalent in Finance/Accounting/Business Management with emphasis in Accounting -Professional qualified -CPA/ACCA
- Five years prior Managerial experience in accounting areas, experience working with large multinational organizations
- Strong interpersonal, supervisory and customer service skills required
- Conversant with all process in SAP (MM, SD, FI), strong analytical skills and proficiency on Ms office (Excel, power point and Word doc)
- Ability to Multi-task, work under pressure, meet deadlines and be able to thrive in fast-paced work environment

Deadline: 2nd September 2022

Please note that, should you not be contacted for more than two weeks after the deadline, consider your application unsuccessful

27700701

COMMUNIQUE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN LIGHT OF 30

■ YEARS OF MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY IN TANZANIA By Women, Constitution, Election and Leadership (WCEL) Coalition.

August 15, 2022, Dar es Salaam.

A. INTRODUCTION

Tanzania re-introduced multiparty democracy in 1992, building on some of the key human rights pillars during a single party system, that paved the way for women's participation in the political space and other decision-making positions. The foundation on which the multiparty democracy was built on acknowledged the critical role and contribution of women in Tanzania's political and economic development. Today, thirty years into the multiparty system, women have made immense strides in the political leadership spaces contributed towards a gender-responsive policy environment, and amplified their collective voices in affirmative actions across all sectors, including demanding for constitutional reforms. However, challenges abound in women's journey towards an inclusive political democratic system that grant women equal opportunities in the political spaces devoid of discrimination and all forms of abuse.

The Women, Constitution, Election and Leadership (WCEL) Coalition, otherwise known as "Mtandao wa Wanawake, Katiba, Uchaguzi na Uongozi" Co-sponsored Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFT-T) and UN Women organized a national convening on Women's Participation in Multiparty Democratic System in Tanzania, at the New Africa Hotel in Dar es Salaam on August 15 th 2022.

The Coalition (WCEL) acknowledges efforts made over the 30 years period towards attaining significant milestones in women's participation in multiparty democracy that have paved the way for women assuming top leadership positions- Currently, the President, the

Speaker of the National Assembly, as well as notable steady increase in the number of women in the cabinet, parliament, and in championing gender-sensitive laws. The convening thus celebrated, reflected and strategized on general women's participation in a multiparty democratic system in the country.

B. WE APPRECIATE THE SUCCESSES

WCEL applaud great strides that have been registered regarding women participation in political and decision-making processes, including: -

- Two arms of the State are headed by women, namely President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the head of the executive and Dr. Tulia Ackson, the second female Speaker of the National Parliament.
- Women have occupied key ministries including Ministries of Community Development, Gender, women and special group Dr. Dorothy Gwajima, Foreign affairs Liberata Mulamula), Defense (Dr. Stergomena Tax), Land (Angelina Mabula), Industries (Dr. Ashatu Kijaji), to mention but few.

Specific Ministry for on Community Development, Gender, and Vulnerable Groups

- The Constitutional provision of special seats for women was first introduced and set at 15 percent in 1985 was increased to 20, 30 and 40 per cents in 2000, 2005 and 2015 respectively.
- The number of women in parliament has increased by 20 per cent, from 16 per cent in 1995 to 36.8 per cent after the 2020 general elections.
- The number of women directly elected from constituencies has also increased, from 8 women in 1995 to 26 (9.8%) women after the 2020 general elections.
- Women's rights Organizations have been strengthening to build this coalition during the constitutional review process (2011-2014), their equal participation in the Special Constituent Assembly, facilitated the endorsement of 11.5 out of the 12 priority agendas on equal representation between men and women in all levels of decision-making processes.

C. OUR CONCERNS

WCEL is also concerned about unsatisfactory progress for women's access to political and decision-making spaces in Tanzania, as follows

- The low numbers of women vying for presidential, parliamentary and councilor positions. For example, only 9.2 percent of all candidates for the positions were women.
- The low number of women elected directly from constituencies, wards, streets, villages, and hamlets. After the 2020 general meeting, only 26 out of the 264 directly elected members of parliament are women (9.8 per cent). The additional 113 women MPs were obtained through the special seats system.
- After the 2020 general elections, only 6.5 percent of women councilors were elected from wards, and even fewer women making to the top leadership cadres at village, streets, and hamlets level.
- Appointment powers are not guided by gender and social inclusion principle, coupled with the fact there are few women in appointed seats. In 2022, there are nine out of 25 ministers, five women out of 25 deputy ministers, four women out of 26 permanent

secretaries, and six women out of the 30-deputy permanent secretaries.

- There persist legal and policy frameworks including Parliamentary Standing Orders which have claw back clauses which legitimate discriminative practices against women and girls.
- WCEL notes with concern the stalled Proposed Constitution (2014) which had spelt out and articulated on modalities to be used to facilitate the attainment of equal representation of men and women has rolled back inclusive democracy.
- WCEL is also concerned that the current Proposed Constitution only limits the intention to realize equal representation of men and women in decision-making processes only in the parliament. It does not spell out equality principle in other decision-making organs or positions such as wards, villages, streets, and hamlets.

D. THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE CHALLENGES

A number of factors explains unsatisfactory progress for women's access to political and decision-making positions in Tanzania, including but not limited to: -

- Challenges associated with the applicable electoral laws, system, and processes i.e. The First Past the Post Electoral System.
- Reluctancy by political parties to transform their governance and internal election systems to accommodate gender equality principles. Political parties continue to ply a 'gate keeping role in terms of determining who gets in and who is left out in political competitive politics.
- The implementation of the special seats system which has not gone hand in hand with transformation of the electoral systems, processes and laws to level the play field in constituency elections for more inclusive and gender responsive democracy.
- Gender blind electoral laws and laws governing formulation and management of political parties, as well as gender blind political parties' constitutions. Behavior of 4 Political Parties towards women is not guided by Gender and Social Inclusion Principles.
- The limitations on having independent candidates
- Contradictory decisions by the two arms of the state: Parliament and judiciary; The parliament is not honoring the decisions from national and international courts.

E. CALL FOR ACTION

As the country kick starts a new decade under multiparty politics, meaningful and effective participation of women will be obtained through pursuing a number of interventions: -

1. The need to review electoral laws and systems to facilitate more inclusive electoral processes is being underscored. In this respect several systems have been applied with meaningful success in enhancing women's participation. For example, zebra systems exercised by political parties have worked in Namibia and some of the Scandinavian countries, alternatively, electoral colleges have worked in Rwanda which demarcates certain constituencies for women as well as allowing women candidates to compete in other constituencies. Party listing has been applied in South Africa, but there is a concern that such MPs are not necessarily representing particular interest of the electorate.
2. The need to revive the constitutional review process was emphasized in view of recasting our previous proposals and strengthen them
3. The strengthening of the women's coalition was underscored with particular focus on demanding gender accountability from our political institutions including political parties, parliament, electoral commission as well as the registrar of political parties
4. The need to continue with awareness raising and public education on added value for women's participation in political and other decision-making bodies was highlighted
5. Finally, but not least the need to allow independent candidacy which might provide room for women who do not wish to enter politics through political parties to vie for political spaces.

In concluding we wish to echo IDEA position "the failure to include women and their perspectives in political decision-making weakens the legitimacy of democratically elected institutions and deprives women—half of the population in any given country—of their right to participate effectively in the governance of their societies (International IDEA 2016).



VISIONFUND TANZANIA MICROFINANCE BANK LTD

VACANCIES

VisionFund Tanzania Microfinance Bank Ltd (VFT MFB) formerly known as SEDA is a fast growing and reputable Micro Finance Bank (MFB), that has a loan book of approximately TZS. 20 billion and more than 30,000 client base, more than 5,000 of whom are small holder farmers. VFT-MFB is seeking to employ a dynamic and committed Tanzanian young man or woman who has a passion for people's economic development to fill in the vacant positions detailed here below;

Work Reference No. 015/22

Position: Chief Operations Officer
Reporting to: Chief Executive Officer

Responsibility:

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) provides overall leadership to VFT's commercial business and ensures that the bank meets annual business targets as approved by the Board in the annual operational plan. The position holder is responsible for the development, review and Implementation of VisionFund Microfinance Bank Operations Strategy including market development, product development, disbursement plan, budgeting, people and performance management, risk and internal controls management to reduce VFT's Operational Risk. The position ensures growth of the loan and deposits portfolio while enforcing compliance with country laws and regulations. The position holder also ensures that the banks products and services positively impact the lives of clients through VFT's social performance framework. In addition, the position holder ensures that VFT work in close integration with World Vision Area Programs in fostering economic development for low income entrepreneurs.

Main tasks

1. Performance Management:

- Oversee the management and staff of the operations department to ensure that all branches and exceed the monthly and annual business targets. Mentor and coach Regional Managers for performance.
- Maintain a high standard of discipline within the operations department and ensure that all managers meet their targets on an ongoing basis.

2. Compliance with Banks Policies and Regulatory requirement:

- Manage the application of policies, norms and procedures at the branch level and supervise that business operations are working according to procedures.
- Ensure that all identifies gaps in compliance through internal audit and risk units are fully addressed within agreed timelines.

3. Department reporting:

- Perform analysis on financial indicators and provide reports for the CEO on these indicators including deposits, channels performance, disbursements, and client retention, growth of different products, and branch profitability and delinquency.
- Provide timely and accurate information and reports on a regular basis to the Chief Executive Officer and other senior management members of VFM as well as other stakeholders as required. These include VFM Board of Directors, Bank of Tanzania, VisionFund International etc.

4. Business Development

- Lead Branch network in ensuring that all business targets as approved by the Board are delivered which include, Loan Portfolio, Deposits, Clients and Revenue targets.
- Participate in Market Research in collaboration with the Marketing and Product Development Teams to determine the products and services appropriate for various customer segments.

5. Product and Systems Development

- Maintain and update the operations manuals of policies, procedures and norms annually;
- Evaluate the characteristics of the Loans, Deposit/Retail and other services and make necessary modifications (with the joint agreement of the management team).

6. Financial Planning and Management

- Develop annual plans and budgets for the Branch Network and expansion, incorporating input from management team and branch managers.
- Approve branch expenses within the budget parameters;
- Fulfill all other functions and duties within the scope and intent of the job as maybe required by the CEO.

7. Required Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bsc in Business, accounting, finance or related area of study and minimum of ten years of senior operational management experience, preferably in a bank or microfinance institution. An MBA in business, accounting, finance or related area of study and minimum of seven years of senior operational management experience, preferably in a bank or microfinance institution.
- Experience in strategic planning, budgeting, operations, deposit product and systems development, and risk management.
- Prior experience with innovative technology and channels is a plus (point of sale devices, ATMs, prepaid cards, mobile phone banking, internet infrastructure and banking, etc.)

Work Reference No. 016/22

Position: Head of Credit & Operations
Reporting to: Chief Operations Officer

Responsibility:

The position holder's primary responsibility is managing the credit risk by ensuring quality origination and structuring detailing appropriateness of loan size, purpose and tenor of credit facilities advanced to clients in line with the bank's risk appetite. The role is responsible in building capacity of credit staff to undertake quality loan assessment and provides leadership and support to Credit Analysts who are responsible for supporting branch offices in loan origination. The position conducts in-depth analysis of the loan portfolio through a numbers of credit reports as needed in order to rectify identified risk through frequent review of credit risk policy, triggering the suction policy in line with the identified gaps. The role also supervises the Operations Manager and monitors efficiency in the back-office functions to ensure that the bank provides superior service to its customers.

Main tasks

- Supervising Credit and Operation function of VisionFund Tanzania Microfinance Bank.
- Implementing policies and procedures related to Credit underwriting, Collection and Bank Operations.
- Recommending changes to the credit and saving policies to align with Market, regulatory requirements and Best practices.
- Analyze Institution portfolio performance using different metrics including products, sector, industry, by branch and by Loan officer.
- Analyze portfolio quality including PAR trends and take appropriate remedy action including recommending approval limits changes to Credit Risk, Policy and Pricing Committee.

1. Specific responsibilities

- Chair of the Head Office Credit Committee (HOCC) that review and approve loans above Branch/Business Center limits and Regional Limit.
- Coordinate credit reference bureau access to VFT staff, Training, liaison person of Credit reference bureau and responsible for submitting all report to credit reference bureau as required by the regulation.

2. Regulatory & Business Conduct

- Monitor Risk Triggers, Covenants and other credit conditions and institute appropriate corrective measures.
- Take personal responsibility for embedding the highest standards of ethics, including regulatory and business conduct, across VFT MFB. This includes understanding and ensuring compliance with, in letter and spirit, all applicable laws, regulations,

guidelines and the Group Code of Conduct.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Accounting, Microfinance, Economics, Business Administration, Finance or any related field.
- Master's Degree in business Administration/Management, Microfinance, Accounting, finance or related field is an added advantage.
- Minimum of 6 years working experience in a financial institution is required of which at least 3 should be at Managerial level.

Work Reference No. 017/22

Position: Marketing Manager
Reporting to: Chief Executive Officer

Job Purpose

The main purpose of the Marketing Manager is to promote VisionFund Microfinance Bank's brand, products and services. The position holder shall lead in the development of VFT's Marketing Strategy and marketing plan. The Marketing Manager shall lead the development of innovative strategies to significantly improve VFT brand visibility and appeal in the market. The position holder shall ensure that VFT's branches are located in appropriate places to increase client coverage and brand visibility and that branches are well and uniformly branded to maintain a compelling cooperate appeal to the clients. The Manager shall ensure VFT's has a strong presence on social media, radio and all other appropriate medias. Marketing Manager shall track and analyze the performance of advertising campaigns, managing the marketing budget and ensuring that all marketing material is in line with VFT's brand identity. The position holder shall also be the key PR person for the bank as delegated by the CEO from time to time. Ultimately, the position holder will help VFT build and maintain a strong and consistent brand through a wide range of online and offline marketing channels.

Main tasks

- Develop strategies and tactics to get the word out about the bank and drive qualified traffic to the front door
- Deploy successful marketing campaigns and own their implementation from ideation to execution
- Produce valuable and engaging content for our website and social media blog that attracts and converts our target groups
- Build strategic relationships and partner with key industry players, agencies and vendors
- Prepare and monitor the marketing budget on a quarterly and annual basis and allocate funds wisely
- Oversee production and approve marketing material, from website banners to hard copy brochures and case studies
- Measure and report on the performance of marketing campaigns, gain insight and assess against goals
- Work with branch offices to identify the right location of the branch offices
- Facilitate the branding of the branches to maintain a compelling corporate appeal for the bank.
- Evaluating and optimizing marketing and pricing strategies.
- Coordinating marketing strategies with the operations department.
- Developing and managing the marketing department's budget.
- Overseeing branding, advertising, and promotional campaigns.
- Managing the marketing department's staff.
- Preparing and presenting quarterly and annual reports to senior management.
- Promoting our brand at trade shows and major industry-related events.
- In coordination with the CEO, manage all external communications for the bank.

Qualifications:

Marketing Manager Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in marketing, finance, business administration, or similar. A master's degree in a relevant field will be advantageous.
- At least 5-year experience as a marketing manager preferably in similar industry.
- Extensive knowledge of marketing strategies, channels, and branding.
- Superb leadership, communication, and collaboration abilities.
- Exceptional analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong time management and organizational abilities.
- Good public speaking skills.

Work reference no. 18/22

Position: Senior People and Culture Officer
Reporting to: Head of People and Culture

Responsibility:

Responsible for Assisting/ supporting the Head People and Culture in facilitating all personnel related issues (management of staff expenses, training, talent management, & staff productivity) in accordance with VFT - MFB's policies

Main tasks

- Ensures annual staff training plan & budget
- In collaboration with HoDs develops and reviews staff update/training manuals/modules
- Coordinates all staff induction training
- Prepares training calendar and report as appropriate
- Conduct training needs assessment, suggest training courses and advise management accordingly
- Works with the HP&C to coordinate Our Voice survey & reporting, monitors implementation of the identified gaps
- Plan and advise on staff team building events as Appropriate
- Any other duty as shall be assigned by Head of People and Culture

Education/Experience

- At least 5 years' experience in a professional HR environment
- Member of the local institute of human resources management governing body
- Understanding and training in the local labour laws in Tanzania
- Experience with and proficiently in using Human Resource Information Systems
- Payroll management and experience in benefits administration is preferred
- Proficient in Micro Soft office applications

Work Reference No. 19/22

Position: Regional Credit Analyst
Reporting to: Head of Credit and Operations

Job Purpose

The Regional Credit Analyst is responsible for analyzing the creditworthiness of customers and potential debtors for high value loans in the region. The position holder's main responsibility involves gathering and reviewing the financial data of loan applicants, assessing an applicant's ability to repay a loan and recommending loans to be approved or denied. The position holder also monitors the credit risk of the branches and continually conduct capacity building initiatives for loan officers and Business Center Managers in the area of quality loan origination in line with the banks policies.

Main tasks

- Conduct thorough analysis of financial statements and assessment of credit requests, including new requests and refinancing of credit customers.

- Prepares the loan package for presentation to appropriate credit committee for approval.
- Provides recommendations tied to analysis and assessment of credit risk to the appropriate credit committee.
- Present analysis, findings, and recommendations to managers, especially findings that involve a borrower's ability to repay
- Ensure that all loans applications comply with the bank's lending protocols
- Monitor credit risk and recommend appropriate corrective actions to the branch, regional and Head Office leadership.
- To Prepare portfolio analysis report by different categories such as loan size, client sector, product, Branch and Loan Officer.
- Training of Business Centre Managers and Loan officer on loan documentation and Loan assessment in line with banks policies and lending protocols.
- Monitor the implementation of best practice policies and procedures on each Product
- Provide periodic portfolio performance to Chief operation officer, CRPPC and Management.
- Review and Confirm customer as well as portfolio credit risk Rating.
- Analyze all loans above Branch credit committee that are sent to head office credit committee for approval and recommend to the committee.
- Analyze portfolio quality including PAR trends and recommend remedy action to head office portfolio management committee or Management committee.
- Coordinate credit reference bureau access to VFT staff and provide credit reference bureau training to users.
- Recommend Policy improvement based on the emerging best practices, experience from other institution and regulatory provisions.

Regulatory & Business Conduct

- Take personal responsibility for embedding the highest standards of ethics, including regulatory and business conduct, across VFT MFB. This includes understanding and ensuring compliance with, in letter and spirit, all applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and the Group Code of Conduct.
- Take personal responsibility to achieve the outcomes set out in the Bank's Conduct Principles with respect to assigned names: Fair Outcomes for Clients; Effective Operation of Financial Markets; Financial Crime Prevention; The Right Environment.

Qualifications/Experience:

- A bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Accounting, Microfinance, Economics, Business Administration, Finance or any related field.
- Minimum of 3 years working experience in a financial institution out of which at least one should be in similar position, or related position.
- Excellent financial analysis skills especially financial ratio analysis to determine credit worthiness.
- Understanding of banking practice and related policy issues, their implications and applications.

Work Reference No. 020/22

Position: Regional Manager
Reporting to: Chief Operations Officer

Responsibility:

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) provides overall leadership to VFT's commercial business and ensures that the bank meets annual business targets as approved by the Board in the annual operational plan. The position holder is responsible for the development, review and Implementation of VisionFund Microfinance Bank Operations Strategy including market development, product development, disbursement plan, budgeting, people and performance management, risk and internal controls management to reduce VFT's Operational Risk. The position ensures growth of the loan and deposits portfolio while enforcing compliance with country laws and regulations. The position holder also ensures that the banks products and services positively impact the lives of clients through VFT's social performance framework. In addition, the position holder ensures that VFT work in close integration with World Vision Area Programs in fostering economic development for low income entrepreneurs.

Main tasks

1. Performance Management:

- Oversee the management and staff of the operations department to ensure that all branches and exceed the monthly and annual business targets. Mentor and coach Regional Managers for performance.
- Maintain a high standard of discipline within the operations department and ensure that all managers meet their targets on an ongoing basis.

2. Compliance with Banks Policies and Regulatory requirement:

- Manage the application of policies, norms and procedures at the branch level and supervise that business operations are working according to procedures.
- Implement the performance management system for the branch managers which enforces compliance to policies, procedures and regulations.
- Ensure that all identifies gaps in compliance through internal audit and risk units are fully addressed within agreed timelines.

3. Department administration:

- Supervise that the branch network maintains up-to-date and accurate client records.
- Organize and maintain neat, up-to-date and accurate files regarding performance of all regions and in particular the Branch Managers and Regional Managers.

4. Business Development:

- Lead Branch network in ensuring that all business targets as approved by the Board are delivered which include, Loan Portfolio, Deposits, Clients and Revenue targets.
- Collaborate with the Head of Business Development and other Managers to develop the marketing and sales strategy in order to increase the number of clients, maximize sales, and keep current clients.
- Conduct required Feasibility studies for the new areas and providing recommendations for market potential.

5. Product and Systems Development:

- Maintain and update the operations manuals of policies, procedures and norms annually;
- Evaluate the characteristics of the Loans, Deposit/Retail and other services and make necessary modifications (with the joint agreement of the management team).

6. Required Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bsc in Business, accounting, finance or related area of study and minimum of ten years of senior operational management experience, preferably in a bank or microfinance institution. An MBA in business, accounting, finance or related area of study and minimum of seven years of senior operational management experience, preferably in a bank or microfinance institution.
- Experience in strategic planning, budgeting, operations, deposit product and systems development, and risk management.

Work reference no. 021/22

Position: Business Centre Manager
Reporting to: Regional Manager

Responsibility:

- To develop business plan and annual work plan of the Business Centre and ensure an efficient performance of the Business Centre to achieve the set targets. To market

Manyara Region to vaccinate 397,849 children against polio

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

A TOTAL of 397,849 children under five years of age in Manyara Region are expected to be vaccinated against polio to protect them against the deadly disease that causes deformity.

