



National Pg 3 Harvest rainwater, says EWURA



National Pg 4 Birth certificates available at DITF



National Pg 6 CBRT, Equinor to combat fistula



'Africa needs similar anti-corruption laws'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

IT is appropriate time now for African countries to have similar laws to address the challenge of corruption, the government has declared.

George Simbachawene (pictured), the Public Service Management and Good Governance state minister in the President's Office, made this observation here yesterday at the opening of a forum to discuss ways of eradicating corruption.

It was the second day of activities to mark 20 years of adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption marked each year on July 11.

Urging that African countries team up in fighting corruption, he said it has been an endemic challenge thwarting socio-economic development in the continent.

"Corruption in Africa is a problem that needs joint efforts to fight because giving and soliciting bribes changes in line with shifts in science and technology," he said.

Noting that these are development forces changing human lives, he said similar laws to fight corruption "is a situation that will completely eradicate it."

Strategies against corruption should also change to go in tandem with developments in science and technology, he stated, urging the forum to come up with resolutions that require African countries to have similar

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Financial inclusion survey points at vast dormant cash

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DESPITE a record stride in financial inclusion, 82 percent of financial service users are cash dormant, a new research report says.

This observation was made in a presentation on a new survey by agencies under the Ministry of Finance, notably FinScope Tanzania conducted by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT).

It said that since 2017 the number of adults excluded financially has fallen to 6.4m in 2023 from 7.8m at that time, with Dr Peter Mmari, a FinScope technical committee member at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) affirming that financial illiteracy brings up dormant cash especially in rural areas.

Current challenges in financial inclusion have to do with the way people earn and the irregularity of dominant income sources like crop harvests or livestock sales.

Financial sector products need to reflect real needs in a better way, he said, noting that considerable progress is still needed to get Tanzanians to formally transact and use financial services in a regular manner.

"We need to increase financial literacy and boost community awareness on

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'National Service leavers can be absorbed in BBT'



President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, pictured at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma city yesterday inspecting a special parade mounted as part of the climax of celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the National Service. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATIONAL Service (JKT) trainees completing their basic military training and learning productive activities will be linked with the recently launched "Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT)" initiatives.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan issued this commitment here yesterday, officiating at the climax of 60th anniversary activities of the military wing at the Jamhuri grounds.

The aim is to ensure that most of those who graduate from the service and are not directly employed in public, private or civic agencies, are facilitated to be self-reliant.

The National Service has on several occasions said it is not obliged to find employment for the youth who undergo its training programmes in various camps.

President Samia affirmed that the training offered by JKT is consonant with entrepreneurial skills, aimed at building self-confidence, patriotism and fostering the spirit of national unity.

Objectives of National Service training include the need to give the youth the ability to employ themselves after graduating from two-years of voluntary enlistment, she said.

"The government is committed to ensure that those who go through JKT

Transport ministries form links in Z'bar rail project

■ ATCL plans regular Unguja, Pemba flights

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is set to construct its first railway to link various points on Unguja Island.

Gabriel Migiro, Works and Transport permanent secretary for the transport division, made this observation in Arusha when yesterday when closing a conference bringing together officials of

the two ministries and agencies under their spheres of duty.

A ministerial statement said yesterday that the conference was aimed at laying

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CRDB Bank Plc Head of Corporate and Communications Emmanuel Kiondo (L) and Strategic Partnership and Alliances Senior manager Msita Masele (2nd-L) pictured on Sunday in Brussels, where the Lausanne-based European Society for Quality Research (ESQR) honoured the bank with the prestigious International Diamond Prize for Excellence in Quality 2023. Right is Jestas Nyamanga (R), Tanzania's Ambassador to Brussels, who joined them for the occasion, followed by ESQR Chief Executive Advisor Michael Harris. The prize goes to selected organisations, public administrations and companies from Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Australia recognized for their superior development efforts, overall excellence and commitment to economic progress for both themselves and their communities as a whole. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

“The government reintroduced the training in 2001, having suspended it in 1994

get connected to other development initiatives as outlined in the national development vision like BBT," she said.

The government was coming up with various programmes within the set development initiatives to empower youths to participate in various economic activities, she said.

She hailed the National Service for its ongoing improvements, like ensuring self-reliance on food supplies, project undertakings and entrepreneurial activities, among others.

The Ministry of Defense and National Service needs to look into how to help SUMA JKT, the department's entrepreneurial organ, can access funds to implement its activities fully, the president directed.

Innocent Bashungwa, the minister, said a number of activities had been undertaken in commemorating the landmark event, including a JKT in-service parade at the events' climax.

During the weeklong celebrations JKT undertook a charity marathon, blood donation, a SUMA JKT exhibition and entertainment evening involving various artists.

The national service was established on July 10, 1963 for training the youth in basic national defence skills, bringing youth from different regions to foster a spirit of working together and understanding, bring educated youth to stamp out elitism and social differences emerging after independence.

The government reintroduced the training in 2001, having suspended it in 1994, the minister added.



Transport ministries form links in Z'bar rail project

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the framework of cooperation in implementation, supervision and operation of transport projects meant to ease the transportation of goods and passengers in Unguja.

The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) was tasked to work closely with the Zanzibar Ministry of Transport and Communications to organise the railway construction effort at acceptable standards.

The railway is expected to connect Bububu, Mangapwani, Makobve, Banda Kuu, Matemwe, Pwani, Mchangani, Kiwengwa and Pongwe settlements, where it will also cater for the movement of tourist from the Zanzibar port area, it said.

With the rapid increase of the Zanzibar population, transportation

challenges must obtain solutions, in which case the two ministries can work out the necessary arrangements, the statement indicated.

Railway services completed to the required standards will contribute to the reduction of transport costs, lowering the cost of various products, it said.

Shomari Omari Shomari, the Transport and Communications deputy permanent secretary in Zanzibar, lauded the Union ministry TRC.

Its experience in building and running railway lines will help the Zanzibar ministry in its current objectives, he said.

Ladislau Matindi, the Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL), said the airline is in the final stages of setting up regular flights between the Mainland and the two islands.

'Africa needs similar anti-corruption laws'

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laws so that corruption suspects will know they will be dealt with under similar laws.

Africa's corruption challenge is huge and needs a joint voice, he said, explaining that in the provision of education "if joint efforts are not taken, there will be graduates who are products of corruption."

In the circumstances, African countries need to use the forum to discuss best ways in applying science and technology in the delivery of social services, in ways that prevent people from meeting face to face to solicit such services, he said.

CP Salum Hamduni, the

Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) director general, said the forum, apart from bringing together heads of corruption fighting institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, drew out other stakeholders.

It also brought together corruption fighting civilian organisations based inside and outside the country, thus becoming a free classroom to gain experience from individual countries.

As part of efforts to make sure the vice is completely eradicated, the day is marked each year and today climaxes with a plenary session to be addressed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Blow to Ruto as Finance Act remains suspended

NAIROBI

The High Court has declined to lift an earlier order stopping Treasury Cabinet Secretary (CS) Prof Njuguna Ndung'u from implementing the Finance Act, 2023.

In an early win for Senator Okiya Omtatah, who filed the petition to stop implementation of the new law, it will now proceed to CJ Martha Koome to constitute a bench for hearing and determination of the case.

In a ruling delivered yesterday afternoon, Justice Mugure Thande also agreed with the petitioners that the case raises substantial constitutional issues.

Justice Thande ruled that the CS did not convince the court as to why the order should be lifted and from the submissions of all parties that argued before her, the balance tilted in extending the freeze.

The CS, through Attorney-General Justin Muturi, had argued that the conservatory order has the effect of shutting down government operations of the government as many other budgetary steps stand suspended.

"Upon evaluation of the submissions, I have no difficulty finding that the petitioners have established a case with a probability of success," the judge said adding that the public will suffer prejudice if the suspension is lifted and the petitioners are successful in the end.

Immediately after the ruling, Muturi asked for a temporary suspension of the ruling for between 7 and 14 days, to enable him move to the Court of Appeal for a stay.

The judge at the same time allowed a prayer for the case to be certified as raising weighty constitutional issues and directed the file to be taken to the Chief Justice Martha Koome to appointment of a bench of judges, to determine the case.

The petitioners want the Finance Act is unconstitutional because there was no concurrence of both Speakers of National Assembly and Senate as to whether there matters touching on counties.

Further, the Bill contravened Section 39 of the PFM Act and

Standing Order No. 224(c) of the National Assembly, which shows the order of presentation of the Finance Bill and budget.

According to Omtatah, the Standing Order provides that the Treasury Cabinet Secretary shall first present the budget policy highlights and revenue raising measures for the national government and shall thereafter present the legislative proposals on the revenue raising measures to Parliament.

"The failure to follow the procedure which was made so for specific reasons vitiates the whole process of debating and passing the bill and renders the said Act unlawful," he submitted.

On the Housing levy, the petitioners argue that the fourth schedule of the constitution limits the national government's functions in relation to matters housing, to development of a housing policy and nothing more.

Prof Ndung'u, however, defended the Act stating that the impact of these tax amendments on the general populace will be mitigated by concurrent efforts to improve public services, increase public investment, and stimulate economic growth.

He said the National Treasury invited proposals from government departments and agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and individuals on tax policy measures for consideration by the Agency in preparation of the Bill.

AGENCIES



Upon evaluation of the submissions, I have no difficulty finding that the petitioners have established a case with a probability of success



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa cuts ribbon in Mtwara municipality yesterday to launch the Southern Zone Office of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) that will serve Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions. Dignitaries at the event include TADB managing director Frank Nyabundege; Newala constituency legislator and Minister of State in the President's Office (Special Duties), Capt (rtd) George Mkuchika, Mtwara CCM regional chairman Saidi Nyengendi; Mtwara regional commissioner Col Ahmed Abbas Ahmed; and Finance deputy minister Hamad Chande. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Financial inclusion survey points at vast dormant cash

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financial services and to change their mindsets on the financial ecosystem," he stated.

The reduction of those excluded is even more significant as the adult population has grown by 23 percent over the period, he said, explaining that perception issues play a role in moving towards inclusion.

People still think they need much money to open a bank account or that they may attract bad events if they take up insurance, he said in illustration.

Dr Natu Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary, said the survey measures the demand,

access, uptake and usage of financial services countrywide.

This year's survey takes up from earlier exercises in 2006, 2009, 2013 and 2017, tracking and benchmarking use patterns across various types of formal and informal financial services, she said.

She expressed satisfaction with formal financial inclusion having improved significantly since the last survey in 2017, from 65 percent to 76 percent. There is also a significant reduction in financial exclusion across gender, she pointed out.

Unlike other spheres of inclusion, insurance penetration shrunk from 15 percent to 10 percent, inverting

expectations of the financial sector development master plan, projecting 50 percent of the adult population included in the use of insurance products by 2030.

Innovative ways must be part of a consolidated effort by policy makers, regulators and financial service providers to tackle this shrinkage with new solutions that respond to risk mitigation needs by a broad section of the public, the top administrator asserted.

BoT governor Emmanuel Tutuba stated that trends observed by the FinScope survey and especially the gaps clearly point to a dire need to inculcate regular usage of financial

services.

The push for increased financial growth will inform key shifts to be pursued in the new national financial inclusion framework for 2023-2028, he stated.

Eric Massinda, the FSDT interim CEO, said the launch of the report is just the beginning of a larger public sector engagement exercise in the drive towards evidence-based decision making and solutions development in the financial sector.

Dr Albina Chuwa, the statistician general, emphasized that financial literacy is important to enable significant increase in financial inclusion.



Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau director general Salum Rashid Hamduni pictured in Arusha city yesterday opening a conference on the war on corruption in Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mtwara vendor emerges Vodacom's 'Tusua Mapene' promotion winner

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

Mtwara vendor Deo Brown Mlingo (29) has been awarded 20m/- for emerging the winner of Vodacom's ongoing 'Tusua Mapene' promotion.

Speaking during a brief ceremony to announce the winner of the promotion held at Vodacom's pavilion at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, Director of Digital Services at Vodacom Tanzania Plc, Nguvu Kamando congratulated the winner for going out with such a huge amount of money after almost 1,112 attempts for playing.

"I would like to congratulate our lucky customer who has won 20m/-

through the ongoing 'Tusua Mapene' campaign across the country. I am delighted to learn that the winner is from Mtwara and a small-scale food vendor. I believe this money is going to improve both his personal life and business activities. From being a small food vendor, he can improve his business in terms of capital and human resources and hence quality services to customers," said Kamando.

Through the 'Tusua Mapene' campaign, Vodacom's customers have a chance to win cash prizes and are rewarded several prizes including instant cash of up to 100m/- as well as random prizes up to 15,000/-. Every day customers stand a chance to win cash up to

20m/- and other prizes including cars.

At the end of the campaign, customers will have a chance to win grand cash prizes up to 300m/-.

"I encourage Tanzanians to keep on participating in this campaign as we are not done yet. Everyone has a chance to win a cash prize or other prizes. The most important thing is to play as many times as you can like our today's winner, even after attempting more than a thousand times but he did not lose hope," said and concluded the Director of Digital Services that, "To date, more than 2000 customers have won different prizes whereby Vodacom has spent more than 2bn/- as we are speaking. Daily prizes include

cash from 500,000/- up to 20bn/-. In addition, the grand prize for the campaign will see a lucky customer being rewarded up to 300 million/-."

In his remarks, Mlingo commended the company's initiatives to reward their loyal customers through innovative services and products that impact lives. "I still cannot find enough words to explain how happy I am. Being able to be rewarded 20m/- at once is a dream come true. It would have taken me many years to get such an amount of money. But through participating in this promotion, I have become a winner, and my life and business will be impacted a great deal by this win. As a food vendor, I will use the money to improve the business operations. I urge my fellow Tanzanians to keep on playing as much as they can, they never know when they will be lucky," said Mlingo.



Cardiologist and electro-cardiologist David Singh (L) from the US-based African Doctors Association, who is currently at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam for an impending special medical camp, has a word with Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollé (R) and JKCI experts when the latter visited the specialised medical facility yesterday. Photo courtesy of JKCI

'59,000 households in Mbeya City are being led by women'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 59,000 households in the City of Mbeya were being led by women due to various reasons including men abandoning their families and some women boosting their economic status over men.

Geve Kasto, statistics expert from National Bureau of statistics (NBS) made the remarks at the weekend at a special training seminar for journalists from Mbeya Region and other stakeholders that debated on the importance in the correct use of census statistics.

Kasto said Mbeya city has a total of 154,431 households and only 94,572 of them are run by men.

He said part from the women being abandoned by their spouses, many women have become heads of their families owing to divorce or death.

"Therefore we advise the government to increase its efforts to economically empower women as a boost to them, as these days it is a normal thing for women becoming heads of their families," said.

For his part, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said the problem has created the increase of street children some of who have started joining dangerous groups including those taking illicit drugs.

He said owing to the problem, the Region's Defence and Security Committee has started strategies to rescue such children.

RC Homera said there are some men who get some women produce children and then abandon them without their upkeep, the situation that make the children brought up by a single parent.

He said recently, some children were arrested at Kabwe and Mwanjelwa areas of the City taking illicit drugs.

"We cannot let these children get spoiled, we have established our own strategies to address the problem, for now we cannot reveal

them but we shall do so at the appropriate time," he said.

According to RC Homera, some of the street children get arrested and taken into police custody, but their relatives go to bail them out, with many later returning to streets.

He said after finalizing the strategies, we shall start arresting them and take legal steps against them including referring them to juvenile courts to act as lesson to them.

Mariam Kitenge, an NBS Statistician said according to last year's Population and Housing Census, Mbeya Region has a population of more than 2.3 million while Mbeya City alone had over 500,000 people.

He said the statistics show a huge population increase over the 2012 Census that showed the region had 1.7 million people.

He called on journalists and various other stakeholders to use census statistics in their activities in order to spur national economic development.



Therefore we advise the government to increase its efforts to economically empower women as a boost to them, as these days it is a normal thing for women becoming heads of their families

JKCI examines 525 people for heart diseases at DITF

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) has said it had conducted examination to 525 people, including 95 on ECHO, 84 on ECG and referred 37 patients to other hospitals at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International

Trade Fair at Mwalimu Nyerere Fair Grounds along Kilwa Road in Dar es Salaam.

JKCI managing director Dr Peter Kisenge said when he addressed reporters at the JKCI pavilion.

Dr Kisenge said the institute continues to provide treatment and awareness education in regard to heart diseases by making sure patients get better nutrition,

exercising and avoid excessive use of electricity.

"JKCI provides treatment services to patients from nearly 20 countries. Here at the fair we have also received patients from neighbouring Malawi," he said.

He said JKCI's aim to participate in the fair this year is to make known its services, including the provision of treatment and

awareness education keeping in mind that there is an increase of heart diseases globally.

"This fair involves 47 participating countries; hence our presence here is to make sure we inform visitors about our services as well as promoting tourism.

"We have specialist doctors for heart diseases and nurses providing direct service," said Dr Kisenge.

"About 25 per cent of all patients admitted at hospitals suffer from heart diseases, hence Tanzania should come forward for check-ups for their health status to be examined as early as possible," he stressed.



Bethsaida Secondary School board chairman Rimond Machari (C, in blue suit) leads the school's former and continuing students in celebrations during an event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The school specialises in the education of orphaned female students. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Create habit of harvesting rainwater - EWURA

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has called on Tanzanians to create the habit of harvesting rainwater at their homes and institutions in order to have adequate reserves of water as a measure against periods of water scarcity.

The remarks were given by Senior EWURA Engineer for the Eastern Zone, Amani Nyekete at their pavilion at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade fair (DITF).

Nyekete said rainwater harvest is a simple technology that collects and store rain water from roof tops, the ground and rocks using various equipment

including pots, tanks, dams.

He further aid there are many issues to adhere to during rain water harvesting including making sure the vessels used are clean for the health of consumers.

"We advise that before harvesting rainwater the vessels and other equipment should be clean and that from time to time the water that is being stored should be examined from time to time and treated by treatment

chemicals," he said.

He added: "There is still no place in the country where people enjoy full supply of safe and clean water at all times, hence we shall continue educating the people on alternative/additional ways to harvest rainwater."

He said it is better for a person to have good and appropriate plans in regard to water consumption that go in tandem with the available water in his/her area.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF VARIOUS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES FOR EACOP IN UGANDA AND TANZANIA REFERENCE NO. REQ-0000292, REQ-0000293, REQ-0000294, REQ-0000295, REQ-0000296

East African Crude Oil Pipeline LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest in providing various Information Technology Solutions and services across Uganda and Tanzania to support COMPANY activities.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES

EOI Reference No	Descriptions
REQ-0000292	Specific managed services for Microsoft 365 and Azure
REQ-0000293	Cybersecurity consultancy services
REQ-0000294	Cloud backup solutions based on Acronis, Veeam or similar
REQ-0000295	On-premises servers and storage with Microsoft 365 and Azure integration capability based on Dell solutions or similar
REQ-0000296	Network and security infrastructure and associated management solutions based on Cisco, Meraki, FortiGate and SolarWinds

Interested Companies that meet minimum requirements and have the capacity to undertake any of above-mentioned Lots should express their interest by sending together with all documents requested. Goods and services are required to be provided directly in Uganda and Tanzania. Transverse services are required to be delivered equally between Uganda and Tanzania.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to specify on which scope(s) they are interested by indicating in their response the reference(s) No(s) and to document their request with:

- Authorized reseller accreditation/certification for the provision of the different vendors solutions in Uganda and in Tanzania
- Precise references of similar project and services
- Presence both in Uganda and Tanzania
- Possession of appropriate registration and licenses including but not limited to business license.
- Registration in National Supplier Database (NSD) in Uganda
- Compliance with the Petroleum Midstream National Content Regulation no 34, 2016 for Uganda in the minimum requirements.
- Proof of Registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Good Financial solvency to undertake contract.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on or before 27 July 2023 Email object shall be: Expression of Interest - Reference No (Indicate reference number that you have shown interest) for EACOP in Uganda and Tanzania. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.

Jubilee
LIFE INSURANCE
Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 2221176/180

LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. T1201800040120
FAUSTINE SIMON MGIMBA

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact.

Jubilee
LIFE INSURANCE
Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 2221176/180

LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. T1201800041332
JOSHUA WAMBURA PHINIAS

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact.

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP

MR. MIHIR BHUPENDRA KOTECHA.

Whose photograph provided above. Is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. His nationality present is INDIAN, country of his origin is INDIA. He was born in Tanzania in the year of 2002. He has been in this country for twenty one years up to date. Any person, who knows any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the commissioner General of Immigration, P.O. BOX 512, Dar es salaam. User reference: DN.323689/15

RITA: Come to DITF and get your birth certificate

By Guardian Reporter

THE Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) Chief Executive Officer, Frank Kanyusi has called on Tanzanians to turnout in bigger numbers and visit RITA pavilion in the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair and get their birth certificates instantly.

Speaking to journalists and exhibition visitors who called to witness what RITA had to offer, Kanyusi said many people have seized the opportunity and at the moment over 3,000 people have been successfully registered.

"The information we have been giving citizens has been of great benefit and our assessment shows that many people now see the importance of having birth certificates and they know all the requirements to qualify, this makes our work easy," he said.

He further mentioned the important documents required for a citizen to qualify for registration as including clinic card, passport, baptism certificate, primary or secondary education certificate, parent's national identity or voter's card or national identity card.

He said RITA in the exhibition in question is offering public education on all the services under its mandate, such as birth and death registration as well as legal aid on matters related to inheritance and

will. "The registration conducted here (at SabaSaba) adheres to all the legal requirements, everything is done here is same as what we do in our offices. Only those who meets the requirement after an assessment is made qualifies for registration," Kanyusi said.

One of the beneficiaries of the service showered praises to RITA, saying that services were professional, quick and efficient.

"Indeed the entire process of registration here at SabaSaba has been well coordinated and all the staff are highly motivated and working efficiently," said Ishengoma who is one of the beneficiaries.

Paul Munishi who successful acquired his certificate in the ongoing exercise, called on all the citizen who are yet to visit RITA exhibitions to hurry up and benefit from the service which is one of a kind.



The information we have been giving citizens has been of great benefit and our assessment shows that many people now see the importance of having birth certificates and they know all the requirements to qualify, this makes our work easy

Ambitious Kenyan students set goals for further studies in China

NAIROBI

A GROUP of 52 Kenyan students, who have applied for Chinese government scholarships, wrapped up a two-day seminar at Kenya's port city of Mombasa on Sunday, with the participants expressing their willingness to promote the friendship between the two countries.

Over the weekend, the students visited the Global Trade Center in Nairobi, the capital of the East African country, and Afristar, the company operating the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), two flagship projects highlighting China-Kenya cooperation.

Officials from Kenya's Ministry of Education, the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, and the Kenya-China Alumni Association also joined the discussion at the seminar.

The students who are set to pursue their studies in universities across China vowed to make full use of the opportunity and serve as ambassadors for friendship between the two countries to enhance bilateral cooperation featuring sincerity, real results, amity and good faith.

Darius Mogaka Ogutu, director of higher education at the Ministry of Education, said he was grateful to the Chinese government for providing scholarships for Kenyan students.

"This is an opportunity for you to shine, for you to come back to share (what you have learned), and build your country and encourage more people," Ogutu said, adding that thousands of Kenyan youngsters have pursued their higher education in China and contributed a lot in their fields.

During the seminar, Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Zhou Pingjian told the students that understanding China's people-centered philosophy will greatly help them understand the nation and better pursue their studies.

Underlining the long-lasting friendship between China and Kenya, Zhou said every Kenyan student in China is an envoy of the people-to-people exchange. He encouraged all students to strive to promote the in-depth development

of the comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Elizabeth Sambasi, who applied for an undergraduate degree in data science and big data technology at Donghua University in the eastern Chinese metropolis of Shanghai, told Xinhua that cooperation between the two countries ranges from infrastructure construction to science and technology.

"China's development in the field of data science is leading the world. And China is the safest country in the world," said the 21-year-old student. "Studying in China is the best choice for me."

Jacob Oloo has applied for a PhD in information technology from several universities in Beijing. "It is always good to be part of China's development. China is taking up the whole world in terms of technology. Being a student of technology and public management, I would like to go and get a quality education and come back to Kenya and help my country to progress in the economy."

Since 1982, the Chinese government has provided scholarships for thousands of Kenyan students.

Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan scholar on international relations and a recipient of the scholarship, expressed his hope that the students would cherish the opportunity to study in China, make contributions in their respective professional fields, and live up to the expectations of the Chinese and Kenyan governments.



This is an opportunity for you to shine, for you to come back to share (what you have learned), and build your country and encourage more people



Justus Ng'wantalima (R), Dodoma regional secretary of the Tanzania Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities, has an audience with elderly people with disabilities in Nkulabi ward yesterday. In part, he underlined the need for parents and guardians to ensure all of their children with disabilities go to school. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Tanzanian youths urged to exploit business, investment opportunities

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN youths have been challenged to be innovative and exploit the existing business and investment opportunities to transform their lives.

Christome Tembo, CFGT Tanzania Limited chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) made the call yesterday when speaking at the sideline of the 47th on-going Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

Tembo said Tanzania has plenty

of business opportunities needed to be fully utilised and better lives of youths.

"We need to help youths who are the main energetic cadre needed for production to be more innovative and unleash business opportunities. Tanzania is rich and has everything that can create wealth to youth and improve their living," Tembo said, commending efforts taken by the sixth phase government under the stewardship of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to improve the business environment.

"The last three years we have seen major economic transformation and recognition of private sector contributions to the national economy," Tembo said, adding that the public-private partnership has been growing.

He said CFGT Tanzania as local company would continue to work in partnership with both local and international companies in a view to promoting business and investment opportunities available in Tanzania.

"My firm has competent experts providing consultancy services in

many areas apart from being the Whole Sale and Retail Distributors of lubricant oils of Puma and Lake Oil companies," he said.

Christina Yotham, firm's pavilion manager said CFGT Tanzania used the platform to promote the firm services and products through the trade fair.

"The event has been of great significance for CFGT Tanzania since we have registered a number of business local and international contacts," Christina explained.

CFGT provides a wide range of services including business consultancy, business process outsourcing, employment outsourcing, work permit and residence permit processing, investment guide, reference check and police clearance check.



Muheza District by-election returning officer Zaina Saidi (R) issues directives to supervisors and other people picked to oversee this Thursday's polls in Potwe ward. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

12 African countries to receive 18m doses of first ever malaria vaccine

By Special Correspondent

TWELVE countries across different regions in Africa are set to receive 18 million doses of the first-ever malaria vaccine over the next two years.

The roll out is a critical step forward in the fight against one of the leading causes of death in the

continent.

The RTS,S/AS01 vaccine, developed by a public-private partnership in 2001 between GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health or PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to PATH, has

been administered to more than 1.7 million children in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi since 2019 and has been shown to be safe and effective, resulting in a substantial reduction in severe malaria and a fall in child deaths. At least 28 African countries have expressed interest in receiving the malaria vaccine.

In addition to Ghana, Kenya and

Malawi, the initial 18 million dose allocation will enable nine more countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Uganda, to introduce the vaccine into their routine immunisation programmes for the first time.

This allocation round makes use of the supply of vaccine doses available to Gavi, Vaccine Alliance via UNICEF. The first doses of the vaccine are expected to arrive in countries during the last quarter of 2023, with countries starting to roll them out by early 2024.

UDSM and DUCE set to provide capacity building for members

By Beatrice Philemon

THE University of Dar es Salaam in collaboration with Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) are expected to provide capacity building for members of the Health Facility Governing Committee (HFGC) and Council Health Service Boards (CHSB) in Handeni and Mbarali districts to enhance productivity.

Prof Stephen Maluka, principal investigator made the statement yesterday when speaking at the on-going 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF). He said they have decided to conduct capacity building programmes because some members of the committees are not aware of their roles.

A study conducted in Handeni District, Tanga Region and Mbarali District in Mbeya Region between July and October 2022 showed that 88.3 percent of the interviewees had never heard or participated in selecting the members of the governing committee or boards, he said.

The research was conducted by researchers from University of

Dar es Salaam, DUCE and Umea University—Sweden with funding from the Swedish Research Council.

It also showed that 44.7 percent of the people interviewed said the health facility governing committees and boards were important in ensuring people get medicines at health facilities near their localities.

He said the Swedish Research Council allocated Swedish Krona (SEK) 4,390,067 equivalent to 987,765,000/- for the research project whereas apart from the project, one DUCE staff is supported for PhD studies at Umea University.

Findings of the study further indicated that 85.3 percent of people in the two districts were unaware of the presence of the health facility governing committees while 96.5 were unaware of the presence of the boards and 91.7 percent did not know the roles of the health facility governing committees and the boards.

Also 96.7 percent said they had never received any feedback from the committee and board members while 49.8 percent said the committee and board members do not collect opinions from the community.

Prof Maluka said the study showed lack of accountability among members of the committees because only 14.5 percent of interviewees said the committees and board members were accountable to the community.

Cresencia Masawe, Senior Lecturer, department of history, political science and development studies added that the HFGC and CHSB are management organs responsible for overseeing the overall functioning and strategic direction of healthcare facilities.

These committees and boards comprise individuals from the communities, healthcare professionals, administrators, representatives from the community and private health care providers operating closely to the facilities.

Their primary objective is to ensure that the healthcare facility operates efficiently, provides high-quality care and meets the needs of the community it serves.

The main roles of the HFGC and CHSB are to develop the plans and budget of the facility and ensure the availability of drugs and supplies, she said.



Hadija Hinchu of Mabwepande in suburban Dar es Salaam speaks at a public meeting held at the weekend chiefly to deliberate on problems commonly experienced in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Orphans praise Dar school for providing them with education

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

ORPHANED girl students who finished secondary school education between 2009 and 2022 at Bethsaida secondary school have expressed their thanks to officials of the school for providing them education opportunities that have enabled them realise their dreams in life.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam after visiting the Dar es Salaam based school, Monika John, who completed Form IV in 2019 said she is thankful for the education opportunity given to her even though she said she could not proceed to further education opportunity at Arusha (College due to economic challenges.

"Despite this, I'm grateful to the way we lived at the school, the love and respect extended to us all and to the person who had offered to help me to pursue further education," said Monika.

Taking part in DITF gave us chance to advertise - TCDC

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Cooperatives Development Centre (TCDC) has said participating in the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair gives them the opportunity to advertise themselves, access to markets and learn many issues from traders both local and foreign.

TCDC chief executive officer and Registrar, Dr Benson Ndiege made the remarks yesterday during his visit at pavilions by cooperative unions at the ongoing 47th DITF at Mwalimu Nyerere Fair Grounds in Dar es Salaam.

"When they come at the Fair with

their products, first they access to markets, investors or traders from within and outside the country

"Not only that, they have a lot to learn because the Fair is international and incorporates people from various world countries," he added.

"Hence, when we mobilise them to come here, we connect them to markets, and buyers from within and outside the country. "But when they visit various other pavilions, they get the chance to learn in order to improve on what they themselves do or produce," Dr Ndiege said.

He called on those who have not visited the Fair to do so to learn

education to orphaned children.

He said since its establishment in 2005 more than 470 children achieved to attain their dreams in life, and added that they are proud that their lives had changed.

"In making sure in giving them education, we collaborate with religious organisations, various charitable institutions and other good intentioned Tanzanians who have been part of the children's lives, while also seeing how we can reach out to many more Tanzanians in need of education," he said.

"We do not charge them anything when they come here - including food, accommodation and various school items, we are making all efforts to make sure the school continues to exist even though our ability is limited, hence we appeal to Tanzanians and the government to continue giving us a hand to attain our goals," Machari added.

He also said they have plans to establish a technical school for those who will miss selection to continue to Form V and those who did not have the opportunity to get secondary education.

about various issues including opportunities available.

He also appealed to cooperative unions which have not participated in the fair this year, to mobilise themselves to do so next year. This is an excellent trade fair for trade and investment, hence they should make sure they do not miss it," he added.

"For example, one has tobacco, cocoa or other crops, when he comes here to exhibit them, it is easy to foreign markets for them.

He said since the beginning of the Fair, they have been receiving various visitors visiting their pavilions to learn about cooperatives' activities and that they will continue to educate to enable other people understand about the importance of cooperatives and various opportunities therein.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WATER



PROJECT NAME: TANZANIA SECOND WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT (WSSP-II)

Invitation for Bids

Loan/Credit/Grant No. IDA 59490

Assignment Title: Supply, Installation, Commissioning, and After-Sales Services of Hydrological Monitoring Stations

Reference No.: ME-011/WB-WSSP-P150361/336626/2022/2023/G/24

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the United Nations Development Business; Issue No. WB5803 - 12/16 of December 21, 2016.
- Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Second Water Sector Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and After-Sales Services of Hydrological Monitoring Stations.
- The Ministry of Water now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of the following Water Resources Monitoring Networks which shall be installed at the nine (9) Tanzania Basin Water Boards (BWBs).
 - Twenty (20) Stevenson wood screens and twenty (20) metallic Class A Evaporation Pans
 - Sixty threes (63) metallic structures for cableway systems and minor civil works
 - Minor civil works for the installation of 100 hydrological stations, 20 weather stations, 80 precipitation stations, and 100 groundwater stations
 - One (1) National Water Data Management System and related hardware / software platform (Ministry of Water, Dodoma)
 - Nine (9) Regional Water Data Management System and related hardware / software platform.
 - One hundred (100) Automatic hydrological monitoring stations and related ancillary instruments.
 - Twenty (20) Automatic weather monitoring stations and related ancillary instruments
 - Eighty (80) Automatic precipitation monitoring stations and related ancillary instruments
 - One hundred (100) Automatic groundwater monitoring stations and related ancillary instruments.
 - Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and After-sales services
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's "Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers of January 2011 revised July 2014 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Water, P. O. Box 456, Kolon Building opposite DUWASA Head Office, PMU Office, 40473 Dodoma. Email: pmu@maji.go.tz Dodoma from 8.00 to 15:30 on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Ministry of Water, P. O. Box 456, Kolon Building adjacent to DUWASA Head Office, Dodoma from 8.00 to 15:30 hour's local time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Thousand (TZS. 100,000.00) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be through the Control Number to be provided by the Ministry of Water. Please request a control number through mail address pmu@maji.go.tz, after getting the control number make payment and follow up your receipt via emails above.
- Please note that the bidding documents are being provided in hard copies. However, only for the convenience of the bidders, in filling the various forms and the Price Schedules, a soft copy in CD is also being given. The bidders should note that in case of any difference in the hard and the soft copy, the one in hard copy only will prevail.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security equal to USD 160,000 (One hundred sixty thousand US Dollar) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency in the form provided in the bidding document, valid for 28 days beyond the validity of the bid, that is 148 days after bid submission date. The Bid Security shall be clearly addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water.
- All sealed bids in One (1) original plus Three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address given below on 21st August 2023 before or at 11:00 hour's local time. The outer envelope of the bid should be clearly sealed and addressed to the Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Water P. O. Box 456 Dodoma, and marked "TENDER NUMBER. ME-011/WB-WSSP-P150361/336626/2022/2023/G/24- Supply, Installation, Commissioning, and After-Sales Services of Hydrological Monitoring Stations and Marked DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 11.00 HOURS Local Time. Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline at a public bid opening ceremony to be held in presence of bidder's designated representatives who choose to attend at the address below: -
- Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- The address referred to above is:

The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board,
Ministry of Water,
Kolon Building adjacent to DUWASA Head Office
Chimwaga Road,
P.O. BOX 456, Dodoma,
Tanzania
Attn: PMU Offices
E-mail: pmu@maji.go.tz

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF WATER

Government vows to support university's satellite project

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE government has pledged to support the 'Nano Satellite Project' innovated by lecturers and students in computer science and information system department from St Joseph University in Tanzania (SJUIT). The innovation is set to launch the first satellite into space in the next few months.

Eng Kundo Mathew, deputy minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology made the remarks over the weekend at the third SJUIT science and technology exhibition held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the portrayed exhibitions vividly showed scholars' readiness to engage in the employment market believing that with the new knowledge and support from the government and stakeholders, would accelerate the country to move forward in research and industrial investment.

"It is with no doubt that you are studying in an era where there is huge space for innovation aiming at bringing solutions to the community. I would like to assure you that the government will provide you with maximum cooperation to support the journey you have started upon satellite innovation," he said.

"The exhibitions have shown that education provided in Tanzania, particularly at SJUIT, is of high quality, however it proves the fact that our students are no different from those outside the country," he added.

He further commended SJUIT for practically acting on the recent directives issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, on initiating processes on satellite innovation.

He added: "I have heard the University's President of the University Council saying that he went to India in Bangalore City where he communicated with expertise on this field saying that students from this university working in this field will be taken for further studies. With the initiative it is in no doubt that the nation will utilise their knowledge in the future."

Dr. T. X. A. Ananth, SJUIT Council President said the university embarked on the project in 2020 through the Innovation

and Techno - Entrepreneurship Acceleration Facility (ITAF) to fulfill the government's vision in creating space by launching the first satellite in Tanzania.

"In this 2022/2023 academic year and in the next few months we expect our Nano Satellite to go to orbit using the launch vehicle rocket from India. We have collaborated with training institutions from India to train more than 30 of our students and five lecturers who are working on this project. This is done mainly to capacity build Tanzanians to fulfill the government vision in launching its own satellite space," he said.

He added: "They will be trained on various aspects of satellite building, monitoring and interpretation of data. We are going to allot a fund of around 250m/-which will be used in the next six month in this particular venture."

Gertrude Mongella, SJUIT council member said the aspect of women in technology shows how women are left behind due to several factors; however, recent statistics has revealed how women have made one step ahead holding the same position as men in the innovation sector.

"Few women in Tanzania participate in the Information, Communication and Technology field. As a result only 25 percent of women hold tech jobs in Tanzania and girls comprise only 10 percent of students earning degrees in computer science. This is much influenced by parents who prefer boys over girls especially in education," she said.

Tanzania will join Kenya and Uganda, which have developed and launched satellites into space in the past seven months.

The development of a satellite has far-reaching implications across multiple sectors. In communication, a satellite can enhance connectivity in remote areas, bridge the digital divide and improve access to education and healthcare services.

Other key sectors such as agriculture, satellite data can provide valuable insights into soil moisture, vegetation health and crop monitoring, enabling farmers to make informed decisions about irrigation, fertilisation and pest control.

Indian delegation commends govt for ensuring businesses conducive climate

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

A DELEGATION of 40 Indians who were in the country to explore investment opportunities has commended the government for improving the businesses and investment environment.

Speaking over the weekend at a business conference organised by Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in Dar es Salaam, head of the delegation, Rekha Sharma said the country's current investment environment is attractive. The meeting was attended by the business community from Tanzania and India.

Sharma said the Indian business community has shown interest to invest in various areas including minerals.

She said information from the Director General of TIC Gilead Teri shows that the government is ready to help foreign investors by setting up various incentives.

"We have been in Tanzania since July 5th, we come from various parts of India—Mumbai and Gujarat. We wanted to explore investment opportunities, we have been impressed with a good business environment", she said, noting the Indian investors come from the mining, oil, education and health sectors.

Zanzibar Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, Oman Said Shaaban said the volume of trade between Tanzania and India has increased from \$2,836.40 million in 2013 to \$3,138.9 million in 2022.

"This makes the balance of trade between the two countries remain in favour of India, total exports

from Tanzania to India increased from \$748.2 million in 2013 to \$1,178.6 million in 2022," he said.

Products exported from Tanzania to India include cashew nuts, coconuts, brazilian nuts, groundnuts, dried and un-dried leguminous vegetables, precious stones and semi-precious stones, cotton lint, pyrethrum extract, wattle extract, cloves, tea, raw hides and skins, sisal; wood and wood products.

He said Tanzania and India established a Joint Trade Committee in 2000 to facilitate effective implementation of the trade agreement and foster commercial exchanges.

Shaaban said the Joint Trade Committee has met three times and has identified various areas of cooperation in agro-processing, leather processing, gemstone cutting and polishing, pharmaceuticals, information technology, iron and steel, gas, and power production.

He said Tanzania and India maintain excellent relations that have existed over the years. He said Tanzania is now implementing Economic Development Zones (EDZs) programs which encompass Economic Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to invigorate manufacturing of value-added goods for regional markets and export to other countries," he said.

He said the potential areas of investment in which Indian investors are welcome to invest under EDZ include development of infrastructures and manufacturing operations, establishment of stand-alone EPZ sites, construction of single EPZs factories at any geographical location in Tanzania.



Civil Social Protect Foundation legal officer Eliakim Paulo speaks at a symposium for tanzanite stakeholders held at Mirerani in Simanjiro District on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

CBRT, Equinor Tanzania join hands in fistula treatment in Lindi

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE Dar es Salaam-based CCBRT hospital with support of Equinor Tanzania, will conduct a one-week obstetric fistula surgical camp at Lindi regional referral hospital.

The camp which will be held in collaboration with Lindi Regional Commissioner's office is a result of a partnership between CCBRT, Sokoine hospital and Equinor Tanzania.

Equinor will support CCBRT 3rd, 4th and 5th phases with a total of \$250,000 to provide fistula treatment, holistic care and economic empowerment to women and girls suffering from obstetric

fistula from Lindi region.

The first two phases that took place from 2019 to 2022 a total of 57 women with fistula from Lindi region were treated and provided for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for health providers at CCBRT and Sokoine hospital against COVID -19.

Speaking during the press conference held at Lindi Regional Office yesterday, CCBRT's Manager of Projects, Yohana Kasawala, said, "CCBRT is incredibly grateful to Equinor for their generous support."

"The lives of women suffering from obstetric fistula improve dramatically with treatment at CCBRT and Sokoine Hospitals

because of partners like Equinor," he said.

Kasawala informed members of the press that, early next month, a new class of 12 students will join Mabinti Centre with support from Equinor Tanzania, explaining Mabinti Centre as CCBRT's project, which trains young women recovering from fistula surgery in screen-printing, sewing, beading and crochet, at the end of their course each graduate is provided with a starter kit containing a sewing machine, scissors, a supply of fabric and a calculator.

"Once again, we are grateful to our partner Equinor for supporting the training of these women;

the Mabinti approach is holistic: recognising that true healing comes from not only increasing knowledge, confidence and skills but also empowering women with information about their bodies, their health and how to take these lessons back to their communities. Sessions on nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, and family planning all contribute to increased well-being," said Kasawala.

As many as 3,000 Tanzanian women develop obstetric fistula each year, a condition that leaves them leaking urine uncontrollably. As a result, they are often excluded from their families and communities.



DTB Bank head office staff pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend donating blood during a voluntary life-saving drive organised by the bank in coordination with the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Agro-insurance product to rebuild farmers' confidence

By Guardian Correspondent

THE newly launched Mtezi Agriculture Insurance is set to boost farmers' morale and confidence enabling them to plan their finances easily and with peace of mind.

Launched recently in Dar es Salaam by Strategis Insurance, the agro-insurance advantages include financial protection, risk management, improved access to credit, business sustainability and encouraging investment in agriculture.

Jabir Kigoda, Strategis Insurance

CEO - non medical told this paper in an interview yesterday that the new product has been introduced to provide relief to the farmers and ensure they are protected against calamities that might affect their crops production.

"Most of the time farmers operate under so many uncertainties as they are not sure of what would happen in the event of natural disasters. We at Strategis have come up with Mtezi Insurance to eradicate these uncertainties and at the same time guarantee the farmers compensation in the event of tragedies," he said.

According to Kigoda, Mtezi Insurance will cover all major perils which include drought, hails, flood, frost, windstorm, pests and diseases with the optional add-on of the Weather Index Insurance which basically covers floods and drought.

He called on farmers countrywide to take advantage of the new product as they will be assured of financial protection, risk management, improved access to credit and business sustainability.

He further assured farmers that claims will be paid on time as directed by the Commissioner of

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), Dr Baghayo Saqware while launching the new insurance in Dar es Salaam recently.

He said farmers need to form groups so as to get the cover easily instead of doing it individually. "It is easier to deal with a group than individuals hence we call on farmers to use their unions to get this very essential cover and we shall be there to guide them step by step," he said.

The CEO further noted that Strategis teams are already out in the field to sensitize farmers on the new insurance cover.



Jenista Mhagama (C, gesturing, in black-&-green head-cloth), who is Peramiho legislator and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured yesterday celebrating alongside residents of Namatuihi village in the constituency. She was on a routine tour. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

University comes up with solar food dryer machine

By Guardian Correspondent

UNIVERSITY of Dodoma (UDOM) has developed a new solar food dryer machine with capacity to dry fruits and vegetables, preventing them from rotting and thus rescuing farmers from harvest losses.

Aneth Ndyanabo (25), the inventor of the system and graduate of Bachelor of Science in renewable energy engineering course from the university, said that crops that can be dried by the machine are mangoes, grapes, carrots, green vegetables and tomatoes.

Narrating about the new invention at the ongoing 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), Aneth said the machine is unique and the best as it dries up fruits and vegetables as well as groundnuts and cashewnut very quickly.

"The solar dryer can get 28 to 45 degrees hotter than the outside temperature, meaning fruit and vegetable slices dry much quicker," she said.

She noted that post-harvest loss and food waste is a major problem facing many farmers with reports showing that a lot of food rot in farmers' fields, spoiled in delivery or wasted when it is not consumed

or used in other ways.

She said that with the machine, farmers will be able to dry their produce providing them more money, as they can be sold for a higher price when fresh fruits and vegetables are no longer available in the market.

"Fruits take between six to 16 hours to be well dried; this depends on the level of water in the fruits or vegetables, the machine will reach more people once things are sorted well because it is still under the university, dried products can stay up to eight months," she asserted.

Aneth further said that the machine will be of great help for tomato farmers who have counting losses every harvesting season.

"We are also planning to improve the quality of the machine so as to be able to dry other crops such as potatoes and cassava," she added.

She said the machine, which has spent 300,000/- to its completion, has been made up of wood so as to avoid getting rust for food safety.

"We are also planning to improve the quality of the machine so as to be able to dry other crops such as potatoes and cassava"

Dar es Salaam company: We're keen to spruce up local hospitality industry

By Guardian Correspondent

A DAR ES SALAAM-based catering and hospitality firm, Foodex yesterday unveiled its new national plan to improve services delivery in the country's hospitality industry.

Safa Erzurumlugil, the Foodex CEO said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a press briefing on the company's new strategy in Tanzania.

"We want to transform catering and hospitality industry services in this country and provide high quality and standard services to domestic and international customers," he said.

According to him, the company's plan intends to complement the sixth government initiatives to improve catering and the hospitality industry, which is a key to ongoing national economic and business growth and development strategies.

"We are determined and committed to supporting government strategies aimed at transforming the hospitality industry," Erzurumlugil said, adding: "The move will attract investors and tourists from different parts of the world to come to Tanzania."

He said as the government took long-term strategic steps to boost the business and investment environment, the provision of high quality and up to standard catering and hospitality services was inevitable.

"Business and investment growth will definitely need high quality food, catering and other related services. That is why Foodex has come up with a new strategic plan that will ensure Tanzanians and foreigners doing business in the country are provided with standard food and catering services."

Expounding on food and catering service delivery, the company top official said his company would provide catering services that embraced all types of events and occasions, delivering outstanding culinary experience to its esteemed clients and guests.

"We have a team of experienced chefs, event planners and service members of staff who work closely with each client to create customised menus that reflect their unique tastes and preferences. We use the freshest and high-quality ingredients, sourced locally whenever possible, to create delicious and visually stunning dishes," he said.

He explained that their extensive menu offers included a range of international cuisines such as Italian, Indian, Chinese, as well as special dietary options such as vegetable, vegan, gluten-free, halal, hot and cold buffets, plated meals, and snack platters."

As regards corporate services, Foodex catering services have been designed to provide business with high quality, delicious food for different types of corporate events, board meetings, training sessions, office parties and so on with the main goal of providing customers with stress-free event experience and high-quality services, according to CEO.

In fact, Foodex is a modern catering firm that innovates with modern gastronomy and commercial services that integrate customer relationships. "Foodex has a rapid development team, feedback collection units with large customer base, providing full food and services management and prefers to investment in this geographic area because of the welcoming environment."



