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WCF rooting for quality of goods, workplace safety

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

INDUSTRIAL stakeholders have no choice but to increase the quality of goods they produce and positive features in the production environment, the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) believes.

Dr Abdulsalaam Omar (pictured), the WCF director of valuation services, made this observation when addressing administrative, health and safety officials from public and private institutions on Monday.

The meeting was geared at building capacity on services provided by the fund and how the benefits are being improved for the members.

He said it was vital for officials to be familiar with the issues due to their importance in providing details



But later we saw that it is important to include workplace safety officers

regarding compensation to workers whenever they face accident challenges at places of work.

Officials need to build good relations between their offices and workers for protecting their rights, he said, noting that in the past such training involved human resources officials.

"But later we saw that it is important to include workplace safety officers," he said, affirming that they are a good bridge between WCF and workers who face various challenges at places of work.

Izmina Ally, a health and safety manager from SBC, a soft drinks firm, expressed satisfaction on how WCF changed from the analogy to the digital system in the submission and processing of workers' claims.

She was commenting on how upwards of 87 per cent of all activities of the fund are conducted online, after Dr Omar said that the shift occurred owing to applying modern technology to serve stakeholders.

A WCF official can go online to provide any kind of service provided by the fund at anytime and anywhere so long as there is internet service, he had stated.

Those undergoing training will be able to explain WCF services for other members, what steps to follow when submitting claims, especially via the online notification system (ONS) obtained at the portal.wcf.go.tz.

Participants were put through details on enhancing their understanding on

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MPs endorse port development MoU



This is one of six Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) passenger coaches shipped into the Dar es Salaam Port yesterday after undergoing renovation in Turkey - and now ready for deployment by the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC). The SGR system is meant to link Tanzania to Rwanda and Uganda and, through these two, to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of East African Railway Master Plan. Photo courtesy of TRC

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Assembly has endorsed the memorandum of understanding between the government and the United Arab Emirates for economic and social cooperation, involving port development and improvement of operations.

A parliamentary resolution reached yesterday said that on February 28, 2022 the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) entered into a MoU with DP World (DPW), a ports development company whose shares belong to the UAE government.

The resolution cited Section 63(3)(9e) of the constitution to endorse the MoU as an intergovernmental agreement, aimed at identifying special areas for cooperation.

The purpose is to ensure improvement in strategic infrastructure, special economic zones, logistic parks and other trade zone areas, it said, noting that the agreement stemmed from

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TRC receives six SGR double-decker wagons

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE first consignment of six out of 30 double-decker passenger wagons for the standard gauge railway (SGR) docked at the Dar es Salaam Port on Monday.

Jamila Mbarouk, head of communications at the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) confirmed arrival of the wagons, affirming that the second consignment of seven coaches is expected in two months.

The double-decker wagons were refurbished in Germany, being readied for trial run and start of services at the SGR line from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.

The wagons arrived a day after the government received the Boeing 787-300F

cargo plane for Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL), both developments seen as boosting the country's transport sector.

Other wagon consignments will arrive in phases, she said, noting that preparation for the handing over ceremony are in final stages, expecting Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa to officiate at the ceremony.

Early this year TRC terminated a contract with Turkish company Euro wagon, which was repairing the wagons. It failed to complete the building of two electric trains and 30 passenger carriages for the test run, company officials said.

The agreement provided that the

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UNHCR plans for climate resilience in refugee zone

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

A three-year project to improve community resilience to climate shocks in the Kigoma region aims to reach 2.3m people in Kasulu and Kibondo districts.

Thobias Andengeny, the regional commissioner, officiating at the launch, said the Kigoma joint programme is funded by Belgium, in partnership with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The region which hosts upwards of 200,000 refugees, faces negative impacts of climate change, thus the importance of adopting resilient strategies. He recalled the launch of the ten-year strategic environmental conservation plan launched

during the World Environment Day commemoration last year, with each district directed to plant 1.5m trees each year.

Plans were also aired for eliminating the use of charcoal and fuelwood by 2025 in the region, thus the new project will focus on protecting, conserving and restoring degraded ecosystems.

It will also be directed at safeguarding biodiversity in building community resilience and adaptive capacities, where the refugee population is part of the targeted areas in tree nurseries for greening the camps and surroundings, he said.

This includes supporting kitchen gardens and small-scale mushroom production efforts to improve household nutrition, he

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Gairo constituency legislator Ahmed Mabukhut Shabiby (L) has a word with Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

New UN envoy lands in Somalia amid worst drought in 40 years

MOGADISHU

The recently appointed special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Somalia, Catriona Laing, arrived in Mogadishu on Monday.

Senior officials from the Somali government led by the Minister of Information Da'ud Aweys welcomed her at Aden Adde International airport.

Catriona Laing thanked the government of Somalia for the warm welcome and said that she will inject new blood into the activities of the United Nations in this country.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 3 May 2023 the appointment of Catriona Laing as head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSAM).

She succeeds James Swan of the United States, to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his dedication and steadfast leadership of UNSOM during his four-year tenure.

Prior to this position, Laing served as British High Commissioner to Nigeria and the British High Commissioner to Zimbabwe from 2014 until 2018.

Her arrival comes as Somalia faces a devastating drought never witnessed in 40 years that effected 8 million people following four years of failed rainy seasons.

Meanwhile, the United States said its military in Africa conducted a new airstrike against al-Shabab in Somalia on Thursday, June 1, killing three militants.

In a statement, the U.S. military's Africa Command (AFRICOM), said it conducted a "collective self-

defense" strike against Al-Shabaab in the vicinity of Wayanta, Jubaland state.