Manyara Regional Commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere made the remarks yesterday at the regional Primary Health Committee here that met to plan the national campaign against polio, Phase III.

"The vaccination was decided to start after Malawi announced February 17 this year that there was a child found with polio.

"After the announcement, WHO called on all countries bordering Malawi to provide vaccination to children under five years of age as prevention against the disease," he said.

He explained that polio existed

20 years ago whereby in 2020 WHO confirmed that the African continent was polio free.

In addition, he said Phase II campaign against polio will start in September this year and that a team of health experts will visit house to house to provide the jobs.

Earlier, the Coordinator of Follow up of infectious diseases, Dr Elford Mukerebe said a child is required to get four vaccinations to be certain of protection.

He explained that in the previous phase, the target was to vaccinate 351,000 children in the region's six districts, and those who received the jabs attained 100 per cent while Hanang district alone led by attaining 900 per cent.

In April this year, the government launched a nationwide campaign for polio immunization targeting more than 10 million children under the age

of five.

Programme Officer from the Ministry of Health, Lotalia Gadau said the exercise will be carried out in four regions which border with Malawi namely Njombe, Mbeya, Ruvuma and Songwe.

The exercise was conducted from house to house involving 13.32 million doses.

"The vaccination will be given to children under -five without considering their previous vaccines, this is a special campaign so even if a child got vaccinated yesterday we will still add this one," she said.

Tanzania has been Polio-free since 2015 due to the strong immunization programme in the country. In fact Tanzania has not detected a Polio virus case since 1996 however in February 17, 2022 we were informed of a wild Polio case identified in a three year old girl who lives in Lilongwe district, Malawi.



Kinondoni district commissioner Godwin Gondwe (in neck-tie) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday symbolically presenting to Abdallah Mwakilima, chairman of a group of young small traders in the district's Mwenge suburb, 300 benches worth 25m/- donated by Coca-Cola Kwanza. The support is in implementation of the firm's economic inclusion strategy, whose thrust is helping women and youth. Centre is Coca-Cola Kwanza public affairs, communications and sustainability director, Salum Nassor. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Young street vendors get business boost from Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd

A group of 300 young street vendors are set for greater business success with the addition of benches for their business and entrepreneurship training from Coca-Cola Kwanza, a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) in Tanzania.

The vendors, all from Mwenge area, Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam Region will also be assisted with introductions to micro-lending institutions to enable them to access funds for expansion of their businesses.

District Municipal Mayor, Songoro Khamis Mnyonge and Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe graced the handover event where a total of 300 benches worth 25m/- was donated by Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd.

The initiative forms part of CCBA's economic inclusion strategy, focusing on women and youth.

"At CCBA, we use our industry leadership to be part of the solution to make the continent a better place for all and to build a more sustainable future for our planet," said

Coca-Cola Kwanza's Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability director, Salum Nassor.

"Our aim is to create greater shared opportunity for the business and the communities we serve across the value-chain. Opportunity is more than just money; it's about a better future for people and their communities everywhere on the African continent," he stated.

Nassor remarked that CCBA has adopted the three pillars of education, employability and entrepreneurship as a framework for its economic inclusion strategy.

"We define economic inclusion as the opening of gainful economic opportunities by providing access to markets and other economic activities leveraging the business and the entire industry," he added.

Speaking at the hand-over event, Coca-Cola Kwanza's Business Development and Commercialization Director, Josephine Msalilwa said: "Our aim is to boost income, provide decent

earning potential and improve skills and business knowledge for youth, resulting in them accessing other opportunities."

"We have a particular focus on current or potential entrepreneurs with the possibility to link them to the Coca-Cola value chain today or in the future," said Msalilwa.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe who was the guest of honour said: "On behalf of the government, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Coca-Cola Kwanza Limited for joining government efforts to economically empower our citizens by focusing on women and youth, who constitute most of our country's population."

Gondwe called upon other institutions, stakeholders, and non-government organisations to benchmark what Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd did on working together and supporting the government's efforts in finding solutions to community challenges.

Dodoma to have first public English medium primary school

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Dodoma City Council plans to build the first ever public English medium primary school in the region, it has been revealed.

City's head of Primary Education department, Prisca Mayalla made the statement here while making a presentation on the report of the construction of the English curriculum in primary school to the Uhuru National Torch race leader, Sahili Geraruma.

She was speaking when the torch race visited the area where the school is being built in Dodoma Makulu area in the city.

Mayalla said that the aim of the project is to provide a quality education that will help students gain knowledge and skills that will enable them to become smart students in

their studies.

"Such schools enable pupils to become experts in various fields both locally and internationally, helping the nation achieve an economic revolution that will enable Tanzania to become a middle economy country," she said.

Another goal is to enable students and teachers to have a good place for learning and teaching.

It also aims to increase the enrolment of primary students from 13,056 in 2022 to 17,556 in 2025. Also increasing the enrolment of first grade students from 19,494 in 2022 to 23,994 in 2025, added Mayalla.

Speaking about the implementation of the project, he said that the project started in 2022 for the council to get a measured area in plot number 20 and 21 Block C Mapinduzi East with a size of 3.71 hectares equal to 9.17 acres for the

construction of school infrastructure and playgrounds of sports.

"The implementations in terms of eight classrooms are at the stage of rent, 32 toilets for boys and girls are at the stage of skimming and the administrative building is at the stage of skimming," said Mayalla.

She noted that so far a total of 298,243,133.10 shillings have been used including the purchase of construction materials, payment of technicians, costs of electricity and water supply to the project area, costs of testing moths, bricks, pebbles and sand.

The council expects to complete the construction of this project by October, 2022. The city council received a total of 750,000,000 shillings on March 30, 2022 from the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) for the construction of an English curriculum school.

VFT-MFB products and services & conduct market survey within the prescribed areas of operation.

Main tasks

- To ensure efficient performance of the Business Centre
- Ensures that the Business Centre meets or exceeds the targets as agreed upon the business plan
- Chairs Business Centre Credit Committee and participates in evaluating, approving or rejecting loans according to policies
- Oversees implementations of internal controls, audit issues and compliance at the Business Centre
- Develop & maintains good working relations with staff, customer relationship and ensure customer satisfaction

Education/Experience

- Bachelor Degree in Economics, Marketing, Accounting and Business Administration
- Very good knowledge of oral & written English
- Very good analytical & reporting skills
- Proficient with Microsoft applications
- 3 years' experience Banking or Microfinance operations

Work Reference No. 022/22

Position: Loan Officer Supervisor (Individual Loan)
Reporting to: Branch/Business Center Manager

Job Purpose

The Loan supervisor is responsible for overall supervision of individual loan officers to deliver the agreed portfolio and client target with quality within the agreeable and acceptable level. The oversight will include monitoring Loan officer to operate within acceptable operation areas, verification of clients brought by Loan officer, supporting loan officer with daily reports and other essentials to enable them to deliver their required targets, conducting screening of clients and provide appropriate recommendation to Loan officer and Branch/Business center Manager. The position holder also provides periodic report to the Branch Manager and Regional Manager of Loan officer performance and recommend appropriate remedy actions as required by VFT policies.

Responsibilities

- To supervise and monitors the daily activities of the Individual Loan Officers;
- To lead the conduct of the market research and survey activities within the outreach coverage area;
- To ensure that the Loan officer meets or exceeds the performance targets as agreed upon in the Business plan/Projections;
- Assist the Loan officer to undertake prescreening including checking against the eligibility criteria, credit history check and credit reference bureau check;
- To conduct Home, Business and collateral visits of clients for verification and monitoring purposes; discusses with the concerned LOs any findings, and provides appropriate guidance;
- To conduct regular performance evaluation of the Loan Officers, and recommends any remedial action to the Business Center/Branch Manager and/or Regional Manager;
- To coaches, encourage, and mentor Loan Officers and other staff at the Outreach Center;
- To Ensure 100% on-time collection or enforces "zero tolerance against missed loan payments;
- Prepares performance reports on a daily, weekly and monthly basis and analyze reports vis-à-vis performance targets;
- To perform other tasks as may be prescribed by the Branch/Business Center Manager or Regional Manager;

Regulatory & Business Conduct:

- Display exemplary conduct and live by the Group's Values and Code of Conduct.
 - Take personal responsibility for embedding the highest standards of ethics, including regulatory and business conduct, across VFT MFB. This includes understanding and ensuring compliance with, in letter and spirit, all applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and the Group Code of Conduct.
 - Take personal responsibility to achieve the outcomes set out in the Bank's Conduct Principles with respect to assigned names: Fair Outcomes for Clients; Effective Operation of Financial Markets; Financial Crime Prevention; The Right Environment.
 - Effectively and collaboratively identify, escalate, mitigate and resolve risk, conduct and compliance matters.
- Qualifications/Experience:
- A bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Accounting, Microfinance, Economics, Business Administration, Finance or any related field.
 - Banking or Financial Institution experience of not less than 3 years 1 of which should be in supervisory position.
 - Good understanding of credit analysis.
 - Excellent financial analysis skills especially financial ratio to determine credit worthiness.

Work Reference No. 023/22

Position: Loan Officer (Individual Loan)
Reporting to: Loan Supervisor/Branch/Business Center Manager

Responsibility:

The Loan officer is responsible for promoting VFT Individual loan and other products to potential customers, screening them against the eligibility criteria's, assess the loan and recommend to the credit committee. The position holder also recruits customer not less than agreed targets and ensure portfolio quality below the acceptable level at all times.

Main tasks

- Markets VFT- MFB LIMITED Individual loan products or services and finds Individual loan clients in designated areas of operation.
- Orient Clients on VFT- MFB LIMITED's product and process as per the set policies and loan documentation required.
- Conducting Business and Home verification to establish credit worthiness and verification of collateral.
- Open and maintain client's files and ensure that all required information is filed according to the laid down policies.
- Guide the clients on filling and completing loan application forms, ensures that the forms are properly filled and affixed with clients' photos as required and that clients read and understand every loan form before filling.
- Compile loan document to a loan file with all required document as per credit policy and product book and Presents the loan file to the branch/Business center credit committee, is also a member of credit committee as per credit Manual.
- Coordinate with client and Business Center Manager on completion of Notice of deposit or Mortgage for clients who are required as per the credit policy.
- Responsible in ensuring that repayment of loans is done as per the agreed schedules and enforce zero tolerance policy to clients on loan repayment

- Immediate and close follows up on all delinquent loans to ensure on time repayment and file in CRM the delinquency procedure undertaken in compliant to credit Manual.
- Attend Individual loan customers visiting the office and as well as customer complain and other

Qualifications/Experience:

- A bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Accounting, Microfinance, Economics, Business Administration, Finance or any related field.
- Banking or Financial Institution experience of not less than 3 years 1 of which should be in dealing with Individual loans.
- Excellent financial analysis skills especially financial ratio to determine credit worthiness.
- Understanding of the Credit Bureau scores and requirements.

Work Reference No. 024/22

Position: Loan Officer
Reporting to: Branch/Business Center Manager

Responsibility:

The Loan officer is responsible for promoting VFT loan and other products to potential customers, screening them against the eligibility criteria's, assess the loan and recommend to the credit committee. The position holder also recruits customer not less than agreed targets and ensure portfolio quality below the acceptable level at all times.

Main tasks:

- Markets VFT- MFB LIMITED loan products or services and finds clients in designated areas of operation.
- Trains Clients on VFT- MFB LIMITED's product and process as per the set policies for each loan product.
- Conducting Business and Home visit to clients with a view to verifying if the business produces a regular income to enable the client to pay back the loan.
- Conducts cash flow analysis and credit assessment to determine client's credit worthiness and character assessment including ensuring client are well known to their respective location including the local government authorities.
- Open and maintain client's files and ensure that all required information is filed according to the laid down policies.
- Guide the clients on filling and completing loan application forms, ensures that the forms are properly filled and affixed with clients' photos as required and that clients read and understand every loan form before filling.
- Ensures that clients complete all other collateral requirements as per the set policies according to the loan products.
- Compile loan file with all required document as per credit policy and product book and Presents the loan file to the branch/Business center credit committee
- Responsible in ensuring that repayment of loans is done as per the agreed schedules and enforce zero tolerance policy to clients on loan repayment
- Immediate and close follows up on all delinquent loans to ensure on time repayment
- Monitor the assigned targets and Ensures the monthly targets are met at all times.
- Attend customers visiting the office and as well as customer complain and other customer care related issues.

Regulatory & Business Conduct:

- Display exemplary conduct and live by the Group's Values and Code of Conduct.
- Take personal responsibility for embedding the highest standards of ethics, including regulatory and business conduct, across VFT MFB. This includes understanding and ensuring compliance with, in letter and spirit, all applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and the Group Code of Conduct.
- Take personal responsibility to achieve the outcomes set out in the Bank's Conduct Principles with respect to assigned names: Fair Outcomes for Clients; Effective Operation of Financial Markets; Financial Crime Prevention; The Right Environment.
- Effectively and collaboratively identify, escalate, mitigate and resolve risk, conduct and compliance matters.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Accounting, Microfinance, Economics, Business Administration, Finance or any related field.
- Excellent financial analysis skills especially financial ratio analysis to determine credit worthiness.
- Good knowledge in collateral and character evaluation of loan clients.
- Understanding of banking practice and related policy issues, their implications and applications.
- An understanding of the functions of and the implementation of Credit Bureau strategies.

Other attributes to all positions above:

- Good communication and writing skills
- Is honest, hardworking, friendly, focused,
- Experience in banking or microfinance
- Able to work independently and as a team member;
- Competent in Microsoft word, excel and power Point
- Commitment to the social mission of microfinance,
- Committed Christian
- High level of integrity

About our working environment & remuneration:

VisionFund Tanzania Microfinance Bank has a calm and harmonious working environment where staffs are highly valued. Good work is recognized and rewarded accordingly and there is an opportunity to grow professionally and spiritually.

Mode of Application:

Interested and suitably qualified individuals should;

- Forward their application letter, detailed CVs with three referees, attaching certified copies of NIDA ID, academic and professional certificates; to vftHRstaff@vftz.co.tz.
- All applications should be addressed to;

**The Chief Executive Officer,
VisionFund Tanzania Microfinance Bank Limited
P.O. Box 1546,
Arusha, TANZANIA.**

- The position should be the subject of the email application.
- The deadline for the application is on 02nd September, 2022.

N.B. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Disclaimer

VisionFund Tanzania Microfinance Bank would like to inform the general public that it has not engaged any consultant/agent to conduct recruitment on its behalf.

Good for SADC to get closer in combating food insecurity

HEADS of State and Government of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) member countries have made commendable progress towards greater integration of the regional economic bloc.

This is going by their just-ended two-day 42nd ordinary summit held in the Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, Kinshasa.

Delegates deliberated on, among other things, ways to build synergies towards food security in the sub-region.

The key issue was expanding farming through greater investments as well as processing industries for value addition, job creation and longevity of food storage if, for instance, grain becomes flour. There was wide convergence.

The summit had a wide-ranging focus, formulated as 'promoting industrialisation through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth'.

Each of those elements already formed a policy pivot in the recent initiatives of SADC's 16 member states, taking Tanzania as an illustration, as its minerals market is being formalised though it faces challenges of attracting enough buyers to offer the most competitive prices. Thus there is an occasional brush up with gold smugglers, etc.

While desert zone countries may have greater cause to be dependent on food imports, African states largely need to be more organised, while the SADC conference may be said to have focused more on resilient growth in the face of current challenges.

The food security dimension is widely seen as the most intensive strategic threat, but it can only be tackled within the wider context of sustainable development strategies, which had pride of place at the summit - very rightly so.

It was set in aggregate terms as the quest for taking up opportunities beneficial to member countries in the industrial,

minerals and agro-processing sectors. Just how they are sequenced is upon each state to map out.

As Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema so aptly pointed out, food security is the key to keeping people safe from other threats to life - it can be added, not just health threats but even stability and public security as national priorities.

Governments failing to ensure food security for the vast majority of the population risk experiencing a legitimacy crisis and, by extension, wide-ranging disturbances. Finding another loyalty anchor is hard.

While SADC member states indeed need to prioritise processing and value addition for agricultural products, ability to purchase food is at times a challenge even when supply is assured.

That is why complementary issues of investing in less costly or renewable energy featured strongly at the Kinshasa summit, as consensus at that level helps to reorient strategies in multilateral financial organisations or development banks.

When member states of SADC or the much wider African Union push a common position, not disparate strategies, it helps to orient global level decisions.

At times one might have felt that the strategy list spelled out by the SADC leaders at the summit in the DRC capital was rather long, and there is no such thing as 'many strategies'.

There has to be a core strategy through which the rest are correlated in terms of results or coordinated in relation to their being taken up or implemented. When the notion of strategy is pluralised, it is effectively denied, as we no longer know where to start and in what specific area of action the public ought to expect results.

That is why the position expressed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the EAC summit in Arusha a few weeks ago was easily the best summation: the need to expand irrigation. Food processing and mineral beneficiation simply require market reforms.

East Africa as a single investment destination 'easier said than done'

LISTENING to an array of stakeholders grouped in the East African Business Council (EABC) seeking that state authorities in each of the EAC partner states shift gear to market East Africa as a single investment destination reminds students of EA integration of old disputes.

Debates on East African union - or federation - and its version on African unity as a whole are still reverberating even now, though on different premises. It was earlier led by political militants and now it is chiefly by ambitious business groups, with far less hearing from political administrators.

An incoming chairperson of the EABC was making this appeal early in the week while on a familiarisation tour of the council's secretariat in Arusha, wishing that each EAC partner state would showcase its potential while reinforcing the bloc's cohesive presence.

The wish was that regional comparative endowments and competitive advantages taken together be the focus of state action, whereas state actors must seek local consensus and a level playing field regionally.

Admittedly, we are almost there and need to consolidate these achievements, not set new goals as such goals could rival what is already being attained, as they may push some stakeholders to start looking inward for a sense of secure space.

It is definitely true that the EAC bloc has abundant resources with unique features - from the coastline to mountain gorilla - which the business leader said offer an opportunity for East African firms to offer regional tourism packages.

This urge will not be an impulse unless there is a significant number of operators in the entire tourism sector value chain who are marketing East Africa indifferently as to what specific destination one books - if it is Zanzibar,

Kigali, Goma or any other. That calls for protocols of the free movement of capital, not just people and goods.

It means that there would no longer be 'authorities' managing conservation areas or reservations but operating firms with a keen interest in conservation, meaning sustainable operations over a long period of time.

Such firms would then place their shares on the stock exchange and thus create shareholders from all sorts of places, and equally wide ranging stakeholders doing business with shareholders.

At that point, their share concentrations notwithstanding, they would definitely be marketing East Africa as a single destination, having interests all over the place.

In reaffirming the EABC commitment to championing regional ideas and solutions towards unlocking opportunities to attract investments into the EAC bloc, the EABC chairperson definitely literally knew and saw what is vital. Still, doubts creep in when we are told that the focus is on improving the quality and competitiveness of the bloc's products and services, which retains competitiveness between those products and services (as this includes the pricing of destinations, etc.).

Such inward diversity of interest can hardly ever be resolved by conferencing or councils but in capital market deals.

That is precisely why the EABC stance reminds some people about what happened in the past, and even in this context there are shadows of past strategies.

Tanzania has for decades been protectionist but has lately been opening the market aggressively, tied to its export needs, with a visible grain surplus. But it isn't contemplating real capital account liberalisation quite yet, and no share sales of its major operating entities. It needs to,

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

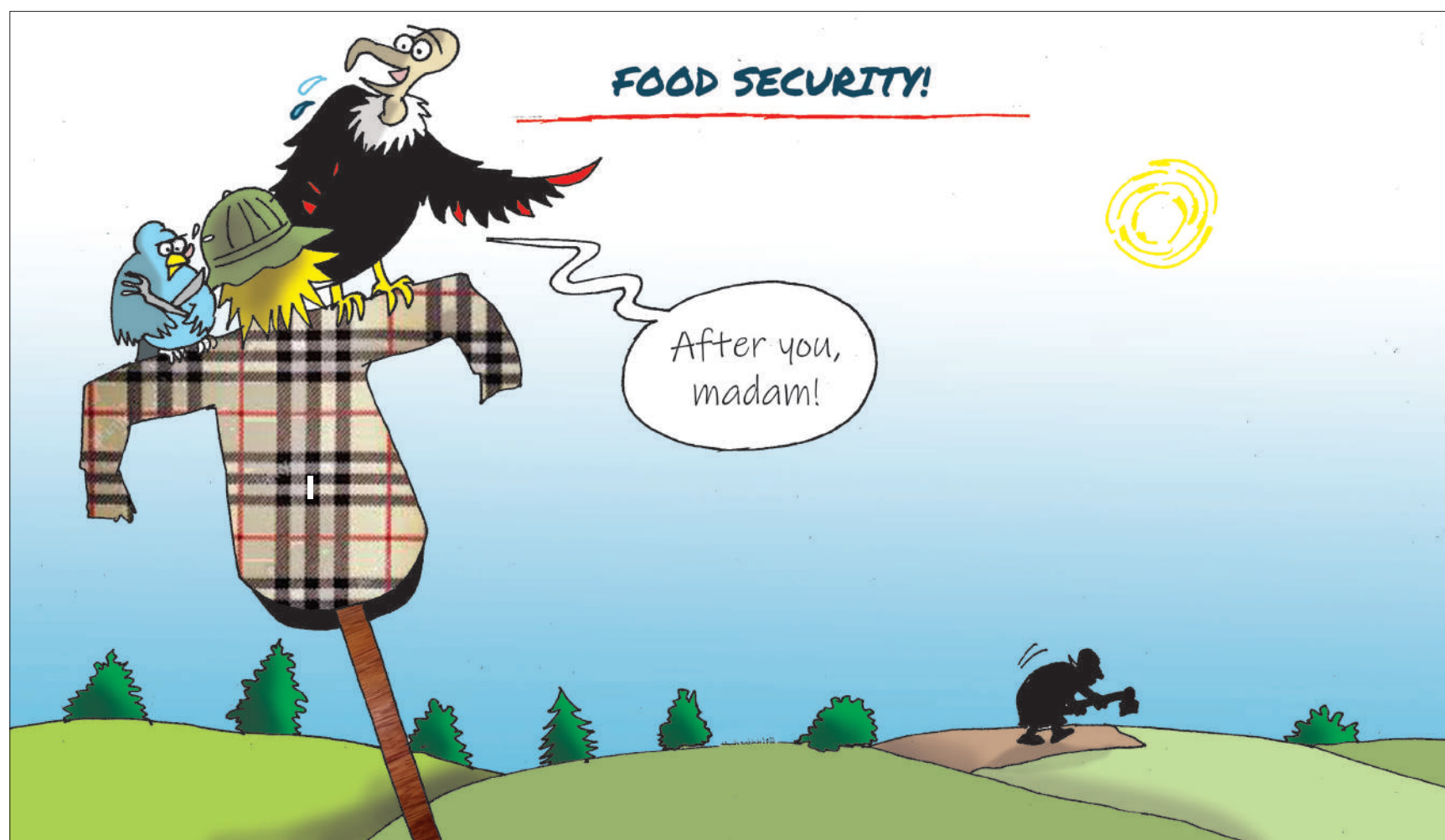
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By Special Correspondents

SLEEP is an important part of your daily routine - you spend about one-third of your time doing it.