We are determined and committed to supporting government strategies aimed at transforming the hospitality industry

KCB BANK

Tariff Guide

SERVICE	TZS	USD/EURO	KES	GBP
STATEMENTS				
Monthly Statement	free	free	free	free
Duplicated Statements per page (excluding community account)	2,000 per page/Free via email	1.30pp	78pp	0.70pp
Interim Statement per page (excluding community account)	2,000 per page/Free via email	1.30pp	78pp	0.70pp
Balance Enquiry	1,500	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
ATM VISA DEBIT CARD				
ATM Card Issuance (for the first time)	7,500.00	5	n/a	n/a
ATM withdrawal from KCB ATMs (per transaction)	1,000.00	equivalent	n/a	n/a
ATM withdrawal from Non-KCB ATMs (Tanzania)	2500	1.3	n/a	n/a
ATM withdrawal from Non-KCB ATMs (International)	6500 per each 400,000 limit	3.3	n/a	n/a
ATM mini statements	free	free	n/a	n/a
Daily Limit	2,000,000.00	equivalent	50000	equivalent
POS and E-commerce daily limit	5,000,000.00	2,500	n/a	n/a
Minimum withdrawals	5000	equivalent	n/a	n/a
ATM Card Replacement (lost/destroyed cards)	7,500.00	5	n/a	n/a
Blocking/unblocking ATM cards	free	free	n/a	n/a
Card Renewal	7,500.00	5	n/a	n/a
Quarter maintenance fee	1,000	1	n/a	n/a
Camera viewing	30,000	equivalent	n/a	n/a
STANDING ORDER				
within KCB	2500	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Outward to other banks	5000	3	n/a	n/a
Setup/Amend Standing Order	8,000.00	7	500	4
Unpaid Standing Order (penalty)	10000	10	500	10
CHEQUES				
Unpaid Cheque (insufficient funds) - Outward	15000	13	n/a	n/a
Unpaid Cheque (insufficient) - inward	65000	52	n/a	n/a
Unpaid Cheques - technical	15000	15	n/a	n/a
USD unpaid cheque	52	52	n/a	n/a
Counter Leaves	13000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Bankers Cheque	30,000.00	30	n/a	n/a
Stop payment-per set up	25000	25	1300	13
New cheque book retail	600 per leaf	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
TT'S INTERNATIONAL				
Outward	55USD (equivalent) over the counter /45 USD (equivalent) for IB	55USD over the counter /45 USD for IB	equivalent	equivalent
Inward TT (excluding community accounts)	13USD (TZS equivalent)	13USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
Recall of funds/Cancellation of TT	190USD (TZS equivalent)	190USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
Intercompany transfers (KCB to KCB Regional Transfers)	40USD (TZS equivalent)	40USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
Amendment of TT (Customer Induced)	10USD (TZS equivalent)	10USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
TRANSFERS LOCAL				
KCB to KCB	3,000 over the counter /1,500 on IB	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
EFT (KCB Tanzania to any local bank)	3500 over the counter /1,500 on IB	3	n/a	n/a
TISS/local TT (excluding community account)	10000	13	n/a	n/a
East African Payments (EAPS)	10000	n/a	870	n/a
MINIMUM A/C OPENING BALANCE				
Current Account-Company (SME&CORPORATE)	100000	100	5000	13
Current-Personal	50000	100	5000	65
Mapato Account	10000	10	500	10
KCB Junior Account	10000	10	500	10
KCB Student Account	10000	10	500	10
KCB Simba Savers	50000	50	n/a	n/a
A/C CLOSURE				
Closing account	Free	39	2200	26
OTHER SERVICES				
Search of old documents	20,000	13	900	10.5
Forex Cash Deposits (smaller denominations below US \$ 50)	n/a	n/a	n/a	8% for denominations that are less than USD 50
Dormant Account Activation	free	free	free	free
ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE FEES				
Counter Withdrawals (excluding Simba, Cub & Community accounts)	+10million 2500 - 10million 0.1% max 20000	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Ledger Fees - Current Accounts (excluding community and salary)	personal current account 10,000, business 20,000, corporate account 30,000	personal current 10USD/Business 16USD/Corporate 20USD	700	personal current 10GBP/Business 16GBP/Corporate 20GBP
Ledger Fees - Savings Accounts (Exclude Simba, Cub, Salary & Student Accounts)	Mapato 1,500	7	176	7
THIRD PARTY ENCASHMENT				
Withdrawal fee to be paid by the beneficiary	6500/13USD	13	13	7
Annual setup fee (SME's and Corporate) to be paid in by the account holder	50,000	50	4400	33
SALARY PROCESSING				
Salary processing	4,000 over the counter / 3,000 IB	equivalent	130	equivalent
CERTIFICATE OF BALANCE				
Balance of Account (Flat fee per certificate)	39000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Auditors Confirmation (flat per certificate)	30000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Reference Letters	30000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent

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Policy makers can improve the quality of our education

MANY African countries and Tanzania is no exception, face major challenges in providing quality and accessible education through government-funded schools. This is why advocates of private schools speak of their ability to help rapidly increase access to quality education where government budgets or infrastructure are inadequate to meet the rising demand.

Around 20 per cent of children enrolled in primary school in low income countries attend private primary schools. Officials in education ministries in developing countries are least satisfied with the advice they get from donors on private schools, compared with advice on curriculum, teachers, textbooks and exams.

But it's tricky to support the private sector in a manner that is fair, equitable and not to the detriment of public schools. It's also a controversial space to enter; the Global Partnership for Education prohibits funding for 'commercial' providers of education unless circumstances are exceptional.

As private school enrollment grows, maintaining public spending in education is key to ensuring equitable distribution of opportunities. Fortunately, many countries increase per capita spending on public education even as more students enroll in private schools. These countries tend to be more democratic and less unequal. The relationship between public spending and private school enrollment is less clear in countries with weaker democratic institutions and higher income inequality.

In the absence of broad-based democracy, the interests of children in public schools may suffer as elites have little incentive to continue investing in public education once the children of the rich and powerful

are in private schools. These are the countries where donors need to be especially cautious to not cause any reduction in public spending on education.

Donors engaging with the private education sector should encourage ministries of finance to protect social spending and not divert resources away from public schools as enrollment in private schools expands. Donors supporting the private education sector should in parallel provide support to public education to demonstrate the need to maintain spending on public education. Improvements in public schools also force private schools to improve to keep up and compete.

Promising approaches for donors to support include provision of information to parents about private school performance, supporting governments to provide a strong and fair regulatory environment for private schools, providing financing to private schools, and improving the market for books, materials, and teacher training.

Public-private partnerships are not a silver bullet for improving quality. But they may represent a cheap way to rapidly expand access to school for cash-strapped governments. The limited evidence we have on when governments have tried to improve quality by hiring private management to run public schools shows mediocre results and an abundance of incomplete contracts.

Donor support could include technical advice and capacity building efforts targeted at public officials and civil society organisations that work closely with the private sector. Some countries have more experience of promoting and regulating private education than others. In this regard, donors could play an important role by funding and facilitating policy dialogues between countries on issues related to private education.

20 years of AU anti-corruption convention show limited results

NEWs that President Samia Suluhu Hassan was expected to officiate at the climax of the African Anti-Corruption Week conference in the tourism capital of Arusha had analysts holding their breath. They heard that Tanzania is a flag bearer in anti-graft efforts in Africa as a whole, despite that Tanzania is at the moment recognized as the 94 least corrupt nation out of 180 countries. The datum is based on the 2022 edition of the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International. Most others rank lower but for some island states.

Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla noted that Tanzania was the first country to endorse the African Union convention against graft that was concluded in 2003. Thus it was chosen to host the 20th anniversary event, with more than 700 delegates taking part. It was a moment of exchanging noted but unlike actual police work like monitoring drugs, little leeway was noticed.

For once, Tanzania has also scored some real points in the perception index, but it must be admitted that commentators, both inside and outside the bureaucratic hierarchy, aren't listing the reasons cohesively enough. A discussion on 'good governance' on an international radio forum mid last week identified it with democratic freedoms, more or less. Bureaucrats fearing to steal public funds as there could be consequences, not more seminars, wasn't cited as an illustration.

As the AU marked 20 years of the anti-graft convention, the most they could show of it was to have set up often vast bureaucratic structures, present at the district level, charged

with combating graft. Yet if a road is built below quality standards it is only the minister who can point it out, and if a dispensary has been constructed in a sloppy manner, it often needs the prime minister to go there to say so. The reason is fear of corrupt people - and solidarity with them.

The fear arises from the moral position of minding one's own business, from an initial principle that everyone is potentially corrupt, so if some middle ranking officer publicly cites a quality drawback, he creates enemies. Way back in the 1970s an expression spread like wildfire, from Nigeria, 'scratch my back and I will scratch yours.' Until there is a no-nonsense government that curbs some freedoms in order to have legroom to act, graft combat is to shift musical chairs.

Instead of trying to improve on reporting systems in the fight against corruption as it is more honoured in the breach, the issue is to look for ways to tackle the common law of silence in the face of graft. History shows that formal private ownership is best cure as vigilance is heightened to obtain results. When public sector interests predominate, a culture of graft unifies the public, private sectors.

The reason is that in life each employee must prepare for a good retirement, as much as he (especially) can, and no icons of patriotism obviate the attention of mind or self from this imperative. Employees need to be working for a hiring organisation that seeks business results, not job security by pleasing top public officials. Public sector culture can be altered to take a business outlook, which they often trust to have due to business training, as if technique equals morality.

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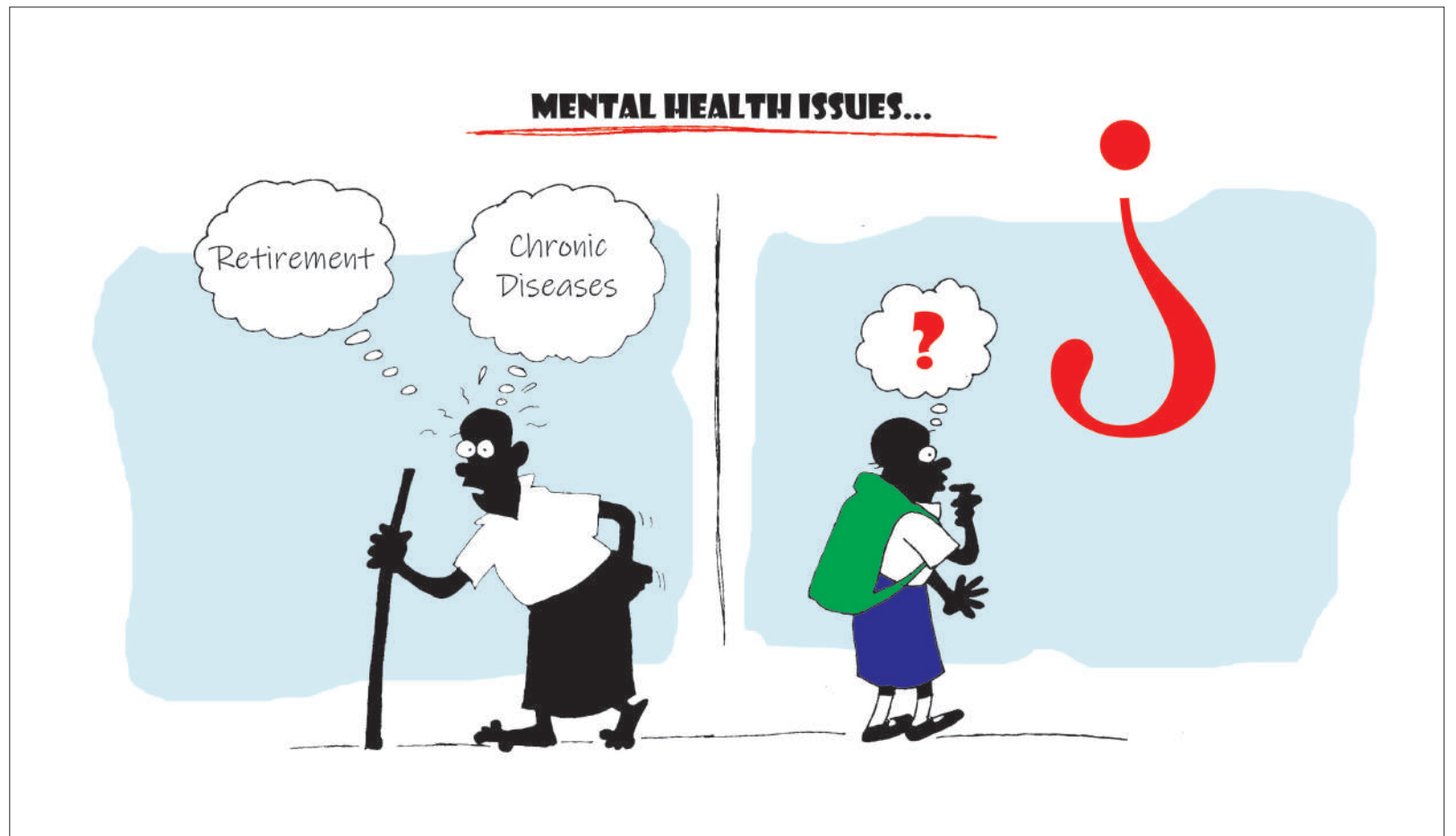
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By Timi Olubiye

Why More Nigerians prefer self-employment

THE number of small businesses in the formal and informal sectors of the Nigerian economy continues to increase due to the vital role that small businesses play as a driving force of any economy and the pillar of major developed economies worldwide. Despite Nigeria's reliance on oil and revenues derived from it, the country's economy is primarily supported by small businesses, including nano, kiosk, micro, and small businesses in particular.

A visible reference within this space includes the vulcanisers, corner shop owners, single retail marketers, repairers, painters, business centre operators, restaurants, market women, and men in the various open markets, among others. And the formal operations such as law firms, accounting firms, consulting, fintech, and real estate companies, and so on in the country.

The small business economic activities in Nigeria play an unrecognised but important role all across the country and can equally contribute largely to the growth of the non-oil sector, employment generation, and the creation of more sustainable entrepreneurship if well harnessed. For instance, the popular Computer Village in Ikeja, the Aba Ariaria Market in Abia State, Kano Kurmi Market in Kano State, and Onitsha Market in Anambra State all consist of clusters of mostly nano, micro, and small businesses

By Nassolo Eugenia

IN an era defined by rapid changes and evolving challenges, the path to national development lies in the emancipation and empowerment of the youth.

Recognizing the immense potential and creativity that resides within the younger generation, governments and societies worldwide are prioritizing efforts to provide opportunities and resources for the holistic development of young individuals. By focusing on education, skills training, and civic engagement, nations can unlock a brighter future and secure sustainable progress.

Education forms the bedrock of personal growth and societal advancement. A strong emphasis on quality education, coupled with inclusive policies, is vital to ensure that every young person has access to learning opportunities.

Governments must invest in educational infrastructure, promote equal access for all regardless of socio-economic background or geographic location, and foster an inclusive learning environment. By equipping the youth with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a solid educational foundation, nations pave the way for innovation and progress.

with huge economic engagements, however without much involvement by the government.

As it stands and relying on the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, NBS, report shows that the total number of enterprises in Nigeria was estimated at 41.5 million, spread out across the 36 states in the country. The breakdown further shows that microenterprises constitute a high 99.8% (41.4 million) of total SMEs. The country enjoys a high presence of small businesses and this form of business predominates any other form of business in the country. Why is that? The simple reason that comes to mind is largely due to the many advantages of being self-employed or having a small business.

From a survey conducted amongst small business owners, independence is the key driver and this gives the advantage to entrepreneurs to be their own bosses and be self-reliant. This singular attribute makes the total financial gain (100%) be that of the entrepreneur or the business owner. Small business gives the operator total business control without any form of dilution from external investors, which is a form of prestige for the operators, according to the views gathered from the survey conducted.

Without a doubt, this form of business is easy to set up and enjoys low or no serious regulatory

requirements, unlike large enterprises. In fact, it is usually made up of one to three people, with even less than N50,000 initial capital outlay to operate. This form of business structure in most cases provides direct services. What do I mean? Hairdressers, fashion designers, dry-cleaners, artisans, kiosk operators, and event planners to mention a few, provide services directly to customers, and with that, they enjoy quick patronage and easy payments.

The administration of small business services is not cumbersome; the problem of coordination and communication which is a major setback to the operations of large firms is therefore easily solved in small businesses. They conveniently give keen interest and personal attention to the particular requirements of their customers who in some cases are willing to pay something extra for the special and urgent services rendered.

Some customers are tied to these small businesses because of the existing long relationship and personal attention they enjoy in the business. Further to this is the decision-making and taking process, because most owners of the small businesses are the operators or managers; there is hardly any problem in the decision process. Unlike the large enterprise approval processes, decision processes and

dealing with customers can take a lot of time but with small businesses, the structure is simple with less bureaucracy.

The vivid truth is those small businesses enjoy agility and flexibility because of the ease with which the businesses can transmute and transfer capital to other sectors or industries, just in case the business operators need to react quickly to opportunities. In short, small businesses can dramatically change their business model to align with new opportunities, which is the prime driver of innovation and creativity.

The survey also led to the conviction that focus is another important advantage of running a small business; the focus of the operators is relatively narrow, and this appears to be a good trait. While large enterprises have to search far and wide for opportunities, small businesses tend to know exactly where they have the most competitive advantage.

Therefore, with all these attributes a well-functioning small business sector would add more value to the economic fortunes of the country, sustain livelihoods, and reduce poverty by creating more job opportunities in the economy than any other sector. Furthermore, these attributes can also give small businesses a competitive edge over large corporate entities and can help shape their success.

Unlocking the potential and empowering Uganda's youth for national development

However, education alone is not enough. To thrive in a competitive global economy, young people need relevant skills that align with the demands of the job market.

Governments and educational institutions must prioritize skills development programs, vocational training, and entrepreneurship initiatives. By providing avenues for young individuals to acquire practical skills, nations can cultivate a dynamic and adaptable workforce that drives economic growth and innovation.

Skills training should go hand in hand with fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. Encouraging young people to embrace innovation, take risks, and think creatively can lead to transformative economic growth.

Governments should provide mentorship, access to funding, and favorable regulatory environments to support aspiring young entrepreneurs.

By nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship, nations not only drive job creation but also stimulate creativity, foster technological advancements, and enhance

competitiveness on the global stage.

Beyond education and skills, engaging youth in decision-making processes is crucial for a vibrant democracy. Emancipating the youth involves creating platforms for their voices to be heard and actively considering their perspectives in policy formulation.

Establishing youth councils, encouraging youth-led initiatives, and fostering meaningful consultations are essential steps in this direction. By involving young people in shaping the social, economic, and political landscapes, nations tap into fresh ideas, diverse viewpoints, and sustainable solutions to national challenges.

Moreover, empowering the youth goes beyond economic and political considerations. It is about creating an inclusive society where all young individuals, regardless of their backgrounds, have equal opportunities to thrive and contribute. This includes addressing issues such as gender inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion. Governments must promote policies that dismantle barriers and create a level playing field for all young

people, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Investing in the empowerment of youth is not just a moral imperative; it is an investment in a nation's future. By providing quality education, skills training, and opportunities for civic engagement, societies create a positive feedback loop.

Emancipated and empowered young individuals become active contributors to their communities, driving economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development.

As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, it is crucial for governments, civil society, and the private sector to unite in their efforts to empower the youth. By unlocking their potential, we can build a prosperous future, ensuring that the next generation is well-equipped to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Therefore, the emancipation and empowerment of youth hold the key to national development. By investing in education, skills training, and fostering civic engagement, nations can harness the potential and creativity of the younger generation.

Marking World Hypertension Day.. amid 100 percent increase in the real cost of measuring blood pressure

By Salifu Abdul-Rahaman

It was intriguing to me when I walked into a pharmaceutical shop to measure my blood pressure (BP) and I was told to pay GH¢2.00 for the service. Not quite long, I usually go for periodic check up on my BP.

So biting that Ghana's economic and financial crisis resulting in high inflation rates has adversely and innocently affected a basic primary health care service by 100 per cent.

Ordinarily, measuring blood pressure in public health institutions as part of collection of vital signs for diagnoses and treatment of diseases is "free" of cost.

Indeed, this year's World Hypertension Day was marked on May 17 on the theme "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control it, Live longer".

Certainly, a worthy public campaign to get more people to go for check up to help in the prevention, control and management of the health condition that is taking a heavy toll on the population.

Whereas, some private health facilities render the service for free as part of their corporate social responsibility towards the fight against rising Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) others are putting a profit motive on it which has the tendency to defeat the public health campaign for regular check up on BP.

Not everyone can afford to pay the GH¢2.00 to measure one's blood pressure.

If anything at all, inflation must not affect essential health service and products in view of the fact that NCDs like hypertension, diabetes, stroke, Ischemic heart disease, sickle cell, asthma to mention but a few, are on the ascendancy in the country that health stakeholders are calling for urgent steps to stem the tide.

This is in light of public health campaign to sensitise and empower people to have regular check up on their BP to determine their status and where there is the need for persons with elevated blood pressure repeatedly above 140/ 90 for them to see the doctor for further diagnoses and management with medication. A normal blood pressure reading is 120/ 80 or less.

What is Hypertension?

An elevated blood pressure repeatedly over 140/90 could be a diagnoses of hypertension. The health condition, also referred to as lifestyle disease is common with people who eat unhealthy diet, consume excessive amount of salt, do not exercise to burn calories accommodated in the body, smoke cigarette or tobacco, and overweight or obese. It could also be hereditary.

Hypertension, when not checked and controlled, leads to severe complications such as stroke, kidney damage, heart attack, among others, with devastating consequences on individuals and households.

One can reduce hypertension by reducing and managing stress, regularly checking blood pressure, and managing other complications, eating plant-based diet.

Ghana Health Services estimates that about 600,000 cases of hypertension are recorded annually at health facilities. These figures exclude cases that are not reported at health facilities.

According to the Ghanaian Society of Cardiology, one in four persons in Ghana has hypertension. It estimates the prevalence of hypertension at 33.75 per cent in both sexes, involving 36.1 for Women and 31.4 for male aged between 30- 79 years.

The statistics further indicates that 35 percent of Ghanaians have hypertension 49 per cent are aware of their status as being hypertensive, 39 per cent on treatment and 18.6 per cent have their blood pressure under control.



The society adds that in Ghana hypertension is the third most common newly diagnosed outpatient disease among adults, and ranks in the top five outpatient disease for more than 15 years.

Your blood pressure accurately, control it, live longer"

According to the Dr Francis Agyekum, Vice President of Ghanaian Society of Cardiology, in a flier, says "Hypertension is like a thief in the night, often no signs or symptoms, until complications develop. Hypertension is silent killer."

Though a "silent killer" hypertension can easily be managed and control with medication and positive lifestyle change in diet and physical activism, for one to live longer and normal life.

At the World Heart Federation summit in Accra last November, Dr Alfred Doku, a consultant physician and cardiologist reportedly told the roundtable discussion that "despite the urgent need, the health system in the country (Ghana) was not well-positioned to tackle the epidemic of NCDs and cardiovascular diseases."

In view of the huge challenges faced by the health system in respective of NCDs, an Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management at the University of Ghana Business School, Professor Aaron Abuosi, is advocating a shift from curative to prevention and health promotion, to curtail the rapid increase in health expenditure, especially in the management of NCDs.

Giving a health talk to his school mates of Old NAVASCAN Union Accra branch meeting recently, Prof. Aaron Abuosi said health expenditure in Ghana per individual was rising exponentially, from estimated \$76 in 2019 and projected to increase to \$176 in 2050.

He posits that the rising health expenditure is largely driven by the rise in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including hypertension, diabetes, cancer, sickle cell asthma, which are expensive and difficult to manage, as the country is moving from developing country to a developed country, that comes with changes in lifestyle.

He, therefore, expressed the need for government to put in place concrete policies and programmes to promote physical activity, nutrition education to public to eat locally-produced foods and health facilities to add screening for workers, to reduce the exponential rising of health expenditure per capita, as a result of increase in NCDs.

He added that National Health Insurance Scheme must include health promotion to empower people to take their health seriously and to reduce cost of curative care.

Explaining further, Prof. Abuosi said Ghana faced a "double burden of disease" of both Communicable Disease (CDs) otherwise known as infections disease like malaria, cholera, pneumonia and typhoid fever and NCDs, adding that CDs were fast giving way to NCDs, driving health expenditure because the NCDs were difficult and costly to manage.

He added that Ghana was going through " demographic transition" from high birth and death rate to low birth and low birth rate occasioned by advancement in medicine, which also came with "epidemiology transition" from CDs to NCDs adding that "the more a country develops, the more it moves away from CDs to NCDs."