The airstrike came following a request from the Somali government in support of Somali National Army (SNA) engagements against Al-Shabaab in the area, AFRICOM said.

"Given the remote location of the operation, the initial assessment is that no civilians were injured or killed," the statement said.

AFRICOM added that Somalia remains central to stability and security in all of East Africa.

US forces train, advise, and assist partner forces to help give them the tools they need to defeat Al-Shabaab, the largest and most deadly al-Qaeda network in the world.

It's the second U.S. strike against al-Shabab in recent days. Last

Month, the US conducted another strike against Al-Shabaab in the town of Jilib, wounding a senior Al-Shabaab commander.

Jilib, which is the main Al-Shabaab command center in the southern Middle Jubba region lies about 370 km (230 miles) southwest of the capital Mogadishu on Saturday.

Despite the US airstrikes, Al-Shabaab has been conducting raids and complex attacks against Somali military and ATMIS camps in the south ad central regions of Somalia.

Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud who was re-elected by lawmakers in May 2022 in Mogadishu, has promised to fight Al-Shabaab seriously and defeat the group this year.

AGENCIES

MPs endorse port development MoU

FROM PAGE 1

being satisfied with its benefits, by looking at achievements attained in various ports in the world where DPW invested.

This was the case for ports in Senegal and Mozambique among other countries, helping to improve sea transportation and immensely contributing to the national incomes of those countries, the resolution affirmed.

In making sure Tanzania fittingly benefits through ports services, on October 25 2022 the Tanzania and UAE governments signed an agreement providing for institutions of cooperation, with the right to manage, develop and supervise ports services, it said.

Government endorsement, incorporation of the indigenous firms, employment, community social responsibility, taxes and levies are figured in that memorandum, the MPs noted.

In addition, the agreement incorporates conflict resolution, laws to govern the agreement, period of agreement and suspension, as well as its implementation on the basis of the country's laws. It prefigures

the exchange of endorsement documents, the resolution intoned.

The UAE MoU is part of efforts by the sixth phase government to improve operations at the country's ports, as a vital area in national income potential.

"The government was making huge investments in infrastructure like the port of Dar es Salaam, the standard gauge railway (SGR) and lake transport to spur economic growth," it further said.

Improvements to minor ports facilitate using Tanzania's geographical opportunities in being surrounded by lakes to get markets and serve landlocked countries, the resolution added.



The gov't was making huge investments in infrastructure like the port of Dar es Salaam, the standard gauge railway (SGR) and lake transport to spur economic growth

TRC receives six SGR double-decker wagons

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experimental equipment be completed in November 2021 but in the circumstances, TRC terminated the contract worth 26.6m euros on February 25, they said.

So far TRC has received 14 out of 59 new coaches manufactured by Sung Shin Rolling Stock Technology Ltd of South Korea, billed at 128bn/-, with 45 more wagons slated to arrive in phases within this year.

TRC has a 12 month contract with Chinese rolling stock manufacturer CRSS International priced at \$ 127.2m (301.364bn/-) to deliver cargo wagons, to be delivered, expecting to receive 1430 such wagons by next year

Masanja Kadogosa, the managing director, said the contract involved

the designing and manufacturing of wagons to carry different commodities.

There are 600 container carrier bogies (wagons) for carrying containerized materials, plus 400 covered large bogies (CLB) for bulk stock like sugar, cement, salt, cotton, tobacco and coffee.

Gerson Msigwa, the government spokesman, said last week that the first SGR trial runs from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro start next month, citing difficulties with the locomotive manufacturer needing spare parts from Canada.

This prevented the tests from starting last month as earlier expected, he said, elaborating that the test commission has been rescheduled.

WCF rooting for quality of goods, workplace safety

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how to prevent accidents at work places and avoiding contracting diseases arising from risks at places of work.

As the government was working to make sure the country is on the

course for sustainable development and poverty alleviation through attracting numerous investments, the rapid development of industries requires that compensation mechanisms be eased and grasped by all concerned employees, the director had asserted.

UNHCR plans for climate resilience in refugee zone

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elaborated, noting that the project responds to regional priorities, with UNHCR and WFP working closely with local authorities.

Mahoua Parums, the UNHCR representative said the project will greatly support refugees and host communities' resilience to impacts of climate change. It will also bolster UNHCR efforts in conservation, protection and restoration activities in the camps and the host surroundings, she said.

The initiative arose from UNHCR efforts to mobilize support for environmental restoration in refugee-hosting areas, tied up with concerns for refugee women exposed to various risks when venturing from camps to search for firewood, she stated.

Brian Bogart, the WFP deputy country director, said climate

change exposes vulnerable communities to natural disasters. WFP works with communities and partners to help food-insecure communities recover from climatic shocks, he stated.

"If we don't support communities in adapting to the climate crisis, we face the risk of rising levels of hunger in the future," he cautioned, pointing out that refugees and other communities heavily rely on destructive means to obtain firewood.

The UN was thus pursuing durable energy solutions, moving the energy transition forward, he said, grateful for Belgian government support in addressing environmental challenges in the region.

Other partners could also join efforts to strengthen broader socio-economic initiatives in the refugee hosting areas, he added.