Quality sleep - and getting enough of it at the right times - is as essential to survival as food and water.

Without sleep you can't form or maintain the pathways in your brain that let you learn and create new memories, and it's harder to concentrate and respond quickly.

Sleep is important to a number of brain functions, including how nerve cells (neurons) communicate with each other. In fact, your brain and body stay remarkably active while you sleep.

Recent research findings suggest that sleep plays a housekeeping role that removes toxins (that is, naturally occurring organic poison produced by metabolic activities of living cells or organisms) in your brain that build up while you are awake.

Everyone needs sleep, but its biological purpose remains a mystery. Sleep affects almost every type of tissue and system in the body - from the brain, heart, and lungs to metabolism, immune function, mood, and disease resistance.

Research shows that a chronic lack of sleep, or getting poor-quality sleep, increases the risk of disorders including high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression and obesity.

Several structures within the brain are involved with sleep. The hypothalamus, a peanut-sized structure deep inside the brain, contains groups of nerve cells that act as control centres affecting sleep and arousal.

Within the hypothalamus is the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) - clusters of thousands of cells that receive information about light exposure directly from the eyes and control your behavioural rhythm.

Some people with damage to the SCN sleep erratically throughout the day because they are not able to match their circadian rhythms with the light-dark cycle. Most blind people maintain some ability to sense light and are able to modify their sleep/wake cycles.

The brain stem, at the base of the brain, communicates with the hypothalamus to control the transitions between wake and sleep.

Sleep-promoting cells within the hypothalamus and the brain stem produce a brain chemical called GABA, which acts to reduce the activity of arousal centres in the hypothalamus and the brain stem.

The brain stem also plays a special role in REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, which usually starts about 90 minutes after you fall asleep; it sends signals to relax muscles essential for body posture and limb movements, so that we don't act out our dreams.

The thalamus acts as a relay for

Experts still busy seeking to understand nature of sleep

information from the senses to the cerebral cortex (the covering of the brain that interprets and processes information from short- to long-term memory).

During most stages of sleep, the thalamus becomes quiet, letting you tune out the external world. But during REM sleep, it is active, sending the cortex images, sounds and other sensations that fill our dreams.

The pineal gland, located within the brain's two hemispheres, receives signals from the SCN and increases production of the hormone melatonin, which helps put you to sleep once the lights go down.

People who have lost their sight and cannot coordinate their natural wake-sleep cycles using natural light can stabilise their sleep patterns by taking small amounts of melatonin at the same time each day.

The basal forebrain, near the front and bottom of the brain, also promotes sleep and wakefulness, while part of the midbrain acts as an arousal system.

Release of adenosine (a chemical by-product of cellular energy consumption) from cells in the basal forebrain and probably other regions supports your sleep drive.

Caffeine counteracts sleepiness by blocking the actions of adenosine.

Sleep stages

There are two basic types of sleep: REM sleep and non-REM sleep (which has three different stages). Each is linked to specific brain waves and neuronal activity. You cycle through all stages of non-REM and REM sleep several times during a typical night, with increasingly longer, deeper REM periods occurring towards morning.

Stage 1 non-REM sleep is the changeover from wakefulness to sleep. During this short period (lasting several minutes) of relatively light sleep, your heartbeat, breathing and eye movements slow, and your muscles relax with occasional twitches. Your brain waves begin to slow from their daytime wakefulness patterns.

Stage 2 non-REM sleep is a period of light sleep before you enter deeper sleep. Your heartbeat and breathing slow, and muscles relax even further. Your body temperature drops and eye movements stop.

Brain wave activity slows but is marked by brief bursts of electrical activity. You spend more of your repeated sleep cycles in stage 2 sleep than in other sleep stages.

Stage 3 non-REM sleep is the period of deep sleep that you need to feel refreshed in the morning. It occurs in longer periods during the first half of the night.

Your heartbeat and breathing slow

to their lowest levels during sleep. Your muscles are relaxed and it may be difficult to awaken you. Brain waves become even slower.

Most of your dreaming occurs during REM sleep, although some can also occur in non-REM sleep. Your arm and leg muscles become temporarily paralysed, which prevents you from acting out your dreams.

As you age, you sleep less of your time in REM sleep. Memory consolidation most likely requires both non-REM and REM sleep.

Two internal biological mechanisms - circadian rhythm and homeostasis - work together to regulate when you are awake and sleep.

Circadian rhythms direct a wide variety of functions from daily fluctuations in wakefulness to body temperature, metabolism, and the release of hormones.

They control your timing of sleep and cause you to be sleepy at night and your tendency to wake up in the morning without an alarm.

Your body's biological clock, which is based on a roughly 24-hour day, controls most circadian rhythms.

Sleep-wake homeostasis keeps track of your need for sleep. The homeostatic sleep drive reminds the body to sleep after a certain time and regulates sleep intensity.

This sleep drive gets stronger every hour you are awake and causes you to sleep longer and more deeply after a period of sleep deprivation.

Factors that influence your sleep-wake needs include medical conditions, medications, stress, sleep environment, and what you eat and drink.

Perhaps the greatest influence is the exposure to light. Specialised cells in the retinas of your eyes process light and tell the brain whether it is day or night and can advance or delay our sleep-wake cycles. Exposure to light can make it difficult to fall asleep and return to sleep when awakened.

Night shift workers often have trouble falling asleep when they go to bed, and also have trouble staying awake at work because their natural circadian rhythm and sleep-wake cycle is disrupted.

In the case of jet lag, circadian rhythms become out of sync with the time of day when people fly to a different time zone, creating a mismatch between their internal clock and the actual clock.

How Much Sleep Do You Need?

Your need for sleep and your sleep patterns change as you age, but this varies significantly across individuals of the same age.

There is no magic "number of sleep

hours" that works for everybody of the same age. Babies initially sleep as much as 16 to 18 hours per day, which may boost growth and development - especially of the brain.

School-age children and teens on average need about 9.5 hours of sleep per night. Most adults need seven to nine hours of sleep a night, but after age 60, nighttime sleep tends to be shorter, lighter and interrupted by multiple awakenings. Elderly people are also more likely to take medications that interfere with sleep.

In general, people are getting less sleep than they need owing to longer work hours and the availability of round-the-clock entertainment and other activities.

Many people feel that they can "catch up" on missed sleep during the weekend but, depending on how sleep-deprived they are, sleeping longer on the weekends may not be adequate.

Dreaming

Everyone dreams. You spend about two hours each night dreaming but may not remember most of your dreams.

Its exact purpose isn't known, but dreaming may help you process your emotions. Events from the day often invade your thoughts during sleep, and people suffering from stress or anxiety are more likely to have frightening dreams.

Dreams can be experienced in all stages of sleep but usually are most vivid in REM sleep. Some people dream in colour, while others only recall dreams in black and white.

Tips for getting a good night's sleep

Getting enough sleep is good for your health. Here are a few tips to improve your sleep, one being setting a schedule - going to bed and wake up at the same time each day.

Others include exercising 20 to 30 minutes a day but not later than a few hours before going to bed, avoiding caffeine and nicotine late in the day and alcoholic drinks before bed, relaxing before bed - having a warm bath, reading, etc.

Also: creating a room for sleep - avoiding bright lights and loud sounds, keeping the room at a comfortable temperature, and desisting from watching TV or using a computer in the bedroom.

More: Seeing a doctor if you have a problem sleeping or if you feel unusually tired during the day. Most sleep disorders can be treated effectively.

• US National Institutes of Health/TIME

How media companies like NYT, Gannett managing costs in an economic downturn

BY SARA GUAGLIONE

MEDIA companies are identifying areas of their businesses to cut amid the economic downturn, as advertising revenue slows.

The approaches - announced by The New York Times, BuzzFeed, Gannett and IAC during their respective quarterly earnings calls this month - vary, from cutting back on marketing budgets to slowing hiring or undergoing layoffs.

"The multiple headwinds of higher wage costs, inflation, supply chain challenges, increasing competition for share of consumer wallet and beyond create an environment where the CFOs (chief financial officers) need to take a practical approach to driving the priorities for their business," CJ Bangah, principal at PwC, said in an email.

Cutting back on marketing

The New York Times is pulling back on marketing spend as advertisement sales costs go up. Sales and marketing costs increased by about 8.5 per cent.

This was "largely due to higher advertising sales costs, which were lower in the prior year due largely to the Covid-19 pandemic", Roland Caputo, executive vice president and chief financial officer at the Times, said.

He made the remarks during the company's second-quarter earnings call on August 3, adding: "I think you'll see the decrease in that year-over-year spend show up."

Times president and CEO Meredith Kopit Levien meanwhile noted that even when setting aside "market uncertainty", it has "long been our plan" to "get the product itself to do more of the work to engage and convert". Marketing costs are expected to "come down" this year, she said.

The company does not expect to "slow cost growth" in journalism or engineering, Caputo said. The Times declined to answer questions on



how much of the marketing budget will be cut.

Slowing down hiring

BuzzFeed's cost reduction plan is focused on limiting hiring and reducing its real estate footprint.

While much of this plan "has already been put in motion", BuzzFeed is returning to its focus on "critical" hires, a spokesperson confirmed.

BuzzFeed resumed its regular hiring process in the spring, after slowing down hiring from January to April.

"As we look ahead, we are not immune to the effects of a worsening economic environment and the audience shift to vertical video," BuzzFeed CEO Jonah Peretti

wrote in an internal memo sent to staff on Aug. 9 and shared with Digiday.

"Like so many other companies, we're seeing a slowdown in client spending in some of our key advertising categories," he added.

Hiring will now focus on BuzzFeed's "highest priority revenue initiatives", including vertical video, creators and monetisation, Peretti wrote.

"I know that in many ways we are already thinking this way - not assuming that every departure is backfilled, thinking through every role. So this isn't a dramatic shift for us," he said.

IAC, the owner of Dotdash Meredith, also announced that it was slowing down hir-

ing at the company.

"Whether out of fear, data or opportunity, companies are clearly cutting spend well ahead of the consumer.

In response, we've slowed hiring and reduced discretionary spend, and shifted the balance a little further in the direction of profitability versus growth," CEO Joey Levin wrote in a letter to shareholders sent on August 9.

When asked what impact this has on Dotdash Meredith, an IAC spokesperson said Levin's letter "was just a general comment and not specific to any particular IAC business".

"Across tech and media companies we are seeing an increased focus on pro-

ductivity of employees and shoring up the financial health of the business to be prepared for the current economic climate and meet investor expectations," Bangah said.

"The rapid and disruptive consumption shifts and market volatility in recent history have created an environment where hiring and spending are being treated as a privilege across many companies in this space," added the PwC principal.

Letting go of staff

In its second-quarter earnings call on August 4, Gannett's CEO Mike Reed spoke of the impact of economic conditions on the company's business - total revenue fell by 6.9 per cent, or US\$54 million, to US\$749 million in the quarter. Coinciding with that revenue drop, the company is cutting costs, including laying off employees.

Gannett will reduce its headcount and eliminate "various open positions", a company spokesperson said, adding that there will be "aggressive cutbacks" in areas such as third-party company contracts, freelance

and travel.

The economic climate "dictates that we have to make tough decisions" across all divisions of the company, a Gannett spokesperson said, adding that the "significant cost reduction programme" would focus primarily on Gannett's print business.

Gannett is understood to have already begun a round of layoffs. While it is unclear how many people were let go, the NewsGuild-CWA (which represents more than 1,500 Gannett journalists across roughly 50 newsrooms) has tracked at least 65 layoffs across 20 newsrooms, according to a post by president Jon Schleuss.

Organisations with a "strong financial model" and a belief that "current market conditions will calm and growth will return to more normalized levels" are more likely to turn to hiring slowdowns instead of layoffs, Bangah said.

She said that, on the other hand, organisations "with a vulnerable financial position or those who have a cost model that does not align with their growth forecasts" are more likely to go through layoffs or "more stark" cost cutting measures.

Reducing real estate

BuzzFeed is meanwhile cutting back on its office space, as a result of its acquisition of Complex Networks last December. A spokesperson said that BuzzFeed, whose offices are on 18th Street in Manhattan, inherited Complex's headquarters on 43rd Street - which has "ample offices and production space".

BuzzFeed will sublease its 18th Street office and turn the 43rd Street office into BuzzFeed's primary headquarters, "because we don't need two NYC headquarters", according to the spokesperson.

Real estate is one of the business areas most likely to face budget cuts in the next 12 months, according to a July 2022 study by Gartner, which surveyed more than 200 CFOs and finance executives.

More than 72 per cent of CFOs surveyed by Gartner are determined to whittle down their real estate footprint by the end of this year.

digiday

African digital innovators are turning plastic waste into value, but there are gaps, here's what can be done

BY SEUN KOLADE AND MUYIWA OYINLOLA

There are promising start-ups across the continent transforming the plastic value chain into a smart, innovative and sustainable network. But there are challenges, such as scaling.

Plastic pollution is a growing global menace. Between 2010 and 2020, the global production of plastics increased from 270 million tonnes to 367 million tonnes. Every year, more than 12 million tonnes of plastic end up in the world's oceans, with severe consequences for marine life. When macroplastics degrade into microplastics, they easily contaminate the food chain and pose significant threats to human health via inhalation and ingestion.

By 2030, plastic waste is expected to double to 165 million tonnes in African countries. Most of this will be in Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

A significant proportion of the plastic that ends up on African shores is produced in developed, industrialised countries. By 2010, it was estimated that close to 4.4 million tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste ended up in oceans and seas off the coast of Africa every year. A 2022 estimate put this number at 17 million tonnes.

Growing numbers of NGOs and innovators across the continent are responding to the challenge. They are developing digital solutions to reduce plastic waste generation, and promoting reuse and recycling of plastic products. Increasingly, African tech hubs are incorporating environmental sustainability into their



business models.

In our recent paper, we highlight ongoing efforts and innovations in what is called the plastic value chain. This comprises four phases, from the design of plastic products to manufacture, use and end of life.

We found a number of initiatives that are transforming the plastic value chain into a smart, innovative and sustainable network. Most aim to improve plastic identification, collection, transport, sorting, processing and reuse. Some focus on the earlier phases: design and production of plastic products.

A whole-value-chain approach to the circular plastic economy is very important. While the majority of plastic waste management activities

tend to focus on the use and end-of-life phases, more attention needs to be given to design and manufacture. This is where the problem of plastic waste begins. Worldwide, attention is turning to designing simpler and standardised products that are easier to recycle and reuse.

Innovators cracking the code
A Nigerian software company, Wecyclers, operates a rewards-for-recycling platform. It offers incentives to individuals and households in low-income communities to make money and capture value from recyclable plastic waste.

Via the platform, waste collectors are connected to a fleet of locally assembled waste-cargo vehicles, which they use

to collect waste from subscribing households. These households are also rewarded according to the quantity of waste collected from them.

The collected waste is deposited in designated locations in the Lagos metropolis, to be collected in bulk by recyclers. This provides materials to manufacturers who turn them into new items such as tissue paper, stuffing for bedding, plastic furniture, aluminium sheets and nylon bags.

The impact is significant on many levels. First, by linking waste generating households with waste collectors in their neighbourhoods, the Wecycler model simplifies the logistics of collection and sorting at source, at practically no cost to households.

Second, it enables households not only to mitigate the public health risks associated with plastic waste accumulation and mismanagement, but also to generate income. Finally, it elongates the end-of-life phase in the plastic value chain through recycling and potential reuse.

In Uganda, Yo Waste, a technology start-up, has developed a mobile, cloud-based solution that connects waste generators to the nearest waste haulers in their community. Yo Waste improves the efficiency of scheduling and waste collection. It also helps waste collection companies measure the productivity of their trucks, and gives recyclers easier access to the plastic waste.

In Zambia, Recyclebot is connecting waste sellers to waste buyers via a crowdsourcing platform that aggregates waste by type and location. In effect, the plastic waste producers dispose of their waste for free, and waste buyers overcome the cost of separation, transfer and storage.

While these are promising innovations, the main challenge is scaling. This is slow on the continent. Start-ups in the recycling industry face additional challenges like inadequate funding and an underdeveloped plastic market that offers limited opportunities for growth and income generation.

A significant proportion of the funds accessed by start-ups is provided as grants from international and local organisations. Pure business investments are rare, and policy interventions are way behind the curve.

To accelerate the transition to a

circular plastic economy, stakeholders from across a spectrum of organisations must work together. They include NGOs, cooperatives, think tanks and community groups. The current approach to tackling plastic waste on the continent remains scattered and inadequately coordinated. While efforts are being made to develop new ecosystems in many countries, key stakeholders are often missing.

In particular, African governments have a key role to play. They need to commit more to strategic investment in infrastructure, incentives and support for start-ups. African countries also need policy interventions to grow the market for circular plastic products at national and continent-wide levels.

In another study, we argued that innovators must tailor their strategies to create innovations that are functional and easy to use. This will make it easier for ordinary consumers and the general public to accept them. In turn it will help change habits of consumption and expand the market for circular plastic products.

Digital innovators, as early adopters, are critical for driving changes in the way the plastics economy works across the continent. Their innovations are also leading to knowledge exchange and cross-sectoral collaborations.

However, they also face significant institutional challenges and infrastructural limitations that are slowing down the pace of progress. By working together and pooling resources, stakeholders can achieve an impact that is much greater than the sum of their individual initiatives and contributions towards a circular plastic economy in Africa. DM

Publishers push prices of print products higher and higher - is it a coincidence?

BY DEAN ROPER

DURING consecutive sessions at the World Association of News Publishers' (WAN-IFRA) recent Asian Media Leaders eSummit, we heard two CEOs share how they had raised the price of their print product dramatically in the last year.

They reported that, surprisingly, they had experienced little to no churn (that is, the rate at which customers stop doing business with an entity or the measure of how many customers stop using a product) as a result of the increase. Trend or coincidence?

We wanted to find out - and hence our global survey. We surveyed about 75 publishers from 32 countries all over the world in July with just five questions: Are you a national or regional? Have you raised your prices in the last 12 months? If so, by how much? What impact did it have on circulation? Do you plan to increase prices in the next 12 months?

In summary: About 52 percent of publishers responding said they were national dailies, and about 48 percent regional or local.

Nearly 65 percent of publishers participating said they raised the price of their print newspapers in the last 12 months, while about 16 percent of those raised their prices by more than 30 percent.

Nearly 50 percent saw little or no change in churn, a few even said their circulation increased (dubious? perhaps...). And nearly 50 percent say they plan to raise their prices in the next 12 months, while 28 percent say they are contemplating a change.

Of those publishers that said they had raised their prices in the last 12 months, the majority had done so at a rate between 0 and 20 percent, but a significant number had been even more aggressive, 4.4 percent even raising theirs by more than 50 percent.

While some publishers have experienced some significant churn after raising their prices, the majority have had churn within a manageable rate, considering the typical YoY (year-on-year) decline in print circulation. Yet, there are a number of newspapers that are waiting for results.

With nearly half of respondents



indicating that they will raise their print prices within the next 12 months and nearly 29 percent contemplating a change, it indeed looks like publishers see an opportunity to increase the value of their print products - perhaps not just for the short term

Perspective: As news publishers around the world increase their focus (rightfully so) on the transition to a more digital and diversified future, the bridge leading to that day - PRINT - is still the primary platform of revenue for most.

In our most recent World Press Trends report (published in early May), our estimates based on our global survey of publishers and PwC's annual Global Media & Entertainment report data, print makes up 73 percent of overall income for newspapers; print circulation makes up nearly 42 percent of overall revenue.

Digital makes up 16.4 percent of total revenue, while digital circulation makes up 5.7 percent of overall revenue. (It is worth noting that we reported other revenue streams in that report

that totalled nearly 21 percent of overall revenues, a very positive development.)

So why the increases in print prices? To squeeze every penny out of print while you can? To offset the increasing costs of materials and delivery - much of that directly related to the Ukraine war?

Or is it just more sophisticated pricing strategies: charging more for a valued, increasingly niche product that loyal readers are willing to pay for? Probably a combination of those, but it's real.

