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Vice President Philip Mpango pictured on Wednesday cutting the ribbon to launch classrooms and teachers' offices at Muyama Primary School in Buhigwe District, Kigoma Region, recently rehabilitated by the Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc. The others include the bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi (L), Kigoma regional Commissioner Thobias Andengenyne (3rd-L), and the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), Prof Joyce Ndalichako (2nd-R, foreground). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

VP roots for shift to clean domestic fuel

By Guardian Correspondent, Buhigwe

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has urged Tanzanians to use clean cooking energy to protect the environment and personal health.

Gracing an event to present 300 free gas cylinders and stoves to community health workers and expectant mothers in Buhigwe District of Kigoma Region, he said that abandoning charcoal would improve people's welfare and save forests.

The cylinders and stoves were donated by Oryx Gas (T) Ltd as part of the company's endeavour to promote the use of cleaner cooking energy.

Thanking the company for its gesture, the VP reminded the audience that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had set a target to ensure 80 percent of Tanzanians

It is also investing in industrial and commercial infrastructure, operating an import station, eight gas storage facilities and modern gas cylinder filling plants...

have access to clean energy by 2032.

As the gas cylinders and stoves were provided for free, he appealed to Buhigwe residents to properly use the LPG starting pack, where a total of 214 expectant mothers and 86 community health workers received the cylinders and stoves, a donation solicited by the Doris Mollel Foundation.

Alex John, the Oryx (T) zonal manager, said the donation was meant to encourage the community, via the selected group, to abandon the use of wood and charcoal. The handing over was preceded by training on the correct use of gas, he stated.

Community health workers are a role model group that can exercise considerable influence on choices of social groups they serve, including expectant mothers, who acutely need the shift to clean energy, he said.

The firm was investing in the importation, storage, filling of gas in cylinders and distribution of filled cylinders across the country, with investments in new cylinders introduced to the market

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Oil pipeline safety top at ministerial conference

● Makamba sets one year for national grid JNHPP tying

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY experts from Tanzania and Zambia as well as the relevant cabinet ministers are meeting in Dar es Salaam to discuss the safety of the oil pipeline from Kigamboni to the Ndola oil refinery in Zambia.

Energy minister January Makamba said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the meeting would also receive reports on the construction of a new gas pipeline and

construction of a new oil pipeline

Reports say that Zambia started working on an upgraded facility to deliver crude oil for refinery in July last year, especially adding terminals for different deliveries in two phases.

Meanwhile the minister affirmed that electricity generation at the 2,115MW Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) is expected to start June next year and be

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Tanzania second as FDI destination in EAC zone

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA emerged the second top recipient of foreign direct investments (FDIs) stock among East African Community (EAC) member states in 2022, a new report shows.

The World Investment Report 2023 published at midweek by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development indicates that Tanzania's estimated FDI inward stock amounted to \$18.63bn last year, rising from \$17.52bn recorded in 2021. This is an eight fold increase over the past two decades, from \$2.78bn recorded in 2000, it said.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the latest member and a resource rich country,

topped the list with \$30.99bn FDI inward stock, from \$29.14bn in 2021, it affirmed.

Uganda came third with an estimated \$18.09bn inward flows last year, from \$16.56bn in 2021 and \$809m back in 2000, it said, placing Kenya at fourth slot with \$11.23bn flows that inched up from \$10.47bn in 2021.

Rwanda, listed in central Africa region, had an estimated \$3.32bn inward flow, from \$2.93bn in 2021 while Burundi, the smallest economy in the EAC block, stocked up \$255m last year, from \$242m in 2021, it said.

DRC led in FDI outward flows, topping \$3.6bn, followed by Kenya with upwards

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'SADC has 40m people facing hunger this year'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A NEWLY published report says that more than 41m people in ten countries of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) will be facing hunger in the next few months.

Ishmael Onani, chairman of the standing committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources of the SADC Parliamentary Forum made this in delivering the report to its 53rd plenary session here yesterday.

Tanzania is among the ten SADC member, others being Angola, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC).

The Malawi Congress Party legislator told delegates at the third day of the regional forum that there are currently more than 18.7m stunted children in the zone due to hunger and malnutrition.

Things are getting worse with a general increase in the cost of living, including significant hikes in the prices of major staples in the wake of an upward push in the price of oil, the report noted.

Climate change and global unrest are major factors in the rising costs of living, diminishing resources and limited supplies as 70 percent of SADC inhabitants rely on agriculture, contributing upwards of 20 percent of the region's GDP, it said.

During 2019 and 2020, funding for agriculture declined, leading to 55.7m people being food insecure from April 2022 to March 2023, the report noted, underlining the importance of agriculture ultimate solution in ending hunger and alleviating poverty.

Agriculture is eleven times more effective than other sectors in its income distribution impact, even compared to oil and gas or

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings at Zanzibar's Malindi Port yesterday with Indian Navy Captain Kapil Kaushik (R) aboard visiting Indian naval ship Ins Trishul. With them (C, foreground) is the Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan. Photo: State House



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Oil pipeline safety tops ministerial, conference

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connected to the national grid.

By February next year construction engineers are expected to start testing installed plants, with actual power generation awaiting key plants to be installed, he said.

Generation will start towards the end of the 2023/2024 financial year as the required minimum water level is reached, he said, alluding to fears on water level adequacy to enable the turbines to be turned on.

"The good news is that within one season, we have managed to fill the dam to a sufficient level that enables power generation," he said.

The dam is 184 meters above sea level, with the required minimum level of water set at 163 meters above sea level, he said, elaborating

that at present the water level at the dam has reached 163.61 meters above the sea level.

"The water level has surpassed the required minimum level, so if we had completed installing the required plants, production of power could have commenced even today," he said, affirming that installation of the plants is progressing well.

Water filling at the plant had early this week reached 13bn cubic meters, roughly 43 percent of the maximum level, put at 30bn cubic meters, he specified.

"The other day I travelled to China to check our power generation plants that will be installed at the dam. The machines will leave China for Tanzania on November 30," he added.

VP roots for shift to clean domestic fuel

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every day totalling more than one million dollars annually, he said.

He said the firm offers cylinders at a discount, subsidizing LPG costs for starting equipment, namely cylinder, gas, burner and trivet to enable people to switch from wood

fuel to LPG.

It is also investing in industrial and commercial infrastructure, operating an import station, eight gas storage facilities and modern gas cylinder filling plants. It also conducts gas cylinder inspection and operate repair facilities, he added.

'SADC has 40m people facing hunger this year'

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mining, influencing economic growth and helping millions of people get out of poverty, it said.

SADC commitments on agriculture and food security made at United Nations forums, the African Union and within the region were yet to be fulfilled to promote agriculture, the report asserted.

Sustainable development goals on ending poverty and hunger; the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program 2025 and the seven Malabo commitment

focusing on agricultural funding were all behind schedule, it said.

The report focused on the situation of hunger and food insecurity in the SADC region, exploring challenges fuelling food insecurity with a review of major international goals.

The African Union agenda, investments and performance of the Malabo commitments and the credit environment that can attract the youth to invest in agriculture were other areas examined in the report adopted by the plenary session.

SADC committee counsels regional parliamentarians on human rights

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Standing Committee on Democratization, Governance and Human rights has urged SADC Parliamentarians to support the African Commission on Human and People's Rights' resolution on Business and Human Rights.

The committee report tabled at the 53rd Plenary Assembly Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum, taking place in Arusha, Tanzania, reaffirms the centrality of Parliamentarians in advancing the concept of business and human rights in the extractive sector in Southern Africa.

It was signed by the Committee Chairperson, Dought Ndiweni and Secretary Sheuneni Kurasha.

The Committee tasked the SADC Parliamentarians to ensure that Transnational Mining Companies complied with human rights and environmental laws and ensure that remedies were available and accessible to citizens and communities in case of violations.

Members of the Standing Committee also urged the SADC Parliamentarians to raise awareness among stakeholders in their respective countries, including the relevant government ministries, regarding the United Nations' Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights.

That is in addition to encouraging robust participation in the process to ensure that the final outcome would be inclusive, covering all human rights in order to curb corporate impunity of the Transnational Mining Companies.

In their report members of the Standing Committee on Democratization, Governance and Human rights advised SADC Parliamentarians to prioritize the strengthening of the oversight function of Parliament by supporting

the process for the adoption of the binding treaty.

They observed that this would enhance accountability by the governments in discharging its regulatory role and establish effective measures to protect States from corporate capture.

Parliaments of the Southern Africa Development Community have been called upon to strengthen the representative role of SADC legislators by amplifying their voice in the ongoing processes towards the adoption of the binding treaty on business and human rights.

In line with the already entrenched Model Law making approach, the committee encouraged SADC Parliamentary Forum Secretariat to explore the feasibility of developing model textual provisions for the binding treaty which serves as a benchmark for negotiations and subsequent domestication at national level. They also advised the SADC national Parliaments to curb corporate impunity through strong legislation at the national level and address business-related human rights violations in Africa, particularly for the marginalized and vulnerable populations.

SADC Parliaments were urged to leverage their mandate in advocating for the alignment of regional natural resources governance frameworks with the Business and Human Rights Concept and for the development of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights.

The committee urged the SADC PF Secretariat to prioritize the training of Members of the Parliament in business and human rights through collaboration with partners in order to buttress evidence-based approaches in promoting the respect of human rights in the conduct of business within the natural resources sector in the region.



Former President Jakaya Kikwete exchanges greetings with Akiba Commercial Bank managing director Silvest Arumas (L) at the bank's pavilion at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania second as FDI destination in EAC zone

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of \$633m, Uganda coming third with \$174m outflows. Rwanda had \$74m and Burundi recorded \$8m in foreign capital outflows, it asserted.

No data was available for Tanzania's FDI outward flows during the reporting year, it said, noting that East Africa, as categorized by UNCTAD as comprising of 11 countries, was led by Ethiopia in FDI inward flows. It attracted \$35.28bn in 2022

from \$31.61bn recorded in 2021, while Tanzania came second, with Comoro attracting \$145m, Eritrea (\$1.02bn), Madagascar (\$9.09bn), Mauritius (\$5.60bn) and Somalia (\$4.92bn), the report noted.

Total FDI inward stock recorded among ten East Africa countries amounted to \$106.98bn, lower than Southern Africa with \$283.68bn, Central African zone with \$117.11bn and West Africa, attracting a total of \$210.28bn, it said.

South Africa topped inward flows

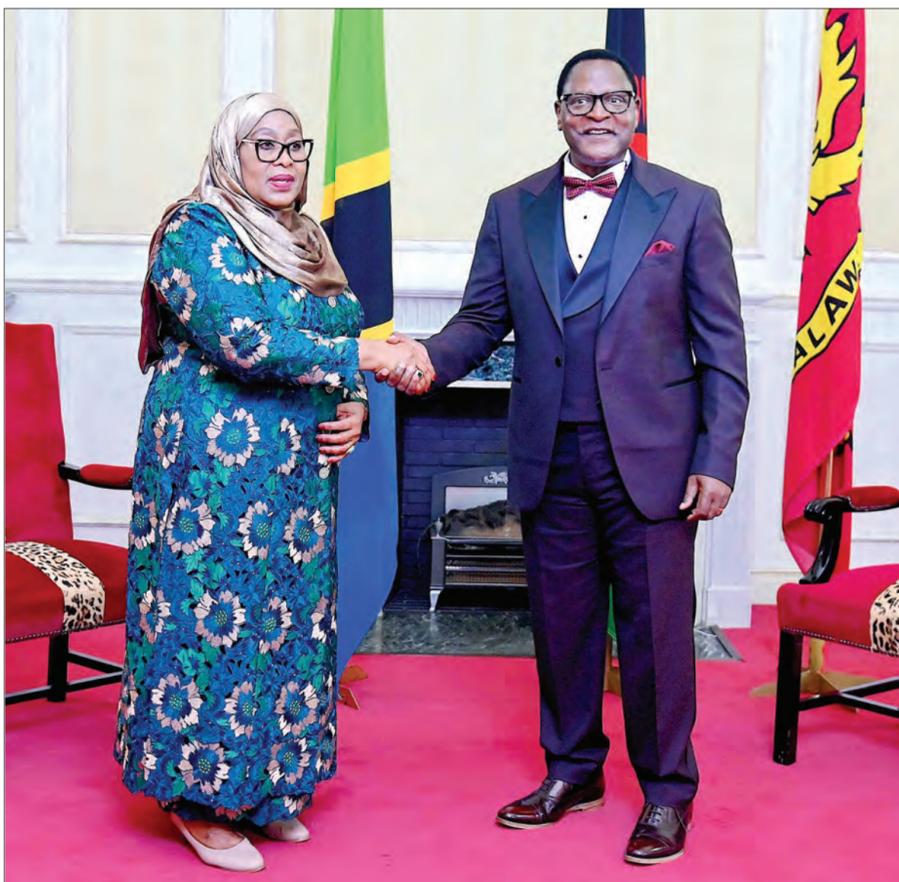
in Africa with \$173.58bn, followed by Nigeria with \$88.2bn, Morocco coming third with \$63.27bn inflows, out of global foreign direct investment (FDI) which fell by 12 percent to \$1.3trn in 2022, it said.

Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD secretary-general, said upon the launch of the report that rising inflation, fears of a recession and turbulence in financial markets put many investment plans on hold at the beginning of the year.

"In the end, international

investment flows did suffer, but proved more resilient than expected," she stated.

The slowdown in FDI were listed as the war in Ukraine, high food and energy prices and debt pressure. Greater financial constraints, higher interest rates and uncertainty in capital markets had a particularly negative impact on international project finance and cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As), the report underlined.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured with her host, Malawi President Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, shortly after talks at Lilongwe State House (Kamuzu Palace) on Wednesday. Photo: State House

Education officers urged to supervise construction of schools' infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

ANGELLAH Kairuki, Minister of State in the President's Office (PO-RALG) has instructed Education Officers to closely supervise the construction of primary and secondary schools' infrastructure in their areas.

The minister also called on secondary education officers who received 51 new vehicles to use them well to enhance performance to attain quality education in their areas.

Speaking here yesterday at the vehicles handing over event,

she said the infrastructures are supposed to be completed to enable Form V students who will report to their respective schools August 13 to find a conducive learning environment.

In regard to the vehicles, she said they should be used for inspection visits to monitor teaching and learning activities at in schools and address teachers' complaints for better performance.

"We believe that there will be no excuses regarding failing to visit schools to address teachers concerns, instead of them following you in your offices," she said.

She also called on all local councils' directors to supervise the correct use of the vehicles and allocate their maintenance budgets.

"The government is doing all this in order to implement the 2020 CCM Election Manifesto in regard to the education sector," she said.

For his part, PO-RALG Permanent Secretary, Dr Charles Msonde said through the education sector's EP4R programme, so far 146 vehicles have been distributed countrywide to facilitate education officers in their day to day performance.

Govt to build modern police stations in all wards across the country

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government intends to construct modern police stations in all wards across the country that will provide services for 24 hours.

Home Affairs Minister, Eng Hamad Masauni made the revelation yesterday shortly he inspected the security and safety situation at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in Dar es Salaam.

Masauni said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has already provided a permit for recruitment of 3,000 new police officers.

He expressed satisfaction with the state of security at the airport, insisting the government is committed to strengthen the police force, fire and rescue force and the immigration department.

"The government's intention is to build police stations in all wards to ensure maximum security of the people. I have seen the huge investment done by the government at JNIA that aims to strengthen security at the airport," he said.

Police Force's Commissioner for Administration and Human Resources, Suzan Kaganda thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the great improvements she has made in the army. She said the new police jobs will increase efficiency of the force.

She said the police force will allocate officers at ward levels to enhance protection of people and their properties. She said currently, most of the police posts do not work 24 hours, hence the need to construct new ones that will provide services during day and night.

"The government's intention is to build police stations in all wards to ensure maximum security of the people. I have seen the huge investment done by the government at JNIA that aims to strengthen security at the airport"



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango presents an Oryx gas cylinder to Aisha Mduhiye of Buhigwe in Kigoma Region during the distribution of various items to health personnel and expectant mothers. Right is Oryx northern zone director Alex John and left is Doris Mollel Foundation founder and director Doris Mollel, whose agency is widely known for supporting premature babies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM urges TanTrade to support small and medium enterprises

By Beatrice Philemon

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed all business departments at district and regional level to work closely with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) to support small and medium enterprises to secure international markets.

He issued the directives in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when inaugurating the 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair that took place at Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere Trade Fair ground.

He also directed district councils across the country to allocate special areas for petty traders (machingas) that are suitable and friendly for them to do business to enable them grow, operate their business in a conducive environment and shift from informal sector to formal sector.

Majaliwa called on all district councils to conduct a working visit in Dodoma Region to see how Dodoma city council has been able to supervise construction of quality infrastructure for traders to conduct their businesses in a conducive environment.

According to him, Dodoma city has also allocated special rooms for mothers to breastfeed their children, something which should be emulated.

He also called on Tanzanian local exhibitors to learn how to improve their businesses and learn from their counterparts who are in Tanzania participating in the 47th DITF.

In a bid to help Tanzanian small and medium entrepreneurs operate their business in a conducive environment, the government was receiving views and recommendations on how to improve the business environment in Tanzania.

The government will continue to create a conducive environment to attract more local and international investors to invest in Tanzania.

He called on Tanzanians and local exhibitors to promote business and investment opportunities available in Tanzania to attract more investors to come and invest in Tanzania.

The Prime Minister added that the government will continue reviewing investment laws, policies and guidelines to attract more investors, provide more benefits for the country, increase employment and strengthen the economic development of our country.

"I have been told that the 47th DITF attracted 3,384 local exhibitors and 106 international exhibitors from 16 countries across the world, we are very happy to receive international exhibitors from China, India, Singapore, South Korea, Iran, Pakistan, Rwanda, UAE, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Syria, Turkey, Algeria, Burundi," he said.

Latifa Khamis, Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) Director General added that the authority will continue to provide capacity building programmes to Tanzanian business companies to enable them utilize market opportunities available within the country and overseas, enhance their capacity to produce high quality products that will help them to compete in the local and international markets.

"I am sure that Tanzanian local exhibitors will utilize this opportunity to market the products they have and search market for their business, have business to business meetings, networking sessions and business to consumer meetings," she said.

She said this year TanTrade has constructed 170 new pavilions for exhibitors and Tanzania National Road Agency (TANROAD) has built a road network with a total length of 1.8 km at the fair ground to improve the road network and make the fairground to have a good image of international trade fair.

Deputy Minister Industries and Trade, Exaudi Kigabe added that a total of 150 companies from China are in Tanzania to participate in the 47th DITF and looking for business and investment opportunities available in Tanzania.

He said in a bid to help Tanzania become a middle income economy, Tanzania will continue to create a conducive environment to help investors and Tanzanian small and medium enterprises operate their business in a better environment.

Five agreements lined up to supervise liquefied natural gas project execution

By Getrude Mbago

A total of five key agreements have been lined up to supervise well implementation of the multi-trillions Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project which is set to commence soon, it has been said.

The agreements include the Host Government Agreement (HGA) that outlines the project's technical, commercial, and legal terms, Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for the exploration of natural gas, land lending agreement and an agreement on how to use the country's ports to transport the gas.

Another agreement on security of the project which is to be guaranteed by the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF).

Director General of the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA), Eng Charles Sangweni who is also the chairman of the project's negotiation team, said discussion with investors on the 97trn/- worth project was completed in May, this year.

He said that the agreements that will be signed soon will pave way for the commencement of the investment.

Addressing journalists yesterday at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, Eng Sangweni said that even though multinational companies with high technology will implement the project, local firms have many opportunities in the construction and services.

He urged local entrepreneurs and companies to prepare themselves so as to grab opportunities of the multi-trillions Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project whose implementation is set to commence soon.

He said PURA and other authorities are investing efforts towards promoting understanding of the project and the local content opportunities available to facilitate the locals to grab the opportunities.

"We are well prepared to educate entrepreneurs on opportunities associated with the project and on how to exploit

them," he said.

He said local contractors, engineers, entrepreneurs and suppliers should now demonstrate capacity and readiness to deliver most of the services both technical and non-technical that will be required in the project.

Eng Sangweni added that more than 10,000 jobs would be created during the construction and operations phase.

He said that the negotiations which commenced in 2021 ended in May, this year giving green light for the implementation of the project to commence.

Reports show that over 50 percent of the country's total area (534,000km²) has been blessed with potential sedimentary basins which, if well explored could transform the oil and gas sector in the country.

Tembo Nickel's parent firm Lifezone Metals commences trading on NYSE

By Guardian Reporter

TEMBO Nickel Corporation Limited is pleased to announce that Lifezone Metals, Tembo Nickel's ultimate parent company today has commenced trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Lifezone Metals announced its intention to list on the NYSE in December 2022 and has now reached this momentous milestone. The connection

between Tanzania and the U.S. is crucial.

In March, this year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomed United States Vice President Kamala Harris.

Their meeting in Dar es Salaam showcased the growing strategic relationship between the two nations and Tanzania's critical role as a key emerging supplier of critical minerals.

The Kabanga Nickel Project is one

of the largest and highest quality undeveloped nickel deposits in the world.

With the Hydromet Technology the Lifezone Metals' founders have pioneered, Kabanga will be unlocked in a new way to address decarbonization at a lower cost, for the battery metals the world needs, and needs now.

Benedict Busunzu, CEO of Tembo Nickel and participating in the Opening Bell Ceremony said:

"We are proud to say that Tembo Nickel, our company responsible for bringing Kabanga to life, is making great strides every day to demonstrate to the world how we can disrupt the status quo in the metals extraction process.

"We are proud that Kabanga and Tanzania will serve as the case study for this. We believe that by Lifezone Metals becoming a public company we have gained one more validation. It is an honor to be present for the official opening of trading today, and this is significant to my fellow citizens. We get to take Tanzania to the U.S. market via Lifezone Metals' public company status."



Angellah Kairuki (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), receives report on Tanga Region from Tanga regional commissioner Waziri Kindamba at the start of an official visit to Korogwe District yesterday. Looking on is Korogwe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Speaker Dr Tulia wants SADC parliaments to beat global average of women representation in national assemblies

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA

PARLIAMENTS in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) must strive to increase women representation in their national assembly to be slightly higher than the global average of 26.4 percent.

"We should put greater emphasis on how we are going to increase the number of women in our parliaments in order to ensure that issues related to them, precisely gender and climate change get fully addressed," pointed out the Speaker of the Tanzania National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson.