CPS chief executive Sebastian Dietzold (2nd-L) makes remarks during a panel discussion on opportunities in Zanzibar's real estate sector spurred by the tourism industry. The event was held in Dar es Salaam on Friday during the launch of a CPS office. From-L: Bankable managing partner Abdulrahman Said, Watumishi Housing Investment managing director Fred Msemwa and Hotel Association Zanzibar executive chairman and Conservation Capital president Graham Leslie. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Roghat Robert (2nd-L), director of Tabora-based Akili Platform Tanzania, uses part of his World Environment Day (June 5) commemoration time on Monday in Nzega District explaining to parents and guardians of children with disabilities how to practise what is known as circular agriculture. For livestock farmers, circular agriculture primarily means that they use roughage and other feedstocks from field crop production, horticulture and the food industry as well as the rest of the food chain. As a result, they avoid feeding animals plant-based proteins that are also suitable for human consumption. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Z'bar govt happy with UNICEF - Dr Mwinyi

By Guardian reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government says it is proud with its relations with development partners including the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The remarks were made by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi at Zanzibar State House yesterday when he held talks with UNICEF country representative in Tanzania, Shalini Bahuguna who went to bid farewell after her retirement from the organisation.

Dr Mwinyi said the Zanzibar government is satisfied with good job by the entire UNICEF team in Tanzania as both sides work together to boost issues on children development in the country.

"UNICEF has done a lot in Tanzania especially its close cooperation in supporting our government in various issues, they have accomplished many things and I cannot cite all," explained Dr Mwinyi.

He commended Shalini for her efforts for the entire period she was in the country, saying she made a great contribution to Zanzibar

especially in regard to development projects implemented by the organisation.

He told the representative that the Zanzibar government will always thank UNICEF for its support to Zanzibar in regard to education and health sectors.

For her part, Shalini praised Dr Mwinyi for his leadership especially in the management of Zanzibar resources for the development of all Zanzibaris. She also commended President Mwinyi for being a leader to emulate especially in making the Isles shine in so far as development is concerned, especially the great transformation in the education and health sectors.

Regarding achievements on children's development, the outgoing UNICEF Representative commended Dr Mwinyi's government, saying Zanzibar has attained 75 per cent in the task of sending back to school all children who discontinued with their education for various reasons.

UNICEF is a UN organisation established in 1946 and deals with education issues for children in the world and works in more than 190 areas worldwide.

By Mnaku Mbani

BoT allays fears over dollar shortage

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said that is continuing to apply various measures to ease the US dollar shortages in the market, which is mostly caused by external factors.

Dr Suleiman Missango, the BoT's director of research and economic policies said yesterday that people should not panic, because the central bank has sufficient foreign exchange reserves, within the monetary policy targets.

He called for the good use of available foreign exchanges in the market, by only importing necessary goods and services that are not locally available.

Ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, COVID-19 pandemic and climate change are the main factors causing US dollar shortages in Tanzania and other developing

economies, as investors in financial markets are shifting to the US market's fixed assets, due to the rising interest rates.

As of May this year, the central bank had foreign exchange reserves amounting US\$4.9 billion, which are sufficient to cover 4 months of imports of goods and services, with expectation of increasing due to expected earnings from peak tourism season between July and September as well as exports of traditional goods.

At the end of April 2023, the central bank reported the foreign exchange reserves amounted to US\$4.8 billion.

"Apart from the US dollar shortages, we are still better and we expect further improvement of

foreign currency inflows," he said during his meeting with editors yesterday.

Dr Missango said the central bank is currently selling US\$2 million on daily basis through Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM) in order to offset the US dollar shortages in the economy.

However, the central bank will also conduct regular assessments to ensure that the move doesn't affect local currency liquidity in the market, during economic recovery.

According to Dr Missango, the country is expected further US dollar inflows as tourism peak season is getting closer, as well as exports of cash crops including tobacco, coffee, tea, cotton and

cashewnuts, of which they injected a total of US\$765 million during the year ending April.

The slowdown of global commodities prices including oil, which accounts for a quarter of the country's total import bill, wheat and fertilizers are also expected to reduce the US dollar demands for imports.

Dr Missango mentioned other measure used by the central bank to maintain the stability of foreign exchange reserve as currency swap from commercial bank and expected purchasing of gold valued US\$280 million per year and until now, a total of 478 kilogramme of gold have been purchased from the government.

The BoT is also selling its

Kwacha deposits with the central bank of Zambia, of which were raised through a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed to facilitate trade movement between two countries, of which Tanzania is currently exporting more to Zambia that imports.

Other measures include ongoing implementation of less accommodative monetary policy measure targeting to ensure stable inflation and shilling liquidity, increased lending to private sectors to spur growth of economic activities.

The licensing of more bureau de changes is also on card to ensure increased availability of foreign exchange services including hotels.

On May this year, BoT issued

directives on foreign exchange operations by s reviewed the foreign exchange market operations in consideration of the current market development to foster macroeconomic stability and safeguard the stability of the financial system in the country.

It directed that all foreign exchange transactions exceeding US\$1 million per transaction in the retail market shall at all times, be traded within the interbank foreign exchange market prevailing quoted prices.

"All transactions of a single customer in a day shall be summed up for the purpose of determining this amount," the directives read.

The central bank has also directed that trading of foreign exchange with international foreign currency brokers who are not licensed in the United Republic of Tanzania is strictly prohibited.

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5. All bids submitted in one original plus two copies, properly filled in enclosed in plain envelopes must be properly addressed to the Trees for the future Inc, N.H.C Complex Building, Second Floor, P.O BOX 1624 SINGIDA. All bids must be delivered to the Trees for the future Inc, before the deadline for submission of bids.
6. The deadline for the submission of bids is on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 10.00AM. Bids will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend at Trees for the future Inc Office, N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, second floor at 10.00AM local time on Tuesday 20th June 2023. The outer cover must be clearly marked.