"We are working with over 400 publications on pricing, and the vast majority are raising print prices," said Matt Lindsay, President of Mather Economics, which advises news media and other industries on subscription, pricing and revenue management.

Lindsay elaborated: "We do see a focus on long-term strategic objectives this year instead of short-term revenue objectives. We help publishers maximise the expected value of the print product operating margins through price increases,

bundling, and operational changes (migration to hybrid products, fewer print delivery days, mail delivery options.) We also help them with minimising churn from non-price reasons.

"Print products still represent the overwhelming majority of subscription revenue and operating margins even though it has more costs than digital. The average rates of print are so much higher than digital-only.

"The long-term objectives are maximising the expected value of the print revenue stream. In recent years, there has been more of a focus on current-year revenue, so there were more aggressive pricing actions on print than what we are seeing now. We are seeing a move to lessen premium-day revenue and additional fees, which are observed to increase churn."

Pricing specialist Mather Economics benchmarked 400 of its US clients and produced a comprehensive report. This shows the average monthly rate of print pricing, based on circulation, over 2021 and 2022. For the most part, you can see increases YoY.

Globe and Mail, Kompas go all-in

One national newspaper that has been quite aggressive in pricing is The Globe and Mail in Canada. At the Asian event, CEO Phillip Crawley shared how G&M is accelerating growth to higher levels even compared to pre-pandemic. And much of that can be attributed to print, he says.

"While others cut back on print (during the Covid-19 pandemic), we decided that it was a good time to invest. It does make a difference. Readers notice - as do advertisers." Today, The Globe and Mail has 300,000 subscribers, of which 210,000 are digital-only and 95,000 are print subscribers.

The company's target is 350,000 subscribers - print and digital - by the end of 2023. G&M has flexed its muscles on pricing too: Its weekday paper costs Canadian \$4 (€2.94), up from C\$1 (0.73), 20 years ago. Its Saturday paper retails at C\$7 (€5.14), up from C\$3 (€2.20).

The Globe has three subscription packages - Digital access (C\$1.99/week or €1.46),

Saturday Home Delivery plus Digital access (C\$6.99/week or €5.13), and Monday-Saturday home delivery plus digital access (C\$10.99/week or €8.07).

"A subscriber buying print and digital will be paying 650 dollars and upward (Canadian, about €493) per year. Some people are paying 800 dollars," said Crawley. "So we work hard to justify this premium pricing, and we do it by spending on quality journalism."

In 2021, Crawley said the company's print advertising revenue increased by 8 percent and print subscription revenue by 1 percent, a far cry from most other North American counterparts. The brand has managed to ensure that the contribution from print is at an 18 percent margin level.

In a panel discussion at the same event, Andy Budiman, CEO of KG Media in Indonesia, which publishes the national daily Kompas, shared his company's strategy on pricing print.

"For us, actually the majority of profit is generated by digital, but print still reaches what we think is the most influential audience in Indonesia, which are decision-makers in private and government sectors. So for us, as long as this audience still reads and trusts our newspaper - maybe even above other platforms - print still has a real influence and a purpose.

And as print becomes more and more niche, we have reached a point where we see that the print audience has a high willingness to pay for the product. So this year, we increased the cover price of Kompas by 45 percent, and we expected that this would result in a huge drop in our circulation. But, in fact, what we see is a far smaller decrease in our circulation than we anticipated. So this clearly shows that they appreciate the product and are willing to pay for it."

• **A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA)**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAVYO 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

Worsening drought threatens lives in parts of western Kenya

NAIROBI

IN Western Kenya, a sunny sky can be an ominous sign of worse things to come.

In Garissa, living creatures barely make it. Either death awaits or exile for those who wish to survive.

According to National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Kenya is facing an unprecedented severe drought due to the cumulative impacts of four consecutive failed rainy seasons.

"I am 78 years old, Dubey Ibrahim Werar says. I have not seen a severe drought like this in all my life. For the last three years, there has not been a single drop of rain. All these houses have been abandoned by their people. Few of us have remained here. We haven't seen a dire situation than this one before."

Climate shocks have turned upside down the lives of pastoralists. Livestock, one of their key livelihood sectors, has been severely affected. Staple food prices have gone through the roof, while daily wages continue to plummet.

The fall of purchasing power led to rising rates of malnutrition among the most vulnerable communities.

Mohammed Noor Afey, a community leader, has observed the sad deterioration: "The drought has really affected our livestock and this has taken away our economic lifeline. What is left here are people with no livestock. The only person who can afford to buy something is the one with livestock nearby through selling his or her livestock. We don't have markets where we can buy food and we don't have farms. The only income we have is our livestock and we've lost that."



According to the National Drought Management Authority Food Security June report, the number of people facing food insecurity in Kenya has increased from the previous 3.5M to 4.1M.

The Kenyan Red Cross Society and the International Committee

of the Red Cross have been distributing relief food and animal feed in four drought-affected counties.

In order to help communities build resilience in the face of the erratic weather patterns, households have also received cash support.

Drugs and other emergency health supplies distributed by UNICEF and partners reached 150,000 people in Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, and Tana River, the OCHA said.

Drought-related disease outbreaks of Kalaazar, Chikungunya,

Dengue fever and Yellow fever have been reported in drought-affected Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), further compounding the vulnerability of communities, and their coping mechanisms to drought emergency.

Tazara revenue down in annual financial results

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

REVENUE on the line connecting Tanzania and Zambia, which is overseen by the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), declined from \$31million in the 2020/2021 financial year to \$24.2 million in 2021/2022, which ended on June 30.

This came as the closure of the Chambeshi Bridge in Zambia and washouts in Tanzania affected the annual freight performance, which dropped by 3.5 per cent compared with the 2020/2021 financial year.

The results were announced during a meeting of the TAZARA board, which was attended by the permanent secretaries responsible for Transport in Tanzania and Zambia, Gabriel Migire and Fredrick Mwalusaka, who are the board's chair and co-chair respectively.

They were joined by Tanzanian board members, Professor Razack Lokina and Rukia Shamte, and Zambian board members, Stephen Mbewe and Nkumbu Siame at a meeting in Dar es Salaam.

Passenger traffic also continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the low availability of equipment.

The board approved the 2022/2023 budget and expects the line to carry 450,000 tonnes of freight and 3.4 million passengers over this period. Revenue is projected to be \$51.3 million, a significant improvement, including \$34.3 million from passenger and freight services and \$10.4 million from non-traffic revenue, including open-access operation.

Ahead of the meeting, the board members toured the Port of Dar es Salaam, where they were also updated on the port's operation and told of the potential freight flows along the TAZARA route.

During the meeting, the board encouraged the line's management to expedite the repair of rolling stock and hire locomotives to move the readily available volumes of freight.



The results were announced during a meeting of the TAZARA board, which was attended by the permanent secretaries responsible for Transport in Tanzania and Zambia, Gabriel Migire and Fredrick Mwalusaka, who are the board's chair and co-chair respectively.

The board also encouraged TAZARA to devise a short-term plan to purchase at least two locomotives a year.

The board noted the positive contribution of the private operators operating on the TAZARA line through open-access agreements, but urged the line's management to direct a portion of the revenue from open access fees towards the repair and upkeep of the line's infrastructure.

The board also called for the line's management to prioritise the digitisation of the financial and commercial systems as soon as possible.

Reviewing passenger fares, the board noted that while the cost of operating passenger trains had increased, both the Zambian and Tanzanian currencies had depreciated significantly since 2018 when the rates were last reviewed in Zambia, thereby creating fare distortions.

The board approved a proposal to adjust the dollar-denominated base fares gradually by 6 per cent in the first quarter and 6 per cent in the second quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year.

The board noted the directives from the heads of state from Tanzania and Zambia, who met in Dar es Salaam on August 2, and resolved to form a Joint Technical Committee that would harmonise the interests of the two governments and develop a position to find a suitable approach to revamping TAZARA's operation through the participation of other investors, including the Chinese.

This includes upgrading the 1067mm-gauge line to standard gauge to open up new business opportunities along the route.

Millions of children to benefit from malaria vaccine - UNICEF

By Guardian Reporter

UNICEF has awarded a contract for the first ever supply of a malaria vaccine to GSK with a value of up to \$170 million.

The landmark award will lead to 18 million doses of RTS/AS01 (RTS's) being available over the next three years, potentially saving thousands of lives every year.

In 2020, nearly half a million children died from malaria in Africa alone, a rate of one child death per minute.

Director of UNICEF's Supply Division, Eteleva Kadilli said: "This vaccine rollout gives a clear message to malaria vaccine developers to continue their work because malaria vaccines are needed and wanted. We hope this is just the beginning. Continued innovation is needed to develop new and next-generation vaccines to increase available supply, and enable a healthier vaccine market."

Kadilli said the move is a giant step towards collective efforts to save children's lives and reduce the burden of malaria as part of wider malaria prevention and control programmes.

Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, and the Vaccine Alliance said: "We recently opened the first application window for Gavi support in

rolling out the malaria vaccine."

Berkley thanked UNICEF's procurement work saying it is a step further towards getting this life-saving vaccine to the people who need it the most.

"As manufacturing ramps up over time, we hope that increasing volumes will also lead to more sustainable, lower prices," he said.

WHO Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biological, Dr Kate O'Brien said: "Lives are at stake, every day. WHO welcomes the progress to secure supply and timely access to vaccines so that more countries can begin to introduce this additional malaria prevention tool as rapidly as possible. Given the initial limited supply, it is crucial that children living in areas where the risk of disease and need is high-est are prioritized first."

"We must not lose sight of the need to accelerate access to this and future malaria vaccines, and to make the necessary investments in malaria control and immunization services, as well as in research and development," said Dr Ashley Birkett, Global Head of Malaria Vaccines & Biologics at PATH.

She added: "Effective malaria and immunization programs are both key to the successful delivery of a ma-



laria vaccine and contribute to stronger health systems overall."

World Health Organization (WHO) data indicates that more than 30 countries have areas with moderate to high malaria transmission, where the vaccine could provide added protection against malaria to over 25 million children each year once supply scales up.

The RTS's malaria vaccine is the result of 35 years of research and development and is the first-ever vaccine against a parasitic disease. The vaccine acts against Plasmodium falciparum,

the most deadly malaria parasite globally and the most prevalent in Africa.

In 2019, pilot routine vaccine use was launched in three countries - Ghana, Kenya and Malawi - as part of the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme coordinated by WHO.

The experience and evidence generated by the pilots informed WHO's recommendation in October 2021 for widespread use of the first malaria vaccine in countries with moderate to high P. falciparum malaria transmission.

Soon after, in December

2021, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's decision to provide funding for malaria vaccine programmes in eligible countries opened the pathway for broader roll-out of the vaccine.

This award is the culmination of 18 months of intensive preparation and consultation with industry and partners. As the largest buyer of vaccines in the world, UNICEF accelerated action to conclude procurement negotiations, to ensure there are no delays in securing available supplies of the malaria vaccine to help protect vulnerable

children.

Demand for the malaria vaccine is expected to be high among affected countries. As with any new vaccine, supply will be limited at first and will increase over time as manufacturing capacity ramps up to the level required. As volumes increase, costs per dose should decrease.

Plans are already underway to boost production, including through technology transfer, so that every child at risk will one day have the opportunity to be immunized against this killer disease.

Four strategies for sales growth in Q4 and beyond

BY RICHARD E. BROWN

THE most challenging thing about being a sales leader is your adeptness at exponential sales growth. For you, just like for most leaders, the constant need for innovation for revenue ascension can be complex and sometimes challenging to navigate.

One thing I've committed to in my monthly sales column is walking through the year with you as a sales leader. It's imperative to share ideas and help others achieve their collective revenue goals - and Q4 is not only ripe with opportunities for sales growth but also rich in innovation to set a new course for the following year.

Preparing and optimising your efforts in advance of an upcoming season or quarter is fundamental for any leader. However, sales leaders must seamlessly merge codependent subjective and objective strategies to yield optimal results to produce



exponential sales growth. In essence, the intangible culture you develop within your organisation amplifies the tangible tactics you put in place and vice versa. These initiatives and cultural shifts take time to manifest but may ultimately set the stage for short- and long-term sales growth.

Therefore, here are four strategies you can put in place today to accelerate your sales for Q4 and beyond.

ONE: Evaluate your prod-

uct and audience immediately. As many media organisations face advertiser, subscriber and viewership erosion, it's imperative to know and understand the "why" behind your brand, content and features.

Your product is either an alternative or a disruptor within your content niche, and re-evaluating your current status can help guide the focus on developing game-changing momentum for your organisation.

DON'T simply submit to the

ambiguous notion that your product caters to all audiences. Why do they read, listen or view your content? Is your content convenient and easy to use or access? Do they enjoy the opinions of your content team?

We're in an age of consumers being able to read, view and listen to the content they want to know, so among so many other providers of information, why do your subscribers choose you?

TWO: Implement a lead

generation strategy today. After evaluating and re-establishing the "why" behind your brand, amplify that message to your subscriber and advertiser audiences.

Whether you're doing all of your promotional marketing internally or leveraging an outside source, you must meet your revenue opportunities where they are and ingrain your brand within your region to reach new prospects.

Build communities by leveraging all social media

groups and platforms. Take advantage of paid digital advertising and partner with small business aid organisations throughout your state.

Invest in high-quality lead generation tools and partners, develop video content, and create email and text journeys with new advertisers to communicate your cause and illustrate how your product helps them grow.

As a sales leader, your influence and ability to generate new sales opportunities for your organisation is the fuel that ignites the flame for sales growth.

THREE: Focus on growth. I firmly believe that your reality results from your focus. Sales growth occurs when all departmental functions, tactics, strategies and actions are focused on it.

Therefore, you must instill a growth mindset in all aspects of your sales organisation. A positive shift in virtually every key sales metric potentially represents a significant sales or revenue impact.

FOUR: Create psychological security. I believe that the most influential, sales growth-driven culture you can develop as a sales leader is one of team responsibility, reliance and psychological security.

This concept does not represent an alternative or elimination of performance or coaching plans. Instead, psychological security results from everyone on your sales team understanding their value and what their efforts mean to an overall objective.

I've always felt that tethering your sales team members to organisational causes and creating a connected environment among their peers, colleagues and direct reports has an insurmountable effect on their willingness to achieve more.

Be genuine, show empathy and reinforce the value of their efforts in all of your communication. Constantly remind them of their impact and illustrate the tactics and strategies you're putting in place for their longevity and

organisational sustainability.

If you want to grow sales, you'll need a team that is ready and willing to grow sales with you. The vanity of any new sale will deplete over time, but the experience of connectivity and playing an integral part in an organisation's growth stays with you throughout your career and replenishes the sales spirit daily.

An E&P (Editor & Publisher) dispatch. Richard E. Brown is a News Media Alliance Rising Star recipient, the former director of renewals and digital sales strategy at LPi, and the former director of digital operations and sales of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. He recently served as the head of digital subscriber churn for Gannett | USA TODAY NETWORK. He is now the senior director of retention for The Daily Beast and the founder of Richard E. Brown News Media Consulting.

Social media can drive Africa's health revolution

BY ELIZABETH NTONJIRA

Social media platforms can bring conversations about health closer to the people and make global health a less abstract concept to the ordinary African.

We live in the information age and social media is no longer solely the preserve of bored teenagers. It is reported that 58.4% of the world's population today (more than four billion people) use social media, while the average daily time spent on digital platforms is 2.5 hours.

Content sharing apps have, over the past decade, quietly nudged traditional media and search engines off the number one spot for information sharing. According to Digital Report 2021, about 36.5% of people use social media for news and current affairs.

Where companies such as Yahoo and Google were once the go-to for internet searches, Gen Z is changing this, with nearly 40% preferring platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, according to Google's search data.

The face and utility of so-

cial media have changed. It's almost a disadvantage if you're not on social media now - and global health needs to both embrace and adapt to this reality.

Public awareness Since the onset of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, we have seen social media's instrumental role in raising public awareness on health issues. Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp have been used to issue health-related public service announcements and combat misinformation and disinformation.

It is not by chance that leading global health institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) have built a strong social media presence and earned the public's trust by providing up-to-date, reliable information.

The positive outcomes registered from leveraging social media to inform and educate the public about Covid and other health-related topical issues offer valuable lessons to organisa-



tions working in the health and development space in Africa.

Where there have been laudable efforts by African non-government and community-based organisations to be more active on social media, we now see increased opportunities for them to use these platforms in more innovative ways to gain greater visibility, sup-

port and engage their target audiences for sustainable impact.

Global health goals So how can those of us working in a field that often struggles to connect with younger audiences, or hold the interest of key decision-makers in health, leverage this great technological advancement to drive progress toward global health goals?

First, we must recognise that advancements in communications technology and the ubiquity of digital devices, deeper internet penetration and a more

connected world offer great opportunities for us to collaborate to achieve health milestones on the continent.

While internet penetration in Africa still lags behind the rest of the world at about 40%, compared with the global average of about 66%, the continent is steadily catching up, with the number of internet users having grown six-fold in the past decade.

Second, we must appreciate that this growth opens doors for us to use social media platforms for public health advocacy, coalescing like-minded individuals to drive policy change that will put us on the path to realising health for all on the continent.

Social media, the greatest equaliser and convenor in modern history, allows us to circumvent barriers created by geographical boundaries and time zones.

Public participation By tapping into this valuable resource, we can create countrywide and regional movements to drive public participation in the shap-

ing and implementation of health policy, push for access to essential services and address health injustices (for example, through Amref's End Vaccine Injustice in Africa campaign), and crowdsourcing data and feedback in real time to inform efforts to build resilience in health systems, prevent, identify and respond to disease outbreaks.

Popular social media platforms can also be used to share contextually relevant content in local languages to reach last-mile communities, fundraise for health programmes, drum up support for African-led convenings and knowledge-sharing platforms, and strengthen the health workforce by providing access to information at relatively low cost, thereby supporting efforts to increase the number of trained health workers, especially at primary care level.

This is especially critical at a time when the cost of travelling to global health conferences often excludes health practitioners from low- and middle-income

countries. Understanding By using these platforms to bring conversations about health closer to the people, we can make global health a less abstract concept and a subject of interest to the ordinary African. We can help our people understand what is happening, why it matters and how they can participate to reach the desired outcomes.

This is especially valuable in a culture that still cherishes community over individualism - where the ideals of ubuntu (humanity and compassion) and harambee (collaboration, to pull together) still matter.

To be human is to desire connection, and social media offers those of us in global health ways to listen, engage and build meaningful connections with the communities we aim to serve.

We have already seen how instrumental social media has been in changing Africa's political landscape - imagine what we could achieve if we unleashed its power to drive the continent's health revolution. **DM**



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 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 MATANGAZO 07.15 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 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 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 01.00-05.00HRS 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 MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Across the African continent, innovative transport systems, ports, telecoms operations infrastructures and smart cities are being developed to boost economies and increase trade opportunities.

THE KAZUNGULA BRIDGE

The 923-meter long bridge over the Zambezi River connects Botswana and Zambia. Opened in May 2021, it replaces a ferry and was built to speed up truck traffic along a key north-south trade artery.

INTERNET BALLOONS IN ZANZIBAR

Altaeros has entered a partnership with UK Company World Mobile to supply internet balloons used to deliver part of its network in Zanzibar.

Two solar-powered, helium-filled balloons will float 300 meters (984 feet) above land and have a broadcast range of around 70 kilometers (44 miles) apiece, using 3G and 4G frequencies to deliver their signal.

A NEW EGYPTIAN CAPITAL

Just 28 miles (45 kilometers) east of Cairo, Egypt is constructing a New Administrative Capital.

The \$58 billion project, started in 2015, is designed to be a hub for government and the finance industry.

Egypt hopes to entice some of the 20 million residents of its current capital, Cairo, to relocate to the new city, where there is space for 6.5 million people.

The city will feature numerous skyscrapers, including Africa's soon-to-be tallest building, the Iconic Tower (pictured in the background). In 2020 a \$4 billion, 100-kilometer monorail project, connecting Cairo and the new city, was announced.

\$5BN DAM ACROSS THE NILE

The ambitious Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is one of Africa's biggest infrastructure projects.

Built on the Blue Nile River near Ethiopia's border with Sudan, the \$5 billion dam will generate 6,000 megawatts of electricity annually. The project aims to turn Ethiopia into Africa's biggest hydroelectric exporter.

But the dam has been controversial from the get-go. The Blue Nile is one of two sources for the River Nile, providing 85% of the water that flows north through Sudan

HOW NEW INFRASTRUCTURE MEGAPROJECTS ARE RESHAPING AFRICA



The Kazungula Bridge

and Egypt, to the Mediterranean.

Colonial-era agreements mean Egypt and Sudan, which rely on the river for their water supply, have maintained control over the river in the past -- but Ethiopia's dam threatens this.

Negotiations between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt are ongoing, but an agreement is yet to be reached. Ethiopia began generating electricity from the dam on February 20, 2022.

THE SUEZ CANAL EXPANSION

Egypt's Suez Canal underwent an \$8 billion expansion in 2015 to increase trading potential, and it has paid off, with a 4.7% rise in revenue.

However, further expansion might be on the cards: in September 2020, Hala el Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, said that \$1.1 billion has been allocated to upgrades on the Suez Canal project in 2021. Further expansion is scheduled for completion in 2023.

A NEW PORT FOR LAGOS

Projects like Lekki Deep Sea Port in Lagos aim to reposition African

cities as internationally competitive business centers.

The multipurpose port -- which will be the deepest in sub-Saharan Africa -- is intended to increase Nigeria's commercial operations across West Africa and its global trading potential. It is designed to handle four million metric tons of dry goods a year.

The Chinese Development Bank has loaned \$629 million to the project and China Harbour Engineering Company is providing \$221 million in equity funding for the port, which is expected to generate revenue of \$361 billion and create up to 170,000 new jobs. The port was 96% completed as of July 27, per Lekki Port.