The Parliament Speaker was addressing delegates of the ongoing 53rd Plenary Assembly

Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum taking place in Arusha, as she also contributed to the issue of promoting gender and climate justice.

"Some of the parliaments in SADC region are doing well as far as women representation is concerned but others are still lagging behind and these now should learn from those that have managed to achieve better gender balance in their houses," Dr Ackson maintained.

According to Dr Ackson, a number of parliaments in Africa are also not doing very well as far as youth representations are concerned, because national assemblies are yet to draw a line regarding which maximum age qualifies one to be included in the 'youth bracket.'

Earlier on the Speaker of the

Tanzania National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson reminded African countries that the continent has now grown up, leaving no excuse for underperformance or reason to keep complaining over anything.

"Almost all countries on the continent have gone past the milestone of 60 years after achieving independence, which is also the age of a fully grown adult who would essentially be a retired person," Dr Tulia pointed out.

This time the Plenary Assembly addresses food insecurity and youth unemployment, whereby it was realized that the solution to both problems was for the SADC region to invest heavily in Agriculture and initiate the youth in the sector.

But while most policies being formulated seem good on paper,

many African countries hardly take time or trouble to implement them.

"This is the time for African countries to start taking action instead of sitting back and lamenting," said the Speaker of the Tanzanian Parliament.

Dr Tulia Ackson also expressed concern that some African countries were still competing against each other.

"We must come together and compete against the world, not among ourselves," she said.

According to Dr Ackson members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) should take stock of their respective performances, find out the strength of each country and capitalize on that.

The speaker urged cooperation among SADC members especially in the current situation where the continent faces many challenges including effects of climate change and international conflicts.

IN THE DISTRICT LAND AND HOUSING TRIBUNAL FOR KINONDINI AT MWANANYALALA MISC. APPLICATION NO. 342 OF 2023 (Arising from Application No. 151 of 2023) SOPHIA PLAZA LIMITED.....APPLICANT VERSUS BIG STEP CONSULTANCY LIMITED.....RESPONDENT

SUMMONS/NOTICE

TO: BIG STEP CONSULTANCY LIMITED
Take notice that the above matter is coming for mention on 19th day of July, 2023 before the Hon. R.L. Cherya - Chairman of the tribunal. You are hereby commanded to appear at 12noon when the case will be mentioned.
Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal this 4th day of July, 2023.

CHAIRMAN

At Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair grounds - yesterday



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari has a word with staff stationed at the agency's pavilion at the ongoing 47th edition of the DITF.



GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd marketing manager Poul Msuku (R) briefs visitors at the firm's pavilion on FAW-make trucks assembled at GFA factory in Dar es Salaam.



Drug Control and Enforcement Authority commissioner general Aretas Lyimo (in black) on a tour of the agency's pavilion.



Mamba Minerals Corporation Limited Country manager Ismail Diwani (L) briefs Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa (2nd-R, in specs) at the firm's pavilion.



State Mining Corporation (Stamico) sales and communication manager Geoffrey Meena (2nd-R) briefs Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa (L) at the firm's pavilion.



Union of Honey Exporters Production manager Kazirege Camara (R) briefs Dr Matthew Mapunda (2nd-L), a manager with the Tanzania Office of the European Union, at the Asali Asili pavilion.



It's a rich variety of domestic wares from Burundi and Rwanda for interested members of the public at the DITF grounds to view, choose from - and possibly buy.

SADC can utilise deserts to address problem of food insecurity - forum

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

COUNTRIES in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) can utilise deserts and other semi-arid areas for alternative forms of agriculture precisely the production of drought resilient crops such as dates and grapes as the region works to address the problems of food insecurity and youth unemployment.

That was among the various suggestions in the intervention coming from Namibia as presented at the 53rd plenary assembly session of the SADC parliamentary forum taking place in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Namibian Member of Parliament, Vipuakue Muharukua, said while his country is blessed with ample tracts of land, they are experiencing acute water shortage

but as far as he is concerned, there are crops that thrive well in dry areas such as dates and grapes.

Legislator Muharukua pointed out that the drought resilient grapes and dates also do well commercially as cash crops in addition to being sources of nutrition. In other words, African deserts can produce global desserts.

The case example was the central Dodoma Region in Tanzania, which happens to be a rocky, windswept, semi-arid precinct which is globally renowned for its succulent grapes, vineyards and quality wines.

It was during the consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources as presented by its chairperson Ishmael Onani the Malawi Congress Party legislator, during the third day of the Regional Parliamentary Forum.

The house adopted the report on "The situation of hunger and

food insecurity in the SADC region. Challenges fuelling food insecurity. Major international goals and African Agenda, investments and performance of Malabo commitments, Environment that can attract the Youths to invest in agriculture."

Additional inputs from Namibia came through a young lady parliamentarian, Utaara Mootu who stated that while the SADC agenda to initiate the youth into agriculture, infrastructural development in farms still leave a lot to be desired.

"Unless our agricultural systems are modernized, it will be difficult to convince young people to work in the sector," she pointed out.

Contributions from Tanzania urged the regional parliamentarians to cast their eyes and support to women peasants in the SADC countries who are essentially working very hard to feed their families.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a visibly jovial time with Tigo Tanzania officials on Wednesday at the firm's IT pavilion at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Arusha activists launch network to fight GBV

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ACTIVISTS in Arusha Region have launched a network to fight gender based violence (GBV) in peripheral communities aimed at having one voice against the vice in Arusha and Manyara regions.

The activists have also issued a statement calling for amendments to the Marriages Act and the minimum age for girls to get marriage.

Speaking here on Wednesday at the closing of a two-day workshop that involved the launch of the network that incorporates ten institutions, Rose Njilo, Director of Mimutie Women Organisation (MWO) said the network will be coordinated by the organisation.

"For 10 years we have been fighting against acts of gender based violence, hence we have seen the need to join efforts to have one voice in this struggle in order to reduce these incidents especially among peripheral communities.

"The violence that is rampant is

mandatory under age marriages and beatings in both Arusha and Manyara regions," she said.

She added that they reached the stage to launch the network after seeing acts of gender based violence increase in the two regions whereby in 2022 they received 14 GBV cases regarding the under-age marriages issue, many in Arusha Region and a few in Manyara.

"In the same year, 2022, we won in one case regarding an under-age girl who was married off and who also received severe beatings from parents and the court found those involved guilty," she said.

She said MWO also rescued 34 under-age girls lined up for marriage who were later sent to school.

However, Rose said in addition to the efforts they make in fighting various kinds of violence in the peripheral communities, still many parents refuse to give cooperation when the cases reach the courts, contributing to lack of witnesses in

many of these cases.

Regarding their resolution, Rose said nearly four years now the government, through Parliament and the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs has failed to take appropriate steps to amend the 1971 Law of Marriages Act, Sections 13 and 17 thereof concerning the age for both girls and boys to get married, as was instructed by the Court of Appeal.

"Hence we want the government to direct itself in implementing the ruling of the Court of Appeal by tabling an amendment Bill in Parliament to put 18 years as the minimum age for marriage for both girls and boys," she said.

Closing the workshop on behalf of Arusha Regional commissioner John Mongella, Arusha Regional Community Development Officer, Blandina Nkini commended the institutions by establishing the network and called on them to increase their forwards the issue of children upbringing in the communities.

30,390 teachers for the elementary, primary, special education and STT level were provided with STT training.

He said the training involved 841 officials in the education sector at regional and local government levels from 144 local councils in the Mainland.

After the opening of the training seminar, Mkenda inspected the building for the zonal centre of excellence of hides and skins products and inclusive technology at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Mwanza Branch.

The project, implemented by the government through 37.4bn/- World Bank loan for the construction and refurbishment of the infrastructure, 26bn/- on the construction of five buildings and 1.4bn/- towards empowering of staff, curricula, teaching and learning aids.

Govt determined to end exam leakages - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government has vowed to continue controlling examinations leakages by taking stern legal measures against those involved in disregard of the statutes, all aimed at producing genuine experts for national development.

The remarks were given here on Tuesday by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolph Mkenda (pictured) when he opened Sustainable Teachers Training (STT) for education officers from 2,384 wards from all regions.

Prof Mkenda said education continues to be the foundation for the country's development, hence

they will not tolerate a few people violating work ethics through examinations leakages.

Meanwhile, Prof Mkenda vehemently castigated the habit of uneducated people who ridicule those who are educated on reason that the former have good income, saying education is also important beyond having money.

When the same uneducated person has a sick person he takes him to a doctor for help, hence education is not wealth, why don't they go to a Std VII person for surgery?" he queried.

For his part, The director of teachers training, Nicholas Magige said in the year 2022, a total of

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This position is for a Volunteer for field research assistant based at Global Animal Health Tanzania (GAHT), Arusha in collaboration with EcoHealth Alliance. The position will support the activities of the Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) project. The CCHF project aims to investigate evidence of and risk factors for CCHF virus in people, livestock and wildlife in northern Tanzania. Research activities include data collection across Arusha Region and Serengeti National Park.

Qualifications and Attributes

- Animal health-related/ecology diploma, preferred or Form IV certificate and research experience with animals
- Hardworking, dependable, and excellent time keeping
- Able to work well as part of a team with diverse skills and backgrounds
- Able to interact comfortably with study participants from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds
- Willingness to be flexible in job role and assist other field team members in varied aspects of fieldwork
- Willingness to participate in early morning and evening duties
- Proof of having an active Medical Insurance Cover

Experience

- Experience in live capturing small wild mammals, including rodents
- Experience identifying live rodents, shrews and/or hares morphologically
- Experience of field working in remote areas
- Experience in working in international research teams
- Experience in health-related research and data collection, preferred
- Experience in restraining and blood sampling cattle, preferred

Language

- Proficiency in written and verbal Swahili essential
- Fluency in verbal Maasai essential
- Proficiency in written and verbal English preferred

Responsibilities

Work under the supervision of the Study Coordinator in a field study. This position will involve remote work throughout Arusha Region and Serengeti National Park. Extended periods in remote areas with overnight stays across Arusha Region and Serengeti National Park, will be required. Weekly travel from study areas to Arusha Town will be required. Travel to and from Moshi will also be needed to coordinate with project staff based at the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute. Duties include but are not limited to the following day-to-day activities:

- Learn all research study protocols
- Complete ethics of animal and human subjects research training
- Describe the study to potential participants and answer questions about the study
- Assist with small mammal (rodents, shrews and hares) live capture, morphological identification and blood sampling
- Assist with cattle restraint and blood sampling
- Assist field team with all additional aspects of fieldwork including environmental data collection, tick collection, and completing study questionnaires and data sheets
- Transfer of blood samples to sample tubes, centrifuging samples, aliquoting serum to storage tubes and storing samples

The above statements describe the general nature and level of work being assigned to this position. This is not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities and duties.

Remuneration and Terms

- Attractive monthly stipends
- 4 months' Volunteer contract; non renewable

Applications must include each of the following to be considered

- Signed letter of application
- Current curriculum vitae or resume including mailing address, contact telephone number(s), and e-mail address
- Three letters of reference along with names and telephone numbers of the three referees who may be contacted by us in confidence
- Photocopies of certificates

Your application should reach the undersigned as soon as possible but no later than July 17th 2023

Attn: Godfrey Kassanga
Global Animal Health Tanzania
Ngorongoro Tourism Center, 6th Floor
PO Box 1642, ARUSHA
OR via email at:

g.kassanga@wsu.edu and bodenham@ecohealthalliance.org

Telecom launches new campaign to offer digital business solutions across Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania has launched the 'Pamoja Nasi, Tuamini Sisi' campaign that aims to offer digital business solutions across Tanzania in continuous efforts to leverage digital innovative solutions to provide efficiency and operations among government and large enterprises, entities, and investors.

The campaign which has been launched through its business unit aims at accelerate digital business solutions across Tanzania.

Speaking during the official launch held at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) in Dar es Salaam, the Director General for Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE), Latifa Khamis commended the innovative initiatives by Vodacom specifically in simplifying Tanzanians economic activities.

"I would like to congratulate Vodacom for its innovative digital services that aim to equip Tanzania with the tools to cope with the digital world we are heading to, as they launch their business solution campaign to accommodate government and enterprises entities", she said.

Khamis commended Vodacom for leveraging the Sabasaba exhibitions as an official platform for the launching event as there is a great opportunity to meet thousands of businesses that will benefit from Vodacom Business offering.

"Vodacom's decision to support us by providing free connectivity for a year come at the right time. This partnership will boost TanTrade to facilitate its operations including several training and workshops for entrepreneurs which aim to empower SMEs with different capacity-building activities," she added.

Managing Director of Vodacom Tanzania, Philip Besiimire pointed out the continuous success of the famous ongoing Sabasaba that has attracted thousands of participants and visitors in Tanzania and across borders every year.

"TanTrade is doing great work for their continuous efforts to provide businesses with a platform to showcase and promote their products and services to thousands of visitors. Through that objective, as Vodacom, we have decided

to join in the efforts by bringing business owners reliable and quality digital solutions to simplify their daily activities including services such as M-Pesa, quality 4G and 5G internet, and much more," explained Besiimire.

In addition, the Head of Marketing and Enablement Vodacom Business at Vodacom Tanzania, Aileen Meena explained further the several offerings from the Vodacom Business Unit as well as urging business owners at the Sabasaba grounds and Tanzanians in general to make well use of the opportunity.

"Today, Vodacom is very proud to introduce digital business solutions to facilitate ease of business operations. This includes more solutions for businesses coupled with automation such as a reliable and quality 4G and 5G internet service, M-Pesa for Business, Mobile solutions for Business, Enterprises solutions, Digital Solutions, Tracking Solutions, Cloud Hosting Solutions, M-Kulima for farmers and entire agriculture sector, and Bulk SMS to mention a few," he said.



TanTrade is doing great work for their continuous efforts to provide businesses with a platform to showcase and promote their products and services to thousands of visitors. Through that objective, as Vodacom, we have decided to join in the efforts by bringing business owners reliable and quality digital solutions to simplify their daily activities including services such as M-Pesa, quality 4G and 5G internet, and much more

Z'bar to get own Indian institute of technology

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR and India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish an offshore campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, in the Isles.

This has become a success following the official tour of India's Foreign Minister Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar who arrived in Zanzibar yesterday for a four-day visit.

A statement availed to the media yesterday stated that during his meeting with President Hussein Mwinyi, the MoU was signed which marks a significant step toward bolstering educational collaboration between India and Zanzibar.

Dr Jaishankar expressed his gladness that Zanzibar is hosting the first offshore IIT campus.

He conveyed his utmost confidence in the pivotal role that IIT Zanzibar will play in transforming the technical capacity building landscape not only in Tanzania but also throughout Africa.

Looking ahead, he envisioned the students of IIT Zanzibar as the torch-bearers of technological progress, leading the way for the advancement of Tanzania, the entire African continent and the whole world.

He noted that the offshore campus will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, fostering innovation, and nurturing the next generation of technical experts. The campus is expected to offer cutting-edge programs, attracting talented students from Tanzania and neighbouring African countries.

This initiative aligns with India's commitment to support the educational aspirations of African students and contribute to the technological development of the continent.

The establishment of IIT Zanzibar signifies a milestone in the bilateral relations between India and Tanzania and reflects their shared vision for a future characterized by knowledge sharing, technological advancement, and mutual progress.

The historical relationship between India and Zanzibar spans across centuries, and in recent times, the bond between the two nations has expanded into various domains, with a particular focus on education and capacity building. Each year, several Zanzibari students pursue their educational aspirations in India through scholarships or self-financing.

The collaborative efforts in the field of education will be further enhanced by the introduction of an offshore campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar.

The IITs, which were established in India post-independence, have played a pivotal role in providing the country with highly skilled technical professionals, contributing significantly to the nation's development. Today, the IITs boast a track record of technical excellence, with prominent global technology companies such as Google and IBM being led by CEOs who are proud alumni of these prestigious institutions.

This initiative marks the first instance of the IITs venturing beyond Indian borders to establish a campus abroad.



Finbo Butallah (R), Kilombero Sugar Company Limited's commercial director, pictured yesterday exchanging views with marketing manager Olympia Fraten at the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent

Residents of Iringa decry high monthly water bills

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

SOME residents in Iringa Region have raised concerns over high monthly water bills charged by the Iringa Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (IRUWASA).

Speaking before Iringa Urban MP, Jesca Msambatavangu at rallies conducted in different wards, the residents claimed that they have been receiving high water bills contrary to their monthly usage.

During a rally at Mivinjani ward,

citizens demanded the authority to make sure water bills reflect their usage because the charged amount is too high for some of them to pay.

They requested the MP to closely follow up on the matter as well as advising the authority to replace the fixed water meters with prepaid water meters that uses a token and allows a user to purchase and prepay for a given amount of water from a vending station.

"Installation of token and pre-paid water meters could be a solution to the challenges we are now facing," said the residents, Amos Mdag.

Responding, Msambatavangu promised to work on their complaints, insisting to conduct rallies throughout the constituency to listen to people's problems.

Head of the Communication Unit at IRUWASA, Restituta Sakila told The Guardian that the authority has improved its billing systems whereas customers are now getting their monthly water bills through mobile phones.

Sakila said that customers are allowed to seek clarifications on their bills by visiting IRUWASA offices. She said they have started

to install prepaid water meters for free, and they are hoping to reach many more customers in near future.

"The cost of the pre-paid water meter is 430,000/-, we don't charge people for installation. There are those who want to purchase their own meters, we are ready to assist them," she said, adding that operation costs are also higher due to the geographical position of the regions.

She asked the residents to carefully use the water and help in controlling water leakage that has now reached 22.5 percent of all the water which is produced and distributed to customers.

She added: "We want people to inform us whenever there are water leakages; doors are also open for them to give opinions on how to further improve our services."



Muheza district executive director Dr Jumaa Mhina (R, foreground), who is standing as Potwe ward returning officer for the upcoming by-election, pictured at Ndonondo village yesterday swearing in agents representing six political parties in readiness for the poll. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Botswana urges Tanzanians to continue protecting and promoting water sources

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

THE government of Botswana has called on Tanzanians to continue protecting water sources and other resources at any cost because water contributes to human life, lack of it will affect the entire life system.

The remarks were given by Eng Saniso Sukurungwa from Botswana government department of water and sanitation services during his visit to Mvuhwa Chini Water Consumers Community building project and water sources at Lukulunge village in Morogoro

District, Morogoro Region in order to learn about the protection of water sources.

Eng Sukurungwa said that he envies Tanzania for having numerous water sources, including mountains and forests that are well conserved and called on Tanzanians that under no circumstances should they lose the water sources.

He gave his country as example, saying as for now they are forced to import water from outside the country for domestic use due to its having a large desert area, lacking mountains and forests that could store water.

For her part, Eng. Irene Madilola from Botswana government, thanked Tanzania government through the Ministry of Water for providing them with the opportunity to learn and enable them to take environmental conservation strategies to their home country, and pledged to come to Tanzania again.

She stressed upon Tanzanians to continue protecting their water sources for their present and future generations and called on them to visit Botswana to learn or see the desert that forces them to import water from outside the country.

For his part, the Managing of

Global Water partnership, sponsors of Mvuhwa Chini water community building project said the project has cost 75m/- provided by EU.

He said sponsors of the project have also sponsored the same kind of project in Botswana and thanked the government of Tanzania for its good relations with local and foreign stakeholders engaged in water and environmental preservation.

Speaking on behalf of the Director for Water Resources from the Ministry for Water, Eng Kalunde Malale said the government will continue involve the people in the protection of water sources.

Earlier, the chairman of Mvuhwa Chini Water Consumers Community, Mussa Mgamba, said the challenge they face is herders who take their livestock to drink at water sources.

RC receives 51 classrooms, toilets and teacher's house

By Guardian Reporter

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has received 51 classrooms, 63 toilets and 1 teacher's house in Bahi District.

Receiving the school and its infrastructure, RC Senyamule congratulated the leadership of Bahi District for timely completion of the project.

"You are very distinguished in terms of education, earlier we were telling other Councils to come and learn from you about success, today we will send you to learn about how you plan to complete construction projects on time and at high standards," RC Senyamule stressed.

He said the Dodoma Region has received funds for the construction of 16 new schools with modern infrastructure, including children's games and fences for early grades.

Handing over the classrooms, Bahi District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe said his district has completed the construction of schools and classrooms in the time allotted for quality and indicative standards, while thanking President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing the money to complete the construction.

"RC, I ask you to receive this school and the classrooms that have been completed with high quality standards on behalf of the people of Bahi, I ask you to convey our thanks to the president,"

explained Gondwe

Bahi District education officer, Boniphace Wilson said the completion of the classes is a solution to the overcrowding of students in the previous classes where the district received funds amounting to 1.5bn/- for the construction of two new schools with a total of 28 rooms, four classes of originally, two administrative buildings and waste incinerators.

Bahi District has become the first district in Dodoma Region to complete the construction of the infrastructure of the BOOST primary student learning programme, including the construction of new primary schools, classrooms, model classrooms for early education, toilets and teachers' houses.



Dodoma municipal mayor Prof David Mwamfupe pictured in the national capital yesterday presenting to a Selim Construction Limited representative (L) a permit for the construction of a health centre at Ilazo in Ipagala ward, Dodoma Urban District. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Overseas education agency conducts on the spot admission for students

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

OVERSEAS education agency—Global Education Link (GEL) is conducting on the spot admission for students wishing to study at universities outside the country at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

Gel general manager, Regina Lema told this paper yesterday that they have decided to use the trade fair to

facilitate students' registration. She said those registered are Form Six leavers and those with Diploma.

"We are currently admitting students who want to start universities abroad from September this year. Registration is done within 24 hours," she said, calling upon students to visit their pavilion for advice on courses and colleges that will suit them.

On students' loans, Regina said GEL provides loans to parents who are required to repay it within

eight months after the child gets admission. She said the interest free loans will see a parent getting up to 10m/- within 24 hours.

Regina said they admit more than 700 students each year who go to study abroad and that they do monitor their progress until they graduate. She said that GEL conducts meetings with employers to know the kind of expertise they need so that they connect graduates as soon as they complete their studies abroad.

Collective efforts needed to reduce maternal deaths

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH stakeholders have called for more collective efforts to accelerate the reduction of maternal deaths and mortality rate so as to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030.

They aired their views at the 11th Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) scientific conference held recently in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Felix Bundala, assistant director for Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health- Department of Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health in the Ministry for Health called for more partnership to reach more women and children to reduce the problem.