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2023/2024

The Head Quarter of Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) on behalf of VETA - Lindi, in cooperation with Equinor Tanzania AS and Shell Exploration Tanzania Limited wish to invite eligible candidates to undertake Level 3 Certificate in six trades offered in VETA Lindi - Electrical installation, Welding and Metal Fabrication, Masonry and Brick laying, Design Sewing, Textile Technology, Motor-Vehicle Mechanics and Refrigeration & Air Conditioning. The scholarship covers fees, medical insurance, accommodation, meals, transportation and start-up tools. The duration of study is 12 months.

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The deadline for the application is **23rd June, 2023**. Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be conducted for those who will receive the admission letters to study the level 3 in any of the mentioned trades. The programme commences in **17th July 2023**.

Contacts

PRINCIPAL LINDI RVTSC
P. O. Box 1001
Lindi
Tel: +255232935150, 0718-211638
Email: lindirvtsc@veta.go.tz

Female and disabled candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Embassies to set up 8 Kiswahili centres

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

TANZANIA embassies abroad have been instructed to establish Kiswahili learning centres to promote the language at global level.

The centres will be used for training Kiswahili speakers in specific countries, a move that will create employment opportunities for Tanzanian trainers.

The government through the National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) is planning to establish eight new Kiswahili teaching centres via its embassies as part of a wider objective to market the language globally.

Minister for Arts, Culture and Sports, Dr Pindi Chana told the House yesterday that the speedy interest in adopting Kiswahili, points at its growing international significance.

Tabling the ministry's 35.4bn/- budget estimates for the year 2023/24, Minister Chana said the ministry was implementing several creative strategies so as to market Kiswahili language internationally.

"In the 2023/24 financial year, BAKITA through the project that aims to strengthen the council and promote Kiswahili has been allocated a total of 300m/- to carry out the tasks which include establishing eight Kiswahili teaching centres through Tanzanian embassies abroad, so Tanzania in diaspora as well as locals in the respective countries will benefit from the trainings," she explained.

She said among the top responsibilities of BAKITA is to develop and strengthen the language in the country as well as monitoring its development abroad.

"Kiswahili teaching centres have already been established through our embassies in South Korea, Nigeria, France, Italy, Sudan, Mauritius, Poland, Havana, Abu Dhabi and Mozambique," Minister Chana said.

The council also has a role to promote, encourage the use of the Kiswahili language in government and public events as well as coordinate research in collaboration with stakeholders and encourage the effective use of the language to prevent its distortion.

Dr Chana said Kiswahili is already in use in various communities including the African Union (AU)

East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as a teaching language in many African countries.

She further said BAKITA will continue implementing a ten-year national strategy (2022-2032) which is aimed to register Kiswahili language professionals and strengthen their skills while connecting them to various national and international opportunities.

The Minister said in implementation of the strategy a total of 113 interpreters have been registered with the council and trained to strengthen them in the field.

Similarly, a number of professionals have been trained to teach Kiswahili to foreigners and 250 others from various regions will be trained in the next fiscal year.

The Minister said as a result of this international recognition of Kiswahili, BAKITA has continued to rapidly promote Kiswahili through various online courses by establishing a special system for teaching Kiswahili to foreigners, recognizing centres that teach Kiswahili abroad.

She further said Tanzania will on July 7, this year once again lead others across the globe to commemorate the World Kiswahili Language Day where a national committee has already commenced preparation. The day was declared by UNESCO Member States in November 2021 during its 41st session in Paris.



Kiswahili teaching centres have already been established through our embassies in South Korea, Nigeria, France, Italy, Sudan, Mauritius, Poland, Havana, Abu Dhabi and Mozambique

'African leaders all ready for mediation mission in Russia and Ukraine war'

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN leaders, seeking to help end the war, agreed on Monday for a mediation mission in mid-June to Russia and Ukraine, South African president Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Tuesday.

Last month, Ramaphosa indicated that his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts, Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky, had given their agreement to receive this peace mission composed of six African leaders.

The latter met virtually on Monday and "agreed to propose elements" to Russia and Ukraine "for a ceasefire and lasting peace in the region", said a press release from the services of the President of the South African.

"The (African) heads of state have confirmed their availability to go to Ukraine and Russia in mid-June," he added without giving a specific date. The foreign ministers of the six countries in question will "finalise the elements of a roadmap towards peace", the statement said.

Monday's meeting "confirmed that we are now at a stage where we are going to go to Kyiv and Moscow," Ramaphosa then said during a joint press conference with his Portuguese counterpart, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

"Our mission is a mission of peace, and we want to call it a path to peace," added the South African president, adding that African

leaders would "seek to secure a commitment from both sides that they too should seek (... to end this conflict by peaceful means."

The Russian and Ukrainian leaders "must explain to us their point of view on the war as well as their minimum requirements to end the conflict", he also argued.

"We will be able to give our own point of view as Africans on how we perceive the impact of this war on Africa in terms of food prices, grain, and fuel prices, as well as on Europe and the rest of the world because it has become a rather globalized type of conflict," Ramaphosa also said.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who thanked Mr. Ramaphosa for his role in the initiative, for his part underlined the importance of listening to "both parties and telling them what is the African vision of a war that does not is not only a European war, it is a globalized war."

The members of the mission, identified last month by the South African president, are besides the latter the leaders of Congo-Brazzaville, Egypt, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia.

The Head of State of Comoros, Azali Assoumani, attended Monday's meeting in his capacity as the current chair of the African Union.

Africa is hard hit by the increase in cereal prices and the consequences of the war between Russia and Ukraine on world trade.