Situating his talk within a decade backed by statistics, the health policy and management expert said between 2009 and 2019 NCDs had been on the rise in the country, while CDs were on the ascendancy.

He said though malaria was still a major public health problem, the incidence of malaria in Ghana had reduced by 33.9 per cent within the period, while stroke had increased by 35.2 per cent.

He said in 2009, diabetes was the number 10 cause of death, but moved to number 9 position in 2019, adding that infectious diseases as lower respiratory infection had reduced by 0.5 per cent, neonatal disorder by 18.6 per cent, HIV/ AIDS by 32.6 per cent, Tuberculosis by 12.0 per cent and diarrhoea diseases by 13.1 per cent.

Conversely Prof. Abuosi said NCDs as Ischemic

heart disease had increased in Ghana by 37.6 per cent between 2009-2019 while diabetes increased by 24.6 per cent and cirrhosis by 12.3 per cent.

Prof. Abuosi, said work place safety must include screening for NCDs risk factors, walking rather using lift, incorporate gym and other keep fit facilities, flexible work schedule that also allows worker to work from home.

He noted that NCDs as lifestyle diseases, there was the need to avoid alcohol, reduction in quantity of starch and protein, oils, sugar, salt and coffee, and emphasised increase in vegetables and fruits, daily exercise between 30 and an hour walk and periodic medical check-up blood pressure. Body Mass Index to check for overweight ing sugar level, kidney functioning.

Touching on population, he said Ghana's population which was more 30 million was still style in pyramid form with youthful base, adding that the population was projected to be over 50 million by 2100.

He said fertility had declined to 3.2 percent, adding that by 2100, Ghana's fertility rate was projected to be at 1.3 percent, while life expectancy at birth would up 81 years for female and 71 years for male, from the current 68.4 for female and 62.6 for male.

Way forward

In order, to make the public campaign and sensitisation on Hypertension meaningful, especially on the theme "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control it, Live Longer" there is the need to synchronise it with provision of services.

Blood pressure monitor must be made available at subsidised prices for ordinary household to own it as part of health care delivery.

Measuring of blood pressure must be made free in health institutions nationwide. So that people can easily walk into any health facility and pharmaceutical shops to check up their BP.

Workplaces must have a desk to encourage regular BP check-up in the work force.

A stitch in time saves nine, so "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control it, Live Longer".

Hypertension, when not checked and controlled, leads to severe complications such as stroke, kidney damage, heart attack, among others, with devastating consequences on individuals and households

Urgent action needed to improve Africa's food systems

By Boaz Kaizire

The impact of a series of crises is exacerbating vulnerabilities in Africa's food systems. Things will get worse unless mitigating actions are taken now to safeguard Africa's food security.

From 5-9 September, African and global business leaders will meet in Kigali, Rwanda, for the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), the continent's most influential gathering around Africa's largest economic sector - agriculture and food systems.

This year's AGRF is probably the most significant since the Covid-19 pandemic, which not only heavily affected the 2020 and 2021 editions of the AGRF, but also the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Covid-19 has confirmed that we need to reform our food systems. "Building back better" will not be enough; we need to rethink how we produce, distribute and eat food, and to do this, African political and business leaders must think and act differently, and be willing to set different agendas that transform their food systems.

The 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition report paints an alarming picture of Africa's agri-food systems transformation efforts. Despite unprecedented efforts by African heads of state and government to drive regional change through country Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programmes (CAADP), the report indicates that 35m more people were affected by hunger in 2020 compared with 2019, before the Covid-19 outbreak, with

an additional 15m in 2021.

The report further shows that 20% of Africa's population was facing hunger in 2021, compared with 9.1% in Asia. It is in Africa where the population affected by hunger has increased the most compared to other continents. This is of major concern and should worry anyone.

Number of people likely to be in food crisis or worse in 2022

Amid the onslaught of the Covid-19 outbreak, Africa has to battle other crises:

First: Increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns threaten Africa's food and water security. The El Niño-induced drought during the 2015-16 cropping seasons across the Southern African countries led to higher-than-normal temperatures and erratic and low rainfall. The 2019 devastating floods in the greater Horn of Africa, the 2019-20 invasion of desert locusts in Eastern Africa, and the current looming climate-induced famine in the Horn of Africa, for example, have made Africa an exposure and vulnerability hot spot for climate variability and climate impacts.

Second: Around 2019, there came the rise in oil and gas prices - that saw a surge in crucial food commodity prices that saw an over 89% increase in price of major cereals and about a 109% in rise in fertiliser prices all just in 2 years.

Third: And now the Russia-Ukraine crisis is fur-

ther exacerbating oil and gas prices and increasing global food prices.

The implications for these crises are more severe and Africa and its leaders need to act differently. We are now witnessing the largest cost-of-living crisis in a generation, and people's capacity to cope is diminishing.

Real incomes are falling and the countries' revenues and ability to respond are declining. Without robust actions, these changes are pushing citizens and could potentially result in social and political unrest in many countries.

The impact of these crises on existing vulnerabilities in Africa's agri-food systems could be heightened unless mitigating actions are taken now to safeguard Africa's food security and speed up the recovery of the agricultural sector.

This is the moment for governments to consolidate the progress made and leverage existing structures and frameworks, including strengthening the CAADP process by adopting a more systemic view of food system transformation that goes beyond the current CAADP ambition of agricultural growth and transformation.

National governments need to take a holistic and integrated food systems approach. After the UN Food Systems Summit, we are seeing a few countries like Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda making this

shift to design food systems strategies and plans. This is important because a critical lesson from these crises is that food systems cannot be compartmentalised; multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches and coordination will be essential in tackling future pandemics.

Most families in Africa are feeling the pinch. Household budgets are shrinking as affording a daily meal has become a challenge for most households in Africa. The FAO has estimated that 53% of poorer household income is spent on food compared to 20% for richer households.

Poorer households spend about 16% of their incomes on housing while 4% is spent on transport. Families cannot send their children to school and the poorest households are the most affected, especially women and girls.

There is a general feeling that Africa is blaming the US and other Western countries in Europe for the sanctions on Russia as the source of food insecurity. In fact, Africa is blaming itself for allowing itself to be dependent on the rest of the world for food imports - a phenomenon Africa can change.

Africa should turn this into an opportunity to produce its own food and export rather than relying on the rest of the world for food imports. Ethiopia, for example, can produce enough wheat to feed itself rather than spend \$0.7bn annually to import wheat from Russia and Ukraine.

Gambia's current scope of media freedom

By Pa Modou Cham

IN the first republic, The Gambia was known for its respect for the rule of law, human rights and the promotion of media freedom and independence. However, that chapter was turned when the junta members illegally took power through a coup led by ex-dictator Yahya Jammeh in 1994.

During the 22 years of Jammeh's rule as president, many Gambians including journalists were reported missing or killed on the orders of Jammeh, who then used his notorious killers called 'Junglers' to suppress the media in order to entrench himself in power.

One of the journalists killed through the orders of Jammeh is the Co-Founder of this medium, Deyda Hydar. During Jammeh's 22 years of power, many fled in fear of murder and the Gambia was always named at the bottom of the last three in the World Press Freedom ranking.

In 2016, Gambians happily changed that dictatorial regime through unique ballot using marbles. Since 2017 to date, there has been an increase in the number of registered and non-registered media houses. The Gambia government avails journalists the opportunity to freely carry out their reports until recently when the President made a remark targeting journalists by looking into some community Radio Stations he believes give airtime to people who attack his government's agenda.

The President made the proclamation on April 21, 2023, during a visit by Banjul Muslim Elders, marking the Koriteh (Edul Fitri) celebration. Days after his speech, the Public Utilities and Regulatory Authority (PURA) sent letters to King FM, Sayda 1 FM and Home Digital FM seeking explanation on certain programs.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and the new UNESCO analysis of V-Dem data in 180 countries indicates a strong correlation between Freedom of Expression and the health of other human rights.

The UNESCO analysis shows that the countries with the highest levels of freedom of expression also enjoy a significantly higher level of protection of civil, political, economic and social rights, such as access to justice, a near absence of political killings and very low levels of exclusion across gender, socio-economic, urban-rural, political and social group indicators.

Reaction from affected radio stations:
Baboucar Ceesay, Manager of King FM Radio told this medium that the letter sent to them from PURA



A supporter of Gambia President Adama Barrow waves a flag during his swearing-in ceremony and the Gambia's Independence day at Independence Stadium, in Bakau, Gambia February 18, 2017.

is against press freedom, saying it is threatening to the media houses. Mr Ceesay doesn't expect Gambia to go into another level of such situations and stated: "We had witnessed what happened in the past and thought we are out of that era. We don't want what happened in the past to repeat."

He tells the government to respect the journalists thus emphasizing that journalists only do their work as expected. He went on to say that the sitting government won't like people criticizing them while noting that before they were in power, they were supporting people who speak the truth. He called on President Barrow's

government to accept the truth and not see journalists as their enemies.

Reacting to the letter, Lamin Manneh, Deputy Director of Fayda 1 FM, the only disability radio station in the country told this medium that the letter called the attention of some of their presenters on the manner they conducted their programs. He confirmed responding to the letter and was subsequently invited to PURA.

"What they told us and what happened was a different story. This is the way Jammeh started by suppressing the media until he was able to control the media. The government, including PURA should

not try to suppress the media. Jammeh did it and we condemned it and in a democratic government like Barrow's, we don't expect much," he said.

Mr Manneh noted that there should be freedom of speech, association and movement while reiterating that if the government tries to use PURA to suppress the media, they will not accept it.

"The letter is totally against media freedom because the media should be allowed to freely share information. We have the right to go on air and inform our listeners about the day-to-day running of our government. Let the government try to leave a legacy that the citizens will be proud of." He said it was a disgrace that the Ministry of Information denied any knowledge of the letter sent by PURA.

Pa Modou Bojang, Chief Executive Officer of Home Digital FM told this medium that the president's statement came as to the allegations made by his party that because of King FM and Home Digital FM, they were unable to win Kanifing Municipality and West Coast Region during the councillorship elections.

Mr Bojang explained: "They said the reason is that we always criticize the government which is not the case. My Mengbeh Karing show looks at what happens on a daily basis and affects the lives and livelihood of Gambians. This show is the problem of the government because people do call to express their voices, frustrations and experiences."

He further noted that the letter sent by PURA indicated that on 19 November 2022, he mentioned that fake monies entered the Central Bank with impunity and some farmers in Badibou were paid fake monies with impunity. He added that they asked him to write and explain why they shouldn't take any action against his radio.

"If PURA realises that what we (journalists) said is not true, I think the Central Bank should be in a better position to challenge us because they have the right to reply. When we said something about government or public institutions, the content is not up to the regulators, but instead to the institution we alleged."

He said with this start, the government tries to muzzle the press, saying journalists should come together and fight for their rights.

Reaction of GPU President:
Mamodou S. Bah, President of GPU, described the President's pronouncement as 'unfortunate', saying if such information should come from a leader who should ensure democracy and make its values flourish in the country, "then it is a problem". He said the president should ensure that the momentum of press freedom continues.

"We have addressed the PURA's warning letter and I think PURA will not make such kind of attempts or use such approaches," he said. "We encourage PURA to use the Media Council in terms of regulating ethics."

Serial Abuses: All eyes on 10th National Assembly and its chairman, Akpabio

FOR a change, national interest should drive legislation and oversight of the MDAs by the 10th Assembly, rather than personal gains.

A former minister, Godswill Akpabio, emerged as President of the Senate during the inauguration of the 10th National Assembly last Tuesday. Tajudeen Abbas, in the House of Representatives, was also elected the speaker. They were the anointed candidates of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his political party for these positions. The election was devoid of high drama, perhaps due to the arrival of Akpabio's supporters at the Assembly's complex as early as 4 a.m. Apparently, they were in mortal dread of a recrudescence of the 2015 experience, when Senator Bukola Saraki and his supporters arrived at the national parliament earlier than others to elect him as president, against the dictates of their party.

It was a keen contest in the Senate, where Akpabio secured 63 votes to beat Abdul'Aziz Yari, who polled 46 votes. Jibrin Barau, his deputy from Kano State, was elected unopposed. In the House of

Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas literally strolled to the speaker's seat with 353 votes, while his two other challengers, Ahmed Wase and Sani Jaji, won a consolatory three votes each. The scenario in the House somehow raises concern about the quality of opposition to expect there, despite priding on being a "Minority-in-the-Majority", with its numerical strength of 182 members from seven political parties, as against the APC's 181 legislators. With this, it is hoped that a virile opposition and robust debates will not be mortgaged in the House.

As smooth as Akpabio's and Abbas' triumphs might have been, the road to those denouements was rough. The contest draws attention once more to the crescent factors of geo-politics and religion in our brand of democracy. President Tinubu had scoffed at concern about the latter, typified in his choice of Kashim Shettima as running mate in the presidential election, in a Muslim-Muslim ticket saga. It drew flaks from within the All Progressives Congress (APC) itself and the larger society. No doubt, Tinubu did not want to pass through that seeming eye of a



needle one more time. To him, a Christian must be the Senate President to assuage concerns about the dominance of one faith in the federal government.

President Tinubu, therefore, had to pull all the stops. Governors and ex-governors of bipartisan hues, monarchs and elected lawmakers from across the political divides, were in frenetic meetings in the presidential villa to help in making the sought balancing happen.

This elevated the intrigues and splenetic level of jostling for the two coveted parliamentary seats. Senators Orji Kalu and Osita Izunaso from the South-east, along with Yari from the North-west, deprecated the interference of the executive arm

of government in the affairs of the parliament. It was indeed an assault on the canons of the separation of powers.

As Akpabio and Abbas mounted the saddle of leadership in the two chambers of the National Assembly, the usual populist preachments and avowals in their inaugural addresses were not in deficit. But we take them with a pinch of salt as a result of serial deceptions in the past.

Akpabio harped on integrity, dedication, patriotism, loyalty and devotion to the country in the discharge of his responsibilities and that of the 10th Senate. He said, "The promulgation of laws and enactments for the well-being and security of the country and as a check

on the executive arm of government; in our oversight functions" are the task set before the lawmakers. We agree with him. In a truly functional democracy, this would have been an article of faith or social contract with the people, for which he and his colleagues will be held to account. Sadly, serial underperformance and abuse of trust are what each assembly ultimately delivered in the past nine cycles.

One ethical concern props up in Akpabio's elevation. The man is yet to get a clean bill of health in respect of the N108.1 billion allegation of fraud levelled against him, shortly after his tenure as governor of Akwa Ibom State in 2015, for which the EFCC quizzed him.

The case was put in abeyance while he served as a minister under Muhammadu Buhari's government. As the Senate inauguration approached, the EFCC summoned him, for reasons not yet known. If that matter has not gained traction since he earlier defected to the APC and then became a minister, it is doubtful if anything will change now that he has become the President of the Senate. However, if he has a case to answer and the EFCC

firms up to prosecute him, we fear that the Abubakar Saraki scenario with the Code of Conduct Tribunal, as President of the Eighth Senate, is likely to be repeated.

This will not be good for the image of the Senate and the entire country. Then, in a display of solidarity, senators abandoned plenary sessions to witness court proceedings in the Saraki trial. Worse, the Senate even attempted to amend the Code of Conduct Bureau Act and the CCT Act, to weaken their powers as a result.

This was most sickening. Such vile and devious abuse of power was more pronounced during the Ninth Senate under Ahmad Lawan's leadership. Orji Kalu, one of the recent contestants for the Senate presidency, who is being prosecuted by the EFCC for fraud committed during his governorship in Abia State, sponsored a Bill for the amendment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015.

He had earlier served seven months out of a 12-year jail term before the Supreme Court quashed his conviction and ordered a fresh trial on technical grounds. The Senate played along with him in the

mala fide act. The Bill sought to whittle down the powers of the EFCC and ICPC by seeking that case files be submitted to the office of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) for approval before prosecution.

At a Public Hearing by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, chaired by Opeyemi Bamidele, the now-suspended EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, opposed the Bill. He cautioned that: "This will constitute undue interference by the AGF, who is a political appointee, in the work of law enforcement agencies". This is absolutely so! Many corruption cases have been killed through this sort of subterfuge, in clear abuse of the powers vested in the AGF by virtue of the provisions in Section 174 (1) (2) (3) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended.

If the AGF has powers to take over any criminal proceeding instituted by any authority or discontinue same, it raises eyebrows on why such power should be entrenched in the statutes of these agencies. The AGF's invocation of this constitutional power, "Shall have regard to public interest and the interest of justice," the same Constitution emphasises.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Locally extinct 'smokey giraffes' reintroduced to Iona in a new era for conservation in Angola

By Tony Carnie

ANGOLAN giraffes are back home in southeast Angola after an absence of several decades. This follows the reintroduction of 14 of these towering animals to the Iona National Park after a 1,300km road journey from neighbouring Namibia last week.

This unique subspecies of the tallest animal in the world (also known as the "smokey giraffe" due to its darker-than-normal colouring) is specially adapted to the semidesert conditions of southern Angola, where it was virtually extirpated in the aftermath of the Angolan civil war.

According to wildlife author Stephen Carton-Barber, the species has more recently become known to many as the "Namibian giraffe" due to its demise in the country it was first named after. Assessments by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature suggest that the Angolan subspecies (*Girafa*

camelopardalis angolensis) was extinct in Angola by the late 1990s.

This is one of the reasons the symbolic return of more than a dozen of these animals from Namibia has cheered wildlife conservationists.

Their return is also significant from an ecological perspective because these long-necked creatures help to shape the vegetation by browsing at a higher level than antelope, and also by dispersing seeds due to their selective feeding habits.

Captured on a private game farm in central Namibia, the giraffes were trucked roughly 1,300km northwards to Iona National Park and released on 5 July after a 36-hour journey.

The translocation was sponsored by the Wyss Foundation in the US and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation in Namibia, and is the first of multiple giraffe translocations to ensure a viable population in the park. Giraffe Conservation Foundation director Stephanie Fennessy



The Angolan giraffe, also known as the 'smokey giraffe' due to its darker-than-normal colouring, is specially adapted to the semidesert conditions of southern Angola, where it was virtually extirpated in the aftermath of the Angolan civil war. (Photo: Priya Tekriwal)

described the move as "an extraordinary achievement" for giraffe conservation in Angola.

"By reintroducing giraffe to their historical range, we re-establish their range, ensure their long-term survival and contribute to restoring the ecological balance in the region."

Iona, a sprawling 15,000km² national park known for its combination of desert, semidesert, grasslands and mountain scenery is now co-managed by the Angolan government and the African Parks network which has offices in Johannesburg, Amsterdam and New York.

African Parks signed a long-term management agreement with the Angolan Ministry of Environment

in 2019 to collaborate in protecting the park's natural and cultural heritage, and also redevelop ecotourism.

African Parks says there is potential to reintroduce elephants, rhinos and lions in future, to boost the existing mix of aardwolf, kudu, mountain zebra, impala, springbok, steenbok, oryx, brown hyena, leopard, black-backed jackal and cheetah.

African Parks manages 22 national parks and protected areas in 12 countries covering more than 20 million hectares in Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Abias Huongo, Secretary of State for Angola's Ministry of Environment, said in a statement that "the reintroduction of giraffe to Iona National Park is a remarkable milestone in Angola's conservation journey. This significant endeavour demonstrates our commitment to preserving our country's natural heritage."

"Together, we are building a future where both people and wildlife thrive." **DM**

South Africa: Petroleum bill is blind to the climate crisis

By Paul Wani Lado

PETROLEUM resources development bill is "fatally flawed" and should be rejected, says the writer

The Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill currently being considered by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Mineral Resources and Energy is fatally flawed and should be rejected by South Africans.

The bill will create a separation of the regulation of the upstream petroleum industry from the regulation of the mining industry, with the former regulated by the bill and the latter continuing to be regulated by the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act.

This split is significant as it means a new regime for the regulation of South Africa's nascent gas industry would come into effect.

However, the draft bill completely disregards the climate emergency and will cause South Africa to fall foul of our climate change commitments.

Furthermore, it lacks any mechanism to ensure local economic development, something arguably central to the imperative of the alleviation of poverty and reduced inequality.

Climate change

The bill purports to accelerate the exploration and production of gas, a fossil fuel for which South Africa lacks the necessary infrastructure, ignoring the global climate emergency.

The exploitation of gas resources through extraction and processing contributes towards global warming through the release of methane.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas. Over a 20-year period it has an 84 times higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide.

Although gas companies claim to be able to limit the impact of methane, methane leakages during numerous phases in the gas supply chain can be anywhere between 2.8

- 7.9%. It is estimated that even a 2.7% methane leakage would negate any climate benefits that gas has over coal.

International institutions such as the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and even the International Energy Agency confirm that climate change is human-made and we must limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in order to avert the worst effects of climate change. Already, we are seeing droughts, excessive heat waves and floods.

Yet the bill does not refer to climate change, nor does it have any mechanisms for ensuring that gas companies may only operate provided they do not contribute towards worsening the climate crisis.

Instead, it prescribes that exploitation of oil and gas must be accelerated.

The bill must undergo an about turn if South Africa hopes to meet its international obligations to decarbonise and protect its citizens from harm.

Local economic development

In order to avert climate catastrophe, we need to rapidly decarbonise and move towards net-zero emissions, and this transition must happen in a manner that is just and equitable.

The extractives industry leaves injustice and inequality in its wake. Mining and gas companies often force their will on local communities in order to extract mineral and petroleum resources, subsequently leaving those local communities to carry the concomitant adverse impacts as a result of land that has been devastated, air that has been polluted, and water that has been filled with carcinogenic and radioactive toxins.

While the mining and gas companies make obscene profits through this extraction, local communities are left with little to no economic or other benefit. If anything, they are forced to carry the economic and social burden of increased morbidity and mortality



caused by the impacts of mineral and petroleum extraction.

The bill makes no attempt to address such injustice.

While the bill speaks about expanding opportunities for black people and promoting local employment, it is silent

on how it will alter an exploitative extractives industry where mining and gas companies often win against disadvantaged local communities in a cruel zero-sum game.

Experience has shown that people in local communities

where gas companies operate are often not eligible for employment by them. The bill makes no provision for a social and labour plan, nor any alternative mechanism for the benefit of local communities. Nor does the bill address gender

injustice when we know that large-scale extraction projects often impact women more severely. The bill's purported aim to advance the social and economic welfare of all South Africans is lip service only. Its actual provisions leave us staring

down the barrel of irreversible climate catastrophe. It should be rejected.

Paul Wani Lado is Centre for Environmental Rights mining programme attorney.

Nigerian women and religious extremism: Deborah Yakubu is murdered and Rhoda Jatau is imprisoned

By Franklyne Ogbunwezeh

THE Bauchi state authorities should release Rhoda Jatau from prison and drop all charges against her, as a matter of urgency. Her continued imprisonment is a stain on Nigeria's image as a democracy.

The failure of the Nigerian state to live up to its statutory responsibilities of protecting the lives and property of its citizens; its failure to punish atrocities and dastardly crimes committed in the name of defending religion, its failure to build a just, free, fair, and equitable nation, where no person is discriminated against on the basis of religion, tribe, tongue, creed, or sexual orientation, is at the epicentre of this ecosystem of impunity that has supported the physical and judicial lynching of Christians in Nigeria since 1994.

On the morning of 12 May, 2022, Deborah Yakubu, a young Christian student of the Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto, was surrounded by a braying mob of Islamic fanatics and lynched before rolling cameras on the allegation that she had blasphemed against Islam. Her killers filmed themselves in the act, and circulated this across various social media platforms - a spectacle that would continue to traumatise anyone who watches the gory video.

Eight days later, on 20 May, 2022, the Nigerian authorities, in Bauchi, arrested another Christian woman, Rhoda Jatau, on another allegation of blasphemy. She was alleged to have shared a message in her work WhatsApp group, condemning the murder of Deborah.

The message denouncing Yakubu's murder, which Jatau shared, was a reaction of conscience to the trauma of watching a fellow human being lynched before rolling cameras. No one in their right conscience would be unmoved in the face of such jolting inhumanity.

That, for the Nigerian authorities in the Sharia state of Bauchi, constitutes blasphemy. Not the public murder of a human being.