He said that strengthening the health system through leveraging partnerships for quality continuum of care is very important.

In his presentation titled "Newborn Death; Where are we? Challenge and and future plans highlighted the maternal and newborn situation in Tanzania and demonstrate the partnership's additional value to deliver greater impact.

Dr Bundala said that in Tanzania, 83 per cent of births occur in hospitals, but each year, 11,000 Tanzanian mothers die giving birth, 40,500 stillbirths occur, and 44,000 newborn deaths occur.

He said only 53 per cent of health facilities had access to emergency transfer systems for newborns and/or mothers with complications.

"The government is deeply committed to reduce maternal health and newborn survival by 2030 but needs to accelerate progress for maternal and small and sick newborn care," he said

He said since most births in Tanzania are now in hospitals, the majority of deaths can be prevented by closing quality gaps.

According to him, there is a large equity gap, with the poorest families in most rural settings receiving the lowest quality of care.

"Closing these gaps requires innovation and evidence-based implementation during and immediately after birth, newborn wards, and communities across the country," he added.

Dr Nahya Salim, Newborn Essential Solutions and Technological programme (NEST

360) country and clinical leader at Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) said that specialised devices are required for high-quality maternal and newborn care.

She said it was critical to provide and maintain lifesaving neonatal devices that allow timely critical assessment and support.

Clinical and biomedical workforce requires appropriate training to effectively use the devices while saving lives of our newborns.

"We develop and deliver a bundle of affordable technologies for newborn care, build human resources to support newborn care and innovation, likewise developing policy and the investment of care to sustain quality newborn care," she said.

He said all innovations address the leading global causes of maternal, neonatal deaths and stillbirths by ensuring quality continuum of care for pregnant women and their newborns to arrive, survive, thrive, and transform using a national hub and spoke model.

"This calls for more partnership to reach more women and newborns across Tanzania," he affirmed.

Dr Ben Kamala from the Safer Birth Bundle of Care said that highlighted the impactful innovations approach addressing comprehensive quality inpatient newborn care.



Letshego Faidika Bank
Tunaboresha maisha

MUNISI IS COUNTRY CEO OF NEW ENTITY LETSHEGO FAIDIKA BANK

- Letshego Faidika Bank is the new #OneBank entity following Letshego's merger of Faidika and Letshego Tanzania Bank
- Letshego customers can now access an expanded choice in products and services including loans, savings, payments, insurance and wellbeing
- Baraka Munisi is taking the helm of the new entity following his official appointment as 'Country Chief Executive' Officer

06 July 2023 – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: The merger of Letshego's two entities in Tanzania, (Letshego Tanzania Limited t/a "Faidika" and Letshego Bank Tanzania) has successfully been concluded, with the united entity now consolidated under a new brand, "Letshego Faidika Bank".

The Board of Directors has drawn from existing sources of talent and leadership expertise, appointing Mr. Baraka Munisi in the top executive post as Letshego Faidika Bank's new Country Chief Executive Officer. Baraka Munisi joined Letshego's 'Faidika' in May 2018, and was subsequently appointed CEO of 'Faidika' a year later (May 2019). In the last four years, under Baraka's leadership, Faidika has managed to double the microfinance operations, increase operational efficiencies and become the first Microfinance entity in Tanzania to obtain a Bank Assurance Licence and among the first to obtain a tier II deposit taking licence.

Mr Simon Jengo, newly appointed Country Board Chairman of newly consolidated Letshego Faidika Bank, affirmed the senior executive appointment, "Letshego's united operations in Tanzania will unlock a number of opportunities all our valued stakeholders – we can now increase business efficiencies, while offering customers a more expanded choice in inclusive products. Given Baraka's leadership in Faidika, as well as his national and international career experience, Baraka is well-placed to lead us into the next exciting evolution of our business in Tanzania."

Reiterating the brand's newly united operations and increased belief in Tanzania's investment potential, Letshego Faidika Bank is promoting the mantra #ImaraPamoja or #StrongerTogether

"I am honoured to be given the opportunity to lead Letshego's Tanzanian strategy into the next phase of growth and delivery for our customers, as well as our people. We are leveraging assets from both legacy businesses to achieve one bank, with one more invigorated purpose – to improve the lives of more Tanzanians. We are indeed #ImaraPamoja – stronger as a united team, and stronger thanks to the strategic partnerships we have forged with like-minded Tanzanian organisations. Letshego Faidika Bank's strategy remains focused on delivering sustainable growth and a measurable social impact for many generations to come," added Baraka Munisi, Country Chief Executive, Letshego Faidika Bank.

Letshego's expanded product offering in Tanzania will cover all five of Letshego's product value streams: lending, savings, insurance, payments and lifestyle. Solutions and customer support are accessible across multiple channels (USSD, mobile, web and whatsapp), and further customised to accommodate the unique needs of the Tanzanian market.

"Our East African franchise stands to gain from the amalgamation of our Tanzanian entities into one brand given the increased business efficiencies, expanded product offering and sharpened focus. As a pan-African organisation, continuous improvement remains key to strengthening our brand and delivering sustainable value. We look forward to supporting our Tanzania team in increasing impact and long term returns," added Fergus Ferguson, Regional Chief Executive East & West Markets, Letshego Group.

The consolidation of Letshego's two entities into Letshego Faidika Bank is effective from 04 July 2023, with the brand's regional and country teams having successfully consolidated all systems, networks, governance and products over the last 18 months. Customers are now able to access a wider choice in products, and can look forward to more exciting offerings in the future.

Tanzanians can also expect to witness Letshego's physical branches and outlets evolving into the brand's fresh yellow and black styling, resonating Letshego Faidika Bank's #ImaraPamoja mantra, and maintaining the brand's prominent yellow 'tripod' icon symbolising trust, support and growth. Branches and outlets will be merged or relocated to increase convenience for customers, with access channels and processing further enhanced thanks to the Group's regional digitalisation strategy.

BIOGRAPHY MR BARAKA MUNISI

Mr Baraka Munisi first joined Letshego in May 2018 as Management Consultant, and was subsequently appointed CEO of Letshego's microfinance entity, "Faidika" a year later (May 2019). Under his leadership, Faidika has doubled its profit, reduced costs through enhanced operational efficiencies and become the first Microfinance entity in Tanzania to obtain a Bank Assurance Licence and a tier II deposit licence.

Mr Munisi brings over 18 years of financial and banking experience to his new role, having worked for several blue chip public and international entities during his career. Previous employers include Freddie Mac USA (Federal Home loans Mortgage Corporation, USA - one of two US Government agencies responsible for the US secondary mortgage market); JP Morgan Chase USA, Wells Fargo USA, The World Bank; Bank of Tanzania (BOT)

During his time at the World Bank Mr Munisi played an integral role in establishing the first mortgage liquidity facility in sub-Saharan Africa, entitled the Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC). At Bank of Tanzania Mr Munisi was responsible for the implementation of the Tanzania Housing Finance Project, a World Bank funded project, he was also integral in setting up Tanzania's national public servant housing scheme, under the directive of then Tanzania President, His Excellency Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. Thereafter he assisted in establishing 'Watumishi Housing Company', a state-owned entity owned by Tanzania's National Pension Funds to provide low cost housing to public servants.

Qualifications:

Masters of Business Administration in Finance and Real Estate from American University Kogod Schools of Business and International Management in Washington DC; with a number of Housing finance and microfinance Accreditation from Wharton Business School of Real Estate; University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia Boulder institute of Microfinance in Turin Italy); Frankfurt University, Germany).

About Letshego Faidika Bank Limited
Letshego Faidika Bank Limited is a licensed Commercial Bank operating in Tanzania and is a subsidiary of Letshego Holdings Limited (leading in inclusive finance across Africa). Letshego Faidika Bank Limited through its efficient alternative channels not limited to 16 branches 86 outlets, LetsGo mobile, agency (over 200 third party agencies), Western Union, ATM Cards, E-Money and Bank Transfer (TISS). Letshego Faidika Bank Limited has more than 79 employees, offering credit, savings and transactional solutions in affordable housing, education and health sectors. For more information, visit: www.letshego.com/tanzania Follow us on Facebook: @Letshego Faidika Bank. To access the LetsGo Digital mail visit: www.letshego.letshego.com

About Letshego Group
Letshego Holdings Ltd ("Letshego Group") is a truly African multinational organisation, headquartered and listed in Botswana and focused on delivering inclusive finance solutions to underserved populations across its 11 sub-Saharan Africa footprint. With a staff complement of over 3,000 – including both direct and indirect sales agents – and serving over five million customers across Africa, Letshego is synonymous with leveraging innovation and technology to improve the lives of individuals who have limited access to traditional financial services.

In 2023, Letshego celebrates 25 years of supporting regional communities, making strong progress with the launch of its Transformational Strategy in September 2020, towards the Group's vision to be a world-class retail financial services organisation, improving the lives of mass and middle-market individuals and micro and small entrepreneurs.
www.letshego.com / www.letshegoinvestor.com. To access the LetsGo Digital mail visit: www.letshego.letshego.com

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Tanzania traders want more engagement in plans on the country's local products

SABA SABA Day on 7 July celebrates among other things the 1954 founding of the Tanzanian political party, TANU, the Tanganyika African National Union. Saba Saba is in Kiswahili which means seven seven in English.

Kiswahili is the national language of Tanzania (and of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, the two countries whose union created the United Republic of Tanzania in 1964).

Saba Saba also may refer to the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. The fair is held every year at the Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere Trade Fair Grounds. It is located along Kilwa Road, 8 km south east of Dar es Salaam.

The Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair is an annual major promotional event organised by the Board of External Trade. The Board of External Trade is a government institution, which was established under the Act No. 5 of 1978 to spearhead Tanzania's export endeavours.

They were inaugurated in 1962, one year after Tanzania gained her independence on 9 December 1961. The Grounds at that time were under the Ministry of Trade and Co-operative Unions and the fair was known as the National Agricultural and Trade Fair (NATF).

The first trade fair was held in 1963. It was organised by an expert from United Kingdom in the Ministry of Trade and Co-operative Unions by the name Lucas, with the assistance of Mashamba who was an official of the Ministry.

The Board of External Trade of Tanzania (BET) dedicated to establishing global business partnership through organising

and managing international and specialised trade fairs, solo exhibitions, product and market research, prospect development, trade missions, buyer-seller meetings and contact marketing programmes.

BET gives out regular trade information and offers consultancy services to producers, exporters and importers to enable them to effectively participate in the global market place.

The Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair has established itself over years as the shop window for Tanzanian products as well as the East, Central and the Southern African Region.

Supported by the services of the Dar es Salaam harbour which serves the region effectively, the fair acts as one stop centre for reaching countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The fairs enjoys patronage of the Tanzanian business community who both exhibit and use it as a forum for business exchange.

Participation has ever been on the increase from a mere over 100 companies in the late eighties to over 1041 companies in 1999. In 2006 a total of 1526 exhibitors exhibited at the fair and came from overseas representing over 18 countries, Tanzania inclusive.

The fair enjoys support of the government through the Ministry of Industry, Trade. The fair is also supported by the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) and the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) as well as other institutions in the country.

Trade with US, investments a vital barometer of reforms

ONE way to figure out the level of health in relations between countries is the level of trade they conduct, and in this case trade volumes between Tanzania and the United States, now on an upward trend, tell a story about ourselves. The rising trade volumes were cited at a US Independence Day gala at embassy premises in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The focus was on bilateral ties and trade, and not much on the July 4 1776 Declaration of Independence as such.

Hearing that trade volumes are on the rise was definitely to be expected for the past two years, but what is surprising is the poor performance in trade access in previous years. The Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation permanent secretary, citing data stretching from 1997, said US investments in Tanzania were valued at \$4.8bn, directed into various sectors, creating upwards of 54,000 jobs across the country. For a state as vast as ours, that level is a bit lamentable.

While it is evident that the sixth phase government has taken measures to attract more investments, thus gaining attention of more US firms, via a conducive business environment. Still, remarks that creep into the media quite often show that there is more of invitation and much less of interest being shown by foreign firms, as they think more of the market than setting up a foothold. Many firms are gradually taking a leap into putting up shop, as Africa is increasingly seen as the continent of future market growth, due to its relatively youthful populations.

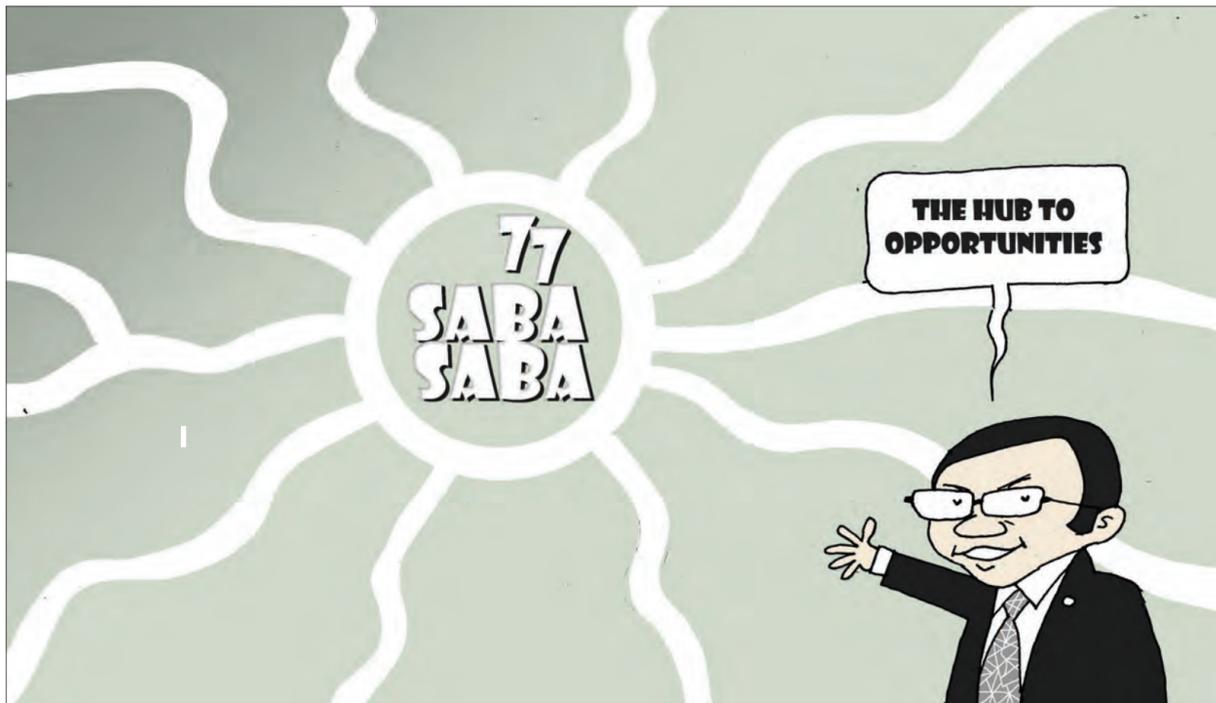
Tanzania has some strategic advantages that stand to make a difference, if the policy pace

of reform allows it, namely in renewable energy, as the push to find rare metals is high globally. Tensions help to undercut traditional supply chains thus amplifying the pursuit of new sources of such metals, as a new Cold War sweeps the world at the moment. We also have plenty of potential in gas and we always trust there will be oil, if agro-based strategic push is rather complicated.

So we have a lot of potential in welcoming US and other investors in areas like mining, but it is uncertain if we can take many firms in agriculture, livestock, fishing or aquaculture. Here the use of land has to do with accommodating traditional attachment to land, which privileges an outlay of small farmers as a workable model. There is also a sharp sensitivity to price fluctuations, making local agriculture fairly unpredictable, with grain availability subject to change.

Noticeably, Tanzanian exports to the US rose from \$9.7m in 2017 to \$49.5m in the past year, with imports from the US inched up from \$201.8m in 2017 to \$215m last year, suggesting that Tanzania was inching up its capacity to export various products, like textiles or horticulture, under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), in place since 2000. Many African countries where agriculture is more settled in the private sector, not clan farms, did much better.

While the diplomats feted the legendary confetti between presidents Julius Nyerere and John Kennedy in the early years, taking note of the Cancun meeting in 1981 where President Ronald Reagan met six G-77 leaders including Mwalimu Nyerere and Indian premier Indira Gandhi would help a lot, now.



By Alula Nereca

THE unexamined life is not worth living," - Socrates; this wise expression becomes not only necessary but also existential for both individuals and states when problem trajectories show growth in magnitude and scope rather than narrowing. In such contexts, examination must be holistic, critical, and penetrating to understand interconnected issues and devise root cause solutions rather than addressing illusions and dynamic symptoms.

Through this lens, the challenges Ethiopia currently faces are complicated, deep-rooted, and multidimensional in nature, accumulating for decades. However, the advent of the "reform administration," championed by Prosperity Party (PP) head Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in 2018 with promises of democratic reforms, inclusivity, economic prosperity, and peace, sparked optimism and hope for a better future for most people.

Despite problems popping up and intensifying across security, socio-political, and economic life, the public continued to wait for 'the reform' to bear fruit. Now, nearly five years later, the learning curve may seem shallow for the PP- as an integral part of the preexisting Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the party was in a better position and had capabilities to maneuver politics and drive the promised change.

- Advertisement -Unfortunately, the PP has not lived up to its promises. Hence, the room allowed for "benefit of the doubt" seems to be closing. Furthermore, given the severity of the situation, it is essential for citizens to examine it critically and share fact-based reflections.

This article aims to critically examine the behavioral drivers that compelled the Ethiopian government to relinquish its policy tools by undertaking an abrupt reform program into a free-floating foreign exchange (FX) regime despite a soaring inflation, unemployment and high cost of living. Understanding a government's characteristics is essential to defining its nature and predicting its course of action and possible outcomes in the future. As long as those characteristics persist, the likelihood of changing the outcome trajectory remains low.

On the economic front, the fiscal spending behavior of the regime is one of the most important factors contributing to the crisis. Since coming to power, government expenditure on productive capital items has significantly declined.

According to the annual National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) report,

Lack of fiscal discipline, flawed leadership deepen economic woes

current expenditure under the PP's administration exceeded capital expenditure and grew in magnitude for the first time in a decade, excluding the 2016-2018 budget years during the 'state of emergency'.

If we examine expenditure increments for 2020-21 compared to the prior budget year, current expenditure grew 31 percent, while capital expenditure increased 15 percent. In 2021-22, current expenditure grew from 360 to 517 billion birr (42 percent), while capital expenditure increased from 235 to 262 billion birr (11.3 percent) compared to the previous budget year.

A report by the Ministry of Finance shows a substantial declining trend in poverty reduction expenditure from 84 percent in 2018-2019 to 53 percent in 2021-2022.

Apart from the numbers, flagship projects spearheaded by PM Abiy also underscore the government's priorities and intentions. Aside from questionable justifications for spending funds without parliamentary approval as if the funds were not granted in official capacity as head of government, it reveals the extent to which the administration is drawn to superficial projects like parks and a grand residential palace.

Instead of focusing on these non-essentials, the administration is considering cutting oil subsidies and scaling back public housing projects that could significantly benefit low- and middle-income households and the broader economy. Such fiscal policy orientation also hampers opportunities to curb forex shortages by investing in productive hard and soft assets that attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and create an enabling environment for the local private sector.

Another issue of concern is public debt. Inherently, a budget deficit or debt is not bad. However, in Ethiopia's case, the trajectory reflects a lack of fiscal discipline as the high volume and low quality of spending contributes to macroeconomic instability.

After Abiy's administration came to power, public debt significantly increased, rising 1.92 percent in 2019 and seven percent in 2020 from the previous year, until the devastating war in Tigray restricted access to foreign debt in 2021.

Though Ethiopia's debt-to-GDP ratio is around 50.1 percent, which is below the 77 percent critical point, it remains considerably high and growing. The debt service to export ratio of around 22 percent exceeds both the 15 percent

International Monetary Fund (IMF) threshold for Ethiopia and the typical 20 percent rule of thumb threshold. Some empirical studies in Chad and Nigeria show a positive causal relationship between public debt and the exchange rate.

For instance, a 2018 study by Kouladoun found that a one percent variation in external debt leads to a 2.55 percent increase in the real exchange rate. This is due to the alarming rise in public debt, which signals risk to investors and triggers capital outflows and perpetual devaluation.

The regime's behavior in internal political affairs also forced it to relinquish policy instruments. There are examples showing deceitful, shortsighted and inept leadership.

Unconstitutional election postponement and causes of the deadly Tigray war; the government's role in Amhara-Tigray territorial disputes; and handling of Southern Ethiopia's self-administration inquiry demonstrate leadership flaws.

While debates exist around the regime's responsibility, no rational, informed person can deny the government's significant role and responsibility given its mandate and monopoly on violence. Just considering Tigray war's economic ramifications: Ethiopia lost USD 120 million in annual export earnings despite USD 1.03 billion in 2022 military expenditures.

Overall, the government has lacked transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and consistent, long-term decision-making. It repeatedly displayed unprincipled problem-solving, derogatory statements and actions undermining institutionalization for self-aggrandizement, making policies unpredictable for long-term investor commitments.

While a free-floating exchange rate regime may be appropriate for Ethiopia under the right conditions, it is not a panacea for the country's current shortage of foreign currency reserves. The most sustainable solution is to increase international demand for Ethiopian products and services.

Any fiscal or monetary policies should aim to expedite Ethiopia's economic transformation and make local industries more competitive globally. For a country like Ethiopia where the government plays a major role in development, effectively utilizing these policy tools is crucial.

By relinquishing these, the government risks losing its "commanding heights" needed to transform Ethiopia's agrarian

economy into a higher-value manufacturing economy. This could prolong economic instability and high inflation.

Countries like South Korea formerly pegged their FX until reaching middle-income country status (USD 10,543 GDP per capita in 1996) and was forced to float freely by the IMF in 1997 as part of restructuring during the Asian financial crisis. Similarly, China formerly pegged its exchange rate during the early period of its development to enhance export competitiveness. This implies that such instruments are vital, particularly in the early days of economic growth.

While interest rates (IR) can intervene indirectly when adjustment to the FX is needed, this has limitations. The purpose of interest rate manipulation is not limited to altering foreign exchange; it can produce multiple and different outcomes for other policies. For example, a government may want to reduce unemployment by lowering the cost of capital (IR), potentially leading to more investment and jobs.