Barrick Bulyanhulu gold mine workers in Msalala District, Shinyanga Region, participate in a World Environment Day commemoration cleanliness operation at Kakola village on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Mwinyi: Clean, safe water policy essential for Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said the clean and safe water policy is essential for Zanzibar community development and economic growth.

President Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday at Zanzibar State House when he met with and held talks with India's Consul in Zanzibar, Dr Kumar Praveen who went for introduction.

Dr Mwinyi said the Zanzibar government is still proud of the good relations that exist between his country and India and that Zanzibar

has been benefiting from various opportunities from India including long and short scholarships and water projects.

He thanked the Indian government for its continuing cooperation to the Zanzibar government especially in regard to sponsorship of water projects implemented through loans from India's Exim bank.

Regarding the Institute of India Institute of Technology (IIT) expected to be built in Zanzibar in cooperation with the government of India, President Mwinyi told the envoy discussions between

the Zanzibar government and IIT were going on well and nearing implementation stage.

He said the Zanzibar government is satisfied by the speed to establish the institute in Zanzibar that is expected to begin October this year with the cooperation of the two sides and other government stakeholders saying they support the step that will bring great transformation in the education sector that will benefit the east African region and the continent in general.

For his part, Dr Kumar Praveen mentioned Zanzibar water projects

funded by the Indian government, the Vocation and Practical training in Pemba and scholarships for public servants in India.

He also said that India's Foreign minister, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, is expected to visit Zanzibar in July this year for the inauguration of water projects, after which he will proceed to Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

Diplomatic ties between Zanzibar and Zanzibar is historic whereby India opened its Dar es Salaam High Commission in November 1962 and in 1974 opened its Consulate in Zanzibar.



Rebecca Mushi of Kisongo township in Arusha Rural District buys a mobile phone on credit during a visit to the Tigo pavilion at the Kili Fair exhibition in Arusha city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

Zambian grandma makes mats, rugs with recycled materials

LUSAKA

NAILESS Mtonga, 75, is well-known in her neighborhood for making doormats and rugs from recycled sacks and pieces of cloth.

She has been doing this for more than 15 years in her native Chaisa, a low-income residential area in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, to supplement her family's income.

"I get leftover pieces of cloth from

different tailors in my area. They charge me 50 Zambian Kwacha (about 2.5 U.S. dollars) per batch. I am able to make five doormats from one batch," Mtonga said.

The doormats and rugs are sold at 30 Zambian Kwacha a piece.

The sacks, which are made of plastic material, serve as the base for the doormats and rugs, and pieces of cloth form the upper part of the handicrafts.

"I encourage my family members and friends not to throw away used sack bags but to use them to make doormats and rugs and earn some income," said Mtonga, who has four surviving children and 12 grandchildren.

Making doormats and rugs has enabled her to attain some level of financial independence, she said.

"My children help me financially only when it is really necessary. I do

not want to be a burden to anyone of them," Mtonga said, adding that she is happy to make a living using environmentally sustainable means, with raw materials that are readily available.

June 5 is World Environment Day, which has been celebrated annually since 1973, and this year's theme focuses on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.



Steven Makunga (2nd-R, in jacket), a second year Computer Science and Engineering student at suburban Dar es Salaam's St Joseph University in Tanzania, briefs members of the university's management team yesterday on a satellite he said is part of a US\$250,000 project he is working on jointly with his colleagues - with funding from the university. Story on page 6. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

China-Africa Economic, Trade Expo slated for June 29 - July 2

CHANGSHA

REPRESENTATIVES from 50 African countries and eight international organisations have registered to attend the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, to be held from June 29 to July 2 in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province.

Themed "Common Development for a Shared Future," the event will feature more than 40 activities of various kinds, covering green infrastructure, customs and quarantine, medicine and health, agricultural and food products, industrial parks, vocational education and other topics, Shen Yumou, head of the Hunan provincial department of commerce, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

The guest countries of honour

at the expo will be Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zambia.

A China-Africa trade index will be released for the first time during the event, which will serve as a barometer for businesses conducting economic and trade cooperation with their African partners.

First launched in 2019, the expo is a major platform for strengthening economic and trade cooperation between China and African countries.

More than 1,000 Chinese and African enterprises, business associations and financial institutions attended the expos held in 2019 and 2021, with a total of 216 cooperation projects and agreements signed.

Govt working on 'robust' strategies to control human-wildlife conflicts

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has said it is currently working on a robust strategic plan for controlling human-wildlife conflicts in the country.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mohammed Mchengerwa made the statement in the House on Monday evening that the government has heard the cry of Members of Parliament and the public concerning jumbos invasion incidents that have been leaving people homeless, injured and without food.

Wrapping up debate on the

ministry's budget estimates for the next financial year, Mchengerwa acknowledged that immediate measures have been delayed to fight against wildlife invasion to people's settlements but under his leadership, the challenge will remain a thing of the past.

"We have heard the cry, legislators have expressed this matter with great sorrow but let me assure you that we are now planning for robust efforts to address the vice," he assured.

The Minister also expressed dissatisfaction with wildlife officers in districts as they are not playing their roles to help in control of wild

animals who attack villages and farms.

"I want the district wildlife officers to be transferred to my Ministry, so that I deal with them effectively, we know that this challenge has brought sorrow to people," he said.



We have heard the cry, legislators have expressed this matter with great sorrow but let me assure you that we are now planning for robust efforts to address the vice

He said the government will strengthen efforts to ensure that people live peacefully in the areas while contributing to the protection of the animals and the environment.