This, and many other actions and omissions of the Nigerian state, nourish and sustain the suspicion in various quarters that the Nigerian state, dominated by Muslims at the federal level and across the 12 Northern states, which introduced Sharia in 1999, does not only harbour an agenda to Islamise Nigeria but it is now active in the business of Christian persecution.

The fact that two Christian women sharing messages in WhatsApp groups, in the northern part of Nigeria must pay for this - one with her life, the other with her freedom - is thanks to an Islamic militant theology that is about to run over the whole of Nigeria.

Deborah Yakubu was murdered by an Islamic mob. The failure of the state to protect this innocent young woman from her murderers could be excused on a variety of grounds. But nothing can excuse the failure of the state to secure justice for Deborah.

Two of her assailants, Bilyaminu Aliyu and Aminu Hukunchi, were arrested on 16 May, 2022 and arraigned before the courts. The Nigerian Police in Sokoto, which was the prosecuting authority, never cared to show up in



The late Deborah Yakubu.

court during several sittings, prompting the trial court to dismiss the case and set the murderers free.

The Nigerian state allowed the murderers of Deborah Yakubu to get away by not even entering an appearance to prosecute them. That no one was held to account for the murder or that there was no diligent prosecution of the murderers, makes mockery of justice. It can only be interpreted as the Nigerian state's sanctioning of Deborah Yakubu's murder. That was not the first time Nigeria had failed its Christian citizens killed by Islamic fanatics.

In December 1994, an Islamic mob murdered and beheaded an Igbo Christian named Gideon Akaluka in Kano. The murderers paraded the streets of the city with his head on a pike. Akaluka had been arrested after some Muslims accused his wife of using pages of the Koran as toilet paper for their baby. His lawyer later claimed that he had evidence indicating that the woman alleged to be Akaluka's wife was not his wife, and that Akaluka was not even around when the alleged blasphemy was committed. The Police officers who arrested Akaluka assured him that his detention would be for his own safety. However, contrary to their assurances, a Muslim mob prised him from Police custody without resistance, and then lynched, beheaded, and paraded the streets with his head on a pike.

Akaluka was neither tried nor given his day in court to face his accusers before a jury. He was denied that opportunity by a mob that constituted itself into the accuser, judge, jury, and executioner, in a country that is supposed to be

governed by laws.

Even though a popular Nigerian, who rose to become the governor of the Nigerian Central Bank, as well as an Emir in one of the northern Nigerian states, was rumored to be the mastermind of that murder, no one was called to account for that crime. Not even the Police commissioner under whose watch the crime was committed.

That failure to hold anyone accountable paved the way for a host of other impunities and lynchings of Christians that have continued till today. One of the most brazen examples of this happened between June and December 2016 in Kano State, Nigeria.

On 2 June, 2016, Bridget Agbahime, a 74-year-old Nigerian Christian woman was lynched at Kofar Wambai market in Kano, the largest city in northern Nigeria, by an Islamic mob. She was also accused of blasphemy. She was said to have prevented a fellow trader, who is a Muslim, from performing ablation or washing himself in preparation for prayers, in front of her shop.

The police arrested two suspects, Dauda Ahmed and Zubairu Abdullahi, in connection with the murder. The State governor, Abdullahi Ganduje promised justice. The Police later arrested three more suspects, Abdulmumene Mustafa, Abdullahi Abubakar, and Musa Abdullahi, all of who were subsequently charged at the magistrate court in Kano for culpable homicide, among other counts.

The failure of the Nigerian state apparatus and security architecture to arrest and prosecute the men behind all these atrocities and genocidal crimes against Christians,

even when some of them recorded themselves in the act, coupled with its speed in prosecuting Christians like Rhoda Jatau, has grown to create an ecosystem of impunity, which empowers Muslims to kill Nigerian Christians at will.

On 4 November, 2016, the Kano State government entered a "Nolle Prosequi" on the case. The Chief Magistrate, Muhammad Jibrin, on the advice of the Kano State Attorney General, discharged the case and ordered the release of the suspects. The state claimed that the suspects had no case to answer, leading a popular Nigerian social critic, Chido Onumah, to lament that, "the real tragedy here is what appears to be the connivance of Kano State and its institutions, and by extension, the Nigerian state, to uphold the death sentence passed on Bridget Agbahime."

In contrast, this same Nigerian state, which failed to protect Gideon Akaluka, Bridget Agbahime, Deborah Yakubu, and a host of other Christians killed by Muslim fanatics, is in Bauchi State marshalling formidable resources to prosecute Rhoda Jatau, whose only crime was condemning the brutal murder of Deborah Yakubu. To this end, the lives of Christians in the Northern parts of Nigeria are no longer worth the price of peanuts. They have become endangered species in that part of Nigeria, as there is no day that Christians are not harassed and terrorised, either physically or verbally, in Northern Nigeria. The environment to live, navigate their public lives and safely practice their faith is growing more toxic than ever.

In the North, Christians are

lynched on the flimsiest of excuses, usually couched as accusations of blasphemy. In Central Nigeria, they are facing extinction, kidnap-for-ransom, and genocide. In the South, Christians are massacred in their houses of worship, like in Owo, Ondo State; also, they are abducted on the roads, and sacked from their villages, like in Aguamede in Enugu State.

The Middle Belt deserves a special mention. It is now a territory besieged by militants with Islamic affiliations and genocidal aspirations. The mission to wipe out the indigenous Christian inhabitants of that fertile triangle, running from Southern Kaduna through the plains of Plateau down to the River Benue basin, and usurping their land, is in full swing.

Just recently on Tuesday, 16 May, Fulani-jihadist militants are alleged to have staged a genocidal bloodbath in the Mangu area of Plateau State, massacring as many as 85 people, and setting several villages on fire.

As is usually the case, no one has ever been convicted of murdering Christians in Northern Nigeria under the guise of religion. No Fulani militant or bandit or terrorist has ever been convicted by the Nigerian state of the atrocious crimes committed on Christian villages.

All these sustain the suspicion that either the Nigerian state is complicit in these crimes, or it is now in the business of Christian persecution.

That the Nigerian version of Islamic extremism is thoroughgoing misogyny, and views non-Muslim women as objects to either be converted to Islam, killed, or used as sex slaves, is no longer news. Boko Haram even claimed as much. It was reported that it claimed that, "the wives and daughters of infidels or pagans are legitimate booty and can be sold into slavery". Reports from escaped Chibok and Dapchi girls kidnapped by Boko Haram also attest to this.

Every human society has its share of extremists. But that Islamic extremism, which glories in destroying Christian lives, properties, and livelihoods, and desecrating the bodies and souls of Christian women, is actively tolerated by a democratic Nigerian state, supposedly governed by laws, in the 21st century, is worrying, especially for a multi-religious and a diverse country like Nigeria. The failure of the Nigerian state apparatus and security architecture to arrest and prosecute the men behind all these atrocities and genocidal crimes against Christians, even when some of them recorded themselves in the act, coupled with its speed in prosecuting Christians like Rhoda Jatau, has grown to create an ecosystem of impunity, which empowers Muslims to kill Nigerian Christians at will. That the state in Northern Nigeria, now punishes the free speech of Christians but allows murderers of Christians to go scot-free has been decades in the works.

Nigeria, one of the most strategic countries in Africa, has for scores of years been in the crosshairs of militant Islamic jihad. Muslim terror groups, propelled by the caliphate aspirations of global jihadism, made a landfall in Nigeria. With support and financing from the Wahhabi petrodollars located in Saudi Arabia, groups like Boko Haram evolved to challenge the Nigerian state and threaten the lives of Christians in Northern Nigeria since 2009.

Since then, Islamic bandits, fixated on Christian bodies, land, and property as booty, have been operating uninhibited in those ungoverned spaces abandoned by the Nigerian state in the North, while Muslim-Fulani militants, bent on grabbing Christian land and demographically displacing them, have flooded the Middle Belt with atrocious crimes.

All these are thanks to the ecosystem of impunity mentioned earlier. Rhoda's imprisonment reeks of a medieval trial-by-ordeal. The court seems to be under pressure to frustrate the course of justice in this case. She is denied bail and remanded in prison custody, which is eating away at her spirit and resolve. Her life in prison is not even guaranteed, as there have been reports of attempts by Islamic mobs to waylay her on her way to court and lynch her.

Lest we forget, for one full year now, Rhoda Jatau has been on trial. For 365 days, this mother of five has been denied the comfort of her family and there is no resolution of the case in sight. Jatau, a 46-year-old health worker in Warji local council of Bauchi State, was arrested and charged under sections 114 and 210 of the State Penal Code, and Section 24 Subsection 1b(i) of the Cybercrime Prohibition Act of 2015, with inciting public disturbance, exciting the contempt of a religious creed, and cyberstalking.

Bauchi is one of the 12 Northern Nigerian States that adopted the Islamic Sharia into their penal code in 1999.

Blasphemy, which under the Sharia in some cases, carries a death sentence on conviction, is not only a violation of international law but also the fundamental human rights provisions in the Nigerian constitution, which in Sections 38 and 39 protect the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, as well as the freedom of expression. The court refused to grant her bail on several occasions, citing public safety concerns. But a speedy dispensation of the case is not a major concern of the Bauchi court, as the trial has been plagued by unnecessary adjournments and other irregularities, which slow it down, ensuring that Rhoda remains in prison and away from her family.

The prosecution has continued to frustrate her ability to litigate on this case; failing to provide her lawyers with the evidence against her, to enable them prepare their defence, thereby infringing on her right to a fair trial - the only fundamental human right that is absolute.

Rhoda Jatau's imprisonment reeks of a medieval trial-by-ordeal. The court seems to be under pressure to frustrate the course of justice in this case. She is denied bail and remanded in prison custody, which is eating away at her spirit and resolve. Her life in prison is not even guaranteed, as there have been reports of attempts by Islamic mobs to waylay her on her way to court and lynch her. She lives in constant fear for her life and that of her family, which are not out of harm's way, as they expend their meagre resources supporting her through this ordeal.

That a woman like Rhoda Jatau could be in jail and on trial over an accusation of blasphemy, in a country that prides itself as a democracy, in the 21st century, is shocking, to say the least.

Rhoda's plight and the use of blasphemy as a reason for persecuting Christians in Nigeria is built upon the same ecosystem of impunity, which has been allowed to normalise the persecution of Christians in Nigeria, under the government of Muhammadu Buhari, a Fulani muslim.

The failure of the Nigerian state to live up to its statutory responsibilities of protecting the lives and property of its citizens; its failure to punish atrocities and dastardly crimes committed in the name of defending religion, its failure to build a just, free, fair, and equitable nation, where no person is discriminated against on the basis of religion, tribe, tongue, creed, or sexual orientation, is at the epicentre of this ecosystem of impunity that has supported the physical and judicial lynching of Christians in Nigeria since 1994.

The only crimes committed by people like Deborah Yakubu and Rhoda Jatau are the burden of being born in a country where their fellow countrymen who are Muslims, view them as a game to be hunted down for their faith.

The stories of Rhoda Jatau and Deborah Yakubu are indicative of the depths of evil possible, when militant Islamofascism meets misogyny, in an ecosystem of impunity.

The Bauchi state authorities should release Rhoda Jatau from prison and drop all charges against her, as a matter of urgency. Her continued imprisonment is a stain on Nigeria's image as a democracy.

Franklyne Ogbunwezeh is a Nigerian and a Senior Research Fellow & Director for Genocide Prevention at the Christian Solidarity International, Switzerland.

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Udom develops AI for greenhouse farming

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Lake closures, increased exports demand push sardines prices up

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE consumer prices of dried fresh water sardines have risen sharply due to the scarcity of the commodity in most local markets on what is being explained as increased demands for exports markets and closure of Lake Tanganyika.

It is interesting to note that, what used to be food for locals can now be exported and earn Tanzania foreign exchange," the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Dr Yohana Budeba, said in Dar es Salaam recently during the Smart Fish Awards.

He said that, in the past, sardines from Tanzania's water bodies were mainly sold for feeding animals and the poor families, but now sardines are finding the way to various international markets.

Without giving exact data on sardine exports, he said the ministry was still at the stage of promoting more local dealers to access overseas markets to boost foreign exchange earnings.

According to him, this is a new EU-supported initiative that seeks to spearhead innovations and creativity in the country's fishing industry.

Reports from the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries shows, apart from exporting sardines to developed countries, dried smoked sardines from Tanzania's water bodies have found their way in SADC regional markets specifically Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burundi and Rwanda.

Further reports shows that, shortages of sardines in local markets is due to the government's move following the imposition of stringent measures in order to avoid illegal fishing and protecting fish

breeding areas in the lakes in order to improve local fishing technology.

A typical example is the recent bold decision by the Tanzania government which it had reinforced in order to suspend fishing activities in Lake Tanganyika that will last for three months starting effectively May to August this year.

In March this year, Ministers responsible for fisheries in the four riparian countries bounded by the Lake, namely Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a view to facilitate fish reproduction as stocks were in peril with a noticeable downside.

A three month ban is planned to allow fish stock recovery has not augur well although some stakeholders including business persons have opposed to the move saying that it will affect the livelihood of many local people living closer to the lake.

When contacted for comments, the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said in an exclusive interview that, "Tanzania government has come into agreement with other countries which share Lake Tanganyika to close down activities because of dwindling number of fish exacerbated by overfishing and illegal fishing activities".

Fishing for a living in Lake Tanganyika has become a gamble, due to the escalating effects of climate change, pollution and unfriendly fishing gear which have reduced catches from the world's second deepest lake.

This deliberate action by four governments has affected people's living in the vicinity of Lake Tanganyika for a while because most of them rely on the lake for



their livelihood, meaning that suspending fishing in the lake has caused an adverse effect.

A random survey carried out in most markets in Dar es Salaam commercial city, has found that, sardines fished from Lake Tanganyika are in great scarcity due to their low supplies than those fished out in Lake Victoria. Therefore, consumers have to dig deeper into their pockets in order to afford the current price codes for the commodity.

In Dar es Salaam city which has the highest population density in the country have the largest consumers than any other places in the country, sardine has become a lucrative business.

The consumers say they have no alternative ways other than dipping their pockets to obtain the essential nutritious commodity.

The survey has found out that the retail prices of sardines, both from Lake Tanganyika and Victoria have increased by between 25 percent and 40 percent per kilogram.

Sardines from Lake Tanganyika are the most expensive and are rarely seen in markets.

In case are available, they can be fetched at over 40,000/- per kilogram mostly from petty traders at Kariakoo market.

Sardines from Lake Victoria have different price rates depending on their qualities, whereas those from Bukoba are slightly higher than those originated in Mwanza.

A kilogram of sardines from Bukoba is currently fetched at 10,000/- from 6,000/- sold five months ago, while those from Mwanza are sold at 8,000/-.

Traders in various markets in Dar es Salaam interviewed said sardines those from Bukoba are less contaminated with sand because once are fished out of the lake, fishers dry them on top of grasses.

"This technological work is not applied in Mwanza as fishers spread them on sandy beaches for drying," Halima Semwana, a trader at Ilala market said during an interview with The Guardian.

According to her, most markets in Dar es Salaam are currently facing with the shortage of sardines primarily due to low supplies from the Lake zone fish market based in Mwanza city, popularly known as Mwaloni International fish market.

This is the biggest ultra-modern fish market in Lake Zone region located just a distance of three kilometers away from Mwanza city centre. The facility which is located in Nyamagana District was established in early 2003 with the support of the Japanese Government.

"This market is one of the busiest areas in Mwanza city and it brings together hundreds of people who are involved in the fish trade, but now is running out of the stock", says Halima.

Quarterly business reports released by National Statistics Bureau (NBS) shows that, Tanzania's exports of fish and fish products has risen by 49.4 per cent as up to June 2023 to reach US\$195 million from US\$130.6 million.

Government officials believe the increase might have been aided, in part, by the sardines which have now found new markets in DRC, while other fish commodities are being exported to Australia and Canada.

Cement traders, factory concerned over excise duty

By Guardian Correspondent

CEMENT trades in the country are worried their enterprises could be grounded due to price increase of the product as producers adjusted ex-factory prices to put up the recently imposed excise duty of 20/- per kilogram, with most noting that their sales will be affected.

The excise duty, flat-rated at 20/- per kilogram of cement, translates to an additional 1,000/- per the standard 50kg bag and 20,000/- per ton.

The product wasn't spared on the international trade front either, being clamped with a corresponding duty of US\$9 per exported ton.

Abdi Ali, a trader at Ubungo External, Dar es Salaam, said since the price of cement wet up the number of customers in his shop has gone down, an indication that most of them - moderate-to-low-income earners who buy from between two bags to ten - have opted out of their modest house-building projects.

"I used to sell cement at 14,500/- to 15,000/- per the 50kg bag, but now I have been forced to sell at 16,000/- which is too high for the current economic situation for most of my customers," said Ali.

Another trader, Aisha Jumbe of Kimara Bonyokwa in the city, who runs a small hardware, when speaking to the reporter,

said the price increase could cause her to close down business as she depends on her petty customers whose pockets are very small.

Noted Aisha: "You see when the price increases at the factory, all other traders in the cement supply chain increase their prices too as I normally receive from distributor directly buying cement from the factory. When I complained on the price increase, he clearly informed me that it's not his fault, as the price has been set by the producers."

Producers too have cautioned the excise duty, is going to endanger the product price by making it dearer and causing it to lose its competitive edge both internally against imported versions, but also in the wider international market.

Mtanga Noor, Marketing and Communication Manager for Tanga Cement Public Company Limited, said the repercussions of the recent taxes, and modifications their company has been forced to make to rhyme with the taxes.

"In the current state of affairs where exported cement is also subjected to excise duty, we will definitely not be able to compete in foreign markets, it is definitely people in the countries which we export to, are going to shy away from our products whose prices are higher than their locally produced," she said.

Mtanda noted that most of the spares for

the cement plant and machinery are procured from abroad, now without getting foreign currencies from exports; it will be hectic to get the spares.

"As for now, the country also needs so some forex; so exports will not only help us, but will also add into the Government forex reserve, said Noor; adding that the company's main exports are destined to Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo.

Expectedly, all cement producers have reacted swiftly, announcing price increases and making relevant adjustments to supply chain logistics to accommodate the twin fiscal measures, with took off from July 1, 2023.

Noor said. "Since delivering cement from our factory to our customers' trade involves independent transporters, we would also like to alert our customers that should there be any increase in transport charges due to the introduced tariff of 100/- per litre as road toll, then the same effect will be factored into the products' prices accordingly."

The Tanga Cement PLC official observed that the taxes come at a time when the domestic cement market hosts several imported brands tagged from neighboring countries at prices lower than those of local versions.

All cement producers in Tanzania churns out a combined output of about 11.6m metric tons annually, according to latest market data.

CRDB Bank scoops diamond prize for excellence in quality

By Guardian Correspondent, Brussels

CRDB Bank, one of the leading financial institutions in East and Central Africa, has been awarded The International Diamond Prize for Excellence in Quality 2023, issued by the prestigious European Society for Quality Research (ESQR).

The award handing over ceremony was held on Sunday in European Union headquarters here, which a few days ago signed a €179.35 million grant agreement with the Tanzanian government to support policy changes, industry growth, and infrastructure development.

ESQR is renowned for its commitment to promoting quality, innovation, and excellence across various sectors worldwide.

The International Diamond Prize for Excellence in Quality demonstrates CRDB Bank's relentless pursuit of excellence, unwavering commitment to delivering top-notch services, and its significant impact on Tanzania's economic growth and development.

"We are truly honored to receive The International Diamond Prize for Excellence in Quality 2023 from the European Society for Quality Research," said Abdumajid Nsekela (pictured), Group CEO of CRDB Bank.

"This prestigious accolade is a testament to our employees' hard work and dedication, who constantly strive to deliver exceptional financial solutions and services to our customers. As we continue implementing our medium-term strategy, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of quality and innovation in everything we do to become the undisputed leaders in all markets we operate.

CRDB Bank's receipt of The International Diamond Prize for Excellence in Quality 2023 is a remarkable milestone in the Bank's journey towards excellence.

It further strengthens its position as a trusted financial partner whereby in March 2023, the Bank received EUR 150 million facility from European Investment Bank for supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises across Tanzania.

Jestas Nyamanga, Ambassador of Tanzania in Brussels, Belgium, who was present during the awards ceremony, expressed his



gratitude for the recognition of the Tanzanian bank at the international stage.

"We are immensely proud of the CRDB Bank to receive The International Diamond Prize for Excellence in Quality 2023 from the European Society for Quality Research. This award highlights the government's commitment to providing a conducive business environment for the private sector to thrive, thanks to the strong leadership of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan," the ambassador said.

Michael Harris, Chief Executive Advisor of the European Society for Quality Research (ESQR), congratulated the CRDB Bank for scooping the award for the second time after doing the same in 2021.

"I wish the Bank to continue making the difference that it has made so far and lead the markets with integrity, honesty and most importantly, humanity," said Michael.

Since January 2023, CRDB Bank has won 13 major awards, including the Best Bank in Tanzania 2023 and Top Innovation in Finance Africa 2023 by Global Finance Magazine, Best SME Bank in Tanzania 2023 by Global Finance and Regional Bank of the Year 2023 from African Banker Awards 2023.

The Bank remains steadfast in its commitment to driving economic progress and empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to thrive.

The Bank will continue leveraging its customer-centric approach to deliver innovative financial solutions that meet the customers' evolving needs and the community it serves.



DIGITAL MARKETING

Marketing in an augmented reality: Part 2

By Alley Mtatya

AUGMENTED Reality (AR) also known as Virtual Reality has become an increasingly popular technology in the realm of advertising. AR combines virtual elements with the real world, allowing users to interact with digital content in their physical environment. This unique capability has opened up new possibilities for advertisers to engage and captivate their target audience.

Augmented reality in advertising opens up exciting opportunities for brands to create immersive and engaging experiences for their target audience. It enhances user interaction, improves brand recall, and provides a unique way to showcase products and services in the digital age.

Last week Apple launched its Vision Pro augmented reality goggles or glasses. Which I would love to describe, as a brand experience that meets creator marketing, delivering unparalleled immersion and innovation. The market audience for Apple's Vision Pro ranges from professionals to creative individuals who are experts in the fields of photography, videography, graphic design, gaming and visual arts. It speaks to technology enthusiasts that appreciate high-quality imaging and sound capabilities in their devices.

Marketers take home

Possibilities for marketers are endless. In my previous articles I talked about the various ways for marketers to benefit from augmented reality which included.

Interactive product experiences. AR enables users to virtually try products before making a purchase. For example, cosmetic brands can offer virtual makeup try-on experiences, allowing users to see how different products would look on their faces. This interactive experience enhances user engagement and helps them make informed decisions.

Virtual showrooms. AR can create virtual showrooms or displays, allowing users to explore products or services in a virtual environment. This is particularly useful for businesses that have limited physical space or want to showcase a large inventory without the need for a physical store.

Gamification. AR can turn advertisements into interactive games or experiences. Brands can create AR-based games that encourage users to engage with their products or services while having fun. This gamification approach increases brand awareness and user engagement. There is a large segment for this as there has been a pop up of gaming frames for the youth, here in Tanzania.

Location based advertising. AR can overlay digital information on the real-world environment based on a user's location. For example, a user walking past a restaurant can receive AR-based offers or discounts on their mobile device. This personalized and location-specific advertising approach enhances user targeting and increases the chances of conversion. Like the Apple's Vision pro intends,



walking around with the glasses will become a normality after a year of wearing them.

Brand storytelling. AR allows advertisers to tell immersive stories by overlaying digital content onto real-world objects. This helps create memorable experiences that capture users' attention that will leave a lasting impression of the brand or product.

Print and outdoor advertising. AR can breathe new life into traditional print and outdoor advertisements. Byscanning a physical ad or billboard with an AR-enabled device, users can access additional interactive content, such as videos, animations, or 3D models. This adds a layer of interactivity and engagement to static advertisements.

Social media filters and lenses. AR filters and lenses have become popular on social media platforms like Snapchat and Instagram. Brands can create their own filters or lenses that users can apply to their photos and videos, allowing for organic brand promotion and user-generated content.

Competitor's take

Mark Zuckerberg's Meta, I presume will counter Apple's Vision Pro with something even better and of a wider use in the market. I remember seeing Mark Zuckerberg test his very light weight, almost of a normal eye glass design, "smart glasses". One of its features that he

was testing, was its advanced Geo Mapping. Having AR glasses take you to places or locations as your mobile does and if you walk past a restaurant. You will see their menu and food in augmented reality, making it easier to how the plate will look, "Very Loring". Also live text messaging capabilities. Possibility of displaying adverts as you see on your computer or phone, this includes side or top banners ads, paid SEO ads etc.