However, the same move has the opposite and undesirable effect on FX value; since lower interest rates lead to lower relative gains on local currencies, capital outflows potentially reduce investment and increase unemployment. There are complex policy instruments that can address such problems, but indisputably it reduces the flexibility and effectiveness of policy measures.

As I illustrated in the preceding paragraphs, Abiy's administration's actions and responses to economic and political challenges display a lack of integrity and transparency, misguided policy priorities, shortsighted decisions, and undermining of institutions. As long as these characteristics persist, political solutions will be incoherent and at times contradictory.

The ongoing debt restructuring talks with the IMF, which amount to USD two billion, must be completed with transparency and accountability to ensure Ethiopia's long-term financial stability and sustainability. They should also seriously consider the impact on the public, especially low-income households, affected by inflation and suffering from a 20-25 percent annual devaluation.

Finally, those in power should conduct an overall evaluation of "homegrown reforms" that compromise strategic national interests for short-term gain and diminish prospects for rapid transformation.

Financial services complaints handling and redress mechanism

ONE of the sectors that have seen massive development in recent years is finance and banking. Our world is fast-migrating from cash to cashless economy and this has necessitated integration of banks and mobile phone networks through mobile banking or online banking.

As much as this integration has simplified movement of cash and enabled online purchase, the same is not without pitfalls as manifested in the influx of complaints occasioned by the use of these online cash transfer services.

The Bank of Tanzania as the regulator of banks and all financial institutions saw the need of putting in place regulations which protect consumers of these financial services in Tanzania under the Bank of Tanzania (Financial Consumer Protection) of 2019.

This article focuses on complaint handling and redress mechanism as provided under the Bank of Tanzania (Financial Consumer Protection) of 2019. Part IX which is comprised of sections 42 to 59 is the one dealing with complaints handling and redress mechanism for the consumers of financial services.

The Law and mechanisms

Regulation 42 of this law gives the consumer the right to lodge a complaint against a financial service provider upon being aggrieved contrary to the regulations.

This provision is non-discriminatory in the sense that it does not provide specific type of consumer or service consumed but rather all consumers have been given the liberty to lodge com-



plaint.

In order to ensure effective handling of consumer complaints, regulation 43 (1) up to (3) has made it mandatory for every financial service provider to establish a mechanism for receiving, processing and determining consumer complaints.

It further provides that such mechanism for receiving complaints shall have multiple channels with clear procedures, including telephone numbers, help desk, dedicated email addresses and web chat.

Also, such mechanism is required to be free, fair, accessible, timely, transparent and independent with the ability to acknowledge complaint, keep the complainant updated throughout the process and keep records of all complaints.

What can be grasped from the above provision is that having multiple channels of handling consumer complaints is meant to ensure that consumers from all walks of life can access these services.

This means that a person who cannot send an email or make a phone call can still walk into the offices of the financial institution and lodge complaint and from such lodgment the consumer is entitled to receive updates of how the complaint is being handled throughout the process. There is no specialized procedure for the customer to address complaints.

Complaint resolution timeframe

Lodging complaints would

not make sense if financial institutions were allowed to drag the same indefinitely and without consumers being updated on the progress being made in resolving the complaints.

Therefore, among pieces of information the financial institution is required to give the consumer upon lodging of the complaint is the expected time frame within which such complaint will be resolved.

Timeframes for resolving complaints are regulated and provided under the first schedule of these regulations. For example, payment products such as mobile financial services, interbank payments (TISS) and instant payment (TIPS) are required to be resolved within six hours from reporting a complaint while

banking products like credit facilities require 14 days to be resolved and foreign exchange services and remittances are to be resolved within 24 hours of reporting.

Upon going through timeframes provided by the regulations, one will note that they differ based on the nature or complexity of each particular complaint.

Another thing to take note of is that regulation 49 (1) and (2) provides for a room to extend time for resolving a consumer complaint which has been lodged and the duty of giving notification and extension of time lays upon the financial service provider.

Such financial service provider is required to notify the Bank of Tanzania and the complainant before the expiration of the specified time on the reasons for the inability to resolve the dispute and measures taken to resolve the matter.

However, upon giving such notification, and after expiry of the stipulated period, the financial service provider is required to determine the matter within the time not exceeding half of the period specified.

This means that if for example the specified period was 14 days, extension of time will be for seven days only. Requirement of notifying the regulator is meant to increase accountability of financial services providers to their customers.

Appeals to the Bank of Tanzania

Like any other dispute resolving mechanisms, these regulations have taken cognizance of the fact that there could be scenarios in which fi-

ancial service providers are unable to resolve certain complaints due to various reasons or the customer is not satisfied with the decision made by the financial institution or complaints have not been entertained within the statutory time and there is no reason supplied to the customer.

Under such circumstances, regulations 50 to 59 stipulate the involvement of the Bank of Tanzania in handling these kinds of disputes as the appellant board.

Regulation 51 stipulates complaints which qualify to be handled by the Bank of Tanzania as (i) scenarios which the complainant has not received a response as stipulated by regulation 46 (ii) or such complaint not being attended to in the manner provided under such regulation (iii) upon lapse of specific time provided (iv) not later than 14 days from the lapse of the specific time stipulated (v) the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the financial service provider (vi) in case the 14 days (time) has lapsed.

Appeals to the Bank of Tanzania are required to be in a prescribed form which is provided under the third schedule of the regulations. It should be noted that the Bank of Tanzania only admits complaints which have not been subject to legal proceedings or any other competent authority and a complainant has suffered financial loss or material inconvenience.

Another thing to note is that determination of the Bank of Tanzania of appeals shall be binding and conclusive but in case the appellant is dissatisfied, they may lodge an application for judicial

review to the competent court of law.

In circumstances where in the process of handling the lodged appeal, Bank of Tanzania forms an opinion that there are matters which by their nature require the court's guidance or interpretation then refer such complaint to a court of law.

Conclusion

This article has only given a brief synopsis of the law related to consumer protection as stipulated under the Bank of Tanzania (Financial Consumer Protection) regulation.

We strongly advise consumers of financial services to engage this mode of resolving complaint as provided by these regulations as it saves time and costs compared to court cases.

But for consumers to be able to utilize this avenue effectively, they need to familiarize themselves with the mechanisms put in place by their financial service providers such as conditions and timeframe for handling each specific complaint.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz



BY OLIVE MOORE

IN recent years, the global landscape for human rights defenders (HRDs) has become more difficult and complex, with both new and heightened challenges. With hundreds of defenders killed every year, the scale and magnitude of threats faced by HRDs is unprecedented.

And our response to this is severely lacking. Authoritarian and repressive forces are ever more emboldened by a permissive international environment, which fails to protect HRDs and hold aggressors to account.

Civic space restrictions, conflict and crises, climate crisis, technological threats, rising authoritarianism and anti-gender policies all significantly affect the work, safety and well-being of HRDs.

But thankfully, there is a flipside to this grim panorama. I recently had the privilege of spending some time with five HRDs who are among those leading the charge against these sobering trends. Courageously, they are stepping up to these challenges, to fight for their space, to champion collective rights and to stand for a better, more just world.

The five HRDs were visiting Dublin as the recipients of an annual award Front Line Defenders has been presenting to HRDs from all over the world since 2005. The recipients, from each of the major world regions, are among those most at risk for their peaceful work in defense of human rights.

In all cases, they demonstrate a steadfast commitment to the communities they support and represent. They offer inspiration for our times, and give us all reason to continue to care, to stand together in solidarity and to speak out and act.

I would like to highlight some of their invaluable contributions to the greater good.

Our Africa winner, Olivier Ndoole Bahemuke, is a leader among environmental and land defenders in Democratic Republic of the Congo, and one of the most trusted advocates on behalf

Let's recognise human rights defenders as remarkable agents of positive change



of communities impacted by land grabs, trafficking, and illegal resource extraction activities.

Known in North Kivu province as the "Green lawyer," he is an ardent defender of the rights of communities and the environment in Virunga National Park and areas around Goma. He has faced death threats, been beaten to the point of hospitalisation and faced ongoing persecution for this work.

Our Americas winner, Segundo Ordóñez, an Afro-descendant human rights defender from Ecuador, is one of the most visible faces and the community representative in the two legal proceedings brought against the multinational company Furukawa Plantaciones C. A. and the State of Ecuador. The cases have focused on how workers on abacá (Manila hemp) plantations suffer labour exploitation as they

farm the raw materials in conditions of modern slavery.

From Asia and the Pacific, Jeany 'Rose' Hayahay is a woman human rights defender based in Mindanao, the Philippines. Since 2019, she has been the spokesperson of the Save Our Schools Network (SOS Network), a coalition of child-focused NGOs, church-based groups and other stakeholders advocating for children's right to education in Mindanao, particularly in the context of militarisation and attacks on schools.

Rose is consistently red-tagged and monitored as a leader, facing reprisals and threats, both directly and indirectly. She is at high risk of being killed, arrested or imprisoned yet continues to lead at the forefront with determination and courage.

Our Europe and Central Asia win-

ner, Digital Security Lab Ukraine, represented by their executive director Vita Volodovska is a team of specialists in the field of digital security and internet freedom.

Amid the dangers of Russia's full-scale invasion of their country, they help Ukrainian journalists, human rights defenders and public activists solve problems with digital security, as well as promote the realisation of human rights on the internet by influencing government policy in the field of digital rights.

And, last but not least, our Middle East and North Africa winner, Hala Ahd, from Jordan is one of the few women human rights lawyers in her country, who has worked with a number of human rights and feminist organisations to defend women's rights, workers' rights, and the freedoms of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly in Jordan.

Despite her vital work and advocacy, Hala has endured various forms of intimidation and harassment, including facing threats and being summoned multiple times by the Jordanian General Intelligence Directorate.

five HRDs are remarkable agents of positive change - representing our best chance to withstand, counter and find solutions to the significant challenges we face today.

However, they all face tremendous personal risk because of their human rights work - with ongoing threats to their security, well-being and reputations and the safety of their families. As we met with diplomats, dignitaries and like-minded organisations in Dublin and Brus-

sels, our Award winners told us about the cost to them and their families and communities, and the huge personal sacrifice they make.

In some cases, they literally put their lives on the line to continue with their crucial work in defense of human rights; in others, they have been labelled "terrorists"; organisations they support have been criminalised; or their family members have faced threats and abduction.

It is a fate that is reflective of our wider work to protect human rights defenders - in 2022, Front Line Defenders supported 2,675 HRDs and 404 organisations at risk in over 140 countries - including in some very challenging contexts of armed conflict and crises.

One part of the Front Line Defenders Award is about recognition for and solidarity with these defenders, for whom the limelight brings a level of international attention and protection. This is important, but this is only only part of what HRDs require for their protection, and for their human rights work to thrive. They also need concerted political action.

That is why, as Front Line Defenders, we will continue to work directly with HRDs to advocate with governments, international institutions and corporations, to ensure that the crucial work HRDs do to advance human rights and justice is valued and that as individuals they are respected and protected.

Olive Moore is Interim Director of Front Line Defenders

IPS UN Bureau

Quest for safe water in one of India's most isolated rural areas

BY UMAR MANZOOR SHAH

SIMITA Devi spent over ten days in a government-run hospital a year ago anxiously watching her critically ill nine-year-old daughter, Gudiya, who was diagnosed with typhoid.

Gudiya was so sick she even went into a coma for a day. Medical staff attending to the child said she contracted the disease from drinking contaminated water.

After being discharged, Devi's main worry was to get safe drinking water for her ailing daughter.

She was advised not to consume water from village wells or untested sources like river streams or springs.

Hailing from Champad, a tribal village in India's Jharkhand state, Devi works as a daily wage labourer alongside her husband. With a limited income, Devi couldn't afford packaged drinking water for her daughter.

She then decided to boil the water using firewood to make it safe to drink. But to get the firewood, she had to trek the treacherous terrains of the nearby forests - a long, difficult work and the fear of wild animals loomed.

It was not Devi alone impacted by contaminated water, it was making many people in her village ill, and there was nothing the inhabitants could do about it.

According to government records, 80% of India's rural drinking water comes from underground sources. One-third of India's 600 districts do not have safe drinking water because fluoride, iron, salinity, and arsenic concentrations exceed tolerance levels. India's water quality is poor, ranking at 120 of 122 nations.

Experts believe that the source of these heavy metals is industrial waste being dumped untreated into water systems and nitrates which surface due to excessive and prolonged use of fertilizers. The government estimates that every year, over one lakh (100,000) people die of waterborne diseases in the country.

Champad, a village inhabited by a tribal community, has 105 households per the 2011 census. Until 2022, the community depended on only two tube wells as their source of drinking water. However, these tube wells often experienced malfunc-

tions, leaving the villagers with no choice but to fetch water from a nearby river or pond. Consequently, there has been a rise in waterborne diseases, particularly affecting the health of women and children. The need to travel long distances for safe drinking water has increased women's workload, increasing their workload.

Perturbed by the threat of waterborne diseases, the village locals congregated earlier this year to try to find a solution. They at first visited the local politicians for help. Then they headed towards government offices. "Nothing happened—absolutely nothing. We were virtually left high and dry. Except for God, no one is there to help us. At times, we were told to wait, and at times, we were told that government

The solar panels on the water tower have meant clean waters for the villagers of Champad, a tribal village in India's Jharkhand. Credit: Umar Manzoor Shah/IPS



Simita Devi, whose daughter spent days in hospital recently suffering from typhoid caused by contaminated water, collects clean water brought to the surface by a solar pump. Credit: Umar Manzoor Shah/IPS

funding wasn't available. But we were slowly dying. Our children are suffering in front of our own eyes," Ram Singh, a local villager at Champad, told IPS.

Earlier this year, a team from a non-governmental agency working to uplift rural areas in India visited the village to assess the villagers' hardships.

The agency then mooted the idea of a solar water tower in the village. The villagers were made aware of the process involved in the tower's construction and that government approval for the facility was needed.

The village representatives were taken on board, and a proposal was submitted to the water department of the district.

"Government liked the idea, and it was readily approved. The entire village worked together to make the project a success story," says a member of the humanitarian agency who wished to remain anonymous.

The towers were equipped with solar panels, enabling them to operate sustainably and with minimal environmental impact. The selection of sites for the towers was a collaborative effort involving the village communities. The first solar water tower was constructed in February 2023, while work on the other two towers is still ongoing. As a result, 45 families now directly benefit from the convenience of having clean drinking water channelled to their homes through pipelines. The water provided is of good quality and considered safe, in contrast to the open well water that was previously relied upon. This development has significantly alleviated the burden on women, who no longer have to travel long distances to fetch water from various sources.

The impact of this intervention was significant. The community's health improved, and they were no longer at risk of waterborne illnesses. The women and children, who were often responsible for collecting water from distant sources, could now spend their time on other activities. The community's overall quality of life improved, and they could focus on their livelihoods and education.

For Simita Devi, the facility is no less than a major solace in her life. She excitedly uses this water for drinking and thanks God for such an endeavour.

"Safe water means life for us. The solar tower has become a messiah for poor villagers like us. We will cherish the moments for life when we find its water coming to our homes," Devi told IPS.

IPS UN Bureau Report

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 16:00-19:00HRS 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 16:00-19:00HRS 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 UMUJAWYO 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

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

EU-funded vanilla project boosts thousands of women in Zanzibar

THOUSANDS of women in Zanzibar have started benefiting from the European Union (EU)-funded spice project with their yields and incomes increasing as result of cultivation of various spices that are highly paying, including vanilla.

Implemented by the People's Development Forum (PDF) in collaboration with Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA)-Zanzibar, the four-year project has been cited as a redeemer that aims to liberate women by focusing on the cultivation of organic crops whose price is guaranteed in the world market.

Hasnei Abdalla Abeid, one of the beneficiaries of the project from Kizimbani village in Zanzibar Urban West Region has been engaging in vanilla cultivation in her two-acre farm for two years now.

Previously, Hasnei used to cultivate other crops such as passion fruit and bananas, but after coming off the spice project, she opened her eyes and embarked on cultivation of spices using modern practices.

"I am very grateful that the project on organic crops under EU funding has freed me by coming up with new practices in cultivating vanilla such as using manure where now my expectations are to achieve great success," he said. She outlined that for a farmer to meet goals in cultivating the spices is to adhere to professional instructions issued by experts which include watering of the crops during weather changes.



Hasnei Abdalla Abeid, one of the beneficiaries of the project from Kizimbani village

According to her, in her farm, she has been cultivating mixed crops including passion fruit where he harvested last season and brought in a total of 1.4m/-.

She said she has to cultivate a variety of crops considering that Vanilla takes more than four years to harvest.

"The spice project under EU funding encourages us to cultivate spices

including vanilla, mango pepper, but there are also fruit crops including papayas, bananas and passion fruit to generate income," Hasnei said.

Zainab Dhamiri Haji, another farmer from Donge Mbiji village in Unguja North Region said they are cultivating vanilla through a cooperative group where they soon expect to harvest.

She said that they start-

ed to grow vanilla after they were registered with the spices project and given 700 vanilla plant seeds growing them in a field of one acre.

"We also received training on how best to cultivate the crop for good outcomes, we soon expect to harvest vanilla because it has already started to turn yellow and that is the sign of maturity and moving towards the process

of harvesting vanilla," he said.

Elizabeth Galous Mgaye, spice project extension officer said that great success has been achieved since the project commenced including women farmers who have been motivated and now concentrating in the cultivation of spices and fruits.

"Many women are now motivated to cultivate spice crops whose market

is guaranteed both inside and outside the country, but also the cultivation of fruits and pumpkins and vegetables, many women have responded and to a large extent it has been bringing them income and running the activities of their lives," he said.

Dhulfa Bashir Mbwana, marketing officer said the project's major objective is to increase the value of products from the value

chain and increase income of the farmers.

For example, he said that the project has been providing farmers with various services, including seeds, education, as well as searching for markets from the farmer to the buyer directly.

He also said that there are already various companies that have come forward to buy the organic products of the farm-

ers from the farm, which guarantees them a reliable market in the country and abroad.

He said that the project, which has been in three years, has already reached 60 percent of its target audience, while women are seen to be more excited about the opportunity to grow spice crops.

"We aim to reach 57,000 farmers by June 2024 opening up value chain opportunities for species, increasing incomes and fighting poverty," she added.

Safia Ngalapi, project's communications officer from TAMWA-Zanzibar said the project has achieved its goals which is to involve women and focus directly on agriculture and thus increase income.

"The organic farming project has been well received by women, where our big expectations are to raise the economic conditions and take a big step in their lives," she said.

Tabling the budget estimates for the 2023/2024, Shamata Shaame Khamis, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock said that cultivation of spice crops has been given first priority in order to restore Zanzibar's status of producing the crops to increase income to farmers.

He congratulated the institutions dealing with the development and promotion of organic farming for successfully mobilizing farmers where 70 percent of women have shown an example of responding well to the call.

"The strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture is to ensure that Zanzibar regains its status in the production of spices to further open up more international market opportunities."

East African countries still vulnerable to zoonotic disease infections

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA and other East African Countries are still susceptible to Zoonotic diseases that viruses to that effect can be easily passed from wildlife to domestic animals and eventually infect humans.

Dr Daniel Mdetete, the Senior Project Manager for Wildlife Trade and One Health, TRAFFIC International East Africa, writes in an exclusive report that wild animals can harbor pathogens without showing any signs of illness.

Dr Mdetete's expert report comes out during the World Zoonotic Disease Day on July 6, 2023.

According to Dr Mdetete, when such pathogens cross into susceptible livestock, or humans, they can become infectious and cause morbidity.

Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that are naturally transmitted between animals and humans.

As these pathogens move between wildlife, domestic animals, and humans, understanding the specific modes of transmission is crucial for implementing appropriate preventive measures and controlling the spread.

The report says, East Africa, with an abundance of free-ranging wild animals, livestock transhumance, and interactions between animals and humans at various interfaces, combined with a tropical climate, hosts favorable conditions for transmission risks of various zoonotic diseases.

Direct contact is a primary mode of transmission for many zoonotic diseases that occur through touching, handling, or being bitten or scratched by an infected animal.

Rabies, brucellosis, and anthrax are common examples of directly transmitted diseases. Indirect transmission involves touching surfaces or objects contaminated with urine, feces, saliva, or respiratory droplets from infected animals.

Tanzania confirmed Marburg vi-

rus disease outbreak in March 2023 in Kagera region, suspected of having originated from farmers searching in fruit bat roosting areas for bat feces (also known as bat guano) used for fertilizing soil. This is an example of indirect transmission.

Vector-borne transmission requires organisms to transmit pathogens from one host to another.

Mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, and sandflies provide vectors for transmitting pathogens in this manner.

Foodborne transmission occurs when infected animals or humans ingest water contaminated with diseases causing pathogens like salmonella, campylobacteriosis, and toxoplasmosis.

Airborne transmission occurs when infected animals or humans cough, sneeze, or exhale infectious particles into the air; diseases like influenza (bird flu), tuberculosis, and certain forms of avian coronavirus infections are among airborne diseases.

Trans placental transmission is from an infected pregnant woman to her fetus.

Zoonotic diseases often result in ill health and economic consequences associated with the illness - yet they are not taken seriously in many contexts.

They frequently occur in geographic locations where vulnerable groups within marginalized communities have limited access to health services. In some instances, developing countries deprioritize the needs of these communities, and they are not afforded sufficient attention.

Zoonotic pathogens continue to emerge and spread across regions, including East Africa, and challenge public health by causing countless morbidities and mortalities, disrupting trade, and negatively impacting the economy in developing and developed countries, as it was during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The East Africa region often faces

challenges maintaining strong veterinary and public health systems. Stretched or scarce surveillance and reporting systems make it harder to detect and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks in a timely manner.

Inadequate collaboration and coordination between veterinary and public health authorities further hinders effective disease control efforts.

East Africa is rich in biological diversity, and interactions between humans, domestic animals, and wild animals are common.

Encroachment into natural habitats, poaching, and illegal wildlife trade increases the risk of zoonotic disease transmission.

Diseases can spill over from wildlife to domestic animals and humans, posing significant challenges for disease control and health security.

Awareness and knowledge about zoonotic diseases among communities, healthcare workers, and animal handlers is a challenge.

Education and awareness campaigns about zoonotic diseases, their transmission, prevention measures, and the importance of timely behaviours in seeking healthcare are crucial for minimizing the impact of these diseases.

Changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, and ecological conditions because of climate change affect the habitats of disease-carrying vectors, such as mosquitoes and ticks, potentially expanding their range and increasing incidences of disease transmission.