Deputy Minister Mary Masanja hinted on the note that the ministry

has a lot of challenges and that the government is taking robust efforts to address all of them.

"Conservation and protecting the country's resources isn't an easy task, but a huge one that needs commitments and collaborative measures to make the work successful, we will continue working closely with other ministries, public institutions and the private sector to ensure that the tourism sector produces required contribution to the nation's development," she said.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her commitment to ensure that conflicts on conservation areas are addressed.

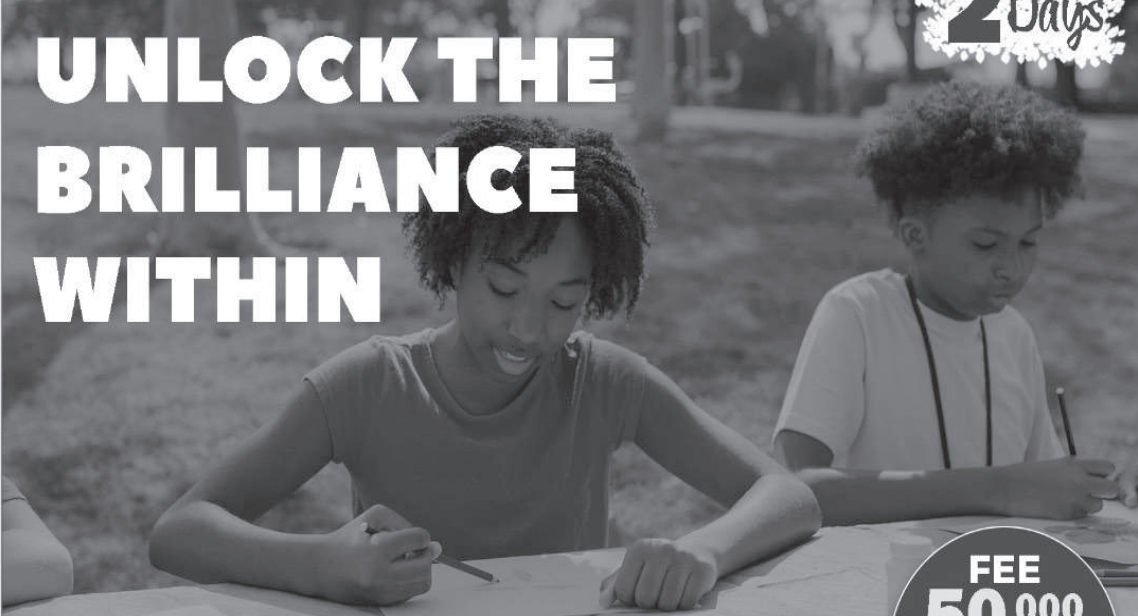
She further said the government is currently analyzing beaches in Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Tanga to facilitate new improvements so as to promote beach tourism.

The deputy minister assured legislators that the ministry is pioneered to ensure that all loopholes and challenges in the tourism and conservation sector are addressed.

The House later approved the ministry's budget estimates amounting to 654.7bn/- for the 2023/24 financial year, of which 486.5bn/- are for recurrent expenditure and 168.17bn/- for development projects.

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Zanzibar makes efforts to return pupils to school

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE country's schools' committees' chairmen and community policing groups have been advised to provide correct reports on children who discontinued their education to roam in the streets in order for them to continue with their education.

The call was given by the coordinator of the project to return children to school in Zanzibar, Mzee Shiraz Hassan when opening a task force meeting that discussed on better ways to return children to school who had discontinued with their education.

The meeting took part under the chairman of schools committees and community policing groups for Unguja West 'A' and 'B' districts at About Jumbe secondary school at Fuoni, Zanzibar.

Hassan said the aim of the Zanzibar government is to make sure all children are provided with their basic right to education at various levels to build a literate nation.

He said a total of 28,981 children returned to school out of 35,732 who had left as part of the intention of the Department of Alternative Education under the Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Practical

Training to make sure 6,751 remaining in the streets also return to school by 2024.

"We continue to mobilise the community by educating them on the importance for the children who discontinued with their education to return to school and that the government is already making efforts to ensure they get their education without any problems.

He said all children of seven to 14 years of age who left school have been provided with friendly environment to continue with their lessons whereas special procedures have been made via the department of alternative education.

Hassan further pleaded with teachers to identify and apply psychological concepts to detect challenges facing students in order to find quick solutions for them before they reach the decision to discontinue with their education.

He explained that some children face family challenges, some have various kinds of physical disabilities or mental distress due to acts of child abuse.

For his part, head of Zanzibar alternative education division, Waziri Rajab Hamza said the government continues to make efforts to return such students to school.



Temeke district executive director Elihuruma Mabelya (2nd-R) and representatives of Group Six Ltd pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging documents on an agreement the two parties had just endorsed for the construction of a six-storey building at a 2bn/- hospital in the city's Mbagala Rangitatu suburb. The DED underlined the need for the work to be completed within the 24 scheduled months. Right is Temeke municipal mayor Abdallah Mtinika. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania, Malawi launch electronic information exchange system to stimulate and boost regional economic growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) on Monday launched a system to exchange information electronically.

The launch event was held at the One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) in Kasumulu area, Kyela District, Mbeya Region.

Speaking at the launch of the new system, TRA deputy commissioner general Mcha Hassan said that the system will help save time and costs as well as increase the efficiency of cross-border trade and stimulate regional economic growth.

Agnes Katsonga Phiri, MRA Executive Director Corporate Services stated: "The new system aims at simplifying customs processes, promoting transparency, and facilitating business activities."