SUPERCHARGING WESTERN AFRICA'S INTERNET

Google Equiano is a subsea internet cable running from Portugal to South Africa, with 20 times the bandwidth of the previous cable serving the west coast of Africa.

It has the potential to increase internet speeds five-fold in some countries and reduce data costs, according to research commissioned by Google.

EGYPT'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Plans for Egypt's first high-speed rail were announced in January 2021. In May this year, Siemens announced it had finalized a 8.1 billion euro (\$8.31 billion) contract with its partners and the Egyptian government for a 2,000-kilometer (1,243-mile) rail system linking 60 cities across the country.

A multi-billion dollar expansion of Lagos -- Work began on the multi-billion-dollar Eko Atlantic project, which is set to transform Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, in 2009.

The new financial hub, occupying 10 square kilometers of reclaimed land, has space for up to 300,000 residents and 150,000 daily commuters.

However, there have been concerns that the development of Eko Atlantic is causing coastal erosion, and could make neighboring areas vulnerable to flooding.

NAMIBIA NEW PORT TERMINAL

As Namibia's largest commercial port, Walvis Bay processes five million tons of cargo every year. A \$300 million, five-year project has seen the port more than double its capacity for container units and reduce waiting times for ships.

Its new container terminal, built on 40 hectares of reclaimed land, was announced to be fully operational in September 2020.

NEW REFINERY IN NIGERIA

While Nigeria is one of Africa's most oil-rich countries, its refineries are only operating at a small fraction of their capacity.

It's not just bad for the economy -- fuel shortages mean Nigeria suffers frequent power cuts. But Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, is building an oil refinery he says will solve Nigeria's fuel problem.

Covering 2,635 hectares, the new Dangote Petroleum Refinery will be the larg-

est in Africa, with capacity to process 650,000 barrels a day.

Dangote hopes to create a market for Nigerian crude oil worth \$11 billion annually.

KENYA'S RAIL OVERHAUL

Designed to connect Kenya's main cities, and eventually neighboring nations, the Kenya Standard Gauge Railway is the largest infrastructure project undertaken by Kenya since it gained independence in 1963.

Construction of the first 300-mile (482 kilometer) section between the coastal city of Mombasa and Kenya's capital, Nairobi, was completed in 2017.

Traveling at an average speed of 74 miles (120 kilometers) per hour, the train journey between the two cities now takes just four hours instead of 12.

The \$3.8 billion project was built by Chinese construction company China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), and 90% funded by China Exim Bank.

There is also phase two of the Standard Gauge Railway project, connecting Nairobi and Naivasha, a town popular with tourists for its proximity to Hell's Gate National Park and Mount Longonot National Park, was opened to passengers in 2019.

The \$1.5 billion project was also built by CRBC and financed by Exim Bank. Extensions to the current line are still under consideration for the coming years, with proposals for lines connecting with Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan, as well as further lines within

Kenya.

NEW RAIL LINE IN NIGERIA

Another ambitious railway project, the Lagos-Kano Standard Gauge Railway, in Nigeria, will span 1,678 miles (2,700 kilometers) from the port city of Lagos, to the northern city of Kano, near the border with Niger. Intended to boost the economy, the railway will carry both passengers and freight.

Built by China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) and partially funded by Exim Bank, the project is being completed in multiple stages: the first section between Abuja and Kaduna was completed in 2016, while the second Lagos to Ibadan section began trials in December 2020.

A NEW TECH HUB IN KENYA

Still in the early stages of construction, Konza Technological City (also known as Konza Technopolis) is designed to become home to Kenya's burgeoning tech scene.

Just 37 miles outside of Nairobi, the 5,000-acre city is the flagship project of Kenya 2030 Vision, an initiative to push economic growth in the tech and communications sector.

Progress on the project has been slow, but it has raised more than \$666 million in funding from China, and Chinese telecoms giants Huawei will develop the data center for the project.

Current plans include integrated smart city technology such as roadway sensors that optimize traffic flow.

Organised crime, corruption are fuelling Africa's illegal mining

JOHANNESBURG

In the shadow of a six-story-high mine dump, excavated sand gleaming white in the sun, a young man, sweat streaming down his bare chest, runs his fingers through a bucket of stony dirt he's just pulled from the depths of a dark shaft.

David Mokushane (not his real name) is a zama zama, an illegal miner, on the western outskirts of Johannesburg.

In the language of Sesotho, he chuckles: "All the time, every day, we wait for the big one, the big find, something left behind many years ago, to make us money to feed our families for a year."

When gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand (Edge of White Water) by a Welsh mineralogist in 1852, it ignited a rush on the richest gold deposits in the world that laid the foundation for the most industrialized economy in Africa, gave Johannesburg its Zulu name of eGoli (City of Gold), and sparked the Anglo-Boer War.

There's been conflict around minerals ever since, with the fighting now centered on the presence of zama zamas. They're usually undocumented migrants from other African countries with extensive mining histories, including Lesotho, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Zambia.

About a decade ago, partly to protect themselves from anti-foreigner attacks and partly to protect their loot,

the illegal miners began forming gangs, and affiliating themselves with organized crime groups, according to Julian Rademeyer, director of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime's (GITOC) East and Southern Africa Observatory.

Rademeyer told The Epoch Times the zama zama gangs armed themselves with weapons, such as Russian-made AK-47 assault rifles.

For years, the South African government and its police largely ignored the crisis, as zama zamas, often covered in heavy blankets concealing weapons, faces hidden under balaclavas, sowed terror in mining communities across central and northern South Africa.

But, on the night of 28 July, something happened that shocked even a country accustomed to brutal crime.

As a crew of about 20 filmed a music video at an old mine near the town of Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg, scores of zama zamas surrounded them and sexually assaulted eight women in the group.

As news of the atrocity hit the streets, furious mobs formed in some townships, hunting zama zamas and "undocumented foreigners."

In Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, residents armed themselves with anything they could lay their hands on, including rocks, pickaxes, hammers, knives, and shovels. They rampaged through the

area, torching shacks belonging to foreigners.

Gauteng police commissioner General Elias Mawela told The Epoch Times some suspected illegal miners were stripped naked and severely assaulted, before being dragged to a police station.

The Epoch Times saw his charred remains, a police officer explaining: "The crowd hit him with bricks, even the old ladies. They said he was a makwerekwere [local disparaging slang meaning foreigner], tsotsi (criminal). Then they threw a tyre on him, poured the petrol and set it alight."

David Lewis, director of the Corruption Watch group, told The Epoch Times years of neglect and corruption by the ruling African National Congress (ANC), and especially its failure to create jobs, have resulted in South Africa's unemployed poor masses venting their anger on foreign migrants.

South Africa has the highest unemployment rate in the world, at around 35 percent.

As the vigilantes raged, so Mawela's forces launched what they called a "full-scale crackdown" on illegal mining. They arrested 81 suspects in connection with the Krugersdorp atrocity, DNA linking only seven to the rapes.

During one operation in the Westonia district, Mawela pointed to an area almost completely enclosed by massive mine dumps and told reporters: "Hid-

den in there we found a fresh gold processing center. On each corner of this area there were two shooters, protecting the facility from intruders."

There, police arrested more than 50 alleged zama zamas, some aged between 12 and 16.

Dave Davis, an investigator from the Hawks special police unit, told The Epoch Times the gangs force boys trafficked to South Africa from neighboring countries to work in narrow tunnels in which they're sometimes buried alive.

"The gangs steal gold-bearing material from different mines, they wash it and then they eventually make an amalgam with mercury. They melt that into gold nuggets, which make their way into the illicit market," said Davis.

Rademeyer said illegal mining is increasing on an "unprecedented scale" across the continent, especially in already-lawless mineral-rich nations such as DRC.

Earlier this year, a report from the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) in Paris said illegal Chinese mining and timber companies are "running rampant in the DRC's eastern province of South Kivu, fueling corruption that empowers ruling elites and impoverishes local communities."

IFRI researchers Justin Mwetaminwa and Thierry Vircoulon found that DRC authorities, including the military, are cooperating with six Chinese firms to

mine gold illegally.

They write: "These uncontrolled mining operations are accompanied by the militarization of mining sites, often resulting in violence against civilians."

"In recent years, the DRC has committed to implementing administrative, social, and environmental certification processes for mining activities.

"However, the control of the mining sector by a predatory partnership between foreign interests and certain local and national elites makes any attempts to improve mining governance illusory.

"Despite the mobilization of local communities and the prohibition of Chinese mining companies' activities in this area, they continue to mine."

The Chinese companies -- as well as the DRC government -- did not respond to requests for comment from The Epoch Times.

According to Rademeyer, the reactive policing practiced by most African law enforcement agencies, where they're not themselves involved in the crime, is "never going to come close to stemming" illicit mining.

"The police deploy special task forces and tactical response teams. All very good, but also too late. What you need are targeted, intelligence-driven investigations and a very clear strategy to tackle organized crime."

GTOC says it's no coincidence that

some of the most violent places on earth are areas where illegal mining's happening, including South Kivu.

In 2019, says the European Union-funded organization, the murder rate for the Free State Goldfields region of South Africa reached 55 cases per 100,000 people, a rate that placed it among the 15 most violent places on the planet.

Rademeyer said illegal mining is part of an illicit supply chain with many tentacles.

"Over the last decade, sophisticated syndicates have become involved because unlike, say, drug smuggling, the authorities just don't have their eye on illegal mining. There is extortion rackets connected to it. There are networks of people connected through gold refineries, second-hand jewelers, scrap metal dealers..."

He's convinced that the majority of African governments and law enforcement agencies aren't taking the problem of organized crime seriously enough... Some, because they're benefiting from it.

"In some cases, the authorities are helping the gangs to harvest and smuggle gold, diamond and other precious minerals. It's not the zama zamas getting rich, they're just the pawns. Powerful people are getting richer and richer because of this," said Rademeyer.

China's publicly traded rental property REITs snapped up by investors

SHANGHAI

China's first batch of publicly traded rental property real estate investment trusts (REITs) was snapped up in Shanghai and Shenzhen by yield-hungry investors this week, opening up a new financing channel for the struggling real estate sector.

The three newly launched REITs, based on affordable rental properties, were each more than 100 times oversubscribed among institutional investors, managers said in filings. The REITs will raise a combined 3.8 billion yuan (\$56 million), based on Reuters' calculations, and the subscription periods ended early.

The rental property REIT launches come as Beijing steps up efforts to aid the real estate business, a sector that was a pillar of growth in the world's second-biggest economy over the last two decades but is now reeling amid debt piles, mortgage boycotts and sluggish sales.

China launched a public REITs market based on infrastructure projects about a year ago, but this week's launches mark the first time the REIT market has been tested for residential rental properties.

"The market is flush with liquidity hunting for assets that can generate stable returns," said Cai Hongfei, property analyst at Central Wealth Securities. "Rental property REITs are appealing as they have strong government policy support."

REITs produce stable yields for investors based on cash flows from a collection of properties or infrastructure assets.

Sources told Reuters on Tuesday that China will guarantee new onshore bond issues by a few select private developers to support its embattled property sector.

China has also been encouraging development of its REITs market, which regulators hope can channel fresh capital into real estate and infrastructure and reduce leverage for companies and local governments.

China's first public property REITs were launched by asset managers CICC Fund, China Asset Management and Hotland Innovation Asset Management Co, and based on affordable rental properties in capital city Beijing, and southern Shenzhen and Xiamen cities.

China has been encouraging developers to build homes for rent as part of President Xi Jinping's vision for "Common Prosperity".

Although the rental properties bundled into this week's REIT launches were built by a number of government-backed rental housing developers, analyst expect the scope to broaden.

"The launch of residential REITs can expand financing channels of rental residential firms," Everbright Securities said in a report.

TMRC SIGNS MOU WITH HABITAT TO BOOST HOUSING MICROFINANCE

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Habitat for Humanity International, a first step in the organizations' joint-effort to expand and strengthen the low-income housing finance sector in Tanzania.

Focusing on housing microfinance, the partnership aims to support lower-income Tanzanians and those working in the informal sector to more easily purchase, build or upgrade their homes, a segment of the population that has traditionally been underserved by the housing finance sector.

Speaking during the signing ceremony held yesterday, Ridhiwani Kikwete the Deputy Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development the government is committed to address housing challenges, especially for the low-income section of the population who have an even bigger challenge accessing formal mortgage loans due to their income levels.

"Tanzania has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, however many families still struggle to access adequate and affordable housing. The high cost of formal financing options and limited affordable housing supply remain challenges," he said.

The Center for Affordable Finance in Africa estimates that Tanzania has a backlog of over 3 million homes, with demand growing by 200,000 homes annually.

On his part Maurice Makoloo, Vice President, Africa - Habitat for Humanity International said his organization and TMRC share a commitment to expanding access to quality housing for all families.

He said the new collaboration is a key step to realizing that goal in Tanzania and will be instrumental in unlocking new housing finance opportunities for low-income families.



The Centre for Affordable Finance in Africa estimates that Tanzania has a backlog of over 3 million homes, with demand growing by 200,000 homes annually.

"TMRC believes there is tremendous potential in Tanzania's housing finance market to reach low-income families. As a wholesale lender we are eager to build a case for housing microfinance in the country and explore how the financial institutions we invest in can tap into this market through tailored loan products," said Oscar Mgaya, Chief Executive Officer - TMRC.

Under the new partnership, Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter will provide Technical Assistance to TMRC to build a case for Housing Microfinance

in Tanzania and diversification of its offering to target the potential outside the traditional mortgage market

"The housing microfinance sector in Tanzania is still in its nascence. It is therefore critical that our efforts to expand the market are data-driven and informed by a strong understanding of low-income families' housing needs across the country," said Naeem Razwani, senior director for housing finance systems - Habitat for Humanity International.

Based on the findings from the market study to be conducted, TMRC plans to develop

new mechanisms and structures to invest capital in banks and other financial institutions, for the purpose of lending to low-income families through new housing microfinance products.

Habitat's Terwilliger Center will provide technical assistance to TMRC in the development of these mechanisms, as well as the financial institutions selected to pilot new housing loan products back-ed by TMRC's investment.

Habitat for Humanity pioneered microfinance solutions to the housing constraints faced by low-income families.

Habitat's MicroBuild Fund was - the world's first housing-specific microfinance investment vehicle - it has disbursed US\$151.6 million to 59 institutions since 2012, helping more than 1 million people gain access to improved housing.

TMRC has played a leadership role in the national mortgage market to date, with its outstanding loan book growing to 145.2bn/- billion in June 2022, out of the country's total market mortgage portfolio of 510bn/-, indicative that TMRC financed 28 per cent of the market portfolio.



The average UK house cost £286,000 in June, £20,000 more compared with a year ago, according to ONS data.

UK house price growth slows to 7.8pct in June, says ONS

LONDON

UK house prices rose 7.8 per cent in the year to June, a slowdown from the 12.8 per cent annual rate recorded in May, the Office for National Statistics has said.

However, the slower rate of increase was skewed by "the rises in [house] prices seen in June 2021, which were the result of tax break changes", the ONS noted.

The increase comes despite a recent jump in mortgage costs, following the Bank of England's decision to boost its benchmark lending rate from 0.1 per cent in December to 1.75 per cent this month in an effort to curb inflation.

Economists expect more rate increases this year, further adding to mortgage repayments. Andrew Sentance, a senior adviser to consultancy Cambridge Econometrics, on Wednesday

said the BoE's key rate may need to rise as high as 4 per cent because policymakers had fallen "behind the curve".

Prices have also been buoyed by a lack of properties on the market.

The average UK house cost £286,000 in June, £20,000 more compared with a year ago, according to ONS data.

In England, the average price increased 7.3 per cent over the year to £305,000. Prices rose 8.6 per cent to £213,000 in Wales, 11.6 per cent to £192,000 in Scotland and 9.6 per cent in Northern Ireland to £169,000.

News of the house price rises came as the UK's rate of inflation jumped to 10.1 per cent in July, the first time it has recorded a double-digit annual increase in more than four decades.

Jean Jameson, chief sales officer at estate agent Foxtons, said that although London reported the lowest annual

growth of any UK region, the capital's 8.2 per cent increase from July 2021 represented the "biggest change in annual property price since July 2016".

"Property prices grew at a faster rate in outer London than in inner London, increasing 7.7 per cent and 4.7 per cent, respectively," said Jameson. "We may even see housing prices plateau in some inner London boroughs in the coming months."

Persimmon, one of the UK's largest housebuilders, said in its interim results on Wednesday that it had sold homes for an average of £245,597 in the first half of 2022, up 4 per cent from the same period last year. It added that the rise in sale prices was mitigating inflation in costs.

But sales rates for the first seven weeks of the second half of the year were down 11 per cent year on year. Speaking at its earnings presentation,

chief executive Dean Finch said it was too soon to tell whether that marked a summer lull or a longer-term downturn.

"In those areas where we have control, we are making good progress," said Finch, but he added that the removal of the government's Help to Buy scheme and wider economic pressures presented challenges for next year.

"I think that Persimmon is going to be OK," he said. "It will probably see an adjustment next year but it will come out the other side of it."

There was a "big bundle of self-help" that Persimmon could use to help support its sales, he added, such as doing more part exchange with its customers.

Shares in Persimmon were down 7.8 per cent in London, more than the wider blue-chip UK stock index.

Egypt President reviews executive position with housing ministry projects

CAIRO

Egypt President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi (pictured) met with Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities Assem El-Gazzar mid this week to discuss the latest developments concerning the housing ministry's projects.

The meeting especially focused on the great Transfiguration Project being implemented in Sinai.

Furthermore, the president was briefed on the executive position of the latest generation of cities, including New Mansoura, Al-Alamein, as well as the development of the historic Cairo area and a series of other housing projects.

For his part, El-Gazzar explained that New Mansoura spans a distance of 15 km on the Mediterranean coast and boasts all sorts of residential neighbourhoods, houses of worship, a medical care centre, commercial and service buildings, water treatment and desalination plants, and electricity transformers.

The president then directed that the operation of the city and its services be subject to all forms of quality assurance and that it run in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

The meeting also witnessed the presentation of the latest developments in Sinai's Transfiguration Project with all its tourism services and roads and axes leading to it.

Al-Sisi then instructed that all measures be taken to develop the region while maintaining its

beauty and spiritual component and fostering the use of renewable energy.

Next up, the president reviewed the development work happening in Historic Cairo, which aims to restore the civilised face of Cairo, including the ongoing construction in the Al-Ayoun stream wall and the Maspero Triangle



Additionally, El-Gazzar presented his ministry's efforts to carry out a project focused on providing vocational and technical training for young people in villages in cooperation with the Ministry of Expatriate Affairs within the framework of the Decent Life and Lifeboat Presidential Initiatives.

In response, the president directed that the required resources and attention be directed to these programmes in order to increase the number of its beneficiaries and foster local talents and production.

Finally, the minister went over the executive position of the North Coast city of Al-Alamein, as well as the progress in the Alexandria Mast Project, and projects within the New Administrative Capital.

CONSTRUCTION

CHINA REGULATOR PROBES BANKS' PROPERTY LOAN PORTFOLIO - SOURCES

SHANGHAI

China's banking regulator is scrutinising property sector loan portfolios of some local and foreign lenders to assess systemic risks, sources with knowledge of the matter said, as the real estate sector's debt crisis worsens.

As part of their assessment, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) is looking at banks' loan book exposure to developers to find out if those credit decisions were made according to the rules, one of the sources said.

The aim of the latest regulatory probe is to measure risks to the financial system from the on-going property sector turmoil in the world's second-largest economy, two of the sources said.

The CBIRC did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

All the sources declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

The move comes as policymakers have been trying to stabilise the property sector that accounts for a quarter of the economy after a string of defaults among developers on their bond repayments and a slump in



A man works at a construction site of apartment buildings in Beijing

home sales.

The investigation underscores the challenges for Beijing in its efforts to encourage banks to extend fresh loans to embattled real estate developers, while managing lending risks.

Property loans accounted for

25.7% of total banking sector credit in China as of end-June, Chinese central bank data showed. The banking sector's total outstanding loans was 206 trillion yuan (\$30.3 trillion) at the end of the first half.

The debt crisis in China's property sector worsened in recent

weeks after a large number of homebuyers threatened to stop making their mortgage payments for stalled property projects, aggravating a crisis that has already hit the economy and could lead to social instability.

The CBIRC is also asking some

developers for details of their cash positions and the source of money for debt repayments, a third banking source said. The probe is different to the routine self-reporting the regulator requires from banks.

Beijing's launch of tough leverage rules for developers in recent years has led to cashflow issues for many, leaving some scrambling from one month to the next to pay upcoming debt and sometimes failing.

"The regulator wants to know how to tailor policy and assess risk," said one banker at a foreign lender, who has been asked for property sector-related lending documents over the last couple of weeks.

The investigation is very detailed and loan officers are being approached multiple times, sometimes over many weeks for additional documents on lending to specific developers, two of the sources said.

The rise in mortgage defaults raises risks for banks and developers.

"The risk of new NPLs (non-performing loans) will remain a threat to banks' asset quality," said rating agency Moody's in a June note.

The property sector credit trouble is at risk of seeping into secondary industries such as asset management companies, privately-owned construction firms and small steelmakers, said Fitch Ratings in an August note.

Australian firm to build Brazil's first phosphate mine, exec says

SAO PAULO

The Brazilian arm of Australia's Agua Resources hopes to complete building the first phosphate mine in Southern Brazil by late 2023, Agua Fertilizantes CEO Fernando Tallarico told Reuters.

The company expects to get the installation license required to start work around October, he said. Construction will take about one year, and an operating license is needed to begin production, he added.