Addressing these challenges requires multi-sectoral collaboration and investment in healthcare infrastructure, veterinary services, and public health systems. Strengthening surveillance and reporting systems, promoting research and innovation, and enhancing public awareness and education are vital for mitigating the impact of zoonotic diseases in East Africa.

In East Africa, recently reported zoonotic disease outbreaks have included the Marburg virus in Tanzania (March 2023) and Ebola in Uganda (January 2023). These viruses are highly contagious and can cause severe illness, often with high mortality rates.

The reported leptospirosis outbreak in southern Tanzania is another contemporary example of zoonotic diseases of concern in East Africa.

Over the years, the region has been struggling with a variety of zoonotic diseases, including rabies, brucellosis, anthrax, Rift Valley fever, bovine tuberculosis, porcine cysticercosis, African trypanosomiasis, salmonellosis, and borreliosis.

Handling and transporting animals and animal products increase the risk of zoonotic disease incidence and transmission.

Working in forests for various reasons, including hunting, processing, and transporting wild animals and their products, are among the activities that predispose humans to zoonotic disease risks.

Markets selling the meat or by-products of wild animals are particularly high risk due to the substantial number of new or undocumented pathogens known to exist in some wild animal populations, including those that co-exist with livestock and other domesticated species.

The most common animal species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases include non-human primates, bats, rodents, small carnivores, swine, rabbits, and dogs, so handling these animals needs great care.

This does not mean, however, that they should be targeted for

extermination or removed from the ecosystem simply because they pose zoonotic disease risks. The balance of biodiversity is the most important consideration.

Challenges including increased

rates of human population growth and mobility, urbanization, food preferences, and handling of domestic animals, together with human behaviour and cultural factors, are among the factors that have contributed to the decline of the delicate balance between humans and nature, and thus risks of zoonotic diseases transmission have been accentuated in some contexts.

Where some of these diseases result in a febrile illness (showing symptoms of fever) and may appear like malaria (which is endemic), clinical diagnoses may be missed.

As a result, unnecessary use of antimicrobials by self-prescription has become a customary practice, which has resulted in increased antimicrobial resistance.

Historical global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola both originated in Africa, and the first HIV/AIDS cases were reported in Zaire (now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)).

The first human HIV infection dates from 1959, while AIDS, later recorded and recognized as a disease in 1981, evolved from non-human primates in and around East Africa.

Outbreaks of the Ebola virus near DRC's Ebola River in 1976 and then followed by an outbreak in a geographic area that is now within the country of South Sudan, were, at that time, fatal hemorrhagic fever. Fortunately, such outbreaks are intermittent.

In addition to the wide distribution of wild animals, habitats, and ecological niches in East Africa, the region is made vulnerable to zoonotic diseases by increasingly destabilized ecosystems (including deforestation, natural resource extraction and other forms of land conversion).

When aggregated with increasing encroachment of wildlife habitats and human-animal contact, risks of the emergence and re-emergence

of zoonotic and transboundary diseases from wild animals and livestock need to be better understood.

Zoonotic diseases have primarily been studied on domestic animals, with limited knowledge of pathogen spillover between wild animals and humans.

Livestock species can play a role as bridges for zoonotic disease transmission between humans and wildlife, with some of the pathogens being amplified when passing through livestock by multiplying and mutating, becoming infectious.

The emergence of novel pathogens from animal reservoirs due to certain changes in ecology increases opportunities for pathogens to enter the human population and could later result in transmission between humans.

However, once this rare event occurs, then the subsequent transmission is maintained temporarily or permanently, as exhibited by HIV, Ebola and the SARS coronavirus. On the other hand, pathogens such as lyssa viruses, Nipah virus, West Nile virus, Hantavirus, plague and leptospirosis are directly transmitted to humans from wild animals or through vectors and only rarely via human-to-human transmission.

The need for an integrated One Health approach [1] towards managing zoonotic disease transmission and emergence, to reduce risks of epidemics and pandemics and increase preparedness is more vital than ever.

Through the support of USAID and GIZ, in East Africa, TRAFFIC, a leading non-governmental organization working to ensure trade in wild animals and plants is legal and sustainable, is undertaking a comprehensive project in Tanzania on zoonotic disease risk reduction in the trade, whether legal or illegal, of wild animals.

Desperate jobseekers queue as government launches recruitment campaign

BY MICHELLE BANDA

IN commemoration of the 47th anniversary of the June 16 uprising, the Gauteng government has launched its Nasi Ispani (Here is a job) campaign offering 8,000 jobs in the provincial government.

According to Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi, the campaign represents the provincial government's commitment to intensifying efforts to curb unemployment and raise awareness about existing job openings.

The campaign comes against a backdrop of a 34.3% official unemployment rate in the province, rising to 39.6% under the expanded unemployment rate definition, as recorded by Statistics SA's first-quarter 2023 Labour Force Survey.

Range of posts

At least 8,000 vacancies are available across all Gauteng provincial departments and entities until 14 July 2023. The posts range from drivers, receptionists, cleaners, artisans, security managers, safety officers, electricians, social workers, and engineers to managers and advisers.

As per the advertisement flyers, all jobs are to be permanent, except where indicated.

For Youth Day, the Premier, Members of the Executive Council (MECs), human resource officials and data capturers were present at 22 walk-in centres across the province to assist applicants apply for jobs.

Thousands of residents - young and old - braved the chilly Gauteng weather to apply for the jobs. Others opted to apply from the comfort of their homes via an online platform.

Daily Maverick was at Nasrec Expo Centre, where almost 5,000 residents from the Johannesburg region waited in a long queue, some having been there since as early as 6am. Many were tired and hungry but determined to submit their applications even if it meant spending the night there.

Ready and willing to take any job

Charles (43), from Diepkloof in Soweto, told Daily Maverick he had never worked a day in his life. He said he came out to Nasrec to submit an application in the hopes of becoming employed. Because of his level of desperation, he said he was ready and willing to take any legitimate job the government had to offer.

"All my adult life I have been trying to get a job with no luck and at some point fell victim to a number of job scams," he said.

"Today I am here to try my luck like everyone else in the queue, but really all hope is gone. The walk-in centre closes at 4pm, which is sad because it might mean I can't apply. I am an old man and it's hard to always be asking for assistance from my mother. By now I should be the one taking care of her, my two sons and my grandchild. Even the Covid grant of R350 cannot keep me afloat. It is really difficult," he told Daily Maverick.

Portia Kubelo (30), from Lenasia South in Hospital Hills, is a mother of two. She was one of the many in the queue hoping to submit her application. Kubelo told Daily Maverick she had been unemployed since 2018 and had been surviving on her children's and siblings' social grants.

"I have been in the queue since 6am and am still here. It seems the line is stagnant



Thousands of South African youth gathered at the Nasrec Expo Centre in Johannesburg on June 16 to apply for jobs offered through Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi's Nasi Ispani campaign. (Photo: Kabelo Mokoena)



Premier Panyaza Lesufi greets job seekers at Nasrec on 16 June 2020. (Photo: Kabelo Mokoena)

though I am hopeful because getting this job will better my life, and that of my two children and siblings, because being the eldest I bear the responsibility of taking care of them."

Job hunting for three years

Lesedi Tsotetsi (23), a public relations student at Unisa, said a single response from the many applications she had submitted would give her solace.

"I have been job hunting for three years since completing matric with no luck ... I am just hoping that I get at least one response for everything I have applied for. It's a good thing that the government is doing this, but I just hope it's real and they keep their word. I would be so happy to get a job and it will change my life in the sense that I will be able to finance my studies and make a contribution at home."

By 4pm the job application queue at Nasrec was still long with more applicants joining. While many others flooded the online platform to the point where the page was unresponsive for many, indicating the dire need for jobs.

After successfully submitting an application, Sesi Mokgaetje said: "We honestly hope for a free and fair recruitment process."

According to the online portal, applicants can expect a response within three months.

DM

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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 07:15 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 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS 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 07:15 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 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 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 07:15 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 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 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 07:15 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 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 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 07:15 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 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRO TIZI 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 COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM NIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MISETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

SUMA-JKT NOW TARGETING FAMILY HOUSES CONSTRUCTION PORTFOLIO

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

The army's commercial construction wing-SUMA-JKT has started to expand its footprint in family houses construction works, which is mostly done by small and individual developers; the move which is expected to increase competition and may also lower residential building units' costs.

Silvia Mwaluvanda, SUMA-JKT's Architect told the Guardian at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair taking place at the Mwalimu Nyerere grounds in Dar es Salaam that apart from implementing medium and large real estate projects, family houses projects are also on their business portfolios.

Tanzania's real estate is growing faster with statistics showing that an average of three million houses are required to meet the country's population demand of more than 60 million.

She said they are now aggressively hunting for small, medium and large projects relating to construc-

tion of family houses, industrial properties, academic blocks, school dormitories and buildings, hostels, shopping malls, road construction and others construction projects.

"We are here to showcase our construction services to the public, because the majority of Tanzania's are not aware about what we are offering in construction services," she said.

She said SUMAJKT construction department has been able to set up three companies providing the consultancy services, electric installation, Quantity surveying, architectural design services and construction services.

The subsidiaries include SUMA-JKT Consultancy Company Limited (SCLL, SUMA-JKT Consultancy Bureau Company Ltd providing design services and professional consultancy in architectural and engineering design, quantity surveying, contract management and supervision of construction works and SUMA-JKT Electric Company Ltd, involved in electrical works.



Putting up a family house

"SUMA-JKT construction department is working with all these companies to implement their construction works projects from initial design to completion stages," she said.

She said construction department also provides electrical installation of residential units, industrial areas and others.

"We are very grateful to currently have secured big tenders to perform electrical installation services in 101 villages in Shinyanga and Morogoro regions," she explained.

The project was officially started on April 2022 and is scheduled to complete in February next year.

Elaborating on construction projects, she said "SUMAJKT is working

with all three companies to implement our project," she said

According to her, the department has been able to build different buildings across the country including hostels, classrooms, Fuel station, state House Dodoma, Immigration building in Dodoma Region, Ardhi University's hostels.

Also the construction department is currently implementing new three projects that are underway in different areas.

She named the three projects as construction of Mzumbe Administration Building, Mweka Academic block and Mkwawa University College of Education library.

She said the Mzumbe University administration block construction project is valued 4.8bn/-, noting that the 19 month project was officially started on June 2022.

According to the architect, the construction of Mweka Academic block which will take 17 months upon completion is worth 3.7bn/- and scheduled to complete in February next year.

Also, the 12-months' four storey Mkwawa University College of Education library construction project worth 7.4bn/- which was started in April this year is underway.

She called on Tanzanians in all areas where they are to use their services because they have a lot of experience and advanced expertise in designing, constructing and electrical installation.

Real estate contributed nearly 2.9 trillion Tanzanian shillings (TZS), some 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, to Tanzania's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the first to the third quarter of 2021.

However, the high costs of mortgage financing remain the major challenge in real estate development in Tanzania.

The outstanding mortgage debt as of 31 December 2022 increased to 531.98bn/-, equivalent to US\$229.18 million as compared to 522.95bn/- equivalent to US\$225.46 million reported on 30 September 2022, according to statistics by Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

UNCTAD calls for massive investment in cleaner energy in developing world

GENEVA

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) today called for urgent support to developing countries to enable them to attract significantly more investment for their transition to clean energy.

UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2023 published on Wednesday shows that much of the growth in international investment in renewable energy, which has nearly tripled since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, has been concentrated in developed countries.

Developing countries need renewable energy investments of about \$1.7 trillion annually but attracted foreign direct investment in clean energy worth only \$544 billion in 2022, according to the report.

Total funding needs for the energy transition in developing countries are much larger and include investment in power grids, transmission lines, storage and energy efficiency.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan said: "A significant increase in investment in sustainable energy systems in developing countries is crucial for the world to reach climate



goals by 2030."

Compact for sustainable energy investment

The report proposes a compact setting out priority actions ranging from financing mechanisms to investment policies to enable developing countries to attract investments to build sustainable energy systems.

On financing, the report calls for the de-risking of energy transition investment in developing countries through loans, guarantees, insurance instruments and equity participation of both the public sector - through public private partnerships and blended finance - and multilateral development banks.

Also, partnerships between international investors, the public sector and multilateral financial institutions can significantly reduce the cost of capital for clean energy investment in devel-

oping countries.

UNCTAD also emphasizes the need for debt relief to offer developing countries fiscal space to make the investments necessary for the clean energy transition and to help them attract international private investment by lowering country risk ratings.

Renewable energy investment growth slows

The report shows that the growth of investment in renewable energy slowed down in 2022, as international project finance deals declined.

Although total international investment in renewables has nearly tripled since 2015, in developing countries the growth rate has exceeded GDP growth only marginally.

The report also finds that energy companies among the top 100 multinationals are divesting fossil fuel assets at a rate of about \$15 billion per

year. But a key concern is that private (non-listed) buyers, who include mostly private equity funds, often have lower or no emission-reduction goals and weaker climate reporting standards. This calls for a new model of climate-aligned dealmaking, the report says.

The report says the investment gap across all sectors of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has increased to more than \$4 trillion per year from \$2.5 trillion in 2015.

The largest gaps are in energy, water and transport infrastructure. The increase is the result of both underinvestment and additional needs.

The growing SDG investment gap in developing countries contrasts with positive sustainability trends in global capital markets. The value of the sustainable finance market reached \$5.8 trillion in 2022.

Global investment flows fall due to overlapping crises

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) declined by 12 percent in 2022, to \$1.3 trillion, after a strong rebound in 2021 following the steep drop induced by COVID-19 in 2020, the report shows.

The decline was mainly a result of lower volumes of financial flows and transactions in developed countries. The slowdown was driven by overlapping crises: the war in Ukraine, high food and energy prices and debt pressures.

\$6.6bn invested in Africa's infrastructure over six years

JOHANNESBURG

The World Bank Group-funded effort to increase train access to a power plant in South Africa's coal-rich region has started to significan-

ABIDJAN

The Africa50 initiative has invested more than \$6.6 billion in critical infrastructure in six years, African Development Bank (AfDB) Group President Akinwumi Adesina has said.

The investments covered 21 national and regional infrastructure projects in 22 countries.

Africa50 is an investment platform established by African governments and AfDB to mobilise financing for mega infrastructure projects.

Speaking at the Africa50 Infra Forum and General Shareholders Meeting in Lomé, Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé said there is a huge need for infrastructure across the continent, which is indeed a condition for development.

"Without roads, bridges, airports, hospitals, schools, power, communication networks, and water supply, there is indeed no possible development in Africa," he added.

African and global institutional investors signed subscription agreements and letters of intent to commit funds to the \$500 million African Infrastructure Acceleration Fund - the first private vehicle infrastructure platform launched by Africa50.

AfDB is investing \$20 million in equity in the fund, which will catalyse further investment flows to develop critical infrastructure across the African continent.

AfDB's Adesina said Africa50 was rapidly playing a strategic role in closing Africa's infrastructure financing gap, from energy to transport and logistics to digital infrastructure.

"At the heart of our work is to help close the \$68 to \$108 billion annual infrastructure financing gap for Africa," he added.

Construction of Medusa submarine cable system begins

RABAT

Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN), Elettra, Medusa and Orange have announced the coming into operation of the construction contract for the Medusa Submarine Cable System, which, when complete, will span a distance of more than 8,700km, making it the longest cable in the Mediterranean Sea and providing enhanced North-South and East-West connectivity.

Medusa will establish crucial connections between Morocco, Portugal, Spain, France, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and

Egypt.

The subsystem, named Via Tunisia, part of the Medusa Cable linking France and Tunisia, is co-funded by the European Union under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme, as already announced by Orange, as well as African internet service provider AFR-IX Telecom.

The network is part of a commitment to reducing the digital divide that exists in the region, and the construction is seen as an important step towards achieving this goal.

By connecting North Africa and Southern Europe, as well

as several of the Mediterranean islands to the mainland, including Sicily, Crete and Cyprus, the Medusa submarine cable system will create what the consortium members said will be "unprecedented opportunities" for collaboration, innovation and economic development.

It will also look to provide an effective bridge between the Mediterranean and Atlantic regions, facilitating increased communication and cooperation across all these areas.

The technical infrastructure system is built on 24-pair fibre optic open cable technology

to meet increasing broadband requirements in the region, with 20Tbps minimum capacity per fibre pair.

The construction is being led by ASN and marine construction project specialists Elettra, and the latter will engage survey operations, while equipment manufacturing and installation are planned to span over 2024 and 2025.

Orange will provide landing infrastructures in France, Tunisia and Morocco.

"We have been working for more than three years to reach this point, and we are

tremendously grateful to all those who, from the early stages, supported Medusa: collaborating companies and European institutions," said Medusa CEO Norman Albi. "Thanks to the support of North African Operators, financial institutions and leading companies such as ASN, Elettra Tlc, Orange and AFR-IX Telecom, Medusa will be in service in the fourth quarter of 2025."

ASN chief sales and marketing officer Paul Gabla said: "The Medusa submarine cable system marks a major step forward in telecommunications

infrastructure. ASN is honoured to be at the forefront of this ambitious project, which will bring high-speed internet connectivity and seamless communication to the region, unlocking a world of opportunities for businesses, communities and individuals throughout the Mediterranean region."

Far North Fiber plots route for pan-Arctic connectivity: Route study begins to define the fastest and most secure route for Submarine cable system directly connecting Japan, North America, and Ireland and Scandinavia through Arctic region.

RELIANCE ON ATTRACTING INVESTMENT IS UNDERMINING CHANGE AT WORLD BANK

NEWYORK / BRUSSEL

One message that was repeated throughout last month's summit on a so-called "New Global Financing Pact" was that developing countries urgently need mass financing to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency. And there is not enough of it in public coffers.

Unfortunately, the false narrative that the only way to fill this gap is to 'leverage' more private finance also persisted. The resulting Paris Agenda for People and Planet stated: "meeting global challenges will depend on the scaling up of private capital flows." This should be achieved in large part by revamping the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Last December, the World Bank Group (WBG), the biggest MDB, launched its so-called "evolution" process, with the support of G7 governments. This set the institution to work on increasing its lending by deepening its reliance on the financial market.

The dogged reliance on private capital as saviour appears to be steeped in capitalist realism. It is believed to be implausible for the public sector to deliver the scale of financing needed to address the climate and development crisis.

Private capital, which can be

leveraged using public money, securitised and reproduced is favoured as the pragmatic choice. However, while the financing gap to deliver on the sustainable development goals is very real, the neat narrative buttressing private capital obscures two empirical realities.

First is the absence of rich countries' political will to deliver on agreed commitments, from the 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income in development aid made in 1970 to the US\$100 billion per year climate financing agreed in 2009.

Second, the ongoing systemic wealth drain from developing to rich countries. Since 1982, developing countries as a whole have transferred an estimated US\$4.2 trillion in interest payments to global north-based creditors, far outstripping aid flows and concessional lending during the same period.

Additionally, tax-related illicit financial flows cost countries hundreds of billions of dollars in lost tax income every year. Debt servicing is draining approximately 25 per cent of total government spending in developing countries as a whole, hijacking both climate and SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) financing.

The allure of private finance

Last month, in a new attempt to 'leverage' private capital, the



APMDD and allies demonstrate on the streets in the Philippines. Credit: Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)

WBG launched the Private Sector Investment Lab, a partnership with the private sector that aims to "rapidly scale solutions that address the barriers preventing private sector investment."

Furthermore, it announced "an expanded toolkit for crisis preparedness, response, and recovery" that includes providing "new types of insurance" to backstop private sector projects. This follows a not-so-new pattern articulated in the WBG's Evolution Roadmap draft published in April

While the WBG is set to expand its mandate to incorporate "sustainability" considerations, the

approach is still rooted in a heady cocktail of de-risking instruments such as risk guarantees, blended finance and first-loss positions by governments, and in tweaking national regulatory frameworks to enable a business-friendly environment.

The goal is as singular as the solution: to make investment more profitable for the private sector. The (optimistic) rationale: 'incentivising' private capital will 'crowd in' economic growth and climate, biodiversity and development financing. This assumes that it is possible to equate commercial goals and the public

interest, which is not always the case without creating financial barriers that undermine access to public services, such as user fees.

It also ignores that risks are transferred from private to public actors, further increasing debt vulnerabilities, and the developmental dilemma posed by prioritising private profits over distributive goals and state sovereignty.

In ongoing discussions about the Roadmap, it is yet to be seen if the WBG will incorporate sufficient provisions within its plans to ensure the recipient state's right to regulate in the public interest for a rights-based economy

that upholds distributive justice. That is, economic, climate and gender equity.

Solutions with legitimacy

The largest coalition of developing countries in the United Nations (known as the "Group of 77"), representing 134 nations, have been calling for reform of the international tax, debt and financial architecture for many years.

These calls, enshrined in resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, includes establishing a multilateral legal framework that would comprehensively address unsustainable and illegitimate debt, including through extensive debt restructuring and cancellation, and agreeing on a UN Tax Convention with equitable participation of developing countries to address tax abuse by multinational corporations and other illicit financial flows.

As was made clear last month in several developing countries' calls, a reform agenda should not be limited to merely boosting MDBs' coffers - via financial innovation techniques - but rather include governance reform that meaningfully augments the voice and vote of developing countries in macroeconomic decision-making, which is the litmus test for legitimate and democratic economic governance.

IPS UN Bureau

Construction market in Riyadh 'overheating', UAE-Dubai 'hot' with Qatar most expensive

RIYADH

Average building costs in Riyadh are currently less than half of New York, but the Saudi capital is one of two markets in a global survey that are 'overheating', boosted by strong pipelines and straining under robust activity levels.

As Saudi Arabia makes progress on giga projects towards its Vision 2030 goals and the capital becomes home to the regional headquarters of international companies, a new report by professional services firm Turner & Townsend revealed that Riyadh, along with Canadian capital, Ottawa, is one of two markets in a global survey that it considers as belonging to the overheating category for construction tendering.

Nearby hub Dubai is assessed as 'hot', and Abu Dhabi 'warm' according to Turner & Townsend's assessments.

Saudi Arabia has an average build cost in Riyadh currently \$2,379 per sqm, the report said, with construction costs higher than Dubai across most sectors, except for prestige car showrooms, where the cost is higher in Dubai at \$2,478 per sqm compared with \$2,403 in Riyadh.