Not sure if the name "Quest 3", will still stand but its features will be much broader than Apple's Vision Pro giving us a wider benefit and use case. It is expected to be twice as powerful as its predecessor and much thinner in physical appearance.

Not to exclude Google in the race as they are also in the race to launch their Augmented Reality eye wear. Google is in the better hand as it is the leading search engine provider and the majority of electronic (mobile) devices use the android system. Giving them the clear advantage to win the market if they integrate AR with android devices. A few other American and Chinese silicon type companies are also in the race for this space to launch their devices.

When I see this technology all I envision is a better and more advanced way (digitally) to reach customers, interact with them and connect a brand's story in a more meaningful, better experiential and futuristic way. A customer should be able to feel and interact with a product before making his or her final decision, "that is not traditionally verbal or intuitively", but fully experientially. This is the future of digital advertising and it promises to be a great one.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email. alley962003@gmail.com

Move to promote organic livestock feed supplements

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in collaboration with Afrint Bio Solution Ltd have embark on a new comprehensive strategy aimed at encouraging livestock farmers to use organic feed supplements that are nutritious to their animals and reduce the use of chemically made.

Dr. Emmanuel Paluku, Afrint Bio Solution Ltd, representative to Africa from Indonesia said yesterday at the on-going 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) that took place at Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere fair ground.

He said the demand for organic products is increasing dramatically.

He called on smallholder, medium and large livestock keepers engaging in poultry, cattle, sheep and pig across the country to venture into organic feed supplements.

He said organic feeding is safe to animals and human as they increase productivity and reduce cost of purchase antibiotics and other drugs. They also help animals to take a short period for to bare products such as eggs and milk.

"We are at DITF to showcase our new organic feed supplements to the public and educate livestock keepers, farmers and other stakeholders engaged in the industry to move from chemically made substance or drugs and animal feed to organic feed supplements," he said.

"We want them to utilize feed ingredients that are produced by using organic farming to safeguard safety for animals, human and environmental which is less expensive comparing the production of using chemicals including fertilizers," he said.

He said the world has changed and the majority of Livestock keepers, small, medium and large farmers engaged in poultry industry have entirely move from chemically made to organic feeds.

The company is showcasing two organic feed supplements

including Trypi and RojoTic which comprises pre- and probiotics.

Elaborating on the benefits of the products, he said for example broiler chicken reared for 32 days manage to increase live weight of 2.6kg without vaccination and antibiotics.

In addition no smell or bad odors will be produced in the farm or animal houses.

For his part, Valentino Urassa, TALIRI-Tanga Region, a scientist and animal nutritionist, explained that the use of proper probiotics will increase productivity of animals, increase income to stakeholders and healthy community by get away from drug residues from animal products and by products due to uselessness use of antibiotics especial in poultry and other animals.

Afrint Bio Solution Ltd is now working with TALIRI to see how Tanzanians can start to utilize organic feed supplements in their localities for their animals and farms.

"We have decided to embark on this programme after discovered that majority of people engaged in poultry and livestock-keeping are not aware about these two organic feed products, their benefits.

"We want to restrict the use of chemically made animal feed and encourage people to utilize organic feed supplements," he said.

According to him, these two organic feed supplements have been produced, tested by Afrint Bio Solution Ltd in collaboration with TALIRI in TALIRI Uyole in Mbeya Region and TALIRI Tanga, which showed positive results in terms of meat and milk production and safe for environments.

The products which is currently utilized in Indonesia and other countries has been brought in positive results for livestock keepers, poultry industry in terms of reducing operation cost of purchasing antibiotics and pesticides.



Dr. Emmanuel Paluku (R) explains how organic livestock feed supplement works. Photo by Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Regulated Liability Network shakes up payments world

By Lewis McLellan

The Regulated Liability Network completed its proof-of-concept phase on 6 July, proving it can achieve legal instant dollar settlement anywhere in the world.

The RLN is a wholesale payments project. At present, it is promising near instant global settlement of dollars, but Tony McLaughlin, emerging payments and business development at Citi, said during Thursday's webinar that he envisages it encompassing other currencies and types of assets in the future. Even as a dollar settlement network, it goes further than wholesale central bank digital currency projects, which are essentially tokenised versions of 24/7 real-time gross settlement systems, because the RLN would include commercial bank money as well as central bank money.

Enabling 24/7 cross-border dollar settlement anywhere in the world would drastically improve the payments landscape, reducing risks and improving transaction speed, freeing up liquidity to be better used elsewhere.

This would help to cement the dollar's status as the preferred currency for international trade and foreign exchange reserves. Multi-currency CBDC platforms like mBridge are springing up, seeking to give members a means of transacting locally without using dollars. However, with a global 24/7 dollar settlement system in place, there might be less demand for such systems.

The present system involves each institution maintaining its own ledgers and sending messages between them to update each other's ledgers. Settlement takes place at the central bank level, also prompted by messages. The RLN would create a shared ledger where banks and central banks would be participants. Each participant, including the central bank, would mint and extinguish their own tokens to represent transfers within the network. This removes the messaging component, providing an opportunity for 24/7, automated transactions under the supervision of a financial market infrastructure.

While many blockchain projects claim to provide atomic settlement, the RLN working group argues that settlement is a legal notion, rather than technical, and as such is not simply a question of transferring value on the blockchain. That might be enough in



a peer-to-peer unregulated space, but for financial markets, regulators are likely to consider FMI a necessary component.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the RLN's promise is that it offers an opportunity to test if distributed ledger technology can help improve the coordination of settlement. Many experiments with DLT seek either to replicate existing systems, or to create an entirely new system that does not align with the existing regulatory framework.

The RLN seeks to chart a middle course: creating a new trading system built upon the present system's rules, making use of existing legal instruments without requiring a change in the legal structure.

As well as enabling near instant settlement, tokenisation delivers programmability, allowing the automation of complex, multi-party workflows, reducing risk and freeing up valuable liquidity to be more efficiently deployed.

Other projects that seek to apply DLT to traditional finance have typically focused on creating tokenised central bank money (CBDCs), tokenised private money (stablecoins or tokenised deposits), or tokenised versions of financial assets. All have a place within a tokenised economy, but creating them separately and connecting them relies on tricky pieces of infrastructure like interoperability bridges. Should the RLN fulfil its promise and expand to include other currencies and other financial instruments, creating one multi-asset network, this could prove a very powerful solution indeed.

The RLN working group has released three reports breaking down the legal, technical and business implications of the system.

Lewis McLellan is the editor of the Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF.

Oil decreases ahead of China, US data, but OPEC+ cuts limits slide

SINGAPORE

OIL prices dipped in Asian trade on Monday as investors tread cautiously ahead of fresh economic data from top consumers the United States and China this week, though expected crude supply cuts from Saudi Arabia and Russia limited losses.

Brent crude futures fell 55 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$77.92 a barrel by 0630 GMT, and U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$73.31 a barrel, also down 55 cents, or 0.7 percent.

"Oil traders may be cautious ahead of the US CPI and China's slew of economic data later this week," CMC Markets analyst Tina Teng said.

However, crude prices could rebound after OPEC+ announced plans to further reduce supply, she added.

China's factory-gate prices fell at the fastest pace in over seven years in June, government data showed on Monday, as the momentum of economic recovery in the world's second-largest economy has slowed.

The oil benchmarks gained more than 4 percent last week to touch their highest marks since May, rising for a second straight week after the world's biggest oil exporters Saudi Arabia and Russia pledged to deepen supply cuts in August. "The presence of economic slowdowns in China adds to the prevailing uncertainty in the oil market," said Mukesh Sahdev, head of downstream and oil trading at Rystad Energy.

"The market's instability is further fueled by the ongoing tug-of-war between fears of demand control by Western economies and the supply-control strategies employed by OPEC, which impacts the oil market's delicate balance." Saudi Arabia will extend its 1 million barrels per day (bpd) output cut into August and Russia will cut crude exports by 500,000 bpd. Instead of cutting output, Russia will be using the crude to produce more fuel to meet domestic demand, a government source told Reuters on Friday.

Saudi Arabia's cuts are easing its oil glut as floating storage off the Egyptian Red Sea port of Ain Sukhna is down by almost half to 10.5 million barrels from mid-June, according to data from oil analytics firm Vortexa as of July 7.

Non-OPEC+ supply has been keeping up with global demand, JPMorgan analysts said in a note, adding that OPEC+ needs to deepen its cuts by another 700,000 bpd in the second half of the year on top of announced reductions and extend them into 2024.

In the US, Friday's data showed still-strong wage growth and a slight drop in the unemployment rate this week will likely keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise interest rates at the upcoming July meeting.

Money managers raised their net long US crude futures and options positions in the week to July 3, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said on Friday.

A sustained break for WTI prices above \$75 would likely see the benchmark testing the top of its eight-month \$64 to \$84 range, IG analyst Tony Sycamore said.

Top 5 things to watch in markets in the week ahead

NEW YORK

US inflation data for June will be in focus with the Federal Reserve all but certain to hike rates again later this month.

Earnings season kicks off with results from big banks, while data out of China is expected to point to ongoing economic weakness. The Bank of Canada is expected to hike rates again and oil prices could be poised to break out to the upside.

Inflation numbers

Data on Wednesday is expected to show that the consumer price index rose at an annual rate of 3.1 percent in June, which would be the slowest increase since March 2021. Core CPI, which strips out volatile food and fuel prices, is expected to increase at an annual rate of 5 percent, moderating from 5.3 percent in May but still more than double the Fed's 2 percent target.

The data comes after Friday's June jobs report all but ensured the Fed will resume rate hikes later this month.

The US economy added the fewest jobs in two-and-a-half years in June, but persistently strong wage growth indicated that labor market conditions remain tight.

Investors will also get the chance to hear from several Fed officials during the week with Minneapolis Fed president Neel Kashkari, Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester, San Francisco Fed president Mary Daly and Fed Governor Christopher Waller all making appearances.

The Fed is also to publish its Beige Book on Wednesday.

Earnings season gets underway

Big banks will start reporting second-quarter results on Friday after breezing through the Fed's stress tests late last month, paving the way for them to issue share buybacks and dividends.

The Fed's annual health check indicated that large lenders have enough capital to weather a severe economic downturn, but now it's time for earnings.

JPMorgan Chase (NYSE:JPM), Citigroup (NYSE:C) and Wells Fargo (NYSE:WFC) are all scheduled to report second-quarter earnings on Friday with analysts expecting results to be weighed down by sluggish dealmaking and trading revenue while a dearth of investment-banking activity has prompted banks to lay off thousands of employees.

After the turmoil in the banking sector earlier this year analysts will also be focusing on what banks have to say about the outlook for lending and how much they set aside in rainy-day funds to cushion losses from souring loans.

China

China is to release inflation and trade data in the coming week which is likely to underline that the post-COVID recovery in the world's second-largest economy is faltering amid increasing deflationary



pressures, high youth unemployment and lackluster foreign demand.

Monday's inflation data for June is expected to show that annual inflation held steady at 0.2% while Thursday's June trade figures are expected to show that exports fell again.

Beijing is embroiled in a hi-tech trade war with Washington while grappling with a sputtering economy.

After months of tightening of restrictions by the U.S. and key allies on chip-related imports, Beijing has hit back with curbs on chip-making metal exports. Washington has been mulling curbing Chinese companies' access to cloud-computing services.

Central bank decisions

The Bank of Canada is to hold its latest policy meeting on Wednesday with analysts expecting another 25-basis point rate hike after Friday's far stronger-than-expected jobs report indicated that the economy remains resilient.

The BoC raised rates to a 22-year peak of 4.75% last month amid concerns over persistent inflation after leaving them on hold since their last hike in January.

The BoC is also to unveil new economic forecasts on Wednesday.

The economy has remained robust despite nine rate increases totaling 450 basis points since March of last year.

Elsewhere, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand is set to keep rates on hold at its latest meeting on Wednesday, having already called time on its tightening cycle.

Oil prices

Oil prices closed at the highest level in nine weeks on Friday with both Brent and U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) gaining around 5% for the week.

Prices were boosted as supply concerns and technical buying offset worries that further rate hikes could slow economic growth and weigh on the demand outlook for oil.

"We're knocking on the door of a major breakout to the upside. I think you're seeing some short covering here today ... because a lot of people have been betting on the short side, Phil Flynn, an analyst at Price Futures Group told Reuters.

Top oil exporters Saudi Arabia and Russia announced fresh output cuts last week bringing total reductions by OPEC+, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, to around 5 million barrels per day (bpd), or about 5% of global oil demand.

Oil prices were also supported by the weaker dollar, which hit a two-week low after the strong U.S. jobs report underpinned expectations for further Fed rate hikes.

A weaker dollar makes crude cheaper for holders of other currencies, which could boost oil demand.

UDOM develops AI for greenhouse farming

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE University of Dodoma (Udom) has introduced a new Automatic and Intelligent Green House Control System for farmers engaged in horticulture farming to suggest the best temperature and humidity for the selected type of crop plated in a greenhouse.

Pascal Magambo, UDOM's Physics department lecturer said this over the weekend, when speaking with The Guardian at the on-going 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

The system was officially made on March this year and has been tested and brought positive results.

"This is a unique system that is very different from other imported greenhouse technology," he said.

He called on farmers engaged in horticulture farming to utilize this technology because the system itself calculates and maintains the required temperature and humidity ranges for a selected crop.

According to him, what is required from farmers is that, the user is required to turn on the system only.

The system also setting the weather depending on user settings and in semi-automatic mode, the user is free to increase the temperature and humidity ranges or a selected type of crop.

Farmers who will be ready to use this

new technology or system, should select the type of the crop that he/she is going to plant to the greenhouse, he said at the university's pavilion.

Also the user of this technology or system can alter the settings of temperature and humidity; the system will maintain the selected values.

Elaborating on the benefits of this technology, he said it help farmers to produce high quality products that is also in large size, reduce operational costs, utilize low power and is user friendly.

Farmers keen to use this technology can visit at UDOM and they also provide training on how to operate the system.



Pascal Magambo, Physics lecturer at the University of Dodoma, demonstrates to visitors at the UDOM pavilion how the automatic and Intelligent Green House Control System works. Photo by Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

TARI now intensifying rice quality research

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), through its Dakawa research centre, is implementing the program to ensure that the rice produced in the country is complying with the world set market standards.

The center's senior agricultural officer (Socio-Economist), Revocatus Nyefwe, said that the program is working to assure the country's rice technological innovations and researches are reflecting the international market demand and policies.

"The program's vision is to coordinate and running a useful systems to help disseminate to the rice growers over the end- results of varied rice research done by the local agro pundits, as well as other relevant innovations with an eye to assist them (farmers) to equally apply the introduced technologies for better outcomes at their plantations," he unveiled.

Nyefwe detailed that at the international rice platform, rice production is usually screened in terms of all levels of production, ranging from seed production, pre-preparation of farms, planting as well as as down to harvesting level.

"As a country, we're supposed to comply with the eight themes set under The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) to serve as the benchmark for the rice producing country to measure themselves if they meet the world rice standards," he expounded.

SRP is a global multi stakeholder alliance comprising over 100 institutional members from the public, private, research, civil society and the financial sector.

"Under the SRP rice production themes, they carefully tressing to determine the optimization of water and fertilizers at each level of rice growing, the key areas to help farmers yield standard grains," observed.

Dwelling over the other roles being conducted through the key department, the pundit expressed they also dealing with the major task if linking the farmers to profitable markets, from within and outside the country.

The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) was established in 2011 and is co-convened by the UN Environment Programme and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Their intention is to promote sustainability and research efficiency in the global rice trade sector.

SRP pursues market transformation and public policy initiatives to drive change towards more sustainable standards, which will improve the lives of rice producers and minimize the environmental impact of rice.

Flightlink delivers new aircraft to strengthen its flight services

By Francis Kajubi

FLIGHTLINK has delivered the new aircraft to strengthen its existence and operations in Tanzania and the East African region at large.

The aircraft ATR 72-600 was delivered on Sunday afternoon from Toulouse France.

The aircraft with a capacity of 72 passengers is the second ATR plane apart from the ATR 72-500 delivered last year.

Speaking at the delivering event of the plane, Jameel Kassam, chief operation officer said that the new plane has been delivered to strengthen the company's stake in offering reliable and more comfortable airline services.

"Aviation business is promising in Tanzania especially through the growth of tourism where the government has invested significantly. This is an opportunity to us," said Kassam.

According to him, the airline company has been transporting 6,000 passengers a month and with the new aircraft the number is most likely to double since the new plane will add an estimate 200 passengers transported a day.

He said the airline with six aircrafts travels the routes of Dar es Salaam -Zanzibar-Serengeti, Arusha-Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam -Zanzibar-Mombasa.

He asserted that the airline had one Cessna cravat, one Cessna 306, one beach 900 and one umbrella 120.

"We are very sure that this aircraft will strengthen our services in Tanzania. We expect to extend our services to Nairobi," he said.

He further noted that the company will next month launch a Dar es Salaam to Dodoma route," said Kassam.

According to him, the aircraft is even comfortable for its clients to enjoy in the long run.

Ecowas praised for war on neglected tropical diseases

BISSAU

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has been recognised for gains made by the West Africa region in tackling neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that affect more than 600 million people in Africa, nearly half of whom are in ECOWAS.

ECOWAS was presented with a Leadership Award by United to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases during the bloc's Heads of State Meeting.

The award honoured 10 of ECOWAS's member states who are among 21 African countries that have successfully eliminated at least one NTD.

Also recognised were Ghana and Benin; both countries received a Major Achievement Award for eliminating three NTDs each.

NTDs are a group of 20 preventable and treatable diseases that are endemic in 49 African countries, and which affect over a billion people globally.

They cause suffering, disability, disfigurement, and are fatal in many cases.

They also inflict significant economic damage on individuals and countries in terms of lost productivity and treatment costs.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Turkey's Erdogan demands EU membership talks for backing Swedish NATO bid

ANKARA

ERDOGAN, whose country has been holding off its final approval to Sweden's NATO membership, made the comments in Ankara yesterday before departing to the alliance's summit meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Turkey is a candidate to join the EU, but its membership bid has been stalled due to Ankara's democratic backsliding and disputes with EU-member Cyprus.

Sweden's prime minister is due to meet Erdogan on Monday in a last-gasp attempt to bridge a diplomatic impasse over his Nordic state's stalled NATO membership drive.

The high-stakes talks on the eve of an alliance summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius come with NATO keen to demonstrate unity in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine.

NATO and the White House both fear the Kremlin is trying to use its strong ties with Turkey to seed divisions among Western allies.

US President Joe Biden is expected to raise the issue when he meets Erdogan on the sidelines of the two-day event.

Erdogan has voiced repeated frustrations with what he calls Sweden's failure to keep its promise to deal with suspected Kurdish militants allegedly "roaming the streets" of Stockholm.

"Sweden has taken some steps in the right direction," Erdogan's office quoted the Turkish leader as telling Biden in a call Sunday.

But Sweden's decision to allow pro-Kurdish groups to "hold demonstrations freely praising terrorism nullify those steps," Erdogan said.

Erdogan's stance is being supported by Kremlin-friendly Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

The two countries remain the only NATO members still standing in the way of the unanimous ratification needed for Sweden to become the 32nd member of the US-led bloc.

Hungary has strongly signalled it will follow Erdogan's lead and approve



Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaks during a press conference before his departure for the Vilnius Nato summit. Photograph: Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Sweden's membership should Turkey give its green light.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg hopes to emerge from Monday's meeting between Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson with a Turkish commitment of support.

'Best decision'

Analysts had hoped Erdogan would soften his stance after a hard-fought May election that he won by playing up his nationalist credentials to his conservative base.

The dispute stems from a deal Turkey signed with Sweden and Finland after the neighbours ended decades of military non-alignment and sought shelter under the nuclear umbrella afforded by NATO after Russia invaded Ukraine.

An agreement Stoltenberg finessed at last year's NATO summit committed Sweden and Finland to toughen their anti-terrorism legislation and hand suspected militants to Turkey.

Erdogan harboured far fewer grievances against Finland and Helsinki was formally welcomed into the alliance on April 4.

Sweden has since amended its legislation and also lifted an arms embargo it had imposed on Turkey after Erdogan launched a unilateral incursion into northern Syria in 2019.

The Swedish government last month also agreed to extradite a man convicted of drug trafficking who had supported the pro-Kurdish PKK militia -- a first that Stoltenberg played up in public remarks last week.

But Erdogan has seized on Swedish police decisions to allow pro-PKK demonstrations and protests at which anti-Islamic figures have burned pages from the Koran.

One such protest late last month ignited shows of anger across the Muslim world.

The Swedish government has issued a formal condemnation of the "Islamophobic" act.

But it also stressed that Sweden had a "constitutionally protected right to freedom of assembly, expression and demonstration."

Erdogan has hinted that he was still open to persuasion and that his mind was not yet made up. Turkey will "make the best decision (on Sweden's membership), whatever it is," he said on Thursday.

Agencies

Putin met with Prigozhin, Wagner commanding officers in Kremlin, says spokesman

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin had a nearly three-hour-long meeting with Yevgeny Prigozhin and PMC Wagner commanding officers in the Kremlin on June 29, Putin's press secretary Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.



Commenting on a piece by the Liberation newspaper about Putin's meeting with Prigozhin after what happened on June 24, the Kremlin spokesman said, "The president did hold such a meeting."

"He invited 35 people - all the squad commanders and the leadership of the [private military] company, including Prigozhin," he said. "The meeting took place in the Kremlin on June 29 and lasted for nearly three hours."

"We are unaware of the details (of the meeting - TASS), but the one thing we can say is that the president gave his assessment of the [private military] company's actions on the frontline during the special military operation and the June 24 events," Peskov noted.

"Putin listened to explanations from [Wagner] commanders and offered them further options for employment and further use in combat," the presidential spokesman said. "The commanders themselves shared their version of what happened [on June 24], they emphasized that they are staunch supporters and soldiers of the head of state and the supreme commander-in-chief, and also said that they are ready to continue fighting for the Fatherland."

"This is all we can say about this meeting," he added.

US sending cluster bombs to Kiev may cause humanitarian issues - China's foreign ministry

BEIJING

THE United States' move to provide Ukraine with cluster munitions, which have been banned by many countries, may trigger serious humanitarian problems in the conflict zone, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said at a briefing yesterday.

"China has noted that the United States' decision has given rise to concern across the entire international community as many countries have clearly voiced their opposition to this move."

The irresponsible provision of cluster munitions can easily trigger humanitarian problems," Mao said in response to a TASS request for comment on Washington's decision to provide such weapons to Ukraine.

According to the Chinese diplomat, Beijing believes that dialogue and talks are the only way to resolve the Ukrainian crisis.

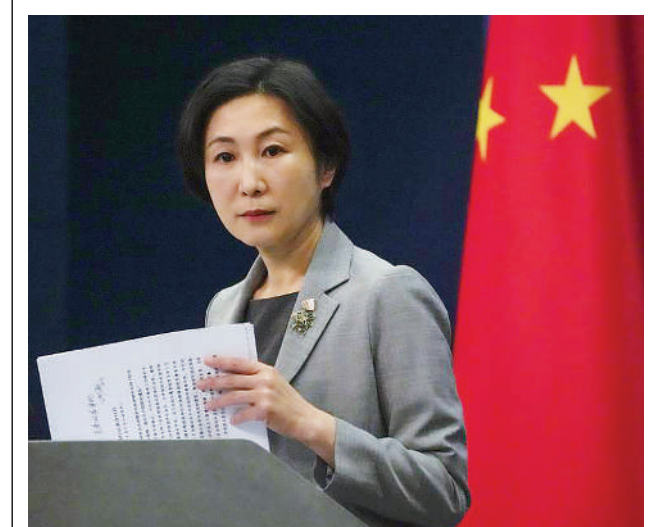
"The parties concerned should refrain from adding fuel to the fire in order to prevent tensions from rising and the Ukrainian crisis from escalating," Mao stressed.

On July 7, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said that the United States had decided to send cluster munitions to Ukraine, despite the fact that the United Nations opposes the use of such weapons.