"The integration of TRA-Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) and MRA-Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) World will bring about a revolution in permit processes, benefiting businesses and individuals in Tanzania and Malawi," said Agnes.

The project has been funded by the United Kingdom through Trademark Africa.

Representative of the project's funders, who is also the Country Director of Trademark Africa, Dr Jovin Mwemzi praised the importance and benefits of the project saying, "We are happy to support this basic project that will revolutionize cross-border trade between Malawi and Tanzania."

Some of the freight forwarders also applauded the efforts as the exchange of information electronically, saying: "This is important for the transport industry between countries as it enables to provide faster, more efficient services to customers, increase business competition and

promote international trade."

Tanzania and Malawi have observed that delays in crossing the border, cargo clearance, and movement of passengers create barriers to trade in the region. Such delays, which account for the congestion at the Songwe-Kasumulu border crossing, also raise the cost of transportation of goods, which in turn affects the economy of both countries. The governments of Tanzania and Malawi have thus reached an agreement to build a One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) on their common border at the Songwe-Kasumulu crossing.

Varsity students 'design' satellite

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

STUDENTS of St Joseph University in Tanzania (SJUTT) in collaboration with lecturers have designed a satellite which will cost 250,000 US\$ dollars.

The students are Steven Makunga, David Sengenge and Doris Ndaki who are studying Bachelor in Computer Science and Engineering in the second year with the help of their lecturer, Dr Amani Bura

The construction of the satellite has reached 50 per cent and it is expected to be launched into the air from the end of this year or the beginning of 2024 to provide various information on various issues.

Speaking to this newspaper in his office yesterday, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Eliab Opiyo, said the satellite project is being implemented by students and lecturers of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the varsity.

He said they expect to send the 3U Cubesat satellite 400 kilometers into the air to enable the collection of information for research on various areas such as climate change and monitor wildlife movements.

Prof Eliab said they started the project two years ago and the work that is currently being done is to make a prototype of the satellite and conduct several tests on it, adding that they have already shown it at the MAKISATU exhibition in Dodoma Region.

He said that when they launch it into the air, it will help them get various information for institutions and researchers who are looking for various information.

He said that the project is currently being funded by St. Joseph's University which has been paying for the purchase of equipment adding that negotiations to involve researchers and other people are still ongoing.

He said the talks are for the purpose of engaging researchers from foreign colleges and research institutes to help provide expertise and more technical training, satellite equipment and the service to put the satellite into space.

He said that the project is currently being funded by St. Joseph's University which has been paying for the purchase of

equipment and dissemination in various exhibitions and seminars in collaboration with its Department of Innovation and Technology Acceleration Facility (ITAF).

Steven Makunga, one of the inventors of the satellite, said that they have reached 50 per cent of the work and said that now it can be used to collect some information.

He said that the instrument will be a great help in obtaining weather information and communication in areas that have not yet been reached by adding that negotiations to involve researchers and other people are still ongoing.

Makunga said it will also help to provide agricultural information to farmers about the crops to be planted and the development of their crops in general.

"This satellite can also help us in education by providing the content of our education in Tanzania in villages and areas where there is no internet infrastructure and telephone services and it can also facilitate communication in the health sector," said Makunga.

He said it can also be a great help when major disasters like fire and flood occur by providing emergency information to people going to evacuation sites.



This satellite can also help us in education by providing the content of our education in Tanzania in villages and areas where there is no internet infrastructure and telephone services and it can also facilitate communication in the health sector



Road traversing the Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality badly damaged, as witnessed by our Roving Correspondent yesterday.

Barrick marks World Environment Day by planting trees in Tarime

By Guadiann Correspondent, Tarime

BARRICK's North Mara and Bulyanhulu gold mines in Tarime and Msalala Districts in Shinyanga Mara and Shinyanga region respectively have marked this year's World Environment Day by its workers planting trees for fruit and shade and general cleanliness in surroundings villages.

During the event, North Mara barrack gold mine has provided 200 seedlings for fruit and shade trees and collaborated with the community to plant them at Matongo Secondary school in

Tarime District.

Speaking at the tree planting event, the mine's manager for environment, Frank Ngoloma said they have instructed for the exercise at the new school to improve natural vegetation in its environs.

"We have decided to collaborate with the community to mark the World Environment Day by planting trees, we have begun within the mine area whereby workers from every department have cooperated with their officials in the exercise and this displays commitment on the mine in preserving the environment," said Ngoloma.

For his part, Matongo Ward executive officer, Lackson Isibhu has commended North Mara Gold Mine for its recognition of the World environment day celebration and the importance in collaborating with the community in environmental conservation.

"Among institutions in our district, only North Mara Gold Mine marks such an event and have come up to collaborate with the community in environmental conservation," he said.

For his part, acting public relations and environment manager for the Bulyanhulu

Mine, Respicius Onesmo said they decided to collaborate with the Msalala District authorities to make sure they provide education on environmental preservation to the mine community and that it will sponsor the exercise for the general cleanliness around the mine area and surrounding villages.

For his part, Msalala district executive director, Charles Fusi praised Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine for its support to government efforts in mobilising for environmental conservation and called on members of the community against environmental destruction.



Sotta gold mine workers and residents of Ngoma village in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region, collect plastic waste on Monday in a World Environment Day (June 5) commemoration cleanliness drive. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bank extends vital supplies for cancer patients at ORCI

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Bank of Baroda has donated medical facilities to the Ocean Road Cancer institute (ORCI) to complement government efforts of improving health service delivery in the country.

Handing over the donation, managing director Aditya Narayan said: "We here today to provide what we have and this is part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR)."