High-rise offices prestige offices cost \$2,136 per sqm to build in Riyadh compared with \$1,852 in Dubai, and residential apartments cost \$2,003 in Riyadh compared with \$1,280 per sqm in Dubai.

Expensive markets But, the report said, the most expensive place to build in the region is currently

Doha, with an average cost of US\$2,588 per sqm.

"Qatar has seen sustained cost inflation due to extensive construction activity in recent years to prepare for the FIFA World Cup in 2022. The Doha market is now cooling, following the completion of the competition, with the rate of cost inflation easing from 8.0 percent in 2022 to 3.5 percent in 2023," the report said, falling to 2 percent in 2024.

Six out of topmost expensive places for construction are in the USA, with New York City number one, followed by San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago and Seattle, with Geneva, Zurich, Tokyo and Osaka making up the remainder of the top 10. New York currently has an average construction cost of \$5,451 per sqm.

Dubai and Abu Dhabi are almost on a par, with an average cost of \$1,804 per sqm in Dubai and \$1,796 in the UAE capital.

Costs in Riyadh rose by 10 percent per cent during 2022, establishing an average cost to build of US\$2,379, which Turner & Townsend forecasts will rise by 7.5 percent per cent during 2023 and by 5 percent in 2024.

For Dubai, inflation on construction was at 5 percent in 2022, is expected to remain at that level in 2023, and fall to 3 percent in 2024. For the UAE capital, it was at 4.5 percent in 2022, will fall to 4 percent this year and again to 3 percent in 2024, the data showed.



Zambia, India's Vedanta dispute on copper asset near resolution

LUSAKA

Zambia is close to resolving a dispute with Vedanta Resources over its Konkola Copper Mines, with a deal over the future of the partly state-owned unit "imminent", its mines minister said.

KCM has battled to attract investment since relations between Zambia and Vedanta broke down several years ago, culminating in the state's takeover of the KCM assets and forced liquidation in May 2019. Konkola Copper Mines plc (KCM), one of Africa's largest integrated copper producers, is a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Plc, one of the world's largest diversified natural resources companies.

The copper mining operations of KCM are located in the Zambia Copperbelt. The Zambia Copperbelt ore deposits lie along a 50 kilometre wide strip that extends for 150 kilometres from Chililabombwe in the northwest to Luanshya in the southeast of Zambia.

The move triggering pro-

tracted legal battles, with Vedanta approaching an arbitration court in London to fight off the seizure of the copper assets.

"The negotiations are advanced and an announcement is imminent," Zambia's Mines Minister Paul Kabuswe told Reuters. "We need to tie the loose ends first so that we don't have a recurrence of what happened in the past."

Kabuswe, who has been negotiating alongside finance minister Situmbeko Musokotwane, said the talks would also resolve KCM's outstanding payments to suppliers and contractors, and technical aspects of the operations. He declined to give further details.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema wants to attract fresh investment in Africa's second largest producer copper.

A deal could help unlock funding to advance the Konkola Deep Mining Project, which holds one of the world's richest copper deposits, but requires investment of as much as

much as \$1.1 billion, KCM said last year.

Zambia plans to triple output of the metal key to products from power lines and industrial machinery to electric vehicles over the next decade.

A Vedanta spokesperson said talks between the company, which is owned by Indian billionaire Anil Agarwal, and the government have progressed well, and "both parties want to see KCM in production as soon as possible".

"We are concerned with the levels of deterioration of not only the mines but also socio-fabric of the workers," the spokesperson told Reuters.

Vedanta operates one of the largest custom copper smelters in India, and are also among the largest copper rod producers in the country.

Copper operations comprise among the most efficient custom copper smelters globally, with the lowest operating cost. Currently, it has a capacity to produce 400,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of Copper Smelter.

Turkish construction firms get \$7.5 billion abroad in contracts

ANKARA

Turkish contractors were awarded a total of 110 projects worth \$7.5 billion abroad in the first six months this year, the Trade Ministry has said.

This marked a 63 percent increase compared with the January-June period of 2022.

The average size of the contracts awarded to Turkish contractors in foreign countries was \$68.1 billion, data from the ministry showed.

Between 1972 and June 2023, Turkish contractors have undertaken a total of 11,758 projects in 133 countries, with a total worth of \$480.5 billion.

The \$10 billion mark was surpassed in 2005 for the first time, and in 2012, the value of contracts Turkish companies were awarded reached an all-time high of \$31.7 billion.

"Last year, despite all the problems, such as the unfavorable global economic environment and the war between Ukraine and Russia, Turkish companies were awarded 492 projects worth a total of \$19.1 billion," the ministry said.

It noted that the number of projects awarded abroad increased in the past years because Turkish companies carried out smaller projects in foreign countries. "The average size of the projects assumed fluctuated because of those smaller projects," it explained.

Over the past five decades, Russia has been the largest foreign market for Turkish contractors.

Local construction companies have undertaken \$97.97 billion worth of projects in Russia between 1972 and July 2022, accounting for 20.4 percent of all projects undertaken abroad.

Turkmenistan came second at \$50.9 billion, followed by Iraq at \$33.2 billion. In Libya, Turkish companies have been awarded \$30.3 billion worth of projects since 1972.

Kazakhstan, \$27.9 billion, and Saudi Arabia, \$25.2 billion and Algeria, \$20.5 billion, were other major markets for Turkish contractors.

In Europe and the US, Turkish contractors assumed \$40.7 billion and \$4.2 billion worth of projects, respectively, over the same period.

Last year, Russia topped the list at \$2.34 billion, but Turkish companies were also awarded \$1.5 billion, \$936 million and \$649 million worth of projects in Romania, Poland and Hungary.

Housing projects were the main field of business, accounting for 13.9 percent - or \$66.6 billion - of all projects Turkish companies assumed since 1972.

Highway/tunnel/bridge projects were the second largest source of income at \$65.3, followed by power plants at \$40.96 billion. The share of airport projects was 6.4 percent or \$30.8 billion.

CONSTRUCTION

'EMBRACE TECH TO MAKE CONSTRUCTION SAFER'

By Lesley McLeod

One of the greatest risks in construction safety is a reluctance to move with the times. Where a reluctance to adopt new and innovative working practices means safety gets left behind.

Maybe this is not surprising in an industry where more workers are heading towards the exit door in the run-up to retirement than queuing to come on board at the start of their careers. After all, why bother to learn new skills when you're planning to hang up your hard hat?

I am not decrying time-honoured skills, a boots-on-the-ground safety walk-through or eagle-eyes on site to ensure corners don't get cut or standards slip.

But embracing new tools can be of great benefit. This is amply demonstrated by the shortlist and the winner



of the 2023 Digital Construction Awards Health, Safety and Wellbeing category.

It's far better to work out issues on

screen than learning costly mistakes once a project is underway. Technology

allows people to visualise any project,

from any angle. It can take people into places they cannot reach, troubleshooting tight spaces and awkward sites.

Digital helps 'golden thread'

And it can weave a strong thread through the 'golden thread' without anyone falling off a roof or backing over a co-worker. Solutions can be found without having to fix things on site, which can lead - among many things - to bricks being cut to fit releasing dangerous dust or items stacked in places that put flesh and bone at risk.

But adopting a digital approach means safety skills have to keep up. That demands catching the next generation young and puts a premium on high-calibre technology skills.

And that's wider than construction - although it's also an opportunity.

There's the chance to capture a wider cohort who could move from Minecraft

to real projects. A digital approach could create job openings for people from more diverse backgrounds - people not bound by manual muscles and where the heavy-lifting is done between their ears. People who might not have considered careers in the UK's built environment.

Diversity has been found to help businesses avoid the lemming-like group-think that encourages risk-taking. And it could improve construction safety by attracting the brightest talent around. But, to embrace this digital opportunity, we must tackle the analogue and outmoded behaviours still putting new entrants off.

This year's Digital Construction Awards winners show how embracing digital tech can unleash innovation, attract top talent, and boost safety.

Lesley McLeod (pictured) is CEO of the association for project safety.

UK construction output falls for first time in 5 months

LONDON

UK construction companies signalled a renewed decline in business activity during June as a steep and accelerated downturn in house building weighed on overall workloads.

Latest data also highlighted a reduction in new orders for the first time since January.

On a more positive note, softer demand and fewer supply bottlenecks resulted in the sharpest improvement in delivery times for construction inputs since July 2009. This also contributed to an outright decline in purchasing prices for the first time in thirteen-and-a-half years.

Tim Moore, economics director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, which compiles the survey said: "Weaker housing market conditions in the wake of higher borrowing costs acted as a major constraint on UK construction output in June. Total industry activity declined for the first time in five months due to the steepest downturn in residential work since May 2020."

At 48.9 in June, down from 51.6 in May, the headline seasonally adjusted S&P Global / CIPS UK Construction Purchasing Managers' - registered below the neutral 50.0 threshold for the first time in five months.

The reduction in output levels was marginal overall, but this masked divergent trend across the three major categories of construction activity monitored by the survey.

Residential work (index at 39.6) decreased at the steepest pace since May 2020.

Aside from the lockdown-related fall in house building, the rate of contraction was the fastest since April 2009.

Survey respondents widely commented on weaker demand due to rising borrowing costs and a subdued outlook for the housing market. Civil engineering was the best-performing segment, with business activity rising at the second-fastest pace since June 2022.

Construction companies mostly noted increasing work on infrastructure projects.

Commercial building also expanded at a solid pace in June (index at 53.0), although the rate of growth slipped to a three-month low.

Rising demand for refurbishment projects was cited in June, but some firms reported more cautious decision-making by clients.

New order volumes decreased for the first time since

January, although the pace of decline was only marginal overall.

Subdued demand was mostly linked to the impact of rising interest rates on house building projects, alongside concerns among clients about the general economic outlook.

Construction companies sought to reduce their inventories and cut back on purchases of products and materials in June.

Mirroring the trend for new orders, the reduction in input buying was the first for five months.

Suppliers' delivery times shortened for the fourth month running. The latest improvement in vendor performance was the strongest for around 14 years. Survey respondents widely commented on improved availability of inputs due to rising stocks among vendors and softer underlying demand.

June data signalled a marginal decline in overall input prices across the construction sector.

This was the first outright reduction in average cost burdens since January 2010.

Construction companies cited lower fuel, steel and timber prices, alongside more competitive market conditions in response to falling demand. Meanwhile, sub-contractor charges increased at the slowest pace for 31 months.

Construction firms signalled a downturn in business confidence for the third month running in June. Weaker optimism about future workloads mostly reflected concerns related to rising interest rates and subdued housing market conditions.

"The construction sector became rooted in contraction territory in June as interest rate rises and squeezed affordability rates impacted on residential building output which fell to its greatest extent since 2009 outside the pandemic years," said Dr John Glen, Chief Economist at the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS).

"Fewer houses being built meant the sector was dragged down overall because civil engineering and commercial building projects remained relatively buoyant with stronger pipelines of work. Delivery times for building materials were also the most improved since 2009. Input price inflation fell below the no-change mark, meaning raw materials became less expensive and were more widely available for construction companies."



Consumer Choice Awards Africa founder Diana Laizer (2nd R) exchanges greetings with Lake Oil managing director Abdulrahman Mohamed shortly after being declared as lead sponsor of the awards for 2023. Others are Furaha Mohamed from Horizon Digital (2nd L), Azmina Mohamed of Samaki Samaki Restaurant (L) and Lake Oil human resources director Juma Nuru. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Board targets universities, colleges to boost local coffee consumption

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) is targeting universities and colleges in a move to boost coffee consumption in the country to at least 15 percent of the population by 2025/26 from the current seven percent.

Speaking at the 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) organized by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE), TCB Director General Primus Kimaryo said that the board is targeting three different areas in a move to win the local market and widen the scope of coffee consumption including higher learning institutions.

The other targeted strategic areas in this initiative are hotels, coffee shops and restaurants. The board is negotiating with different hotel managers in big cities of the country for the opening of coffee

cafes.

"We have already contacted a number of universities such as Mzumbe University, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and a few others are in the process of confirming this business relationship with TCB," said Kimaryo.

The initiative comes when during the year ending June 2023 the board has registered a massive production of 82,000 tonnes of coffee from around 50,000 tonnes registered the corresponding period that ended in June 2022.

He further said that the government's decision to waive levies and taxes in the coffee value chain targets at boosting local coffee consumption and creation of jobs for entrepreneurs involved in the business.

He said Tanzania exports 93 percent of raw and processed coffee mostly to Japan and the European Union. There are other emerging

countries such as Israel, Russia, South Africa and Morocco. The coffee consumption locally stands between five and seven percent.

The crop board hopes that by introducing coffee shops in universities and colleges consumption shall be boosted to at least 15 percent come the year 2025/26.

"We are targeting at boosting consumption. In Finland for example a person consumes 12 kilograms of coffee a year but in Tanzania one person consumes less than a kilogram. We are working towards changing the attitude towards coffee consumption," he asserted.

According to him, such success has been realized after the Ministry of Agriculture's decision to extend subsidies in production and distribution of coffee seedlings and other farm inputs to farmers across the country.

The board targets at recording

a coffee production capacity of 300,000 tonnes come the year 2025/26.

At the trade fair, TCB has invited its affiliates in the coffee value chain including processors, coffee shop owners, packaging companies and researchers.

The country continues to produce the major types of coffee namely Robusta and Arabica for both local markets and exports.

"Coffee has a lot to do with human health and the economy. For instance, we have invited various stakeholders and some of them are involved in extending coffee scrub and decorations," he said.

The focus of the board's strategy is dominating the local market with varieties of coffee products.

This year's DITF goes by the theme 'Tanzania: Your Best Destination for Business and Investment'.

Spain extends €300 mortgage relief to families

MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez (pictured) has pledged to extend the government's mortgage relief scheme to include households with annual incomes of up to €37,800, promising to make it a priority if he is re-elected.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has pledged to extend access to Spain's mortgage relief scheme to include households with annual incomes of up to €37,800 gross, and promised that it would be a priority of the gov-

ernment if it is re-elected in the July 23rd general election.

"It will be one of the first measures we take," Sánchez said on July 5th at an event with the vice president of Economic Affairs, Nadia Calviño.

"It is important that the government contributes to that relief for families, which is impacting as a result of monetary policy that is in the hands of the European Central Bank, not in the hands of the government in any European country," he added.

The extension is part of a raft of government measures to try

and ease the burden on Spaniards struggling with mortgage payments. In late June, Calviño announced after meeting with Banco de España bosses as well as Spanish consumer associations of her intention to speed up a three-year extension of mortgage terms.

Spain's mortgage relief measures were first introduced in November 2022 with the aim of helping one million families, but the provisional data from January to May shows only 33,000 applications so far.

At the event, Calviño also outlined further measures such as

freezing mortgage payments during the first year for some families. The measures, in addition to increasing the income threshold, are aimed at helping households with average or below average incomes and particularly vulnerable to interest rate rises amid the ongoing cost of living crisis.

The relief scheme, the threshold of which is currently set at €29,400, will be extended to those households with annual incomes of €37,800 that can demonstrate that over 30 percent of their monthly income goes on mortgage payments.

WORLD

Record high temperatures scorch globe

HOUSTON

THE Earth soared to the unofficial hottest temperature in human record-keeping on July 3, became even hotter the next day, and Wednesday could be the third straight day that the planet notches a record high, scientists said.

On Tuesday, the globe's average temperature reached 17.18 C (62.9 F), breaking a record that lasted only 24 hours, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer, a common tool based on satellite data and computer simulations and used by climate scientists for a glimpse of the world's condition.

The previous record of 16.92 C was set in August 2016. The University of Maine climate calculator forecast a similar temperature for Wednesday.

And June 2023 may have been the hottest June going back to the late 1800s, according to preliminary global data

from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The global greenhouse effect coupled with the weather phenomenon of El Niño – a warming effect, in contrast with the cool weather effect of La Niña, which lasted three years before this year – are believed to be the primary reasons for record high temperatures, and it's possible more record high temperatures will be seen before the summer is over.

Across the world, the high temperatures are killing people, exacerbating heart and lung disease, worsening air pollution and making it impossible to work or exercise outdoors.

According to the Met Office, the national meteorological service for the UK, June has been confirmed as the hottest on record for the country, with an average mean of 15.8 C recorded, the highest since 1884 when the temperatures were first tracked. It represents a 0.9 C jump



Dead fish lie on the banks of a drying marsh in Chibayish in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar province on Tuesday, home to famed marshes in the floodplain of the Tigris river, already suffering from the effects of global warming. AFP

over the previous record set in 1976.

In Mexico, at least 112 people have died because of "natural extreme temperatures" from March through June, according to the country's health secretariat. At least another 1,559 people received medical treatment for temperature-related conditions. In some locations, temperatures have topped 45 C (113 F).

Next to Mexico in Texas, a heat wave – with the temperature hovering around 100 F in late June – has resulted in the death of a postal worker, a hiker and several prison inmates.

In China, the highest number of hot days over six months was recorded since record-keeping started in 1961, as numerous parts of the country encountered record-breaking temperatures, according to the country's National Climate Center.

As of June 30, China saw 4.1 national average high temperature days (with the high temperature exceeding 35 C (95 F), almost double its normal average of 2.2 days. Northern China has been particularly hard hit. Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei province, has seen 17 high temperature

days, followed by Beijing's 13 days.

China's heat wave came about 16 days earlier than a typical year, and the country has already experienced four regional heat waves, the National Climate Center said.

In June, more than 300 weather stations in China registered extremely high temperatures, with more than 100 stations recording above 40 C (104 F). The center predicts that heat waves will continue across various regions of the country.

In India, at least 44 people have died from heat-related illness across the state of Uttar Pradesh in recent weeks. Temperatures in some areas soared to 47 C (116 F) in late June in that part of India. The number of heat-related deaths could be much higher, as authorities struggle to get a more accurate count.

A study published in April by the University of Cambridge said heatwaves in India are putting "unprecedented burdens" on India's agriculture, economy and public health systems, challenging the country's ability to reach its development goals. "Long-term projections indicate

Zelensky says he wanted Ukraine's counteroffensive to start 'much earlier'

NEW YORK

UKRAINIAN President Vladimir Zelensky has said that he told US and European leaders that Ukraine wanted to launch its counteroffensive earlier but it needed more weapons for that.

According to the Ukrainian leader, the counteroffensive is slowed down because of difficulties on the battlefield.

"I wanted our counteroffensive to happen much earlier, because everyone understood that if the counteroffensive unfolds later, then a bigger part of our territory will be mined. We give our enemy the time and possibility to place more mines and prepare their defensive lines," he said in an interview with CNN.

"I'm grateful to the US as the leaders of our support, but I told them as well as the European leaders that we would like to start our counteroffensive earlier, and we need all the weapons and materiel for that. Why? Simply because if we start later, it will go slower," he noted. "The later we start, the more difficult it will be for us."

According to Zelensky, the counteroffensive can be accelerated should Ukraine have more long-range artillery and missiles. "In some directions it will give us an opportunity to start the counteroffensive," he said.

"In some directions we cannot even think of starting it, as we don't have the relevant weapons. And throwing our people to be killed by Russian long-range weapons would be simply inhumane."

The Ukrainian army has been making futile attempts to stage an offensive since the beginning of the month. Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolay Patrushev said on June 22 that since the beginning of the counteroffensive, Ukraine's losses had exceeded 13,000 troops. According to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian forces are not seeing success in any area. **Agencies**



There should be no double standards on terrorism - PM Modi at SCO summit

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, in an apparent attack on Pakistan and China, called on member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to not hesitate to condemn countries that use cross-border terrorism as 'policy instruments' and shelter terrorists.

"Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of their policies and give shelter to terrorists," Prime Minister Modi said adding that the SCO should not hesitate to criticise such countries and "there should be no double standards on terrorism." Addressing the 23rd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation through video conference the prime minister said that "Terrorism is a threat to regional and global peace, we will have to fight against terrorism." Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, China's President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin among others participated in the summit.

"Terrorism has become the prime danger for both regional as well as global peace, and decisive action is necessary to deal with it. Terrorism in whichever form or expression, we have to collectively fight against it. Some countries use cross-border terrorism as instrument of their policies and harbour terrorists. SCO should not refrain from criticising such nations," PM Modi said.

He added, "There should not be any place for double-standards on such a serious issue. We should also increase cooperation to deal against terror financing. We should take further steps to stop the radicalisation of youth in our countries. The joint statement being issued on the issue of radicalisation is the proof of our shared commitment".

Last month, China had blocked a proposal by India and the United States at the United Nations to designate Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Sajid Mir, wanted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, as a global terrorist.

This move of China was sternly criticised by India, as even after 15 years since the Mumbai terrorist attacks, the masterminds behind the atrocity have yet to be brought to justice.

Meanwhile, in his virtual address to the SCO heads of the summit meeting, PM Modi also laid focus on the situation in Afghanistan and said that Afghan soil should not be allowed to be used to destabilise its neighbourhood. The Prime Minister said that humanitarian assistance and setting of an elected government in Kabul are major priorities of the SCO. **ANI**

Sri Lanka cuts rates as expected, more cuts seen by year-end

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA cut its key interest rates for the second consecutive month on Thursday as inflation tapered after last year's devastating economic crisis and the focus returned to reviving economic growth following a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) cut its standing deposit facility rate (SDFR) and standing lending facility rate (SLFR) to 11 percent and 12 percent, respectively, from 13 percent and 14 percent previously, in line with expectations. The 200 basis point cut follows a 250 bps cut at its last policy meeting in June.

The island nation plunged into crisis last year as its foreign exchange reserves ran out and food and energy prices spiraled. Last July, protesting mobs

forced the ouster of then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The central bank raised rates by a record 950 bps last year to tame inflation and by 100 bps on March 3.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe took the reins in July and negotiated a \$2.9 billion bailout from the IMF in March.

"The banking and financial sector is urged to pass on the benefit of this significant easing of monetary policy to individuals and businesses, thereby supporting economic activity to rebound in the period ahead," CBSL said in a statement.

Sri Lanka's key inflation index peaked at 70 percent year-on-year in September and has come down gradually. It was at 12 percent in June.

Dimantha Mathew, head of research at First Capital, said the CBSL will try and imple-



A vendor arranges vegetables at a market in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Monday. AFP

ment a domestic debt restructuring plan as soon as possible.

"Now that they are bringing down rates fast, they will issue very long-term bonds and reduce borrowing costs for the government. Borrowing costs

will come down between 11 percent and 13 percent as rates will start trending downwards," he added.