"This area is known for more than 200 years for production of copper and gold," Tallarico said of the town of Lavras do Sul, close to the border of Uruguay. "We were the first to verify the possibility to produce phosphate in the region."

Momentum is building for this and similar fertilizer mining projects in Brazil after the federal government announced a plan to reduce the country's dependence on imports.

But a complex legal system poses challenges.

For example, in 2021 an injunction suspended Agua's preliminary license for the phosphate mine. A final decision is pending.

While the company said that ruling does not affect its installation license application, it represents a risk.

Brazil's government aims to slash overall fertilizer imports to 45% of total domestic consumption from the current 85% by 2050.

That is attracting companies like Agua, and reviving interest in old projects, including in the Amazon, where permits may be harder to get.

Agua's goal is to explore the Lavras do Sul deposit, where an estimated 105 million tonnes of phosphate lie, for an initial 18 years. It is also developing a nearby copper project.

The phosphate mine will produce 300,000 tonnes annually at maturity. Conservatively, Agua expects the project to start repaying investors in 2.6 years, Tallarico said.

Brazil's phosphate consumption is 7-million to 8-million tonnes per year, but the country imports 72% of demand from countries like Morocco and Jordan.



"This area is known for more than 200 years for production of copper and gold," Tallarico said of the town of Lavras do Sul, close to the border of Uruguay. "We were the first to verify the possibility to produce phosphate in the region."

Wyndham expands in Qatar with beachfront property in Doha

DOHA

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, which features approximately 9,000 hotels across nearly 95 countries in the world says will continue to strengthen its presence across the Middle East with the opening of the 278-key Wyndham Grand Doha West Bay Beach in Doha, Qatar.

The statement issued by Wyndham says the managed hotel opens in collaboration with leading regional hospitality development entity, Hala Real Estate Development Company and underscores Wyndham's commitment to bolstering its offering in the region, which includes a development pipeline of 27 hotels.

"Conveniently located just 500m from the City Centre Doha Mall and 600m from the DECC metro station, Wyndham Grand Doha West Bay Beach is the closest beachfront hotel in the prestigious West Bay area," the company says.

"The hotel is also within walking distance of various corporate, government and leisure establishments in the West Bay area."

According to the statement, Wyndham Grand

Doha West Bay Beach offers modern premium rooms and boasts state-of-the-art leisure facilities for guests including a variety of on-site restaurants, a spa that includes a jacuzzi, steam room, sauna and outdoor pool as well as a fitness centre.

Business travellers can therefore utilise the property's six spacious corporate meeting rooms, which have the combined capacity to host close to 350 people.

"Wyndham Grand is an ensemble of distinguished hotels that are approachable by design, representing one-of-a-kind experiences with refined accommodation, attentive service and relaxed surroundings," is says.

The opening of Wyndham Grand Doha West Bay Beach adds to other top destinations around the world where the brand can be found, including Manama, Istanbul, Athens, Chicago, Shanghai and many others.

Wyndham Grand Doha West Bay Beach is the latest addition to Wyndham's portfolio of three operational hotels in Qatar, and two further properties under development.

"2022 is an important



year for Qatar with the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2022 event in November, the first time it will be held in the Middle East," Wyndham said in a statement.

Over one million visitors are expected to descend on Qatar over the course of the tournament, a number equivalent to almost half the country's population.

Michel Augier, Regional Director, Middle East & Africa, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, says: "Wyndham Grand Doha West Bay Beach offers fantastic accommodation and convenience for both regional

and international travellers who wish to experience the wonderful city of Doha."

He says its unique location and facilities will delight all visitors whether they are in Doha for business or leisure, for a short visit or a longer stay.

"With the opening of this distinctive hotel, we look forward to further supporting the city's development as a global destination, as well as continuing to support Qatar's ambitious plans ahead of the World Cup and beyond. We are excited to open our fourth hotel in this

unique city, an important milestone that will see us continue to deliver experiences that cater for all types of travellers and preferences," he added.

Hayden Edgton, General Manager, Wyndham Grand Doha West Bay Beach, said: "It's a significant moment for us, as we open our doors to guests from around the globe. We have a fantastic team on board with us who are ready to welcome our guests and offer the highest standards and values Wyndham Grand is known for."

CRDB Bank launches campaign to promote cashless economy

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed CRDB Bank has launched a six month campaign to sensitize its customers the use of TemboCard in payments, in a bid to promoting cashless economy.

The winners of the campaign, which started yesterday until the end of January will be awarded prizes, include attending the World Cup tournament to be held in Qatar.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign at Skauti grounds in Upanga yesterday, acting di-

rector of small and medium retail customers Boniventura Paul said the winning chance will be based on number of transactions throughout the period of six months.

"The aim is to see our customers and Tanzanians in general are building the culture of using cards in making payments and get rid of using cash which is not secure. During the campaign period, we will give prizes to 200 winners valued 100mn/-," he said.

He mentioned some of the prizes including refund of 10 percent of transacted payments,



CRDB Bank Plc's acting director for small and medium retail customers, Bonaventura Paul, speak at the launch of the campaign. PHOTO/ CORRESPONDENT

but the main prizes will be on four winners winning a chance to attend the World Cup, to be inaugurated in November this year in Qatar.

"I would like to encourage the bank's customers and Tanzanians in general, to participate fully in this campaign by using their TemboCard to make payments and should continue with this culture even after the end of the campaign period, because we want to promote cashless economy," he said.

"For those who have no CRDB Bank TemboCards, I encourage them to open their accounts in

our bank to be part of the family to win various prizes as the bank will be awarding two million shillings each month. As you are aware that we have simplified the procedures to open accounts," Paul said.

He said accounts opening can now be done on a mobile phone, by downloading SimBanking app and follow procedures using National Identity Cards and TemboCards are issued within short period of time after completion of procedures.

However, for those who have no smartphones, they should visit the bank branch or agents

spread across the country with only national identity cards.

The bank's senior commerce manager Erica Mwaipopo said customers must use their TemboCard to pay in supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, fuel filling stations through Points of Sale (POS) or online payment to purchase airline tickets and online shopping.

CRDB Bank launched TemboCard two decades ago to enable customers' convenient services wherever they are to promote financial inclusion. A total of three million cards have so far been issued since its launch.

WORLD

WHO chief suggests Tigray crisis ignored due to racism

LONDON

THE World Health Organization's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has suggested that racism is behind a lack of international attention being paid to the plight of civilians in Ethiopia's war-shattered Tigray region.

Calling it the "worst humanitarian crisis in the world", with 6 million people unable to access basic services, Tedros questioned in an emotional appeal why the situation is not getting the same attention as the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Maybe the reason is the color of the skin of

the people," Tedros, who is from Tigray, told a virtual media briefing on Wednesday.

In April this year at a briefing, he questioned whether "black and white lives" in emergencies worldwide are given equal attention.

WHO emergencies director Mike Ryan also hit out at an apparent shortage of concern about the drought and famine unfolding in the Horn of Africa, and the ensuing health crisis.

"No-one seems to give a damn about what's happening in the Horn of Africa," Ryan said while speaking at a virtual media briefing on Wednesday.



The head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks during a media conference at an EU Africa summit in Brussels on Feb 18, 2022. FILE

The WHO called for US\$123.7 million to tackle the health problems resulting from growing malnutrition

in the region, where around 200 million people live and millions are going hungry.

Experts: US biggest human rights saboteur in Middle East and beyond

BAGHDAD

DESPITE having long touted itself as a global human rights defender, the United States has, in actuality, been the biggest human rights violator, the very culprit behind many wars, massacres and tortures in the Middle East and beyond, Iraqi experts have said.

Referring to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, which left hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead, injured and detained, Kawa Mahmoud, secretary of the Central Committee of the Kurdistan Communist Party - Iraq, said America always talks about protecting human rights while killing innocents indiscriminately in Iraq.

Mahmoud told Xinhua that, on Aug 12, 2005, a US armored patrol vehicle opened fire at civilians in the suburban town of Ramadi, Iraq, killing 15 Iraqis, including eight children.

According to Statista, a global statistical database, from 2003 to 2021, about 209,000 Iraqi civilians died in wars and violent conflicts, and about 9.2 million Iraqis became refugees or were forced to leave their homeland.

Washington launched a slew of military interventions in, for example, Iraq and Afghanistan,

a departure from the resolutions of the United Nations, Mahmoud said.

He noted that the United States has more than 750 military bases across the world, a source of regional conflicts and threat to global peace and security.

In the name of democracy and human rights, the United States has been using military interventions to control certain countries in the Middle East and use them as markets and deplete their resources, Mahmoud said.

Raad Majid, a Iraqi civil activist, slammed US invasion and occupation of Iraq, which has inflicted tremendous sufferings upon Iraqis.

Adel al-Ghurairi, a lecturer at Baghdad University, said that the sheer number of Iraqis killed by American soldiers stands as the solid evidence of US violation of human rights.

Further evidence was how US soldiers abused detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba and the US prison at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, Shahir al-Obaidi, a political researcher at the University of Anbar, told Xinhua.

In 2004, images posted online by US soldiers in the Abu Ghraib



A US soldier walks at the Qayyarah air base, where US-led troops in 2017 had helped Iraqis plan out the fight against the Islamic State in nearby Mosul in northern Iraq, before a planned US pullout on March 26, 2020. File photo

prison verified the US forces' jaw-dropping abuse of human rights in Iraq, including torturing prisoners, stripping them naked, and having them piled on top of each other.

Similar abuses abound in Afghanistan, where US forces had long inflicted "torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity, rape and sexual abuse" on Afghan detainees, according

to media reports in 2021.

Ironically, the United States, a self-proclaimed human rights defender, has been trying to cover up such crimes committed by its soldiers, al-Obaidi said.

The United States seems to allow "its forces and military personnel to engage in all heinous acts with impunity in any country it occupies or wherever it conducts military operations," the expert said.

"Whenever the US is present anywhere, especially if there is a conflict, the result is always cultural, economic, agricultural, and industrial destruction. It leads to destruction in all aspects of life," he said, blasting Washington for inviting endless chaos to regions such as the Middle East.

Al-Ghurairi told Xinhua that he considers the United States as "a rogue state" because it creates crises to fuel conflicts among other countries to serve its own interests.

Washington is accountable for the crimes it committed in Iraq under the pretext of democracy, he argued. What the US has done in Iraq since 2003 "is not a democratic project at all. Rather, it is an occupation and theft of Iraqi wealth."

Xinhua

Angolan ex-leader's daughter to appeal against father's body delivery

LUANDA

TCHIZE dos Santos, daughter of former Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, will appeal against the Spanish court's decision to deliver the corpse of her father to his ex-wife Ana Paula dos Santos, her lawyer Carmen Varela said Wednesday.

"The decision of the instruction judge number 11 of Barcelona to deliver the body of the former Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos to his former wife will be subject to appeal by Tchize dos Santos," Varela said.

"We will file an appeal because we understand that the criminal jurisdiction is not competent to rule on this matter, it should be the civil jurisdiction to rule on it," the lawyer said, adding that a process is currently underway in the civil court on this issue.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who ruled Angola from 1979 to 2017, died on July 8, at the age of 79, in Barcelona, Spain, where he spent most of his time over the past five years.

Two factions of the dos Santos' family dispute the custody of Jose Eduardo dos Santos' body in the Family Court of the Civil Court of Catalonia.

On one side are Tchize dos Santos and her older siblings, who oppose the delivery of the remains to the former first lady and are against holding a state funeral before the Aug 24 elections in Angola to avoid political exploitation.

On the other side, there is the widow Ana Paula dos Santos and her three children with the former president, who also claim the body and want it to be buried in Angola in the near future.

NATO ready to add forces if Serbia-Kosovo tensions worsen

BRUSSELS

NATO will increase its peacekeeping force in Kosovo if there is an escalation of tensions with neighboring Serbia, the alliance's chief said on Wednesday, on the eve of EU-facilitated talks between the estranged western Balkan neighbours.

"We have now a significant mission, a military presence in Kosovo close to 4,000 troops," Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference after talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic in Brussels, who stood alongside him.

"If needed, we will move forces, deploy them where needed and increase our presence. We have already increased the presence in the north. We are ready to do more."

Tensions between Serbia and Kosovo flared this month when Pristina said it would oblige Serbs living in the north, who are backed by Belgrade and do not recognise Kosovo institutions, to start using car license plates issued in Pristina.

The situation calmed after Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti, under US and European Union pressure, agreed to postpone the number plates rule until Sept 1 and NATO peacekeepers oversaw the removal of roadblocks set up by Serbs.

However, Vucic told the news conference at NATO that talks with Kurti on Thursday, which will be facilitated by the EU, would be difficult because the two sides disagree on almost everything.

Kurti, who met Stoltenberg later, underlined Kosovo's resolve to become a NATO member.

"The threats, risks and challenges that NATO faces in the current security environment are felt by our country as well," he told reporters, linking the problems to Russia's influence.

Kosovo won independence from Serbia in 2008, almost a decade after a guerrilla uprising against repressive Belgrade rule.

Serbia legally still considers Kosovo an integral part of its territory. It denies whipping up tensions and conflict there, and accuses Pristina of trampling on the rights of minority Serbs. Ethnic Serbs account for 5 percent of Kosovo's 1.8 million population, which is 90 percent ethnic Albanian.

Vucic said Serbia wanted to avoid any escalation of the situation, but it was important to understand that there is "a new generation of young men" who see Kosovo as Serbian territory and will no longer "put up with the terror".

Agencies

Kiev using Zaporozhye plant to commit nuclear blackmail, warns diplomat

MOSCOW

THE Kiev regime's preparations to carry out a high-profile provocation at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant during UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' visit to Ukraine is nuclear blackmail, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said during a Solovoyv Live TV broadcast yesterday.

"This is not just a provocation, this is what we condemned as nuclear blackmail. And what else is it but a long standing provocation around a nuclear facility, a direct threat to nuclear power. This is certainly an act of nuclear blackmail," she stressed.

Zakharova noted that in this way the Ukrainian authorities are not just blackmailing one country or a specific political entity, but the entire European continent.

"We are talking about nuclear energy,



the whole European continent is being held hostage because this is all in the heart of Europe," she added.

"Today, science has already shown us that consequences of man-made disasters, and different tragedies at nuclear facilities have no boundaries, they only have time limits. Only time can limit the spread of these consequences," the diplomat concluded.

China's network development injects new vitality into digital society

AS high-quality network system has become the foundation of the digital economy in the Internet era, especially the 5G era, China is making great efforts to foster integrated application of 5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks.

The coordinated development of the two types of networks in the entire process and all sectors of economic and social development will effectively boost industrial transformation and development.

Li Qin, a citizen of Chaoyang District, Beijing, is now able to download a high-definition movie in less than 20 seconds after she upgraded her broadband connection to a 1,000M Internet service.

What Li uses now is a 5G Internet service plan launched by China Mobile's Bei-

jing branch, which gives users access to a 1,000M Internet connection featuring high speed and low latency.

Network speed in China has significantly increased since the country announced for the first time in 2015 that it would lower prices for Internet services and elevate Internet connection speeds.

Data released by a third-party organization have indicated that China's average broadband download speed increased nearly 14 times from 4.25Mbps at the end of 2014 to 62.5Mbps at the end of 2021.

Over the past seven years, the country has built the world's largest and technologically advanced network facilities, with 1,000M fiber optic networks capable of serving 400 million families and 1.85 million 5G base stations installed nationwide.

In March 2021, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) released an action plan on promoting the collaborative development of 5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks, and deploying the two types of networks in more than 100 Chinese cities by the end of 2023. Over the past year, the country has witnessed nationwide efforts to realize the goal.

"5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks can provide mobile and fixed networks to users with features such as ultra-large bandwidth, ultra-low latency, and advanced and reliable performance. The two types of networks are complementary to each other and together serve as the foundation of new infrastructure," said an official with the MIIT.

The collaborative development of the two types of networks is a key measure to the overall plan of lowering prices for Internet services and elevating Internet connection speeds, noted the official. The development will not only help China maintain its leading position in the global telecommunications industry, but will continuously inject impetus into the digital transformation of the country's manufacturing sector, noted the official.

During the past year, China has made new progress in improving the capacity of 5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks across the country. Data suggested that as of the end of May this year, every 10,000 people in China had enjoyed 12.1 5G base stations. Urban areas of all the prefecture-level cities, counties, and 92

percent of the central areas of townships had been covered by 5G networks. The number of families using 1,000M fiber optic networks surpassed 55 million. So far, 29 cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin, have gained access to 5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks, according to an official with the MIIT.

While significantly improving the network capacity of urban areas, 5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks, together with a multitude of emerging technologies, have empowered many industries and innovative applications.

In recent years, in-depth integration of 5G networks and 1,000M fiber optic networks has brought about profound changes in industries including indus-

trial manufacturing, logistics and ports, health, and education, with more than 20,000 application cases.

Thanks to the 5G network, voice recognition technology is playing a more important role in power inspection Workers in the main control room of the Ultra-high voltage converter station can accurately check the operation of facilities by logging in an AI inspection system developed by the Chinese AI firm iFlytek Co. Ltd. "The combination of 5G networks, which are known for their low latency and high stability, and AI technologies, has made remote real-time data processing, feedback, and early warning possible," said Zhang Chenchen, an executive of the State Grid Anhui Electric Power Co., Ltd.

People's Daily

Ukraine violates IAEA's basic principles by shelling nuclear facilities, says diplomat

UNITED NATION

KIEV is violating basic principles of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as it continues shelling the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant (NPP), a senior Russian diplomat said.

Igor Vishnevetsky, the deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, said speaking at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York, that "in the course of the day [August 17] the Ukrainian side delivered another strike on the Zaporozhye NPP."

"Ukraine continues delivering completely irresponsible strikes on the Zaporozhye NPP violating not only seven principles of [IAEA Director General Rafael] Grossi, but the basic principles of the agency as well," Vishnevetsky said.

"It's forbidden to strike nuclear facilities, it's forbidden to subject nuclear power plants to artillery fire or any other fire. This is extremely dangerous," he said.

"The Ukrainian side understands it very clearly but, nevertheless, continues doing it, practically being involved in a nuclear terrorism. It raises great concern that it [Ukraine] receives support in doing this," the diplomat stated adding that it all "can end up with a catastrophe."

Vishnevetsky also said that a delegation of the IAEA is unable to visit the Zaporozhye NPP until Ukraine stops delivering armed strikes on the nuclear facility.

"No calls are needed to restore IAEA's control over the Zaporozhye NPP in order to reflect the current developments," he said. "All involved parties already work on it. It is quite possible, that the IAEA would promptly resume control. But its delegation must arrive there."

"All sides must be cooperating for this to happen. In order for it [IAEA delegation's visit] to happen, first of all, the Ukrainian side should stop its shelling of the Zaporozhye NPP. A delegation is unable to arrive there, while it [the facility] is under fire - it is very dangerous," Vishnevetsky stated.

"This is what we need to think about and this is what we should call

for," the Russian diplomat added.

The Zaporozhye NPP is under the control of the Russian army. Over the last few days, the Kiev regime has delivered several strikes against the station's territory, using drones, heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems. In most cases, the attacks are repelled by Russian air defense systems. However, some rockets hit the NPP's infrastructural facilities, including nuclear waste storage sites.

The Zaporozhye NPP is the largest in Europe. It consists of six power units and has a capacity of about 6,000 MW. It used to generate a quarter of all electric power in Ukraine.

Currently, the NPP operates at 70% capacity as the area of the Zaporozhye Region liberated from the Ukrainian army has a surplus of electricity power.

Russia's special military operation in Ukraine

The situation along the line of engagement in Donbass escalated on February 17. The Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR) reported the most massive bombardments by the Ukrainian military in recent months, which damaged civilian infrastructure and caused civilian casualties.

On February 21, President Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow was recognizing the sovereignty of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics. Russia signed agreements on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance with their leaders. Moscow recognized the Donbass republics in accordance with the DPR and LPR constitutions within the boundaries of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions as of the beginning of 2014.

Russian President Putin announced on February 24 that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics for assistance he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation in Ukraine.

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories, noting that the operation was aimed at the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine.

The DPR and the LPR launched an operation to liberate their territories under Kiev's control. **Agencies**

9 years on, economic ties closer among Belt and Road countries

XI'AN

THE ongoing Sixth Silk Road International Exposition that kicked off on Sunday in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, has given foreign entrepreneurs a window into the broad Chinese market.

With closer Belt and Road cooperation high on the agenda, the expo has attracted participants from over 70 countries and regions, including Thailand and Singapore. Uzbekistan serves as the guest country of honor.

In the pavilion of the Republic of Korea (ROK), more than 100 items from 34 ROK companies are on display, including cosmetics products that are popular in China.

"With the deepening of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), we have paid more attention to the economic development in northwest China instead of those coastal areas. Many enterprises are preparing to settle down in China's northwestern regions such as Shaanxi," said Sung Haelee, representative of an ROK SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) and startups agency based in Xi'an.

"Although the exhibitors are mainly consumer goods companies this year, many tech enterprises are also looking forward to taking part in the expo next time," Sung added.

BROADER MARKET, MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Proposed by China in 2013, BRI aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and beyond along the ancient Silk Road trade routes for common development and prosperity.

The past nine years witnessed substantial progress in trade and investment under the initiative.

From 2013 to 2021, the total volume of trade of goods between China and the Belt and Road countries was nearly 11 trillion U.S. dollars, while two-way investment exceeded 230 billion dollars, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

By the end of 2021, China had built 79 zones for economic and trade cooperation in 24 B&R countries, investing 43 billion dollars and creating 346,000 local jobs.

By the end of July 2022, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with 149 countries



Visitors learn about cosmetics at the Republic of Korea booth during the Sixth Silk Road International Exposition in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Aug. 14, 2022. (Xinhua)

and 32 international organizations, according to the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planner.

Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan play an active part under the BRI today and are tapping the huge market potential of China.

Data shows that the bilateral trade volume between China and Uzbekistan amounted to 8.05 billion dollars in 2021, up 21.6 percent from 2020.

"As the most populous country in the world, China represents a large market endowed with unparalleled opportunities. We have helped many Uzbek companies find the targeted market and set up offices in different parts of China," said Sulaymanov Djamsid, representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan in China.

More than 20 Uzbek enterprises have set up representative offices in Chinese cities, like Qingdao, Xi'an and Urumqi, indicating a rosy prospect of China-Uzbekistan economic ties.

omic ties.

NEW HIGHLIGHTS

The National Development and Reform Commission and three relevant departments issued a guideline in March, saying that China will promote the green development of the Belt and Road and strengthen international cooperation in this regard.

At this year's expo, a variety of green and intelligent products are on display, from electric vehicle charging facilities to patrol robots. Among them, two pure electric drive assemblies have hogged the limelight.

"The newly-developed assembly can be equipped on wide-body mining trucks, heavy-loaded tractors and the like, which provides the same power as diesel but without noise and greenhouse gas emissions," said Xie Yuxin, with Shaanxi Fast Auto Drive Group Co., Ltd., a producer of auto transmission and driveline systems.

Since the first batch of 300 light trucks equipped with such assemblies were exported to Colombia in 2019, the company has broad-

ened its overseas market of green products to countries including Thailand, South Africa and Mexico.

While China is pursuing green development, more overseas investors see business opportunities here.

Established in Shanghai in 2020, Tera Energies, a French-funded company, aims to provide clean-energy and low-carbon solutions to Chinese partners from traditional industries.

"We saw business opportunities from China's carbon-cutting goals. Since our founding, we have carried out more than 10 projects with Chinese companies," said Fu Minxi of Tera Energies, adding that the expo is also a chance for the company to explore the market in northwest China.

Nigeria plunge into darkness as electricity workers begin nationwide strike

ABUJA

AN electricity workers union in Nigeria on Wednesday began an indefinite nationwide strike, causing blackouts and worsening power supply in parts of the most populous African country.

The National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) said in a statement Wednesday that it had withdrawn its services at the headquarters of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, calling for payment of outstanding arrears owed to workers, reversal of promotion interviews for acting principal managers, among other long-pending issues.

The strike, followed by a two-week ultimatum by the NUEE, was in line with a directive of the union's national leadership. Transmission stations were picketed on Wednesday to disrupt electricity supply.

In the statement signed by Joe Ajaero, general secretary of NUEE, the union urged its members across the country to comply with the directive and shut down services from Wednesday as the authorities failed to meet their demands.

Parts of the country began to bear the brunt of power blackouts due to the strike. According to a report by local daily the Vanguard, the chairman of NUEE's branch in Abuja said the action will continue until their demands are met by the government and the TCN

management.

The Eko Distribution Company and Ikeja Electric Plc, which are in charge of electricity distribution in the nation's economic hub Lagos, confirmed there was a blackout across the state following the directive given to electricity workers under the aegis of the NUEE, according to the official News Agency of Nigeria.

"Due to the ongoing nationwide picketing of transmission stations by the NUEE, we are currently experiencing disruption of power supply as most stations within our network have been shut down," the distribution companies said in a joint statement.

The electricity distribution company in the southeastern state of Enugu said power supply had been largely disrupted due to the nationwide strike. Emeka Ezech, spokesman for the Enugu Electricity Distribution Company, said in a statement that all its feeders are out of supply, which has affected supply to customers in other southeastern states of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo.

Minister of Power Abubakar Aliyu told reporters in Abuja on Wednesday that the government was working to resolve the crisis, adding that consultations were ongoing among critical stakeholders in the power sector to address the issue and restore supply. **Xinhua**

China's bamboo industry contributes to global green development

DUBBED as the "kingdom of bamboos," China is home to over 800 of the world's 1,642 known species of bamboos. As of October, 2021, the country had planted over 100 million mu, or 6.67 million hectares of bamboos, with an annual bamboo production of around 40 million tons. However, the number only accounted for about a quarter of the annual allowable cut.

Bamboos take about three to five years to get established. They are a valuable renewable natural resource for mankind. Science-based exploitation of bamboos doesn't affect the growth of them, but adjusts their structure and improves their quality, which helps fully tap into the ecological, economic and social benefits of the plants.

The Chinese are a pioneer in the exploitation of bamboos. In China, bamboos are widely made into construction materials and daily necessities, such as tissues, straws, tableware and baseboards of truck beds, which are sold to many countries around the world.

According to statistics, the output of China's bamboo industry surged from around 82.1 billion yuan in 2010 to 321.8 billion yuan in 2020. The number is expected to exceed a trillion yuan by 2035.

Apart from developing its own advantages in the bamboo industry, China is also sharing its technologies and experiences to help other countries with rich bamboo resources get rid of poverty and improve environment.

In Africa, China is offering strong support for the Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme launched by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR). The



Tourists experience water slide over a bamboo forest in Shangshu township, Anji county, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, July 27, 2022. File photo

country, by offering training courses, is sharing its experiences in the protection, planting, cutting and management of bamboos with local bamboo smallholder farmers in Ghana and other African countries, to help the latter get more involved in the value chain of the bamboo industry.

It is reported that a China-Africa bamboo center is expected to be built in Ethiopia for research and training. It will help Africa better develop its bamboo and rattan industry.

As a biologic material that's widely grown around the world, bamboos enjoy a huge potential in driving global green development," said Lu Wenming, deputy director general of the INBAR, adding that bamboos can be applied in a wide range of fields and almost every part of them can be utilized.

More importantly, bamboo products are in a low-carbon and even carbon-negative condition throughout their lifecycle. Compared with plastic products, bamboo products can maintain a negative carbon foot-

print. They are totally degradable and thus more environmentally friendly, Lu noted.

Besides, bamboos can advance global green development with their strong capability of carbon fixation. Once bamboos are made into products, they are able to store carbon dioxide for a very long time.

Bamboo winding composites are a biological material independently developed by China. China holds full intellectual property rights to the material. The composites can be used to make water conservancy, municipal and transport utility tunnels.

Fei Benhua, director general of the INBAR and president of China Bamboo Industry Association, told People's Daily that pipelines made from bamboo winding composites are lighter, more resilient and stronger than iron ones. Besides, they are also degradable, Fei added.

Ten million tons of bamboo winding composites are able to cut 52.23 million tons of carbon dioxide emission if they are used to replace helical welded pipes.

On June 24 this year, the Bamboo as a Sub-

stitute for Plastic Initiative proposed by the INBAR was included in the deliverables of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development. It will be jointly promoted by China and the INBAR to reduce plastic pollution, cope with climate change, and advance global green development.

Bamboos are a valuable asset as the world seeks green development. China is gradually becoming a global leader in the management and technological innovation regarding bamboo resources thanks to the prospering Chinese bamboo industry. The country is contributing to the world Chinese "bamboo schemes" that reflect infinite possibilities of a green future.

People's Daily

The debris' atmospheric reentry and crash took place around 12:55 am (Beijing time), the agency said in a brief statement, noting the touchdown site is in waters located at 9.1°N and 119.0°E. It did not provide additional details

Simba SC forward ready to challenge foreign footballers

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

SIMBA SC's striker, Kibu Denis, is adamant that he will continue to prove his worth amid the arrival of foreign footballers at the side.

The muscular forward said so in the wake of the decision by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to allow 2022/23 NBC Premier League sides to register up to 12 foreign players that can all be fielded in one match.

The clubs had in the previous season got greenlight to each sign 10 foreign footballers, with eight performers getting the opportunity to take the pitch in matches.

The new provision in the league regulations has to some extent put pressure on domestic footballers, given they ought to give them to make it to the starting lineups.

Simba SC has signed eight new players for 2022/23, two domestic performers Nassor Kapama and Habib Kyombo, while the other six are foreign players.

The footballers include Mohamed Ouattara, Victor Akpan, Nelson Okwa, Moses Phiri, Augustine Okrah, and Dejan Georgijevic.

Much as six of the foreign performers are attacking midfielders who are vying for a position in starting lineup, Denis revealed is not worried.

The striker that was previously featured for Mbeya City FC, Geita Gold FC, and Kumuyange FC noted: "The team has changed compared to last season, we have improved and the new players have brought more competition for the opportunity to play, which is good for the team."

Denis stated: "I don't see a problem because I believe that I have a lot of ability to play while taking into account the instructions of the coaches, so I leave it to the coaches to decide who should play in which match."

Simba SC so far has 12 foreign players, with 11 of them happening to be efficient when playing on wings.

The performers are Phiri, Okwa, Okrah, Georgijevic, Peter Banda, Pape Sakho, Clatus Chama, and domestic players John

Bocco, Kyombo, Jimmyson Mwanuke, and Kapama.

Much as there is competition, the outfit's head coach Zoran Maki has played Denis in the first team in two matches, one of which is a recent international friendly against Ethiopia's St. George which witnessed the footballer score one of the two goals for his club.

The attacker was also in Simba SC's first squad which confronted age-old rival Yanga in the 2022/23 Community Shield clash which ended with the latter commanding 2-1 win.

Meanwhile, the president of Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Wallace Karia has quashed the allegations spread on social media that he is a fan and member of Simba SC. The TFF leader insisted he is a Coastal Union fan.

Karia denied the allegations at a meeting held via zoom to discuss the assessment and expectations of football stakeholders on 2022/23 NBC Premier League clubs' registration of players.

The TFF leader revealed football is led by leaders with knowledge of the game, adding they have passion for various outfits.

The official stated they must have football clubs they support because of their passion for soccer.

Karia added that despite everything, the basic issue is an official must follow ethics to ensure that justice is deployed.

Karia said he is not sure whether TFF has a handful of leaders that root for Simba SC but he called on football fanatics to assess.

According to Karia, his decision to wear Simba SC's jersey at the squad's meeting held a few years ago when he was the federation vice-president came about after he was instructed by the former TFF president Jamal Malinzi to represent the latter at the 'Simba Day' festival.

He said that he wore a black jersey during the event but was given a red jersey so he chose to wear it because he was sent to represent TFF so he could not refuse.

Veteran footballers weigh in on Singida Big Stars FC, Ihefu SC signings for 2022/23 season



Ihefu SC footballers take part in a warm up ahead of a past Premier League clash which was held at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

BY CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI, TANGA

SINGIDA Big Stars FC and Ihefu SC are not new outfits in Mainland Tanzania's top flight football showdown, NBC Premier League.

The squads won promotion to the 2022/23 NBC Premier League after putting solid displays in the 2021/22 Championship, with Ihefu SC lifting the tournament's silverware followed by runners-up Singida Big Stars FC.

The squads replaced Mara's Bishara United and Mbeya Kwanza FC of Mbeya which suffered relegation to the 2022/23 Championship after faring dimly in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League.

Singida Big Stars FC was once known as DTB FC while taking part in the 2021/22 Championship, the side's name was changed due to business and investment reasons.

Both Ihefu SC and Singida Big Stars FC have experience in the Mainland Premier League because they took part in the top flight a few years ago.

Singida Big Stars FC announced to use the Liti Stadium as its home stadium in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League season, whereas Ihefu SC declared to use Mbarali's Highland Estate Stadium as its home venue.

Singida Big Stars FC, replacing an outfit that was known as Singida United in the region, was once a team with competent players, such footballers brought competition to Premier League teams which include popular squads Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC.

The Singida side intimidated opponents due to its playing style, it consisted of skilful players forcing opponents to work extremely hard to either notch victory or settle for a draw.

Financial constraints the club experienced, later on, prompted some of its competent performers to move elsewhere, heading to clubs that include Simba SC, Yanga, Azam FC, and Mtibwa Sugar in

search of green pastures.

Ihefu SC previously won promotion to 2020/21 Premier League, it stayed in the top flight for only one season for failure to weather the pressure.

The side's mission, vision, and plans were fulfilled when the squad took part in the 2021/22 Championship, given the side returned to the top flight this season.

Soccer enthusiasts at the local level might have been seeking reasons that contributed to Ihefu SC's poor performance when it battled it out in the 2020/21 top flight which brought about its relegation.

It is obvious that plan by Ihefu SC to use inexperienced footballers in the Premier League to some extent cost the team because the footballer failed to adapt to the tournament's competition.

Ihefu SC is this time seemingly not ready to repeat the mistakes.

In an interview with The Guardian, Ihefu SC's head coach Zubeir Katwila explained they learned after doing mistakes.

Katwila noted that in collaboration with the outfit's management and the technical bench, the club opted to bring in eight experienced players.

The newly recruited footballers possess skills and competence to boost the side, as well as serve as mentors to youthful footballers.

Seasoned footballers like Papy Tshishimbi, Obrey Chirwa, Juma Nyoso, Jaffary Salum, Peter Mwalyanzi, Said Juma, Lenny Kissu, Nicholas Wadada, James Ssetuba, Ally Ramadhan, and many more stand out from the rest with their exquisite skills.

The move brings us to the point where we could ask ourselves a few questions, which

include what has made such footballers competent?

"One factor that could be a catalyst in the development of these players' careers include their characters," the gaffer stated.

"The character of footballers, as is the case with real life, can either help the players gain fame or bring about their downfall but we expect success from them."

Veteran footballer Mohamed Salim who played for Coastal Union from 1985 to 1988 hailed the decision reached by Singida Big Stars FC and Ihefu SC to rope in experienced players, stating the outfits have a vision.

Salim that also plied his trade in Oman before his retirement noted a section of the recruited players might not live up to expectations should they not be disciplined.

The veteran stated: "According to my experience in soccer, I have witnessed cases in which a footballer with breathtaking skills is being booed by fans and hated by the media simply because his character is somehow contradictory to the publicly accepted values."

Salim revealed: "I stress more on the importance of a player's loyalty towards either his club or his country, some people would ask how the lack of loyalty towards a club can matter on the pitch."

"When the players are down there, it comes to being 11 versus 11 and a ball so how could a decision made by the player, who is not pledging his loyalty to a club, possibly affect him and his team on the pitch?"

Salim noted: "I think it matters exactly how you behave on the pitch, it is on the pitch where you can see the real character of a man, nothing can be hidden there, the lack of either loyalty or commit-

ment can be easily seen on the football pitch."

"The state of mind of any of the players can also be easily sensed, at the end of the day, it comes to the things that matter, your skills and your way of using them."

Elisha John Senti, a veteran footballer who played for African Sports Club in the late 1980s stated: "It is, however, not that easy, sometimes there are outside factors that could influence a player's performance on the pitch."

The former footballer revealed: "A player seeking to turn into legend has to have the necessary qualities to be an example for the next generations of footballers, he has to epitomize the ideals of the game, which future talents will strive to emulate and provide great assistance towards team's achievements."

"That can be achieved not only by having a unique and impressive style of play on the pitch but also by showing a socially acceptable and admirable behaviour outside of it."

The former performer pointed out that a great footballer has to burden himself with the responsibilities that bring positive outcomes.

"Footballers such as Meddie Kagere, Deus Kaseke, and Pascal Wawa who joined Singida Big Stars after parting ways with popular clubs Simba SC and Yanga are footballers who will always be in the hearts of fans and the people who enjoy football after doing well."

"Kagere became Simba SC top scorer for two successive Premier League seasons while Wawa showed his skills defensively, Singida Big Stars was not mistaken to sign them as the recruits will provide maximum assistance to the squad."



All Stars Veterans football outfit's Rafiki Ntoko contemplates his next move during a friendly duel pitting the squad against Ukonga Veterans side held at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

What are the unanswered questions for Africa Super League?

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

THE Confederation of African Football took a step forward with the launch of the Africa Super League project at the confederation's 44th Ordinary General Assembly in Arusha.

While Africa football governing body's president Patrice Motsepe and FIFA president Gianni Infantino outlined some of the key information around the Africa Super League proposal, there are still many unanswered questions ahead of the competition's launch next year.

Where will the money come from? The success or failure of the Africa Super League may well depend on how much money the tournament can generate and ultimately channel into African football.

Motsepe insists that 'the investors have all shown a huge amount of interest and enthusiasm to be part of this project' but without any contracts being signed, the financial attraction of the product remains to be seen.

He is certainly set lofty targets, with

anticipated revenues of \$200 million (466bn/-), although CAF must go out and prove they can now generate the income they forecast.

How will the rest of Africa benefit?

To demonstrate that the Africa Super League is not just for the few CÔ, Motsepe and Infantino must show that the broader African football community is benefiting from the proposal.

First of all as per the first question they must generate the income, as if they fall short of their ambitious targets, then talk of plunging \$54 million (125bn/-) into the CAF Development Fund may fall by the wayside.

Similarly, CAF has pledged to give \$1 million (2.3bn/-) to each of the 54 national federations, but even if that money comes, will the measures be put in place to ensure that it CÔs used for the greater good?

Which teams will be included? CAF has issued some clarity on how teams will be selected for the Africa Super League, with the top seven teams per each of the three regions identified by the football governing

body as per the CAF five-year ranking taking their place in the tournament.

We will not know until the end of the 22/23 CAF season which sides exactly make the top seven in their region, and the Super League also has three CÔwildcard CÔ tickets for teams chosen by the confederation.

This complicates things, as while CAF has given some guidance on how those teams will be chosen CÔcriteria such as CÔcommercial potential CÔ are hard to evaluate there are no hard sporting reasons for their inclusion.

For some qualifiers at least, we may not know their identities until mid-2023.

Will top clubs out of the Champions League this season qualify?

Some of the continent CÔs biggest teams face a nervous wait to see if they would make it to the Africa Super League.

Primary among these are Kaizer Chiefs, whose failure to qualify for CAF competitions this season means their coefficient can only decline between now and the start of the Africa Super League.

If one of the teams in either South



Egypt's Zamalek defenders (in blue kits) keep Morocco's Raja Club Athletic midfielder Ilias Haddad at bay when they met in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League duel held at Cairo International Stadium in Cairo in November 2020. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CAF

or East Africa who currently are not in the region CÔs top seven ranked clubs enjoy a successful season in

CAF competitions, then they would have the potential to displace Chiefs from the Super League running.

Sudanese giants Al Merreikh could be one such side to oust the Amakhosi, if they reach the CAF CL group stage and finish at least third in the group, then their coefficient will see them leapfrog Chiefs.

Will African fans care?

This is another unanswered question that in fairness Motsepe and Infantino will not be able to answer (having not canvassed supporters) until the tournament begins.

African football fans already face considerable competition for their interest, with local competitions and European soccer tournaments vying for their attention.

Where will the Super League fit into the diet of a typical African football fan?

Would Ghana's Asante Kotoko supporters prefer to watch their side confront Horoya AC of Guinea or Diaraf of Senegal rather than their familiar opponents in the Ghana Premier League?

Would Ethiopia football fans, who

are unlikely to have a team in the Super League, for example, care to tune in to watch a tie pitting DR Congo's AS Vita Club against Enyimba of Nigeria?

If the interest is not there, the numbers will not be there. If the numbers are not there, the money will not be there either.

Does this kill Africa CÔs domestic leagues?

Speaking at Ordinary General Assembly, Motsepe attempted to offer words of encouragement for Africa CÔs existing football structures but instead betrayed a certain lack of care for the continent CÔs leagues.

CÊWe have to explain to the local leagues what it means for their programs, their financial upkeep, progress, success, CÊ Motsepe told the watching world but should this not be supposed to have been done already?

Certainly speaking to figures within and around African leagues not to mention fans there are concerns that their leagues will be left short of finances, if not irrelevant altogether, by the Africa Super League.

Barcelona looks to rebound quickly after early setback

MADRID

THE expectations were high for Barcelona coming into the new season.

The club's financial maneuvers allowed for some high-profile signings that significantly boosted the squad after a trophyless campaign without Lionel Messi. The new players performed well in the preseason and Barcelona president Joan Laporta said the club would meet the Spanish league's strict financial fair play regulations.

Barcelona was back in its place, seen as a reference in world soccer again, Laporta boasted a few days before the league opener.

But it didn't take long for the hype to turn into more disappointment, and the Catalan club enters the second week of the season reeling and looking for ways to rebound. Another setback in a tough visit to Real Sociedad on Sunday could leave the club in a deep hole early on.

Laporta was not able to register all the new signings as he had expected ahead of the opener, and on the field the team struggled yet again, beginning its league campaign with a 0-0 home draw against Rayo Vallecano at the newly renamed Spotify Camp Nou.

"I understand the disappointment. We had generated a lot of expectations," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández said. "It's disappointing but we have to be patient. We have faith in the project and we will keep working."

To make it worse, Barcelona's closest rivals all won their openers, with defending champion Real Madrid defeating promoted Almería and Atlético Madrid routing Getafe, both in away matches.

It won't help that Barcelona will have to face Sociedad without veteran midfielder Sergio Busquets, who was sent off in stoppage time against Rayo. It was also unclear if newly signed defender Jules Koundé would be allowed to be registered in time. Of the team's top signings, only Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha were added to the squad ahead of the opener.

Sociedad also won on the road ahead of its encounter with Barcelona, defeating Cádiz 1-0 with

a goal and a great performance by Japanese attacking midfielder Takefusa Kubo.

"It's like he's been with us for three years already," Sociedad coach Imanol Alguacil said of the 21-year-old Kubo, who arrived this season on loan from Madrid.

Sociedad, led by veteran David Silva and with an attack spearheaded by Kubo and Alexander Isak, was near the top most of last season, finishing in sixth place.