He also stated that Kiev had provided Washington with written assurances that the controversial weapons would be used in such a way as to minimize risks to civilians.

Pentagon Spokesman Patrick Ryder said on Thursday that the United States intended to provide Ukraine with a type of cluster munitions that allegedly pose the least risk to civilians.

Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, said earlier that Guterres supported the Convention on Cluster Munitions and was against the use of such weapons on the battlefield.



Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning

BRICS Sherpas exchange views on development, enhancement of strategic partnership

DURBAN

SECRETARY (Economic Relations) Dammu Ravi participated in the extraordinary meeting of the BRICS Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas in South Africa's Durban and exchanged views on the development and enhancement of the strategic partnership within the association.

Taking to Twitter, the Russian Embassy in India said, "On July 5-6, #Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov participated in an extraordinary meeting of the #BRICS Sherpas/Sous-Sherpas in Durban, #SouthAfrica." "A thorough exchange of views on development & enhancement of the strategic partnership within the association, including taking into account priorities outlined by the South African chairmanship, took

place. A common intent to increase international role of #BRICS was expressed," it was also added.

The discussions also encompassed topical issues of preparations for the upcoming 15th BRICS Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Johannesburg on August 22-24, 2023.

Meanwhile, in Russia's Kemerovo, the names of the laureates of the Global Energy Prize 2023 were announced and participants of the BRICS Global Media Tour, Russian Edition, were there, reported TV BRICS.

"Global Energy" is an event of international scale and high expert level, which is traditionally hosted by Russia.

Daria Ivankova, director of the TV BRICS International Cooperation Department, told the audience about the goals of the media tour.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), in Cape Town on Thursday. ANI

"This year, TV BRICS and Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Support Fund organized a special media tour to Russia for the heads and leading journalists of the editorial offices of Brazil, India, China, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Our aim was not just to show contemporary Russia from the example of one capital, we wanted to show the regions.

We thought a lot about what event would be central in the foreign journalists' tour to Russia, what event would arouse press interest, demonstrate the Russian approach to organising events on an international scale, and raise a topic

that would unite all the countries of the world. This central event was the Global Energy ceremony and a visit to the famous region - Kuzbass," she said, according to TV BRICS.

She added that science diplomacy and media diplomacy, together, can promote the advancement of modern research, exchange of experiences, exchange of experience, rapprochement of scientific communities of different states of the world, and countries in general.

Durgesh Singh Bhaduria, senior producer of Asian News International (ANI), spoke about the role of the Global Energy Prize in promoting sustainable connectivity and energy dialogue among the BRICS countries.

"First of all, I would say BRICS is an interesting combination. And we should encourage and promote, and reward outstanding representatives in the BRICS countries in the conventional energy sector, and those who choose to promote alternative sources of energy. I think BRICS countries should unite and work together to achieve much more," Bhaduria said.

ANI

AU team wraps up Somalia visit, plans drawdown of 3,000 troops in September

MOGADISHU

THE African Union's high-level delegation wrapped up their four-day visit to Somalia on Saturday to assess the first stage of a planned troop withdrawal, which it said was successfully concluded at the end of June.

The team, headed by Alhaji Sarjoh Bah, the director of Conflict Management within the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, said a joint technical assessment would be conducted in August to inform planning for the next stage of the drawdown

of 3,000 AU troops to be completed by the end of September.

"We are at a very critical period, and I am quite impressed by the enthusiasm, the level of cooperation and the sense that we are all pulling in the same direction that is extremely useful," Bah said in a statement issued on Sunday in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

He said the AU delegation was in Somalia to discuss and engage with African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), the Somali government and the UN including other international partners on the transi-

tion processes.

Bah said the team also discussed the requirements of the new UN Security Council Resolution 2687 on the steps that they need to take to effectively carry out the next phase of the drawdown, which involves further withdrawal of 3,000 ATMIS troops.

The first phase of the transition involved the drawdown of 2,000 troops serving with ATMIS and the handover of six military bases to the Somali security forces. Bah said his meetings with senior UN officials in Somalia also focused on the UN's role in peacebuilding, reconciliation, the draw-

down, and transfer of security responsibilities.

He praised Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for the tremendous progress in driving a Somali-led security transformation during his first term of office. "It is a sign of progress. It is a moment that we must all collectively celebrate."

It is also a clear demonstration that the Federal Government of Somalia is stepping forward to take over what is their primary responsibility, the safety and security of Somalia," Bah added.

Xinhua

Biggest risk stems from non-cooperation, biggest hidden security threat remains non-development

THE term "de-risking" has been replacing "decoupling" these days, becoming a new argument of some Western politicians when they talk about economic relations with China. It is used to prettify their negative policies aiming at de-sinicization.

The so-called "de-risking" is in essence the politicization and ideologicalization of economic and trade issues. It is against laws of economics, disturbs the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains, and finally impedes the recovery of the world economy.

"De-risking may feel more dip-

lomatic than decoupling." The New York Times just told the truth.

The high-profile "decoupling" strategy launched by the last U.S. administration has been approved to be totally unrealistic. Though the current U.S. administration claimed it has no intention to contain China, its scheme to undermine China-U.S. economic relations through political means remains unchanged. Therefore, some in the United States created new rhetoric as the "decoupling" strategy has lost its support.

The qualifier of "not seeking decoupling" is added to "de-

risking" because the latter shall sound different and thus be more misleading. However, the so-called "de-risking" is just "old wine in a new bottle."

First of all, policies under "de-risking" still aim at technological blockade, investment review and transfer of supply chains. A high-ranking official of the U.S. government recently said in a speech that the United States wants to de-risk and diversify its relationship with China, not decouple. However, the official, at the same time, made reference to the approach of "small yard, high fence" to critical technology.

What's more, the true intention of "de-risking" is still containing China and serving White House's wrong policies on China. U.S. magazine Foreign Affairs noted that the strategy of de-risking aims to limit China's abilities in strategic sectors that have national security implications, reduce Beijing's leverage over the West by eroding Chinese dominance of the market for certain essential inputs.

In today's world, countries should be dependent on each other, and such interdependence doesn't mean insecurity. "De-risking" is indeed "diplomatic," but it

cannot lift the United States out of the predicament in the country's economic relations with China. On one hand, the White House is aware that "de-coupling" hurts its own interests and remains unrealistic; on the other hand, it is not willing to abandon its obsession of taking China as an "imaginary enemy" and is seeking "de-coupling" in another form. Such a self-contradictory mindset would only confine the United States in a cage that it has built.

Free trade and division of labor are the result of growing social productivity, and the formation and development of the global

industrial and supply chains an outcome of economic globalization and market economy. To strengthen division of labor and collaboration among countries amid economic globalization leads to common progress.

China makes opportunities, not risks. China is the world's second largest economy, biggest manufacturer, and largest trading country in goods. As a major trading partner for more than 140 countries and regions, it is continuously powering global growth.

The World Openness Report 2022 showed that China has made progress in its high-level

opening up and constantly improved its openness index, becoming a key variable for economic globalization.

Gideon Rachman, chief foreign affairs commentator of the Financial Times, believes that de-risking trade with China is a risky business.

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund warned that "de-risking" is political manipulation that hurts the stability of global industrial and supply chains, and impedes global tech progress and economic development. *People's Daily*

Chinese oil giant contributes to empowering young talents for Uganda's emerging oil industry

KIKUUBE

ON the shores of Lake Albert in central Africa, which is shared by Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, international oil giants China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and French TotalEnergies, are busy preparing to start Uganda's first-ever commercial oil production.

In the Kingfisher oil field here in Kikuube district in the Western Region of Uganda, and Tilenga oil field in neighboring Buliisa, run by CNOOC and TotalEnergies respectively, young Ugandan oil talents are taking on tasks, acquiring skills and knowledge from international experts.

Emmanuella Kaducu, was one of the oil and gas university students in Uganda who has won a national contest regarding the country's budding oil industry. One of the rewards of the contest was a trip to visit the oil wells in the western part of her country.

At Kingfisher, Kaducu and the other winners met their future peers who are already working in the oil and gas sector. Kaducu told Xinhua in a recent interview that she drew a lot of inspiration from the young professionals, and this strengthens

her resolute to finish her course in petroleum geoscience and production at university.

At Kingfisher, CNOOC has taken on young Ugandan professionals who acquire practical skills and knowledge from their Chinese supervisors.

Linette Naiga, a junior drilling engineer at a rig on one of the oil pads at Kingfisher who spoke to Kaducu and her friends, said increasingly young professionals are taking positions in the country's nascent oil sector.

She said opportunities are there for those who are determined to work hard and focus on their career. Naiga, who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering and Environment Management in 2021, is optimistic that she will pass on the skills and knowledge acquired in the sector to younger Ugandans who join the oil and gas industry.

"Working with the Chinese is so rewarding, there is so much to learn, so much technology transfer. It is challenging though rewarding, it pushes me every other day to the limit," said Ambrose Ogwang, one of Naiga's workmates.

Ogwang, who is a drilling engineer, said his humble background, including his parents dying when he was young, did



A Ugandan worker operates the mud pump unit at the Kingfisher oil field in Kikuube, Uganda, Jan. 24, 2023. Xinhua

not stop him from pursuing his dream. "In my family, my journey in oil industry has inspired quite a number.

It has been a series of learning and growth," he added.

Kaducu said such stories from young people in the oil and gas industry are inspiring.

"There so many examples of young people doing well in the oil and gas industry. I know a

number of those who were doing my course. I see that they are doing well, the impact they are making on people's lives," she said. CNOOC and TotalEnergies in February last year announced the Final Investment Decision (FID) to start commercial production in Uganda.

FID is the detailed plan that an oil company will follow to develop an oil field. The 10-billion-USD

project, according to Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, includes the development of the oil wells and the construction of a crude oil pipeline that will transport the oil from western Uganda to the Tanzanian seaport of Tanga.

The 1,445-km pipeline, estimated to cost 3.55 billion dollars, will be the world's longest-heated pipeline. The first oil output is ex-

pected in 2025 after completion of construction, according to the ministry.

The project will generate about 160,000 jobs besides provisions of goods and services.

Uganda in 2006 discovered 6.5 billion barrels of oil, of which 1.4 billion barrels are commercially viable, according to the ministry. Xinhua

Israel says to prevent collapse of Palestinian Authority

JERUSALEM / RAMALLAH

ISRAEL'S Security Cabinet decided on Sunday that Israel will take steps to prevent the collapse of the internationally-recognized Palestinian Authority, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

According to the statement, Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant will submit to the Security Cabinet steps "to stabilize the civil situation" in the West Bank.

Israel will also demand

the Palestinian Authority cease its efforts to push for an investigation by the International Criminal Court into alleged Israeli war crimes, and stop payments to the families of Palestinian prisoners jailed for attacks against Israelis, the prime minister's office said.

On Sunday, Palestine called on US President Joe Biden to interpret his words criticizing the Israeli government into practical measures that protect the Palestinian people.

In a statement, the Pal-



estrian Foreign Ministry urged Biden to "stop the expansion of Israeli settlement" and "to compel the Israeli government to engage in a political track

of negotiations to resolve the conflict."

"The Israeli government's continuation in its illegal settlement will expose it not only to accountability in accordance with the rules of international law and UN resolutions but also to UN sanctions," it said.

Biden said on Sunday that the current Israeli government has some "of the most extreme members" he's seen in Israel, according to The Times of Israel news website.

"The Israeli cabinet ministers who back set-

ting anywhere they want in the West Bank are part of the problem in the conflict," Biden added.

The statement welcomed what it described as "the unprecedented slap that President Biden has dealt to the Israeli government for the first time."

It also called on Biden's administration "to fulfill its announced commitments to the Palestinian cause and to support the legal approaches of Palestine in international forums."

Despite international

criticism, Israel seized the West Bank, along with East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East war and has maintained control over these territories, where the Palestinians wish to establish their future state.

In 2013, the United States sponsored direct peace talks between Israel and Palestine for nine months. However, the talks stopped in late March 2014 following deep disputes on settlements and the border of the Palestinian state.

Agencies

The phone call was initiated by the Turkish side.

Agencies



SCO advancing unity, coordination to realise greater development

CHINESE President Xi Jinping attended the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and delivered an important speech via video conference in Beijing on July 4.

It was an important multilateral diplomatic action taken by China to better engage with Eurasia. Xi's remarks at the meeting injected important impetus into building SCO consensus for development and building an SCO community with a shared future.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind put forward by Xi. Over the past decade, facing the changes of the world, of the times and of history, the SCO has always been at the forefront of the times, upholding this very vision and the Shanghai Spirit to build an SCO community with a shared future.

Xi summarized the experiences and achievements of SCO, charting the course for it to keep building an SCO community with a shared future.

The organization has followed its fine tradition of standing together through thick and thin, as passengers in the same boat should do, acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, embraced the development philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared

growth, carried forward the spirit of good-neighborliness, and advocated equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between civilizations, upheld international fairness and justice, and opposed hegemonic, high-handed, and bullying acts, Xi said in the speech.

SCO countries reiterated that to jointly build a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, equity, justice and win-win cooperation and a community with a shared future for mankind is of important practical significance. It once again proved the strong influence and vitality of the vision.

Xi places high importance on the SCO. He always stresses the importance of upholding and carrying forward the Shanghai Spirit, and pursuing the organization's development as it pursues common development for humanity.

The Chinese President has attended multiple summits of the organization since 2013, drawing a blueprint for its development and guiding it toward long-term and stable development.

At previous SCO summits, he called on relevant parties to strengthen cooperation and get together for self improvement, and see each other in a common endeavor and a community with a shared future and interests. He also encouraged SCO countries to follow the Shanghai Spirit to build a community with a shared future for the region.

He always stresses the importance of solidarity and collaboration and has raised a series of initiatives for deepening SCO cooperation, winning active response and support from relevant parties.

The world today is undergoing both transformation and upheaval; changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace; human soci-



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via video conference from Beijing on July 4, 2023. Xinhua

ety faces unprecedented challenges. Unity or split, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation -- these are the questions raised again by the times.

Responding to the questions, Xi said that "The people's wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times."

To respond to the call of the times, the SCO must keep in mind its founding mission, and stay in unity and coordination to bring more certainty and positive energy to world peace and development.

Xi said that the SCO should keep to the right direction and enhance solidarity and mutual trust, maintain regional peace and safeguard common security, focus on practical cooperation and expedite economic recovery, strengthen exchanges and mutual learning and forge closer bonds between the peoples, and practice multilateralism and improve global governance.

These important suggestions and new cooperation initiatives proposed by Xi demonstrated China's sense of responsibility as a major country in deepening SCO cooperation in various fields.

As a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the widest area and largest population in the world, the SCO is committed to uphold-

ing mutual respect and the principle of equality among all countries regardless of their size. It firmly safeguards and practices true multilateralism, and has blazed a new trail of international relations that features partnership over alliance and cooperation over confrontation, becoming a pillar force in advocating international fairness and justice.

This time, the SCO officially welcomed Iran as a full member and signed the memorandum of obligations on the membership of Belarus. This manifested the vitality of the SCO family, and demonstrated relevant parties' recognition to the SCO's important contributions to deepening good-neighborliness, protecting the common interests of SCO countries, promoting long-term peace and stability of the region and the world, and advancing sustainable development.

A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far. As long as all relevant parties keep moving in the right direction of promoting solidarity, mutual trust, development and cooperation, the SCO will definitely grow from strength to strength.

A growing and expanding SCO will surely make global governance more just and equitable, and make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

ISIL leader Osama al-Muhajer killed in drone strike

WASHINGTON

THE US military has claimed that a drone strike in eastern Syria killed an ISIS leader, reported Al Jazeera.

Osama al-Muhajer (pictured) was killed in the strike on Friday, according to a statement released on Sunday by the US Central Command. US Central Command (CENTCOM) chief Michael Kurilla said, "We have made it clear that we remained committed to the defeat of ISIS through the region."

He added, "ISIS remains a threat, not only to the region but well beyond."

CENTCOM also claimed that no civilians were killed in the operation but coalition forces are "asserting reports of a civilian injury."

It also said that the drones used to attack had been harassed by Russian warplanes earlier in the day, as per Al Jazeera.

On Friday's attack, CENTCOM said that it "was conducted by the same MQ-9s (drones) that had ... been harassed by Russian aircraft in an encounter that had lasted almost two hours."

Russian military aircraft disturbed US drones participating in operations against ISIS in Syria on Thursday for the second time in 24 hours, a US commander reported at the time.

"The planes dropped flares in front of the drones and flew dangerously close, endangering the safety of all aircraft involved," said Air Force Lieutenant General Alexis Grynke-wich, read a report published in Al Jazeera. Grynke-wich has stated that three Russian jets dropped parachute flares in front of US drones on Wednesday, forcing them to evade, and has urged Moscow to "cease this reckless behaviour."

US Reaper drones and Russian aeroplanes engaged in two distinct incidents on Wednesday and Thursday, according to video footage released by the US.

A diplomatic row briefly broke out earlier this year, when the US alleged that Russian jets were to blame for the downing of the USD 30 million Reaper drone, which was packed

with sensitive US spying technology and was operating over the Black Sea.

Although Moscow denied that its jets were to blame for the drone that crashed into the water in March, US military video showed Russian planes performing manoeuvres to obstruct the drone's flight path, according to Al Jazeera.

President Bashar al-Assad's administration in Syria counts Russia as a crucial ally.

Assad has gained back a lot of the ground that was lost in the early phases of the Syrian crisis, which began in 2011 when the regime ruthlessly suppressed pro-democracy protesters, with the help of both Moscow and Iran.

The Idlib region in northern Syria, which is controlled by rebels, is one of the remaining strongholds of armed opposition to Assad's regime.

The United States has roughly 1,000 troops stationed in Syria as part of global efforts to combat ISIS, which was destroyed in Syria in 2019 but still retains hideouts in remote desert regions and still carries out periodic attacks, Al Jazeera reported.

ANI



SPORT

Azam FC shows the way to a cosmopolitan Premier League



Azam FC players, Ayoub Lyanga (L) and Kipre Junior are pictured taking part in the club's drills at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last week. The outfit has jetted off to Tunisia for a pre-season training camp to prepare for, among others, the 2023/24 Premier League and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent
John Kimbute

WHILE in the past the city of Dar es Salaam used to have a Cosmopolitan FC, it has taken upwards of five decades since the team collapsed as a competitive outfit, especially in the wake of the oil price rises in 1973/74.

Earlier there were notable benefactors for soccer clubs but after the oil crisis, they now took the role of sponsors, mostly from among industrialists in the city.

Those who had access to foreign exchange via exports in particular started to take a commanding role.

These days clubs have sponsors only in a collective way as league sponsors, like the NBC Bank for the Premier League as a whole, and Azam Media Limited for the television rights, in which case each club gets a substantial amount of money for the showing of its engagements.

Several Premier League sides are institutional, belonging to either government organs or parastatal organizations, on the condition of there being just one side from such entities. This avoids arranging results by order.

It has taken upwards of 40 years to move from initial sponsorships around 1975 to acceding the company format, first in Simba SC and less conclusively in Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga.

The shift has been complicated and its operations nervy and testing as the two major city clubs are anchored in the membership, who see their cards as giving them power in decision making, and there is a wide feeling among them that the technique of

football is evenly shared. Each of them can contribute.

Sponsorship was traditionally about winning the Premier League, whose most awaited moment was the city derby, where two such encounters are expected, the home and away events.

These days the scope of club performance is more elevated as intense investments in the two rival sides have uplifted their expectations in the continental tournaments to the Group Stage and beyond.

The quarterfinals were until recently a great achievement and equalling North African teams was dreamy.

Not so at the moment, as the Msimbazi Street side starts to believe that with significant improvement of its side - not in skills but squad depth, having fairly dependable substitutes to the priority first eleven - it can take to the semi-finals, regularly.

Their Jangwani Street rivals and triumphant imitators are under the impression they have a good side already. It reached the final of one CAF club tournament.

All impressions point to Msimbazi Street-based Simba SC out to build a more formidable side than at present, meanwhile as Jangwani Street club is on the verge of starting afresh, losing the technical bench and some key players.

Yet the psychological rule is that when the new season starts, both in the Premier League and in the continental tournament, they will travel by their last season's star.

Chances are that it will be seen to have faded, and then the club leadership will earnestly embark on a rebuilding, a bit late.

There is at least one other club that is seeking to build a properly competitive side, namely Azam FC, while at least one more is a missed opportunity, that is, Geita Gold FC.

The latter is patterned on the Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) side rather than being sponsored by the gold mining firm, but as the company only has a mining license and not a 99-year lease on the land, it mines and quits.

Plenty of opportunities for social and economic initiatives miss out due to land shortcomings.

Of late, the Chamazi neighbourhood side, Azam FC, is believed to have registered an even better outfit than in the past year, though it is unclear how it will finish up with its teething coaching problems.

As the pre-season is just starting, and they have a new technical bench lineup, it might still be given time, but many ache to see a proper professional coach with a track record, in the likes of those found with the city rivals. They are dreaming of either a domestic title or more, and a better CAF itinerary.

Azam FC has of late recruited a Senegalese coach and several players come from that country as well, in like manner as Yanga took to hiving off several AS Vita Club players, sharing honours with Simba SC.

Yanga went further afield in West Africa and Simba SC is now collecting some shock targets from Cameroon and Sudan in the wake of the virtual collapse of Al Hilal.

Still, there is an impression that Azam FC stands to look even more cosmopolitan than the other two this year.

A recent appeal by Yanga stalwart and former President Jakaya Kikwete that local players be given more opportunity to feature in the Premier League was in the first place something to be taken for granted, and also questionable.

Usually, when such appeals come up they are seen to be targeting the city archrivals, as it is believed that they form the backbone of the senior national side, Taifa Stars.

That would largely need to be the case but increasingly the federation shows other aims, running Taifa Stars as a club, projecting how young players will finally be cohesive, instead of bringing the best 18 players and fusing them with technique.

Local players will be more plentiful with the poorer Premier League sides, and fewer at the pinnacle.

SPORTS

NBC Bank, Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Sports join forces to empower artists

By Guardian Correspondent

THE NBC Bank has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Sports to provide loans and financial education to artists in Tanzania.

The strategic partnership, a significant step towards empowering a large group of historically financially excluded artists, was announced in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Under the MoU, NBC Bank will offer low-interest loans with an interest rate of 9% to eligible artists. These loans will be available for a maximum of two years, and individual borrowers can access up to 100m/-.

The loans will be offered in two categories, namely investment loans and business operation loans.

The investment loans in the form of asset financing and business working capital will enable artists to purchase business equipment through NBC Bank's Commercial Asset Finance program.

This support, the institution revealed, will enable artists to enhance their creative ventures and expand their artistic capabilities.

As for the business operation loans, offered as working capital finance, they will help artists meet their day-to-day business expenses.

As part of the partnership, NBC Bank will provide access to its Business Clubs (NBC Business Clubs), offering comprehensive financial education to artists.

This initiative, the bank noted, will equip the artists with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage their finances effectively and make informed investment decisions.

Artists will moreover gain access to a range of insurance products, market opportunities, and financial advisory services to promote their economic well-being and long-term sustainability.

Elvis Ndunguru, NBC Bank Director for



NBC Bank Director for Business Banking, Elvis Ndunguru (Front row R), and Chief Executive Officer of the Culture and Arts Fund, Nyakaho Mahemba (Front row L) show copies of the contract between the two parties that will enable artists and other stakeholders in the arts and culture sector to receive loans on concessional terms from NBC Bank shortly after the parties signed the Memorandum of Understanding in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Others in the photo are NBC Bank employees. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Business Banking, expressed his enthusiasm about the collaboration.

Ndunguru stated: "We are delighted to partner with the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Sports to empower Tanzanian artists through financial support and education."

The official pointed out: "This MoU signifies a new beginning for these talented individuals who have often faced financial challenges."

"By providing affordable loans, financial education, and a range of banking services, we aim to foster their economic growth and contribute to Tanzania's thriving arts and culture sector," Ndunguru noted.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana expressed her appreciation to NBC Bank for agreeing to support local artists, saying the move is a milestone for the culture and arts sector in the country.

"On behalf of the government, I would like to express my very sincere appreciation to the NBC Bank. This move will enable our local artists access credit and therefore be in a position to develop their works and get more income," she said. The minister noted that with NBC Bank's huge network across the country, artists and players in the

arts and culture sector are expected to benefit a lot from low-interest loans regardless of their location.