Economic activity remained subdued in the second quarter of 2023 but would gradu-

ally recover towards late 2023 aided by policy normalization, improvement in supply conditions, relaxation in import restrictions and better forex liquidity among other factors, the CBSL said.

"This recovery is expected to sustain, thereby gradually closing the large negative output gap that exists in the economy and reaching the potential level of economic growth over the medium term."

Analysts expect more rate cuts in coming months to aid economic recovery and reduce borrowing costs for corporates and the government.

"It is clear that confidence about the inflation path and foreign inflows is helping CBSL to support the economy via lower rates," said Thilina Panduwawala, head of research at Frontier Research.

Agencies

COP28 to focus on delivering real results for Global South

DUBAI

COP28 President-Delegate, Sultan Al Jaber, today delivered a virtual address at the meeting of G77 + China Ministers and High Authorities of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, held in Havana, on Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development, where he reiterated the need to reform climate finance and international financial institutions (IFIs).

"With 80% of the global popula-

tion, the G77 provides an essential forum for the Global South to deliver a united voice on the critical issue of climate change. That voice is all the more important now in light of the impacts - which are being felt the most in the Global South," Al Jaber said. COP28 will deliver a plan of action that is both ambitious and practical, "focused on results that address the needs of the Global South," the President-Designate stated, adding that COP28 will, "fast track a just energy transition that triples renewables, doubles hydrogen

production, and increases energy efficiency while phasing down the use of fossil fuels," he continued. "We must safeguard energy affordability, accessibility and security while maintaining socio-economic development."

COP28 will produce a "plan of action that reignites momentum on each of the pillars of climate action, from mitigation to adaptation, finance and loss and damage," the President-Designate stated, adding that on adaptation, "We need to double finance to USD 40 billion and allow for a truly global early

warning system - built on the best technologies." He reminded the gathering, "The single largest obstacle to success is finance - and the COP28 Presidency is committed to addressing this issue in a real way."

"There are encouraging signs that the long overdue \$100-billion-dollar pledge will be fulfilled," he stated, yet cautioning, "IFIs and MDBs are not distributing concessional finance anywhere near quickly enough. Climate finance needs to be more available, more accessible, and more affordable." **ANI**

Huawei at MWC Shanghai 2023: Boosting 5G evolution towards 5.5G to revitalise the digital economy

SHANGHAI

Huawei has shown up in full force for MWC Shanghai 2023, with their activities all falling under their theme of "GUIDE to the Intelligent World".

This year, the company's activities include an experiential tour that takes audiences to multiple cities to learn about their technology and business, as well as the launch of its newest innovative products and solutions for 5G Green, 5G intelligent core networks, Intelligent OptiX Networks, private line + X products, and other intelligent digital transformation solutions.

At these activities, Huawei will

also host numerous roundtables and dialogues with global operators, industry partners, and opinion leaders, to explore a variety of topics which include speeding up 5G prosperity, advancing intelligent digital transformation, and striding towards the 5.5G era to realize business, industry, and social value. The company says its goal is to create new value for customers and revitalize the digital economy through sustained innovation.

Sabrina Meng, Huawei's Rotating Chairwoman and CFO, gave a keynote titled "Embracing 5G transformation". She said, "The digital infrastructure of the future intelligent world will be deeply integrated into

every aspect of our lives, industry, and society. It won't be based on advancements in individual technologies, but rather on incredibly massive, complex systems - the convergence of multiple elements. It's going to require systems-level thinking and design.

When watching a chess game, you can see the big picture. But when you're playing chess, you focus on the details. Likewise, systematic capabilities to integrate technology and transform management are critical for the future success of 5G.

First, let's talk about integrating different technologies. We can achieve greater synergy across cloud, networks, edge, and devices

through systematic design and innovation across domains.

When coupled with optimization across software, hardware, chips, and algorithms, we can address the challenges associated with developing complex solutions for vastly different industrial scenarios. Next, management transformation.

Digital and intelligent transformation is not just about technology itself. It's more about transforming your approach to management. Going digital requires redefining the relationships between people, events, things, and theory, and adopting a more open, forward-looking management approach to address future challenges."

There are currently over 1.2 billion 5G users worldwide, and operators who moved quickly to develop 5G are already enjoying the first wave of benefits. This is thanks to the increasing network requirements being set by new applications in various markets. In the consumer market, new services like New Calling, cloud phones, and glasses-free 3D require faster data rates and lower latency, while in the industrial market, the RedCap ecosystem has matured, the passive IoT market is expanding, and the Internet of Vehicles (IoV) requires higher uplink speeds.

These all-scenario applications are expected to result in 100 billion

connections. These new service models are also expected to drive industry upgrade that will create a second wave of benefits.

Commercial 5G services hit the market four years ago, and has since been introduced to more than 17,000 private-network projects around the world. Both revenue from 5G private networks and the number of industrial connections have tripled.

In addition, many operators have leveraged the CNY10 billion in revenue earned from 5GtoB private networks to drive a CNY100 billion increase in DICT revenue from cloud, data storage, and platform services.

Agencies

Zelensky set to blow up Zaporozhye NPP ahead of NATO summit, says senior Russian lawmaker

MOSCOW

UKRAINIAN President Vladimir Zelensky is planning to blow up the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) in the run-up to NATO's July summit and then pin the terrorist attack on Russia, thereby dragging the alliance into the conflict, Leonid Slutsky (pictured), leader of the LDPR party and chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, said on Wednesday.

"Everything indicates that Zelensky intends to lay 'his last card' on the table ahead of the NATO summit and blow up the Zaporozhye NPP. The objective is monstrous - to use a nuclear terrorist attack in order to place the blame on Russia and force the collective West to get directly involved in the Ukraine conflict," Slutsky wrote on his Telegram channel.

The lawmaker pointed out that tensions concerning the ZNPP "are building, including in European capitals."

"According to Rosenergoatom, a number of European leaders were in intense contact with Zelensky last night. The reason is crystal clear - to persuade the Ukrainian Führer who has lost his mind after 'the counteroffensive' stalled, to abandon his plans. The general implications for all of Europe are also clear," the senior lawmaker believes.

Additionally, Slutsky said that "giving up their military support for the Kiev junta," which seeks to trigger a nuclear disaster, "would be much more effective than any words."

"Brussels and Washington have every chance of finding themselves among the sponsors of nuclear terrorists and they will be responsible for the repercussions from the ZNPP explosion," the lawmaker concluded.

The NATO summit will be held in Vilnius on July 11-12.

Situation around Zaporozhye NPP

On June 22, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky claimed prior to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Russia that Moscow was allegedly plotting a terrorist attack at the Zaporozhye NPP. He informed the United States, Brazil, India and China, as well as European, Middle Eastern and African countries about this alleged plot but provided no evidence to back up his allegations.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Igor Klimentenko said that Ukraine would hold drills and set up crisis centers "in case of a possible radiation leak from the ZNPP." In particular, the drills were organized in the Dnepropetrovsk and Nikolayev Regions, as well as in the Kiev-controlled areas of the Zaporozhye and Kherson Regions.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov refuted Zelensky's allegation as yet another lie. Commenting on Zelensky's remarks that Russia was allegedly plotting a terrorist attack at the Zaporozhye NPP, Renat Karchaa, advisor to the CEO of Russia's Rosenergoatom nuclear power plant operator, said that the Ukrainian leader's statement could serve as proof of Kiev's preparations for an attack on the ZNPP, which would ultimately be aimed at dragging NATO into the Ukraine conflict.

On June 23, Russian Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said at a UN Security Council meeting that Moscow was highly concerned about Kiev's increasingly shrill allegations that Russia is booby-trapping the ZNPP. According to him, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission that recently visited the facility could see for themselves the utter absurdity of such allegations.

The Zaporozhye NPP, located in Enerгодar, is the largest nuclear facility in Europe. The total capacity of its six reactors is about 6,000 megawatts. In late February 2022, the facility was taken under control by Russian forces.

Since then, the Ukrainian military has been periodically bombarding both the residential neighborhoods of Enerгодar and the area of the ZNPP, using drones, heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS). *Agencies*

Successful exploration continues to extend Tongon's life of mine

TONGON, Côte d'Ivoire

ORIGINALLY scheduled for closure in 2020, the life of Barrick's Tongon gold mine continues to be extended through successful exploration campaigns.

Speaking at a media briefing here yesterday general manager Hilaire Diarra said that since Tongon poured its first gold in 2010, the mine has contributed \$2.2 billion to the Ivorian economy in the form of taxes, infrastructure development, salaries and payments to local suppliers.

"Extending its life will help ensure that Tongon is still able to share the value it creates with all its Ivorian stakeholders continuing its investment in community infrastructure development and income-generating projects.

Exploration has further delivered the Seydou North, Tongon West and Djinni satellite targets adding to the life of mine. Barrick has now also been awarded a new exploration permit for Boundiali and drilling is ongoing at the Fonondara conversion project," he said.

"In spite of the fact that throughout its life Tongon has had to contend with serious operational issues, as well as a challenging socio-political environment, since pouring first gold it has never had an unprofitable quarter, which is a tribute to the dedication of the mine's successive management teams. At the halfway mark of this year, it is on track to once again achieve its annual production guidance." *Agencies*

More than 60,000 people crosses into Ethiopia from conflict-hit Sudan - IOM

ADDIS ABABA

THE International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Wednesday that some 60,046 people have fled the conflict in Sudan into neighboring Ethiopia.

The UN migration agency, in its latest situation update issued Friday, said as of Tuesday, more than 60,000 people have arrived in Ethiopia through multiple border crossing points in Amhara, Benishangul Gumz and Gambella Regions.

It said the armed conflict in Sudan has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to neighboring countries.

Figures from IOM show that from the total of 60,046 people who have crossed into Ethiopia, 30,606 are Ethiopian nationals, 15,541 Sudanese while the remaining 13,899 are third coun-



CAIRO

IN Sudan's capital, precious books in a major library have been burned and the national museum has been cut off for weeks by fighting. In Darfur, another museum is at risk from seasonal rains after projectiles punctured the roof.

The conflict that has been raging between rival military factions in Sudan since mid-April has taken a toll on the country's rich cultural heritage, which includes the ancient Kingdom of Kush that controlled trade between southern Africa and Egypt at the time of the pharaohs.

Experts are scrambling to save what they can.

According to a report published last week by Heritage For Peace, a cultural heritage NGO in touch with local researchers and archaeologists, at least 28 cultural and archaeological sites around the country have been targeted or suffered collateral damage.

Some sites including several universities are being used for military purposes, according to Mahassin Yousif, an archaeologist at Bahri University.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which is locked in a power struggle with the army, released a video in early June showing their forces inside Sudan's National Museum, which is in the center of the capital Khartoum and houses some of the world's oldest and most important mummies. Staff have been unable to get there to check for damage.

"There is a real problem in accessing complete information about the reality of what is happening, simply because most of these sites are within the scope of the fighting areas," said Yousif.

Sudan has two UNESCO world heritage sites: Meroe Island, home to one of the largest ancient pyramid complexes in Africa, and Jebel Barkal, a sacred sandstone mountain close to tombs, temples and palaces that dot the course of the Nile River.

Both are in areas that are relatively calm. "At the same time, the location has intensified chances of looting and theft," said Ismail Hamid Nour, a Sudanese researcher at Britain's University of Birmingham who is documenting sites at risk.

Small zippers come with big time technologies

AS China's Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship was recently launched, SBS, Fujian Xunxing Zipper Science & Technology Co., Ltd. (SBS), a zipper manufacturer in Jinjiang, southeast China's Fujian province has sent its zipper products to the space for a sixth time.

Zippers for spacesuits are by no means the ones used on average clothes. Space missions need super reliable, stable and safe products. Therefore, spacesuit zippers must be able to bear a tensile force of 2,000 newtons, while the average zippers can hold only 760 newtons. Besides, spacesuit zippers should never get stuck.

To manufacture reliable zippers for spacesuits, SBS sought support from universities and research institutions for product verification and digital simulation. It developed specialized equipment for the making of spacesuit zippers and optimized relevant parts. Under these efforts, it completed millions of tests and improvements in materials and techniques and finally developed products that meet the standard of space missions.

The progress mirrors the entrepreneurial spirit of SBS, which encourages the company to promote enterprise-university-research institution integration and pursue innovation.

Zippers are small. However, to manufacture them need over 100 procedures and involve more than 10 first-level disciplines and 40 second-level disciplines. Problems occurring in any procedure would impact the quality of products.

It was because of the disciplines and technologies involved, enterprise-university-research institution collaboration became the priority of SBS when it worked for technological breakthroughs.

The hard raw materials of



This picture taken on Oct 29, 2022 shows a view of one of the ram-headed sphinxes of the ancient Egyptian 18th dynasty Pharaoh Amenhotep III (1390-1353 BC), brought by the Kushite King Piye (Piankhi or Piankhy - 25th dynasty, reigned 744-714 BC) at the Temple of Amun at the ancient site of Jebel Barkal in Sudan's Northern State in Sudanese Nubia. AFP

Unrest across the western region of Darfur has left at least four museums damaged, according to Heritage for Peace.

The roof of the museum in Nyala, Sudan's second largest city and capital of South Darfur State, "has incurred minor damage from projectiles, leaving the interior vulnerable to rainfall as Sudan's rainy season approaches", the group reported.

The museum contains pottery, jewellery and tools that show the diversity of civilizations that once flourished in Darfur, where ethnically-motivated violence has surged again since April. It is considered one of Nyala's main civic spaces.

Books burned

At Ahliya University in Omdurman, one of the three cities comprising Sudan's wider capital, at least 50 rare and valuable books or collections were destroyed by fire, according to Sudan's National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums (NCAM).

Pictures posted on social media show stacks of charred remains of books and manuscripts.

In contrast to military spending cultural preservation has long been underfunded in Sudan, Africa's third largest by area, and local and international organizations are having to improvise.

NCAM has raised funds to pay 100 guards and inspectors to return to their posts where safe to do so, and has set up money transfers for emergency response training, measures to block illegal excavations, and teaching Darfur schoolchildren about cultural heritage.

That is part of a push to educate people about the importance of culture, without drawing attention to sites that might be targeted by armed groups trying to promote their own ver-

sion of Sudan's history, said Ibrahim Musa, NCAM's general-director.

NCAM and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) are trying to plan steps for preserving culture during the war, including the possible evacuation of artefacts.

"While there is a lot of awareness about cultural heritage and the need to protect it in times of crisis, one of our biggest challenges is that culture is still not mainstreamed into the language of humanitarian aid," said ICCROM's Aparna Tandon.

After Islamist rebels burned some ancient manuscripts in Timbuktu, Mali, UK-based digital humanities expert Marilyn Deegan and local researchers began a project to create a digital archive of Sudan's cultural history.

By the time the war began, they had digitized up to 150,000 images of material dating from 4,000 BC to the 2019 uprising during which former leader Omar al-Bashir was overthrown.

But millions of items remain undigitized and at risk of being lost forever, she said. "There are radio tapes going back to the 1940s at Sudan TV. There are still lots of documentary films in the film archive. Manuscripts, books, photos, objects."



Photo shows an SBS zipper entering the space with China's Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship. (Photo from ijnews.com)

metal zippers would harm manufacturing equipment, so the universities in cooperation with SBS optimized the formulation of metals, which not only lowered production cost, but also lifted the quality of zippers.

Metals are prone to corrosion in certain temperatures and pH range, which shortens the service life of zippers. To cope with this problem, research institutions assisted SBS to conduct tests of surface corrosion and helped it develop anti-corrosion technologies, so as to make its zippers

more adaptive.

Enterprises, as experienced market players, know well the demands of their clients. They play an important role in accelerating the commercialization of sci-tech outcomes.

On one hand, enterprises' own R&D teams can share supply-side information with universities and research institutions, so that the latter are able to find the correct direction of their research. On the other hand, enterprises, by fully exploiting market mechanisms, can significantly lower

the risks of universities and research institutions in the application of sci-tech outcomes.

Universities and research institutions are the source of innovative development, while enterprises build platforms for the translation, verification and feedback of technologies. Only when the two sides work together, can the resources for innovation be allocated more efficiently.

Today, tech-ish and innovative products are emerging in the zipper industry. Some zippers are reflective in the dark, and some are equipped with the near-field communication technology, which combine such functions as online interaction, mobile payment and electronic ticket services.

As the textile and garment industry face increasingly diverse and individualized demands, many Chinese zipper manufacturers are building a stronger sci-tech foundation to cope with the fierce market competition.

Practice proves that boosting the principal role of enterprises in innovation, enhancing the enterprise-led collaboration among enterprises, universities and research institutions, and improving technological transformation and commercialization will lead traditional industries toward a wider path of innovation.

People's Daily



Junior basketballers participate in training at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's court in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba SC to play three friendlies in Turkey

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC is set to play three friendly matches when the club will pitch camp in Turkey this month for pre-season training.

The squad will be in the European nation for three weeks, with both new and old players for the side set to take part in the preparations.

Simba SC has this week begun to announce new signings for the new season with players like Che Malone Fondoh from Cameroon's Coton Sports, Willy Onana from APR of Rwanda and Fabrice Ngoma who terminated his contract with Al Hilal of Sudan expected to be introduced.

The outfit opted out of extending contracts for nine players whilst Kenyan center-back Joash Onyango who survived the purge at the end of last season is expected to be part of the team.

Roberto Oliveira-coached Simba SC players reported back on Monday and underwent various medical tests with more expected to undergo the same tests on Tuesday to kick off the pre-season training.

While in Turkey, Simba SC plans to play friendly matches against three unnamed Turkish clubs.

Azam FC, the third-place finisher in the NBC Premier League last season, will be heading to Tunisia for

training camp.

The ice cream makers, who have been very busy on the transfer market, were set to report to training on Tuesday this week to kick-start preparations for the upcoming season.

Azam FC spokesperson Hasheem Ibwe revealed that they are targeting to play high-profile friendlies while there.

Ibwe disclosed: "We are going to a country where there is a similarity in weather and perhaps a little of the landscape of the area where we come from, it is also an environment that we are used to in the African competitions."

"In Tunisia, there are teams like Esperance with whom we have good relations, we are going to have a friendly match with them, and they are also preparing for next season," he pointed out.

Ibwe noted: "It is easy to evaluate ourselves once we have played a friendly match against Esperance, we (might) make mistakes here and there and if we go to the CAF Confederation Cup we should take this approach."

"We believe that while we are in Tunisia, we will find many teams (whose quality matches) opponents that we will meet in the CAF Confederation Cup," Ibwe said.

Laugh or cry? Leopold Mukebezi and the condition of local coaches

By Correspondent John Kimbutu

DEBATE about whether local players and coaches are being given a fair deal is nowhere near ending on the local scene, and it is also unclear if it is either taking a new look or it is the same old debate.

For once, there appear to be some genuine reasons for its coming up at this point or another, as there are two sources of such a debate or intense expression of sentiments on an issue.

One is a general point of departure that something has happened that ignites the issue, and another is that a particular individual with a past or present role to play was being interviewed.

The first sort of reason is a proper occasion in the sense that it is a widely felt environment or talking situation where the matter is troubling some people.

In the second situation, it is an occasional event that since the fellow being interviewed was say either Leopold Mukebezi 'Tasso' or any other, such sentiments are aired as the fellow would be of that school of thought.

While pundits will say that the matter was discussed earlier and resolved, the truth is that sentiments are never resolved, and they are sentiments that bring about debate, when they resurface on any occasion.

Not everyone listened to the full interview with former Taifa Stars fullback Leopold 'Tasso,' who in his later days became manager of some teams, including Taifa Stars.

Just to see how out of point some of his viewers or listeners will think of his remarks, an online entry dated March 25, 2010, from Dar es Salaam said the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has vowed to stick with the incumbent manager for the senior national team, Taifa Stars, Tasso, where the implication is clear for all to see.

The pressure was that he



Former Taifa Stars Manager, Leopold Mukebezi 'Tasso'.

ought to go, but the federation said 'not yet'.

Eventually, the TFF leadership has to give in and move for a replacement, and has since then made efforts, time and again, to bring in this or that local coach, without success in terms of making a difference on the pitch.

In the past, before his death back in 2010, former 'super coach' Syllersaid Mziray said in an interview that the only Mainland Tanzania team's coaches who had won the East African Challenge Cup (which was regular until much later) were himself and Jan Poulsen, a Danish coach.

At one time, Kenyan coach James Siang'a led the Mainland Tanzania side to the final of the East African Challenge Cup, then he was unseated in favour of a local coach, and the side lost.

There is something talismanic in the remarks by Tasso, as there is a spiritual flavour in the name that is tied up with his remarks as if the basis of the sentiments is not the factual situation but a personal outlook, his mentality.

For once, there was something kingly in his demeanor, believing he had a special role (though he talked in a plural manner such that it refers to local coaches as a whole), in affirming that 'A prophet hath no honour in his country'.

Having once been the head coach for the national side, he has sufficient legroom to feel like Leopold, as namesake Belgian King Leopold II ran the 'Congo Free State' as a private fiefdom.

His middle name that looks like an alias is Swahili pronunciation for 'tussle', and as a career fullback he did plenty of

that, as his surname suggests, 'mkabaji'. But in his late period professionally, his surname came up.

His remarks speak of a state of mind where he is either a victim of jabs or he is the one throwing them, as at the psychological level he feels he is a victim while realistically he is the one throwing the jabs, that others are unappreciative of his work.

To make it rational, he raises the matter, or the point, as a class issue - local coaches are despised, which is 'mu-kebehi', not quite far from feelings attributable to his 'name spirit', his habit.

In other words, even if there is generally a feeling that local coaches are not fairly treated, there was a good chance that this feeling would be sharp and categorical when Tasso took it up.

He personifies that spirit not because he is the most neglected coach but because his psychic formation rhymes perfectly with that theme, so he converts what is otherwise a rather special case of non-recognition of potential or ability into a class of such people. It is strictly a faulty application.

In that sense, the condition of local coaches is in large measure the same as that of local players in the city rivals' registration activities.

Young Africans SC has identified Nickson Kibabage more or less as a special player the outfit wants to register out of the whole 'class' of local Premier League players in various clubs last season.

In like manner, the ranks of Simba SC wished to retain the services of former Coastal Union head coach Juma Mgunda, as he won at least one round of the CAF Champions League to take the side to the Group Stage.

He looked like he was the man of the situation, yet the leadership and analysts could see intricate - or intimate - failings in his handling of league matches and sought someone sharper, skilled.