ADVERTISEMENT
MADRID'S MOMENTUM

Madrid opened by coming from behind to win at Almería. The defending champions will stay on the road on Saturday to visit a Celta Vigo team that blew a two-goal lead and conceded an equalizer eight minutes into stoppage time against Espanyol in its home opener.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti may be able to count on the return of right back Dani Carvajal and forward Rodrygo, who missed the first match while nursing injuries.

MORATA'S TIME

With striker Álvaro Morata red hot, Atlético hosts Villarreal on Sunday in a match between clubs that opened with big victories – Atlético won 3-0 at Getafe and Villarreal 3-0 at Valladolid. Real Betis was the only other team to open by winning by as many goals.

Morata, back from his two-year loan with Juventus, scored twice against Getafe to practically secure the starting spot in attack over Antoine Griezmann. The France forward scored the other goal on Sunday, with João Félix getting all three assists.

Villarreal coach Unai Emery may count on Argentina midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso, who is back on loan from Tottenham.

OTHER MATCHES

Sevilla, the fourth-place finisher last season, will try to rebound from its opening loss at Osasuna when it hosts Valladolid on Friday. Betis, fifth last season, travels to face Mallorca on Saturday.

Athletic Bilbao will look for its first win since coach Ernesto Valverde returned when it hosts Valencia on Sunday. Valencia opened with a win against Girona in the debut of coach Gennaro Gattuso. **AP**

Neymar, Mbappe and PSG's 'Penaltygate II': Can the two superstars coexist?

BY JULIEN LAURENS, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

WE'RE only two weeks into the Ligue 1 season and after a seemingly harmonious start, Paris Saint-Germain are facing some controversy and drama. "Penaltygate II" is in full swing after the scenes on Saturday evening against Montpellier between Kylian Mbappe and Neymar.

Before the start of the season, PSG's new manager, Christophe Galtier, set the rule for penalties: France striker Mbappe is the No. 1 taker and Brazil forward Neymar the No. 2, which means that Neymar would take a spot kick if his teammate was not on the pitch anymore, or if the foul had been committed against him. That's certainly how Mbappe understood it, yet Neymar was not happy with the decision. He thought he should take priority, but ultimately, he accepted it during pre-season.

Fast-forward to Saturday. Mbappe had already missed a penalty in the game – given in the 21st minute for Jordan Ferri's handball in the box – when PSG got a second one 20 minutes later for another handball incident. Neymar grabbed the ball to the surprise of his teammate, who then had a word with him, but it was clear that the Brazilian hardly listened.

Instead, Neymar dismissed him, kept the ball, took the penalty and scored. Mbappe wasn't happy and his face showed it. He stayed grumpy all game, despite scoring, and despite PSG putting on another great performance, winning 5-2.

Sources told ESPN that Mbappe didn't like the way Neymar took the ball immediately for the second penalty. It upset him, though it wasn't the only thing on his mind as some off-field problems in the days leading up to the game also had an impact on his mood going into the Montpellier game.

All in all, it was not a good evening for Mbappe, and he has been at the centre of the media storm since. On top of that, in the hours after the game, Neymar liked a few tweets from some fans that criticised the choice of Mbappe as the No. 1 penalty taker.

It's a familiar issue for PSG, especially since Neymar's arrival from Barcelona over five years ago. Back in the 2017-18 season, the original "Penaltygate" between Neymar and Edinson Cavani



Kylian Mbappe (right) wants to be the main man at Paris Saint-Germain, but that may cause some friction with Neymar (left). (Agencies)

polluted the dressing room, a small issue that festered and was never settled by the club or by then-manager Unai Emery.

This time, it is different, and in many ways, it has to be. First, defender Sergio Ramos had a word with both players immediately after the game in the dressing room to try to diffuse the tension between the pair. Then on Sunday, Luis Campos had a word. The new sporting director showed his authority and reminded the two players of their duties and the necessity of respecting the rules set by the manager. "You are two great players, don't let things like this damage your season," he told them.

Campos also reminded Neymar about the risks of taking issues to social media instead of his team. The world's most expensive player had been unhappy with Mbappe's attitude during the game following the penalty drama, such as when he stopped running down the left wing on a PSG attack just before half-time because Vitinha didn't

pass him the ball.

Campos has known Mbappe since he was 14, and they have a strong relationship, which enables him to be tough and direct with the forward. After the Montpellier game, if Galtier said that there was nothing wrong in his eyes with Neymar taking the second penalty because Mbappe had missed the first one, he knew that Campos would act as the bad cop here. And so it proved on Sunday.

So where does this leave the duo? Neymar and Mbappe were close when they both arrived at PSG in the summer of 2017. However, their rapport has cooled in the past couple of years, with the pair slowly drifting apart. They still respect each other, but there is clearly a problem of egos and status there. Sources have told ESPN that Mbappe got annoyed last season at the liberties Neymar took in terms of his discipline – his timekeeping and training habits, for example – while Neymar was equally surprised to hear about the power given to his teammate by the club as

part of his seismic contract extension this summer. (It also wasn't overlooked that PSG and Neymar discussed him finding a new club this summer, which did prompt the Brazilian to return with a renewed focus for preseason.)

Both players are now claiming that the Montpellier incident is behind them and that it was not a big deal. Mbappe was clearly frustrated about off-field issues, while Neymar explained that he got confused and thought it was his turn to take the second penalty. However, in a dressing room full of egos, the two biggest ones have to find harmony if PSG are to have a successful season. Galtier and Campos will be key for this, as well as the willingness of both players to make it work.

Neymar has started the season on fire while Mbappe has some catching up to do after missing the French Super Cup and the first league game of the season. On Sunday at Lille, both will start, and every single one of their movements, reactions and words will be scrutinised.

Musk tweet joking about buying Manchester United causes stir

LONDON

ELON Musk caused a stir by tweeting that he was buying the English soccer team Manchester United – whose current owners are opposed by many fans – then saying several hours later that it was a joke.

It comes as the billionaire Tesla CEO faces a legal battle in the U.S. after backing out of a deal to buy Twitter for \$44 billion. He is a prolific user of the platform, often musing about social issues or joking with his 103 million followers and occasionally getting into trouble with U.S. regulators.

Early Wednesday, Musk sent a tweet about his political affiliations and then added in a second tweet: "Also, I'm buying Manchester United ur welcome."

That came as shocking news in the Manchester United world – albeit welcome to many – after nearly a decade of sub-par performances.

Asked by a follower whether he was serious, Musk later tweeted, "No, this is a long-running joke on Twitter. I'm not buying any sports teams."

It wasn't Musk's first joke about buying a popular franchise. In April, he tweeted, "Next I'm buying Coca-Cola to put the cocaine back in." He noted in the thread about Manchester United that the Coca-Cola tweet had also been in jest.

Musk previously ran afoul of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for tweets claiming that he had the funding to take Tesla private in 2018, leading the electric vehicle maker's stock price to jump. That led to a securities fraud settlement requiring his tweets be approved by a Tesla attorney before being published.



He's now facing more legal woes over the deal to buy Twitter that he negotiated in April. Musk sold roughly \$8.5 billion worth of Tesla shares to help fund the purchase and lined up a diverse group of other investors to back him.

The deal fell apart last month after Musk said Twitter refused to provide him enough information about the number of fake accounts on the platform. Twitter could have tried to make him pay a \$1 billion breakup fee that he agreed to but instead is suing to force him to complete the purchase. The case is set to go to trial in Delaware in October.

Musk, with his seemingly unlimited potential to buy the best soccer players in the world, would have been a welcome prospect for many Manchester United fans who want to see the club back at the top of the game.

Man United was arguably the biggest team in world soccer under manager Alex Ferguson, winning 13 Premier League titles and two Cham-

pions League trophies. But since Ferguson's retirement in 2013, the team has struggled to win trophies.

Last season, United finished 35 points behind champion Manchester City – the club's local rival – and there were protests against the Glazer family, the team's American owners.

Many supporters in the club's huge international fanbase have opposed the Glazers since they took control in 2005, in part because they financed the takeover by putting the club in debt for the first time in decades.

The latest low came Saturday when United lost 4-0 to Brentford, a small team from west London that was promoted to the Premier League in 2021. It was United's second straight loss to open the season, leaving it in last place in the 20-team Premier League.

The Manchester United Supporters' Trust fan group, known as MUST, condemned the owners following last weekend's match.

"What we have witnessed tonight is an embarrassment – no, a humili-

ation – for Manchester United fans. And yet in many ways it was not a surprise. It feels like the culmination of a long-term direction of travel," the fan club said in a statement. "MUST hold the owners of the Club primarily responsible for this new low in our decade of decline."

Meanwhile, British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe would be interested in buying Manchester United if the club was for sale, sources confirmed to ESPN on Wednesday.

A spokesperson for Ratcliffe earlier told The Times of his desire to buy into the Premier League giants.

"If the club is for sale, Jim is definitely a potential buyer," Ratcliffe's spokesperson said. "If something like this was possible, we would be interested in talking with a view to long-term ownership."

Ratcliffe's comments follow a report from Bloomberg on Wednesday that Manchester United's owners, the Glazer family, would consider selling a

minority stake in the club. Tesla CEO Elon Musk earlier said his plan to buy the Premier League club was all part of "a long-running joke."

United are enduring a disastrous start to the season, losing their first two games to sink to the foot of the Premier League table. They have not won the Premier League title since 2013. The Glazers have been the target of intense criticism for their failure to invest in the team who have not won a trophy in five years. United's net debt had grown 11% to about £496 million pounds (\$598.03 million) by the end of March.

The owners have also been criticised for not improving the Old Trafford stadium, the biggest club ground in the country with a capacity of around 75,000 fans.

Ratcliffe, who owns petrochemicals giant Ineos, made a late unsuccessful bid of £4.25 billion to buy Chelsea earlier this year before it was ultimately sold to an investment group led by

Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital.

However, he is from the Manchester area and a long-standing fan of the club. "This is not about the money that has been spent or not spent. Jim is looking at what can be done now and, knowing how important the club is to the city, it feels like the time is right for a reset," the spokesperson added.

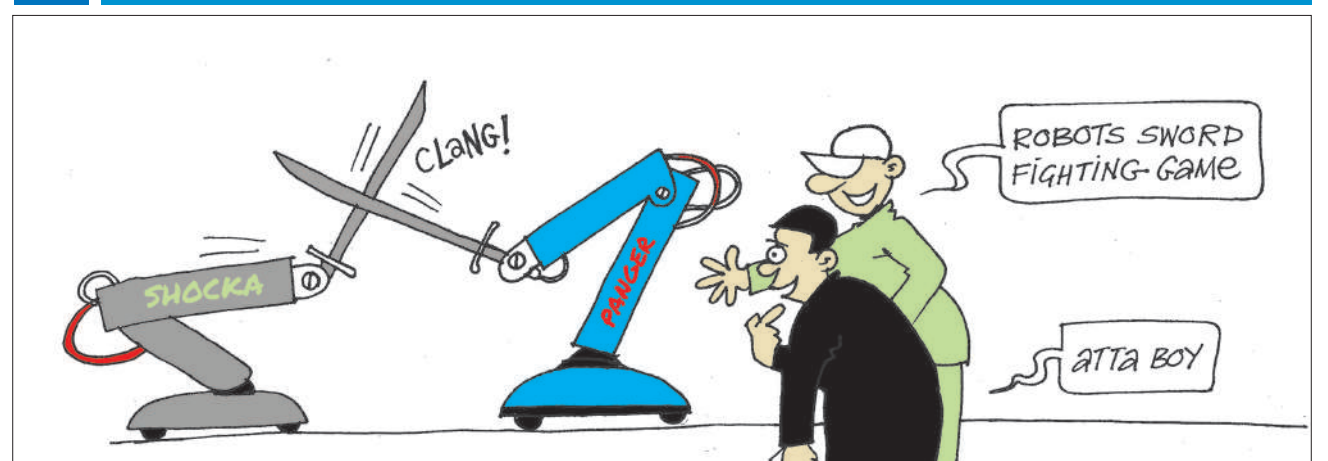
United finished sixth last season in their worst Premier League campaign with respect to points earned, failing to qualify for the lucrative UEFA Champions League.

The club hired manager Erik ten Hag from Ajax in a bid to turn around their fortunes but the Dutchman has not yet succeeded in imposing his playing style, with United losing their opening two games after conceding six goals.

United play their arch-rivals Liverpool, who scored nine times without reply in their two league meetings last season, at Old Trafford on Monday.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Neymar, Mbappe and PSG's 'Penaltygate II': Can the two superstars coexist?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Aruti Aces hammer Azania Bank Stars in 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup

By Guardian Reporter

ARUTI Aces have continued showcasing their mettle in the 2022 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans Cup, grabbing a seven-wicket victory over Azania Bank Stars recently.

The Group B duel which took place at the Leaders Club venue witnessed Aruti Aces showcasing their superiority right from the start and coming up victorious in a convincing fashion.

Azania Bank Stars batsmen put up a poor show after the side elected to bat after winning the toss.

The bowlers of Aruti Aces restricted the free flow of runs and consumed the first opener, Muzamil Hussain, at the score of just eight runs on the board and the one-down batsman Talha Sayed when the score was just 23 runs.

Wickets kept tumbling at regular intervals and with some intelligent bowling by Aruti Aces, Azania Bank Stars could manage a low score of just 102 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

The scoring rate was just over five runs per over which is considered below par in this format of the tournament.

Humayun Taj, Mudasser Mukkadam, Sarfaraz Tare, and Zahid Naveed were the only four among the fallen eight batsmen, who scored in two digits.

Zahid Naveed was the top scorer with 30 runs from 28 deliveries with just four hits to the fence.

Aruti Aces were also brilliant on the field, effecting two run outs to cripple the batting lineup of Azania Bank Stars.

Five of the six bowlers used by Aruti Aces bowled exceedingly well with their combined average at only 4.45 runs per over.

Among them, Jatin Prajapati and Salum Jumbe were the most successful bowlers taking two wickets apiece.

Ayaz Mustafa took one wicket, as is the case with skipper Ankit Baghel, with an economy rate of just four and 4.50 runs per over, respectively. Altogether, the bowling performance from Aruti Aces was exceptional.

Aruti Aces, chasing an achievable target of 103 runs in 120 balls, fielded Ejaz

Aziz to open the innings with skipper Baghel who was out in the fifth ball of the first over.

Jaffary Kanyita joined Aziz but was clean bowled by Wahid Hussain on the first ball he faced.

Aruti Aces were stunned by these two quick wickets and were staring at four runs for the loss of two wickets.

Jumanne Mohamed then joined Aziz and this pair added 95 runs for the third wicket. Aziz was in a punishing mood, scoring heavily off Imran Qureshi and Mukaddam bowling.

In the ninth over of the innings and at the score of 99 runs, Aziz was run-out at his score of 54 runs which he scored in just 26 balls which included six boundaries and two sixes.

Mohamed ensured that there will be no further loss of wickets and took the score past the target.

Aruti Aces' victory came in the third ball of the 10th over, giving a thrashing to Azania Bank Stars.

The bowling department of Azania Bank Stars could not capitalize on the good start of the first over bowled by Wahid Hussain and succumbed to the onslaught of Ejaz Aziz and Mohamed.

Hussain was Azania Bank Stars' most economic and successful bowler, claiming the first two wickets and conceding just 15 runs with an average of 3.91.

For his spectacular innings of 54 runs in 26 balls, Aziz was awarded the Colourflex Man of the Match prize.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup is an annual T20 Cricket Competition hosted by the Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel Limited is the title sponsor of the tournament, while co-sponsors of the showdown include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, and Pepsi.

Other sponsors are Aruti, Pigabet, Black and Decker, Harab Motors, All Season Hotels, Novum Energy, Diamond Trust Bank, I&M Bank, Aurobindo Pharma, Azania Bank, and Horizon Teleports.

Jihusu, Flashnet, Ashton Media, Rotana, Aura Suites, Bank of India, Datamanics, Samaki Samaki, A One Bottlers, and GI Security complete the showdown sponsors' list.

Zoran Maki full of praise after Simba SC's bounce-back victory



Simba SC winger, Pape Ousmane Sakho (3rd L), seeks to get the better of Geita Gold FC defenders in the 2022/23 Premier League encounter that took place in Dar es Salaam two days back. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach Zoran Maki has issued all the credit - or at least most of it - to his players after they got back on track on Wednesday evening.

Goals netted by Augustine Okrah, Moses Phiri, and Clatous Chama earned Simba SC all three points against Geita Gold FC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in their first game of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League campaign.

The 3-0 victory came on the back of a demoralizing Community Shield derby loss to age-old rivals Young Africans, popularly known as Yanga.

Speaking in a post-match press, Maki said they had expect-

ed a tough game and praised his players for bouncing back from the loss in the tie against Yanga.

The tactician stated: "It was a very difficult game psychologically because after the Yanga clash where we lost 2-1 the team morale went down."

Maki noted: "In the two or three days we worked more on the psychology part than physical and tactical aspects for the squad to bounce back."

The coach disclosed: "The response was good, the first 45 minutes were excellent. We had three or four minutes to score while our opponents did not have much. In the second half, we also worked hard and gave opportunities to more players."

The tactician revealed: "We had twelve scoring opportuni-

ties, normally 30% is very good and we scored three goals."

"It is more difficult to create opportunities, in my opinion, the first half should have been 2-0 and the second half two more but 3-0 in the first league is good. Congratulations to my players."

Maki who replaced Pablo Martin also found time to give a bit of individual praise to goalkeeper Aishi Manula who was back between the posts for Simba SC after missing out on the Community Shield match due to fitness issues.

The coach said: "Manula is a key player. He has always defended the Simba SC colours. He did not play against Yanga because he was 100% ready for the game. For this game, he was

ready and played well."

Simba SC, last season's Premier League runners-up, hardly have much time to celebrate the midweek victory as they have to take on Kagera Sugar in their second league game tomorrow in a bid to ensure they keep their winning record intact.

After the second-round matches, the NBC Premier League will take a two-week break to allow Tanzania's senior national squad 'Taifa Stars' to prepare for the final round of the 2023 African Nations Championship's qualifiers duel against Uganda.

Tanzania will face Uganda in the first leg slated for August 28 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium while the return leg will be played on September 3 at St. Mary's Stadium, Kitende.

Uganda steps up preparations for Tanzania with international friendly against Ethiopia

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

TANZANIA'S opponents in the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers, Uganda's Cranes have stepped up preparations by lining up two friendlies against Ethiopia.

Tanzania will face Uganda in the first leg on August 28 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam while the return leg will be played on September 3 at St. Mary's Stadium, Kitende with the winner on aggregate qualifying for the final tournament slated for January in Algeria.

According to the Uganda Football Federation, Uganda's Cranes will play two friendly matches this week before facing coming to Zanzibar where they plan to set up a base to acclimatize for the Taifa Stars game.

Uganda's Cranes head coach Milutin Sredojevic 'Micho' con-

firmed the two games will be up against Ethiopia. Micho believes Ethiopia will offer his squad a good test before facing Taifa Stars.

"From July 25 when we started preparations, I believe we have done a good job considering players were coming from the off-season. We now have to engage in a polishing aspect and on Thursday, we shall be flying to Ethiopia where the team will play two friendly matches on Friday and Sunday," Micho told the Uganda Football Federation, FUFA website.

"Ethiopia is a good team and 95% of their national team players feature in their local league. They beat Egypt in the AFCON Qualifiers and that speaks volumes," he added.

Micho was not happy that the team could not go ahead with the initial plan to play a friendly with Malawi.

He said: "It is unfortunate that we could not secure the friendly

game against Malawi and thus we opted for plan B which is going to Zanzibar where we shall just acclimatize to weather conditions in Tanzania. We shall have a friendly match on Wednesday before facing Tanzania on Sunday."

Tanzania is seeking to play at the final tournament for the third time having featured in the 2009 and 2021 editions while Uganda is targeting a sixth consecutive appearance having qualified in 2011, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020.

Uganda's Cranes squad:

Goalkeepers: Alionzi Nafian (URA FC), Richard Anyama (Arua Hill SC), Emmanuel Kalyowa (BUL FC), Denis Otim (Express FC), Mathias Muwanga (Onduparaka FC)

Defenders: Halid Lwaliwa (Vipers SC), Livingstone Mulondo (Vipers SC), Najib Fesali (URA FC), Joseph Bright Vuni (Arua Hill SC), Kenneth Ssemakula (SC Villa), John Revita (KCCA FC), Walter

Ochora (BUL FC), Gavin Kizito Mugweri (SC Villa), James Begisa (URA FC), Hillary Onok (BUL FC), Brian Mato (Proline FC), Ibrahim Juma (KCCA FC), Derrick Ndahiro (URA FC), Disan Galiwango (Vipers SC), George Kaddu (Wakiso Giants FC)

Midfielders: Bobosi Byaruhanga (Vipers SC), Marvin Youngman (Vipers SC), Siraje Ssentamu (Vipers SC), George Kasonko (BUL FC), Titus Ssematimba (Wakiso Giants FC), Saidi Kyeyune (URA FC), Simon Peter Oketch (BUL FC), Moses Waiswa (KCCA FC)

Forwards: Milton Karisa (Vipers SC), Abdu Lumala (Vipers SC), Travis Mutyaba (SC Villa), Rogers Mato (KCCA FC), Moses Aliro (Wakiso Giants FC), Najib Yiga (Vipers SC), Martin Kizza (Express FC), Rashid Kawawa (Arua Hill SC), Muhammad Shaban (Onduparaka FC), Yunus Ssentamu (Vipers SC), Richard Basangwa (Gaddafi FC), Oscar Mawa (SC Villa).

Aruti Aces cricket outfit's Ejaz Aziz (R) gets the Colourflex Man of the Match award from Managing Director of Colourflex, Kennedy Chisora, once the performer's club had confronted Azania Bank Stars in 2022 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans Cup's clash which took place last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Flexibles by David Chikoko