She said the partnership reflects NBC Bank's commitment to promoting financial inclusion and supporting the economic development of various sectors in Tanzania.

By working closely with the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Sports, NBC Bank stated it continues to demonstrate its dedication to providing tailored financial solutions that meet the unique needs of artists and foster their economic empowerment.

Local table tennis in dire straits

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT is with great sorrow that I would like to highlight the plight of local table tennis, which is presently wallowing in the doldrums.

Indeed, there are hardly ever any table tennis championships that are staged on the local scene these days, which is a damning indictment of the administrators running the sport.

Admittedly, Dear Reader, I have often opined about the unfortunate troubles facing some sports which have become largely stagnant in the country.

But I do so for a few vital reasons even if at times it may seem as if I'm going on and on about the same issue ad nauseam.

One reason is that if we do not try to address the failings confronting struggling sports, we will be denying ourselves the golden opportunity to see sportsmen who may have innate talents for the sports in question.

To go even further, such sportsmen may even have the abundant potential to excel on the international stage but they are being robbed of the opportunity to do so as a result of our gross neglect of these ailing sports.

Another wholly frustrating thing about such crisis-ridden sports is the disappointing fact that few stakeholders set the alarm bells ringing about the predicaments facing these sports.

It is hoped then that in the fullness of time, struggling sports like table tennis and badminton will receive the attention they so sorely deserve on the home front.

Let us now switch our focus to mull over this year's FIFA Women's World Cup, which is set to take center stage come July 20.

Indeed, the football showpiece event has been billed as the biggest Women's World Cup ever and it is likely to be the most

entertaining football spectacle of the whole year to boot.

From an African viewpoint, we shall be zeroing in on the fortunes of our four representatives who are reigning African champions South Africa, perennial heavyweights Nigeria, as well as the debutants Zambia and Morocco, who have enjoyed a meteoric rise to the pinnacle of continental women's football.

Indeed, it should be recalled that Morocco dazzlingly finished as runners-up to South Africa in the final of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) last year.

Having said that though, the Atlas Lionesses (Morocco's nickname) are likely to face a baptism of fire in the World Cup since they will be making their maiden appearance at the competition.

In a group made up of giants Germany, improving Colombia, and small-fry South Korea, Morocco is likely to face their toughest test when squaring off against Teutonic might.

As for the Super Falcons of Nigeria, who will be jockeying for top honors in Group B, certainly, the other teams in this pool who are co-hosts Australia, the unheralded Republic of Ireland, and powerhouse Canada will strain every sinew to clip the wings of Super Falcons.

Meanwhile, in Group C which consists of the dominant Spain, the erstwhile world champions Japan and minnows Costa Rica, the debutants Zambia have their work cut out for them.

And finally, the reigning African champions South Africa will determinedly head into the battle awaiting them in Group G, which is made up of Sweden, Italy, and Argentina.

On the whole, despite the obvious perils that they will undoubtedly face, one still feels sanguine that a few of our African teams at the World Cup will be able to put their best foot forward at the eagerly anticipated football extravaganza.



Table tennis players engage in drills at Kisutu Secondary School venue in Dar es Salaam recently.

Barcelona's Oshoala leads World Cup charge for ever-present Nigeria

SYDNEY

SPORTING a pair of sunglasses, Asisat Oshoala celebrated Barcelona's UEFA Champions League triumph with her team-mates in early June, but Nigeria was already on her mind.

Standing on the balcony of the historic palace in Placa de Sant Jaume in the city's Gothic neighbourhood before several thousand jubilant fans, Oshoala was handed the microphone.

"Visca Barca and Visca Nigeria," the 28-year-old forward said, swapping in her homeland for "Catalunya", as the refrain usually goes.

Ruled out with a hamstring injury, Oshoala could not play any part in Barcelona's rollercoaster 3-2 win over Wolfsburg that saw them clinch their second Champions League trophy.

However, she will be back to compete later this month at the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Nigeria are the only African team to feature in every edition of the tournament since it began in 1991, but the Super Falcons have never made it beyond the quarter-finals.

If that is to change, a lot will depend on five-time African women's player of the year Oshoala.

"When you have Oshoala, you have a chance against any team," said Nigeria's American coach Randy Waldrum, whose side must first negotiate a difficult group featuring Australia, Olympic gold medalists Canada and the Republic of Ireland.

"She puts a lot of pressure on herself because she loves Nigeria and she wants Nigeria to be successful on the world stage."

- One of the best -
Oshoala defied her parents as a youngster, choosing to drop out of school and focus on playing football full-time.

It paid off spectacularly.

AFP

In-form Australia stay humble in pursuit of home World Cup crown

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA have never progressed past the quarter-finals at seven Women's World Cups but with Sam Kerr leading an in-form team in front of their home fans they could go all the way this time.

The Matildas have been consistent performers on the international stage, qualifying for the World Cup repeatedly since 1995 and reaching the last eight three times.

They fell in the last 16 to Norway at the 2019 World Cup after a penalty shootout but head into this month's showpiece, co-hosted with New Zealand, in ominous form.

The Australians beat Spain early in the year before stunning European champions England 2-0 away in April, ending the Lionesses' 30-game unbeaten run.

With Chelsea striker Kerr one of the best in the business, Australia are among the favourites to win the tournament, but coach Tony Gustavsson is preaching humility.

"I've always believed in this team, players who are this loyal and committed," said the Swede, who was appointed in 2020.

"But I think it's very important we don't get carried away now. We need to stay very, very humble.

"We need to stay in that boring grey area, middle ground to stay grounded and humble -- but we know that on any given day we might not have the best team, but we can beat the best team."

- Home pressure -

If Australia are to lift the World Cup they will need their 29-year-old skipper Kerr firing.

Australia's all-time leading scorer is set to be the face of the tournament.

One of the world's best women players, the unassuming Kerr admitted a home World Cup brought extra pressure -- but also opportunity.

"It's going to be the biggest honour in the world to represent your country at a home World Cup in front of your family and friends," said Kerr.

In 2014 she was made a Member of the Order of the Niger by the country's then-president Goodluck Jonathan, a title which she proudly carries in her name on her social media accounts.

Barely out of her teenage years, Liverpool signed her in 2015 and she became the first African to play in the English Women's Super League.

"We beat a number of top American and European clubs to Asisat's signature," said Liverpool coach Matt Beard.

"Asisat is one of the best young players in the world."

In 2016 Oshoala signed for Arsenal after they paid her release clause of an undisclosed amount.

Oshoala won the FA Cup at Wembley with the Gunners that year but then moved to Chinese team Dalian Quanjian.

She admitted she was paid more than 10 times as much as she earned at Arsenal, but also said she felt she could rebuild her confidence there, describing the move to China as a "blessing".

Barcelona loaned her from Dalian in 2019 and after eight goals in 11 games a permanent switch quickly materialised.

Oshoala became the first African woman to win the Spanish top flight's leading goalscorer trophy and in August 2022 also became the first to be nominated for the Ballon d'Or.

With Barcelona she has won three league titles and two women's Champions Leagues. Now she is aiming to follow that up with World Cup glory.

Oshoala has a foundation back home in Nigeria which helps young girls to play football, after the trouble she had starting out and getting her parents to support her dream.

Success in Australia and New Zealand would be another way for Oshoala to lead by example.

AFP

Morocco's historic Women's World Cup debut inspires girls even if some in the Arab world ignore it

RABAT, Morocco

THE game was sparsely attended, it was midweek and the outcome wasn't much in doubt: the Association Sportive des Forces Armées Royales, a powerhouse in women's soccer here, ended up crushing its Moroccan women's national professional league opponent 7-0.

Regardless, one young fan in the stands was excited from the get-go.

Wearing her hair in half-up pig-tails and dressed in a jersey reading "Morocco" in Arabic, 5-year-old Aliae Benazzouza descended to the pitch to meet the players. A favorite of hers, Fatima Tagnaout, who plays for Morocco's national women's team and for the armed forces team known as ASFAR, embraced Aliae and held her hand as they posed for photos. Aliae waved at another player, calling her name. During the game, she would make her way to the front of the stands, pressing against a rail, for a better view.

"I was very happy," Aliae said. Her mom, Souad El Khorchef, a teacher, said her daughter peppered her with kisses afterward in thanks for taking her to the game and asked to practice soccer. El Khorchef told her that is possible when she's older.

After years largely in the margins, Moroccan women's soccer is gaining new ground at home and beyond, capturing the imagination of some girls like Aliae, winning the hearts and minds of more parents, and chipping away at a traditional view of soccer as a men's game. Morocco's national team, the Atlas Lionesses, will make its debut this month at the FIFA Women's World Cup, the first to qualify from the Arab world, where many are wild for the men's game.

"I teach (my daughters) confidence, not fear," said Idriss Benazzouza, Aliae's father. "I plant in them the spirit of soccer, the spirit of sports. Sports don't differentiate between genders."

He said the Lionesses' achievement "shows how women's soccer has progressed" in the North African country, filling him with joy. He added, though, that not everyone he knows shares his enthusiasm due to conservative views or to religious beliefs against women wearing shorts.

The national team's upcoming Women's World Cup appearance follows their male counterpart's history making feat as the first African or Arab team to reach the World Cup semifinals. Last year's run galvanized support from other Arab countries.

Morocco's 2022 hosting of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations drew large numbers of spectators and catapulted the country to the upcoming global tournament in Australia and New Zealand. It marked a watershed moment, soccer officials and players say.

"The qualification of the women's team for the finals at the Africa Cup of Nations, the media momentum and the wide audience that followed ... breathed new life into women's soccer in Morocco," Khadija Illa, president of the national women's soccer league, told The Associated Press. "We now see families bring their children, ... their daughters, to play soccer."

The on-the-pitch victories, she said, were the culmination of efforts by the Royal Moroccan Football Federation to develop soccer, including for women. Female players and teams traditionally suffered from neglect here and in the Arab world.

It wasn't an easy path, Illa said. "Everything related to women requires struggling for," she said. "We're not 100% where we want to be, but we have put sound structures in place."

Those include hiring Atlas Lionesses' coach Reynald Pedros and moves in recent years by the Moroccan federation to support women's clubs with such things as salaries and buses. Financial assistance was part of an agreement announced in 2020 for the growth and professionalization of female soccer; goals included establishing a national under-17 championship and increasing the number of female players.

"There's no success without financial support," Illa said. "Everyone played before but they played without enthusiasm. ... When they realized that soccer can also become a



Women footballers compete in a soccer match between ASFAR and ASDCT Ain Atiq, in Morocco's professional women league. (AP Photo)

career, the appetite has increased." Still, she said, large salary gaps exist between male and female players at Moroccan clubs, adding, "We're still at the beginning of the road."

She cited a sports-study program that searches for youthful talent, houses girls who qualify and provides them with schooling and soccer practice. It's funded by the Royal Moroccan Football Federation and has produced such players as Tagnaout, Illa said.

Bahya El Yahmidi, who oversees women's soccer at ASFAR, said with more victories, attitudes have been evolving.

"In the beginning, there was such talk as 'You belong in the home or in the kitchen' ... or girls would wait for their fathers or brothers to leave before they could sneak out to play," she said. "But later, a brother would come with his sister, a father with his daughter."

In developing women's soccer at ASFAR, the club provided players with "financial and moral stability," which has encouraged more to join, she said.

Atlas Lionesses' and ASFAR player Ghizlane Chebbak, named player of the tournament in the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, is increasingly seeing the star power she and some of her peers are enjoying in the eyes of young fans.

She recalled a girl sobbing uncontrollably, emotional that she encountered Chebbak and other players. That girl, she said, ended up joining ASFAR.

"It made us feel that we have actually made it to the hearts of young children," Chebbak told the AP.

When she was young, Chebbak would hear neighbors telling her mother not to let her play with the boys. She felt lucky that her family, including her late father who was a soccer player himself, backed her.

"Our efforts and perseverance in the field of soccer haven't gone in vain; people have understood that we have the right to play this sport," the 32-year-old said.

She hopes the national team can make Moroccan women's soccer proud at the World Cup. "We're highly focused," she said.

Nouhaila Benzina, who also plays for the national team and ASFAR, said her soccer career has opened up new worlds, helping her meet people from different countries and religions. The 25-year-old never saw her passion for soccer at odds with her modest attire and the Islamic headscarf that she wears on and off the pitch.

Many, she said, depict her as a role model.

"This fills me up with joy and makes

me want to work harder to show girls they can achieve great things."

The Lionesses' ascent fuels the resolve of players like Hiba Karami, who plays for another local team, Fath Union Sport.

"This has made me work harder, aspire for more, dream," said the 18-year-old, who hopes one day to play with the senior national team.

The advancement in women's soccer has made a dream a reality for Karami; last year, she was one of the players representing Morocco in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India.

Karami loved soccer from a young age because her older sister played; they practiced together at home and on the beach.

"At the time, not much attention was paid to women's soccer," she said. Her parents supported her, and Karami paid little heed to naysayers.

"Some kids or men would say women belonged in the kitchen and weren't made for soccer," she said. "I knew that I loved the game and that I will play."

Her sister encouraged her. So did her extended family, though an aunt cautioned her not to dress like men now that she was playing soccer. Boys in the neighborhood accepted her "because I played better than they did," she said.

In recent years, women's soccer has received more attention, Karami said. She was overjoyed to see many people supporting the national team during last year's Women's Africa Cup of Nations, where it lost 2-1 to South Africa in the final.

She only wishes that success happened sooner. For her, it's personal; her sister died.

"I wish she were here to witness my achievements," Karami said, breaking into tears.

Coach Pedros recently told reporters of the Moroccan team's Women's World Cup ambitions.

"We're going there to try and cause an upset, to get into the second round," he said. "We know we're the underdog in this group (with Germany, Colombia and South Korea), but that doesn't stop us making things difficult for the other teams."

He said having a Moroccan professional championship for women was a promising start "but we need to work in the clubs and in the national team to help Moroccan women's soccer progress."

In parts of the Middle East and North Africa, women's soccer can be shackled by lack of financing or conservative attitudes in some areas, while making new pushes in others when there are official efforts to develop the game.

Arijana Demirovic, head of Women's Football Development at FIFA, said that in the last three years, the international federation worked extensively with member associations in the MENA region to strengthen overall development of women's soccer.

FIFA, she said, supported Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in determining long-term strategies for women's soccer while also working on league development and capacity-building programs in Jordan, Iraq, Oman and Tunisia.

"Despite cultural challenges, member associations have been very committed in creating and maintaining access and opportunities for the girls to join the game in the right environment and conditions," she said. She expects these regional efforts to be bolstered by Morocco's participation in the World Cup.

Illa shares that optimism. "Nothing is impossible," she said. "If they work and plan, other teams can make it too. Why not have four or five Arab teams competing in the World Cup?"

In Arab cities, where months ago many took pride in the Moroccan men's team World Cup performance, attitudes vary.

In Gaza, ruled by the militant Hamas, shopped by Ahmed Qoffa said he rooted for Morocco's men's team but takes issue with female players wearing shorts.

"Culture and religion do not prohibit sports," he said. "If it is within the legal, cultural and societal limits, then there is no problem."

Elsewhere in the region, many, including some serious soccer fans, were unaware of the Atlas Lionesses' breakthrough.

"They always give attention to men's sports more than women's, especially in our countries," said Hadeel Sleiman. She is a fan from Lebanon.

In Egypt, 61-year-old Hassan Yousef argued that soccer "is a rough game that is not at all fit for women," adding he wouldn't enjoy watching women play.

Dr. Husam Mokhtar, a Libyan in Egypt, said he doubts women's soccer can become as popular as men's. "We support any Arab country making it to the World Cup," he said, but added that "soccer is a men's game."

His 13-year-old daughter, Miral, disagreed. "Everyone should do what they want to do," she said. "Every sport should be played by everyone."

Back in Morocco, Fath Union Sport players practiced vigorously on a recent day.

Among them was 11-year-old Inass Belattar, who once thought only boys could play soccer because she had

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Morocco's historic Women's World Cup debut inspires girls even if some in the Arab world ignore it

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



SportPesa Tanzania Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas (R), hands over a 405m/- dummy check to Yanga's president Hersi Said (L) at a function that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The betting firm, Yanga's main sponsor, rewarded the outfit for excelling in the just-ended season. Standing (C) is SportPesa Tanzania's Head of Communications Sabrina Msuya. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Sportpesa rewards Yanga for excelling in 2022/23 season

By Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, yesterday handed over a 405m/- check to Yanga as a bonus for the club's scintillating showing in various tournaments of the just-ended 2022/23 season.

The season saw Yanga, one of Tanzania's soccer big guns, win Community Shield, as well as NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) trophies.

Yanga moreover made it to the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final and lost to Algeria's USM Alger based on the away-goal rule.

The prize handover ceremony, which took place in Dar es Salaam, was attended by Yanga's representatives, their counterparts from SportPesa Tanzania, also Yanga's main sponsor, various sports stakeholders, and the media.

SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas, congratulated Yanga's leadership for ensuring that it leads the club well and seeing to it the outfit garners more success in the coming seasons.

Abbas said: "Yanga, this time, has got the best leaders and everyone can see this success because the outfit has been lifting trophies for two consecutive seasons, I hope this victory will be sustainable."

"It is our comfort as the main sponsors to see that you are doing justice to the Sportpesa Tanzania logo for six consecutive years," the SportPesa Tanzania boss told the club's leaders.

Abbas revealed: "Today we are fulfilling our contractual obligation by giving you a bonus of 405m/- due to your dedication so that it can be used as an incentive towards the 2023/24 season's tournaments."

Sportpesa Tanzania's Head of Communications, Sabrina Msuya, as well congratulated Yanga for the success the outfit has achieved in the season.

She noted: "Let me congratulate Yanga for doing well in the just-ended season. I think each one of us knows what you have done and I respectfully congratulate the leaders, players, and the technical bench."

Yanga's president Hersi Said expressed his regards to SportPesa Tanzania for the way the firm has been collaborating with the club in carrying out daily plans and duties.

The Yanga president revealed: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank SportPesa Tanzania for implementing the agreement existing in the contract on time and by presenting a bonus of 405,000,000/- to the club after having great success this season."

"SportPesa Tanzania has been presenting bonuses whenever we do well, let me just say that they are the key to our success and we are very proud that we are doing justice to their logo by giving them consecutive victories," Said noted.

"On behalf of Yanga's management, we are relieved to have received this bonus, and we will also cooperate with you to ensure that we do justice to our contract for the development of the club so that our fans can have more entertainment," Said pointed out.

In 2022, SportPesa Tanzania signed a contract with Yanga, which is worth more than 12.3bn/- to become the outfit's main sponsor for three consecutive seasons.

Alaf Aces cricketers make it to 2023 DC 50 Overs League final

By Guardian Reporter

ALAF Aces Cricket Club booked a place in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 50 Overs Division A's League final after commanding a 63-run drubbing of Strikers in the semi-final played last Friday.

With the win, Alaf Aces Cricket Club was set to come up against Caravans Cricket Club in the final last weekend, given the latter cruised to a five-wicket victory over Aga Khan SC in the other semi-final played the same weekend.

In the semi-final which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, Alaf Aces cricketers were put in to bat first and amassed 295/8 in the allotted 50 overs after Strikers had won the toss and elected to bowl.

The batting side got off to a good start, following a solid batting showcased by the openers Nasib Kelvin and Asif Butt.

The duo ended with meaningful contributions in which the experienced Kelvin was six runs short of a half-century, with his exploits comprising two fours and three sixes.

The equally experienced Butt made his way back with 20 runs, whilst clearing the boundary on three occasions.

Ejaz Aziz, slotted in at number three, had a slightly shorter spell but still managed to chip with a two-digit figure as the cricketer notched 19 runs whilst nailing two fours and a sixer.

Zimbabwean all-rounder Jeremiah Makanya had an impressive spell at the crease, boosting his outfit's score with his 57 runs that comprised two boundaries and two sixes.

He was by far the most impressive cricketer in the innings and was deservedly handed the Kiwingu Man of the Match prize at the end of the duel.

The batting team thereafter somewhat experienced a wobble following the early dismissal of one of the reliable cricketers, Salum Jumbe, as the performer was caught by Strikers' Nyenje Hashim from Raymond Francis's delivery with six runs to his name.

Jumbe's dismissal had left Alaf Aces Cricket Club with 135 runs after 28.5 overs with four wickets taken and the squad's other Zimbabwean cricketer, Aisah Chibanda, then laid his hands on the bat to significantly improve the total with his runs.

Chibanda that was slotted in at middle-order nailed three boundaries and three sixes in the equally impressive outing.

Other middle-order batsmen, Ankit Baghel, Ally Mpeka, and skipper Mohammad Ali saw to it that Alaf Aces Cricket Club continued to pile runs and ultimately set up a challenging target for Strikers.

Baghel chipped in with 25 runs (two fours and two sixes), Mpeka made his way back with 38 runs (four fours and a six), and Ali got back with the bat in hand having scored 25 runs not out which comprised two fours and a six.

Raahil Amarshi was the most impressive of Strikers' bowlers, given the cricketer ended with four wickets giving away 52 runs in eight overs.

Amarshi had 21 dot balls, executing two wides, and ending with the 6.50 economy rate in his eight-over stint.

Needing 296 runs from the scheduled 50 overs to come out with a victory, Strikers' cricketers played their hearts out but lost steam as they were skittled for 232 runs in 43 overs.

Their quest for a successful chase experienced a frustrating start following the early exit of openers, Shaffi Muharram and Jonathan Nyambo, with neither of the duo ending with two-digit figures.



Alaf Aces Cricket Club's Zimbabwean all-rounder, Jeremiah Makanya (L), is presented with the Kiwingu Man of the Match prize by match umpire, John Zablou, upon conclusion of the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 50 Overs Division A's League match between the club and Strikers which took place last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DARES SALAAM CRICKET

Simba SC heads to Turkey for pre-season training camp

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC is traveling to Turkey for pre-season as preparations ramp up ahead of the new campaign.

The team leaves Dar es Salaam today and will stay in Turkey for three weeks before returning to Tanzania for the final stage of preparations for the start of the 2023/24 season.

The 2023/24 season will kick off with the rebranded and expanded Community Shield top-four tournament.

Che Malone Fondoh, Cameroon international, will be part of the squad along with fellow countrymate and new arrival Willy Onana.

Also included in the traveling party are Ivorian attacking midfielder Aubin Kramo Kouame from ASEC Mimosas, and the likes of Shomari Kapombe, Henock Inonga, Moses Phiri, and Clatous Chama will all make the trip.

In Turkey, the team's technical staff, led by Brazilian coach Robert Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho', will work to achieve the greatest benefit during the camp with technical and physical training that will prepare the players.

There will, moreover, be experimental friendly matches for the club, during which the head coach will be keen on trying out some technical plans and tactical setups.

After the end of their three-week vacation following the conclusion of the 2022/23 campaign, coach Robertinho will, at the beginning of the preparations, be keen on urging the players to do their utmost during the coming period to achieve the maximum possible benefit.

Once the season is underway it is more difficult for coaches to push the players physically - there are too many games to play and recover from - so it has to be done during July and it has to be meticulously planned so they are in prime condition come August 9 where they will take on Singida Fountain Gate FC in the Community Shield knockout.

Robertinho has a very tough job in his hands after Simba SC finished trophyless last season, and the club's supporters are not in the mood to go through another campaign of transition.

More importantly, the players have been left in no doubt as to what is expected of them, that the demand to



Simba SC players discuss tactics during the outfit's 2022/23 NBC Premier League match against Coastal Union which took place in Dar es Salaam on June 9. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

perform well is there from the outset.

In an interview with the club's website, Robertinho said he wants players ready to fight for their places - an intensity that was lacking at some stage of last season when they finished five points behind Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga.

With the departure of 10 players so far, Simba SC has a few holes in the club's squad that need addressing.

The Msimbazi Street club's Communication Manager Ahmed Ally confirmed they

will announce four to five more new players in the week.

It should be noted that Simba SC has released goalkeeper Beno Kakolanya, fullback Gadiel Michael, center-back Mohamed Ouattara, and midfielders Ismael Sawadogo and Victor Akpan.

Other footballers are midfielders Nelson Okwa, Jonas Mkude, Erasto Nyoni, Augustine Okrah, and defender Joash Onyango that has moved to Singida Fountain Gate FC on loan.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