JKT Queens to face AS Kigali WFC in CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA qualifiers opener

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MAINLAND Tanzania Women's Premier League champions, JKT Queens, will begin their campaign to seek progression to the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League with a clash against Rwandan outfit AS Kigali Women's FC in the showdown's qualifiers set to begin on August 13.

The draw for the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League Zonal Qualifiers was held in Rabat, Morocco on Wednesday.

The 2023 CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zone qualifiers will bring together champions of women's premier leagues in East African countries.

JKT Queens, which will feature in Group B, will then play New Generation FC from Zanzibar in the second tie before wrapping up their matches in the round-robin phase with a clash against Vihinga Queens from Kenya.

Group A will have five teams - Kampala Queens FC (Uganda), Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) Women's FC (Ethiopia), FC FAD (Djibouti), Buja Queens (Burundi) and Yei Joint Stars (South Sudan).

Uganda is set to host the zonal qualifiers from August 12-29 with the winner punching the sole ticket to represent the region at the continental showpiece.

Kenya missed the chance to send a representative last year as the country was serving a FIFA suspension at the time.

JKT Queens will be hoping to debut

the tournament with a bang, coming in as Mainland Tanzania's only representative following their triumph in the just-concluded Women's Premier League.

Last year's Women's Premier League champions, Simba Queens, this time, failed to make it to CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zone qualifiers after finishing as runners-up in the Women's Premier League.

Simba Queens represented the East Africa region in the 2022 CAF Women's Champions League and took fourth place, having lost 1-0 to Nigeria's Bayelsa Queens FC in the third-place playoff.

Kenya's Vihinga Queens won the inaugural CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zone qualifiers held in 2021 and represented the region in CAF Women's Champions League hosted by Egypt.

The 2023 CAF Women's Champions League main event is set to be held in Cote d'Ivoire with the date yet to be confirmed.

In last year's CAF Women's Champions League finals hosted by Morocco, champions AS FAR Women's FC (Morocco) bagged a cash prize of USD 400,000, an equivalent of Ksh 56,300,000 while the runners-up Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies (South Africa) received USD 250,000 (611,250,000.00/-).

The losing semi-finalists, Simba Queens and Bayelsa Queens FC, received USD 200,000 (489,000,000.00/-) each.

Tanzania youths urged to take up basketball

By Guardian Reporter

A Tanzanian youth studying in the US, Atiki Ali, has called on fellow youths to start playing basketball as there are many opportunities therein that can solve the challenges they face.

Ali (aged 22) issued the suggestion in Dar es Salaam recently when he visited High View Secondary School and High Mount Secondary School in Ilala District.

The basketball player called on the youths to take up the sport, which is not yet promi-

nent in Tanzania.

He said: "Working hard is all that is needed as everything is possible if one has intention."

Ali, born in Mwanza, is now in the US developing his talent in basketball at Brigham Young Cougars, a men's basketball team representing Brigham Young University in the NCAA Division basketball showdown.

The baller has signed a four-year contract with the institution's squad while continuing with his education.

Bern Kasika, the Director of High View Secondary School

and High Mount Primary School said Ali is a product of the two schools.

Kasika said that Ali is one of the youths the schools brought up, adding in 2018 they sponsored his secondary school studies having discovered that he had a huge talent in basketball.

He said Ali studied up to Form II before being sponsored for further studies and sports pursuit at London Basketball Academy and later moved to the US to pursue his education and basketball and participate in US

and Canada college basketball leagues.

Kasika further said he hopes that Ali will become a prominent basketball player and promote Tanzania.

He said apart from basketball, his schools develop talents in various sports including athletics, soccer for both boys and girls, and swimming.

"I have very good sports teachers - including Rehema Mgunda and Frederick Rwegasira who also had taught Atiki."



Dodoma's Nyota traditional dance group performs at the launch of a project, known as 'Hakuna Marefu Yasiyo na Mwisho', in the region recently. The project aims to enable girls to fulfill their dreams by avoiding child marriage. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Sir Jim Ratcliffe delivers rare update on Manchester United takeover bid

By Tom Morgan

SIR Jim Ratcliffe insists Ineos remain firmly in the hunt for Manchester United as the Glazers finalise their decision after a seven-month saga. The biggest deal in sport has been beset with hold-ups, with bids initially failing to meet expectations of the sellers, and then splits among the sibling owners about whether to sell.

While Ratcliffe has stood by the terms he offered in the third round of bidding, Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani, his main rival, has gone on to table a fourth and then fifth and supposedly final bid on June 7.

However, when questioned about a long-awaited deal at a Knightsbridge book launch, Ratcliffe maintained he is still "in the process".

"We obviously can't say too much because we've signed an NDA and we respect that but there's still a process and we're in the process," he said.

"We have a good offer - we've met the Glazers a couple of times and we had a good conversation but at the end of the day it's their decision... we would still very much like to do it.

"I also believe we would do a good job and do it for the right reasons. We keep very focused on it."

Neither of the leading bidders have been given a clear timeline of when a decision will be made, but brokers operating for the Glazers had been hopeful a deal could have been done by last April.

The Qatari group led by Sheikh Jassim have been increasingly confident in its chances since the last offer, but the Glazers are known to have had a good dialogue with Ineos.

All bidders are understood to be offering a premium for United, but, speaking at the launch of Grit, Rigour and Humour - the Ineos Story, Ratcliffe declared United represent a positive investment.

"They ain't making them any more," he added. "Manchester United and these type of clubs, it's like art or areas like that. When you have special things and their value continues to pick up over time because they are very special and rare.

"I don't like throwing money away or losing money.

"It doesn't make me happy at all. But we aren't there to make money out of it. If it's a really good asset it will increase its value over time."

When asked whether he might consider renaming Old Trafford as potential commercial opportunity for his petrochemicals company, Ratcliffe responded: "God no, that would be heresy."

Ratcliffe, whose Ineos firm generates 61 billion US dollars in revenue, has lined up financing from banks including Goldman Sachs Group Inc, while JPMorgan Chase & Co., Rothschild & Co. and Bank of America Corp. are among other banks advising or offering capital on a deal.

THE TELEGRAPH

Brighton want more than £100m for Moises Caicedo as Chelsea seek deal

By Mike McGrath

BRIGHTON & Hove Albion are poised to ask for more than £100 million for Moises Caicedo after a benchmark was set this summer with Declan Rice's impending move to Arsenal.

Caicedo is a target for Chelsea as they rebuild under Mauricio Pochettino but they are unlikely to land him cheaply, with Caicedo seen at the Amex Stadium as comparable to Rice - and three years younger at 21.

Rice, who plays in a similar defensive-midfielder position, is finalising a £105 million move to Arsenal, with only £5 million coming in add-ons.

It could mean two nine-figure deals in the Premier League should Caicedo move to Stamford Bridge. Chelsea broken the British transfer record to land Enzo Fernández in the January window in a £106 million deal from Benfica. With N'Golo Kanté, Mateo Kovacic and Ruben Loftus-Cheek leaving, they have Caicedo in their sights to partner Fernandez in another high-profile move.

Brighton rejected two bids from Arsenal for Caicedo in the January window, the second worth around £70 million. Caicedo has since signed a new contract, until 2027 with a one-year option, and a similar bid is expected to be rejected again this time around for the Ecuador international.

Chelsea moved for Marc Cucurella last summer in a £56 million deal from Brighton and have Paul Winstanley, who used to work at the club, as their director of global talent and transfers, which will raise hope of a deal being struck. The clubs also worked together on the deal for Graham Potter, who signed Caicedo when he was at Brighton.

Caicedo will earn a huge profit for Brighton after his arrival in 2021 from Independiente del Valle in his homeland for around £4 million.

Brighton have already sold Alexis Mac Allister, the World Cup winner with Argentina, to Liverpool this summer. Manager Roberto De Zerbi has admitted Caicedo could also be a departure this summer.

THE TELEGRAPH

Luis Enrique named new PSG coach as Mbappe future remains up in the air

PARIS

Luis Enrique was appointed as the new coach of Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday on a two-year deal, but his unveiling was overshadowed by ongoing questions about the future of Kylian Mbappe.

The 53-year-old former Barcelona coach, who had been a free agent since being sacked by Spain last December, replaces Christophe Galtier after his departure was confirmed earlier in the day.

Luis Enrique was unveiled at a press conference alongside the Qatar-backed club's president Nasser al-Khelaifi at their new training complex in Poissy, north-west of the French capital.

"I'm delighted to be joining Paris in order to enjoy a new experience," Luis Enrique said in a club statement.

"It's so exciting to meet new people, to live in this city, to learn a new language and, above all, to manage PSG."

Yet when asked whether he had been given any guarantees that superstar forward Mbappe would remain at the club for the coming campaign, he was evasive.

The Spaniard later insisted he was "counting on all the players who are under contract".

However, Khelaifi stated



Luis Enrique poses alongside Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser al-Khelaifi after being appointed as the new coach of the French champions. Agencies

that Mbappe, 24, "must sign a new contract" if he wants to remain at PSG in the coming season.

"The position is very clear. If Kylian wants to stay, he must sign a new contract. We can't let the best player in the world today leave for free. It's impossible," Khelaifi said.

"He said he would not leave for free. If somebody has changed his mind, that is not my fault."

Mbappe declared last month that he would not extend his contract, which expires next year.

The club must therefore sell the player in the current transfer window, otherwise they will likely lose him for nothing

when his deal ends.

Real Madrid hoped to sign Mbappe a year ago before he penned a new contract in Paris. The Spanish giants are favourites to secure the striker if he does eventually change clubs.

The new coach is the eighth man to lead the club since the transformative Qatari takeover of 2011 and, like those before him, will be charged with bringing them the success in the Champions League that has so far proved elusive.

PSG have never won Europe's most prestigious club competition, coming closest when they lost in the 2020 final to Bayern Munich.

They have gone out in the last 16 in five of the last seven

seasons, losing to Bayern at that stage in the most recent campaign. That defeat proved costly for Galtier.

- Good news for Neymar? - Luis Enrique arrives with pedigree in the Champions League, having won it as coach of Barcelona in 2015 with a brilliant team led by an attack of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez.

He now joins a club beginning their latest rebuild following the departure of Messi after his two-year stay.

The identity of the new coach could be good news for Neymar, who has been linked with a move away from the Parc des Princes.

The Brazilian enjoyed three

outstanding years under Luis Enrique at the Camp Nou, in which time Barca won La Liga twice, the Copa del Rey three times, a UEFA Super Cup and a Club World Cup as well as the Champions League.

Several high-profile new signings are expected to be confirmed as PSG prepare to start pre-season training, with a tour to Japan scheduled for later this month.

Paris will begin their defence of the Ligue 1 title against Lorient on the weekend of August 12 and 13. Luis Enrique left Barca in 2017 and became Spain coach in 2018. However, he quit in June 2019 and announced the death of his nine-year-old daughter from bone cancer two months later.

He returned to the Spain post in November of that year and took them to the Euro 2020 semi-finals and the 2021 UEFA Nations League final before being fired after their elimination from last year's World Cup in the last 16 in a penalty shoot-out against Morocco.

Galtier had only been in charge for one season and still had a year to run on his contract, but his departure had been expected.

He led PSG to the league title but that success was overshadowed by their exit from the Champions League.

The final weeks of Galtier's reign were also marred by accusations that he made racist remarks about players during his previous job at Nice.

He has vehemently denied the accusations but will stand trial in the case in December.

AFP

Arsenal spending to reach £600m under Mikel Arteta after Declan Rice and Jurrien Timber buys

By Sam Dean

ARSENAL are set to take their summer spending to around £200 million after agreeing deals for West Ham United midfielder Declan Rice and Ajax defender Jurrien Timber.

Arsenal and West Ham have finally reached an agreement over the payment structure of the £105 million deal for Rice, while Dutch international Timber will be joining for a fee of around £40 million including add-ons.

The huge investment in this early stage of the window comes as Arsenal prepare to make their long-awaited return to the Champions League and is another sign of the club's faith in manager Mikel Arteta and sporting director Edu.

Provided that Rice and Timber pass their medicals in the coming days, those two arrivals will take Arsenal's total transfer spending to around £600 million since Arteta was appointed in December 2019.

The moves for Rice and Timber come after Arsenal agreed to pay £65 million for Chelsea forward Kai Havertz, who has been signed to play in midfield under Arteta.

Arsenal will pay a guaranteed £100 million for Rice, with a further £5 million to be paid in add-ons if certain clauses are met. The deal will smash the club's transfer record, which is the



Jurrien Timber is nearing a move to Arsenal from Ajax. Agencies

£72 million they paid for Nicolas Pepe in the summer of 2019.

The guaranteed portion of the fee is expected to be paid in three instalments over a period of 24 months, after West Ham insisted that it could not be spread over a longer timeframe.

The move for Timber, meanwhile, is believed to be worth an initial fee of around £35 million plus around £5 million in add-ons. Timber can play as a right-back or a centre-back and is known for his passing range and composure on the ball.

The forthcoming campaign will be Arsenal's first in the Champions

League since the 2016/17 season and their qualification for the competition will be worth at least £50 million, with that figure then

rising depending on their progress.

Their financial firepower is also the result of success in trimming

the wage bill and lowering the age of the first-team squad since Arteta and Edu took control, with a series of high-earners shown the exit door in recent seasons.

Arsenal will look to recoup a significant amount of money through sales this summer, starting with the imminent departure of Granit Xhaka to Bayer Leverkusen in a deal that could be worth more than £20 million. Pablo Mari has already joined Italian side Monza for around £6 million.

Arsenal have largely struggled in recent years when it comes to selling their unwanted players for big fees, and they are hoping to address that problem this summer. Since Arteta's appointment, Arsenal have generated around £70 million through sales, not including Xhaka.

With the likes of Pepe, Folarin Balogun, Thomas Partey, Kieran Tierney, Albert Sambi Lokonga, Rob Holding, Charlie Patino, Nuno Tavares, Auston Trusty, Marquinhos and Cedric Soares all potentially leaving the Emirates Stadium this summer, Arsenal will hope to raise a sizeable amount of money before the closure of the window.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Luis Enrique named new PSG coach as Mbappe future remains up in the air

PAGE 19

Simba SC, Azam FC add to their backroom staff



Newly recruited Simba SC's goalkeeping coach, Daniel Cadena.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has confirmed the appointment of Daniel Cadena as the outfit's new goalkeeping coach, joining it on a two-year deal.

The Msimbazi Street side has moved to bolster head coach Robert Oliveira's backroom staff further with the addition of Cadena, who last worked in domestic club football with Azam FC.

The Spaniard is coming to fill the void that was left by Moroccan Chlouha Zakaria who parted ways with Simba

SC last month as part of the technical bench reshuffling.

"The management has reached an agreement to hire Daniel Cadena as our goalkeeping coach in our squad on a two-year contract," a statement from

Simba SC read.

Cadena disclosed: "I am excited to announce that I am joining a giant club as a goalkeeping coach."

The tactician noted: "Thank you all for your trust in my work and me. I will

work hard to get the best out of our goalkeepers."

Cadena who holds a UEFA Pro license brings great experience from his time at Sevilla, China, and UAE before he landed in Tanzania.

Azam FC has signed a three-year contract with Frenchman, Jean-Laurent Geronimi to be the club's fitness coach from next season.

Geronimi was introduced just a day after Azam FC appointed another Frenchman, Bruno Ferry as the club's assistant coach for a three-year term as well.

The two are going to assist head coach, Youssouph Dabo, goalkeeping coach Khalifa Ababakar Fall and video analyst Ibrahim Diop, who are all Senegal nationals.

Azam FC finished third in the just concluded Premier League, 19 points behind champions Young Africans SC and 14 points shy of first runners-up Simba SC.

They reached the Azam Sports Federation Cup final after edging out Simba SC in the semi-final but lost 1-0 to Young Africans in the final

to end up trophyless for a fourth season in a row.

In a season that Azam FC has had three different coaches, the club was eliminated in the preliminary rounds of the CAF Confederation Cup by Al Akhdar of Libya.

Moallin, who started the season, was fired after only three games and was replaced by Frenchman Denis Lavagne.

Lavagne lasted for only 45 days before falling out with the club hierarchy following a 2-1 loss to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

He was replaced by caretaker coach Kalimangonga Ongala until the end of the season.

As a result, the club management made a massive clearout of both the playing unit and the technical bench.

The entire technical bench that included coach Kally Ongala, assistant coach Aggrey Morris, goalkeeping coach Cadena who has since joined Simba SC, and fitness coach Moadh Hiraoui was purged.

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5Sports

5Sports

5Sports

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:30 eNews
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Twiga Stars to face Uganda Crested Cranes

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national women's side, Twiga Stars, play Ugandan counterparts in an international friendly match this afternoon at the MTN-Omondi Stadium, Kampala.

The match is used as a build-up to the upcoming Women's Olympic football tournament qualifiers.

Twiga Stars were supposed to take on the Republic of the Congo in the first qualification round before the latter withdrew while Uganda was drawn against Rwanda.

The first-round matches are scheduled for July 10-18, 2023, the second round will be held from October 23-31, the third round is slated for February 19-28, 2024 while the final round will be staged between April 1-9, 2024.

Tanzania's contingent arrived at Entebbe Airport on Wednesday evening with a squad of 20 players under head coach Bakari Shime.

Ahead of the game, coaches and captains from either team addressed the media at the Federation of Uganda Football Associations Complex, Mengo.

Twiga Stars captain Eneka Kasonga 'Lunyamila' said they expect a tough encounter because clashes between the two sides have always been tightly contested.

Eneka noted: "Games between Uganda and Tanzania have never been easy over the years and that is what we expect tomorrow. We know Uganda is a good team but we are ready to face them and hope for the best results."

Coach Shime said he is treating the friendly tie as a warm-up match for their second-round clash with Botswana following a walkover in the first round that was to witness Twiga Stars confronting the Republic of the Congo.

The tactician revealed: "We are happy to be in Uganda and most importantly to play against the Crested Cranes. We believe this is a great test as we prepare for our upcoming games."

"Congo who we were supposed to play against in the Olympic Qualifiers withdrew but that doesn't mean we should not prepare. We thought the game against Uganda will be a good test as we shift focus to the second qualification round," the gaffer noted.

On the flip side, Crested Cranes' assistant coach Ayub Khalifa Kiyingi echoed Twiga Stars' captain's words, adding he believes the game will serve as a good test for their challenge against Rwanda.

"We are ready for this game and fully aware of how important it is in our preparations. Having a game of such magnitude against a very good team helps us to know where we stand and what we need to improve before facing Rwanda," Kiyingi said.

He added: "Tanzania has always been a tough opponent for us over the years and I am sure they will give us a good test."

Europe-based striking duo of Aisha Juma and Oppa Clement will lead Twiga Stars' quest for goals against Uganda together with the experienced Fatuma Issa who will be tasked with ensuring the defense keeps Uganda's attackers at bay.

Twiga Stars' squad:

Aisha Juma, Noela Luhala, Vaileth Nicholas, Koku Panga, Neema Paul, Hasnat Ubamba, Veronica Mapunda, Jamila Rahabu Mvunduka, Fatuma Issa, Diana Lucas, Oppa Clement, Husna Mtunda, Esther Mabanza, Janeth Shija, Dotto Tossy, Rehema Mohamed, Eneka Kasonga 'Lunyamila', Lidya Maximilian, Esther Maseke, Winifrida Gerald

JKT Queens learn 2023 CAF Women's Champions League Qualifiers' opponents

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MAINLAND Tanzania's representatives in this year's CAF Women's Champions League Zonal Qualifiers, JKT Queens, have learned the teams they will be facing in the showdown.

The draw for the CAF Women's Champions League Zonal Qualifiers was officially held at the Mohammed VI Complex in Rabat, Morocco on Wednesday.

Yusuf Musi, CECAFA's Director of Competitions, was the first to conduct the draw which was in the form of two groups of five and one of four for his zone.

Group A saw Kampala Queens FC of Uganda join Ethiopia's CBE WFC, FAD of Djibouti, Buja Queens of Burundi as well as Yei Joint Stars of Sudan.

In Group B, Tanzania's JKT Queens were drawn against Vihiga Queens of Kenya, Rwanda's AS Kigali WFC, and New Generation of Zanzibar.

The drawn clubs will battle it out in the CECAFA Zone Qualifiers which will be hosted by Uganda between August 13-30 at MTN-Omondi Stadium and FUFA Technical Centre, Njeru.

The regional winners will represent CECAFA Zone in the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League to be held in Cote d'Ivoire.

Vihiga Queens from Kenya won the first edition of the regional qualifiers in Nairobi



JKT Queens' midfielder, Anastazia Katunzi (L), is congratulated by teammates once the midfielder netted a goal against The Tiger Queens in the just-ended Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) tie which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

in 2021 while Simba Queens won last year's tournament held in Dar es Salaam.

Simba Queens went on to reach the semi-finals of the 2022 CAF Women's Champions League, losing out to defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies and later going down to Bayelsa Queens of Nigeria in the third-place play-off.

The 2022/23 Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League champions, JKT Queens, who dethroned Simba Queens, will be taking part in the zonal qualifiers for the first time.

JKT Queens will begin their campaign to secure progression to the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League with a clash against AS Kigali WFC on August 13.

JKT Queens will then play New Generation in the second Group B game before wrapping up their Group B matches against 2021 champions Vihiga Queens.

The UNAF Zone qualifiers slated to be held in Oran, Algeria from August 12-30 are expected to determine clubs that will represent the zone.

The UNAF Zone's draw was conducted by the zone's Head

of Competitions, Mootez Belleh Dachraoui.

SC Casablanca of Morocco, Wadi Delga of Egypt as well as AS Feminine of Tunisia will battle it out while AS FAR WFC, the CAF Women's Champions League holders, will receive direct qualification.

Looking at the WAFU Zone A where the qualifiers are set for August 5-13 in Liberia, an interesting draw was conducted by Abdoulaye Cisse, Director of Competitions of the zone.

Determine Girls of Liberia were seeded as the host

country facing AS Mande of Mali, Dakar Sacre Coeur of Senegal, and Sierra Leone's Mogbewmo Queens.

For the WAFU Zone B, slated to be held in Nigeria from August 18-31, Delta Queens were drawn in Group A which will witness the team coming up against Union Sportive of Burkina Faso and Atletico of Cote d'Ivoire along with SAM Nelly of Benin.

In Group B of the zone, Ampem Darkoa Ladies FC from Ghana is to take on AS Garde of Niger as well as Friend of the World representing Togo.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