Narayan noted: "These medical aids we donated here it not enough because there are patients with a lot of needs and our bank has tried to cater a little we have."

He also urged other institutions and good Samaritans to emulate the bank's spirits and assist the needy people in the society as the bank did.

The bank donated assorted medical facilities such as diapers, wheelchairs, tooth paste and tooth brush, laundry soap as well as bedsheets.

Odilia Massae, a nurse at ORCI commended the bank for the support, saying the donation will be helpful as the hospital was in high need, taking into account that the number of patients has been increasing on daily basis.

She also said: "We still need a lot of help from people and stakeholders who are capable to help because we have a large number of patients admitted and sometimes what we have here is not enough and so if different corporate will keep on coming and giving aids to the patients they will be doing us and them a big favour because we really need it."



We here today to provide what we have and this is part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR)

Cleric urges promotion of peace and harmony

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Inter-Religious Peace Committee Chairman Sheik Alhad Musa Salum has appealed to Muslims in the country to promote peace and harmony as the basis for national development

He said that at the closing of the 28th International Festival of Quran and Hadith in Tanzania, that moved concurrently with the day of the passing away of the great Imam al-Shan and held recently in Dar es Salaam.

He expressed the death of the noble person, saying he was one of the greatest figures in the history of mankind.

Musa said Imam Khomeini was a personality who made a nation out of a troubled community during the pharaoh era.

He said the key to the success of that divine man was reliance on the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet and Imams, and the cultivation of the soul was the highest lesson noting

that it was reliance on the Holy Qur'an.

"It is necessary for all of us to introduce Imam Khomeini as a valuable role model to our children, because Imam Khomeini had all the exquisite and rare qualities that have been collected over the centuries for the benefit of a great man," he said.

"Our ceremony belongs to the only divine book in history that does not exist in accuracy and precision from its revelation until today. All the people and all the researchers and experts agree on that, not a single word has been added or subtracted from it," he added.

He said while condoling the noble deaths of the Imam, Muslims should respect Christian's believers adding that doing so will promote quarrels.

Head of the Shia Ithnasheri in the country, Sheikh Hemed Jalala, said that in the Quran Imam Khomeini has emphasized peace, love and solidarity without segregating others.

"It is necessary for all of us to introduce Imam Khomeini as a

valuable role model to our children, because he had all the exquisite and rare qualities that have been collected over the centuries for the benefit of a great man," he said.

Dr Ali Taghavi, Head of the international university's branch in Tanzania said that imam Khomeini successfully fought against oppression among the people.

Khomeini arrived in Tehran in triumph on February 1, 1979, and was acclaimed as the religious leader of Iran's revolution.

He announced the formation of a new government four days later, and on February 11 the army declared its neutrality.

Khomeini returned to Qom as the clerical class worked to establish their power. A national referendum in April showed overwhelming support for the institution of an Islamic republic, and the constitution of the Islamic republic was approved in a referendum in December.

He was named rahbar, Iran's political and religious leader for life.

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INVITATION TO TENDERS/PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

Ref: TANICA /HQ/TENDER/2023/2024

Date: 7th June, 2023

Tanganyika instant coffee public limited company is planning to award several contracts on supply of various goods and services, this invitation letter aims to call upon all eligible bidders for supply of goods and services for the year 2023/2024.

Below is a list of lots of goods and services on offer;

1. Tender for supply of Furnace HF0125.
2. Tender for supply of diesel oil.
3. Tender for provision of transportation services.
4. Tender for provision of clearing and forwarding services.
5. Tender for provision of legal services.
6. Tender for supply of spare parts.
7. Tender for supply of stationary.
8. Tender for supply of printed packaging boxes.
9. Pre-qualification for supply of tin cans for coffee.
10. Pre-qualification for supply of polythene printed packing material.
11. Pre-qualification for supply of printed packaging film roll.
12. Tender for provision of security services.
13. Tender for provision of cleaning services.
14. Tender for supply and provision of marketing materials and printing services.
15. Tender for provision of motor vehicle insurance service.
16. Tender for provision of property insurance service.
17. Tender for provision of flight booking and air ticket services.
18. Tender for provision of fumigation services.
19. Pre-qualification for provision of building and construction service.
20. Pre-qualification for supply of construction and building materials.
21. Pre-qualification for supply of green beans coffee.
22. Tender for provision of tax consultation and audit service
23. Tender for provision of catering service.
24. Tender for supply of fresh milk.
25. Tender for supply of wood glue, nylon rope and PP woven Bags/PP sacks (Gunia)

Note;

- i. Tender fee is TZS 100,000/= for each
- ii. Payment to be made by cash or through Crdb bank account no.01J2055942100, account name Tanganyika Instant Coffee Company Limited
- iii. Tender documents are available in English Language
- iv. Note lot No.9, No.10, No.11, No.19, No.20 and No.21 are only for pre-qualification.
- v. Interested and eligible candidates in the above-mentioned services are invited to obtain the tender document(s) on work days from 8:00AM to 4:00PM at Tanganyika Instant Coffee Public Limited Company offices not later than 28th June, 2023.

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Mwanza Branch
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Yours,

Tanganyika Instant Coffee Public Limited Company

Rodness Milton
GENERAL MANAGER.



TradeMark Africa (TMA), formerly TradeMark East Africa, is an Aid-for-Trade organisation established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity through increased trade. TMA's headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya with offices in: EAC Secretariat - Arusha, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somaliland, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. TMA's operations are based on the tenets of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) with the objective of delivering Agenda 2063 by eliminating barriers to trade and boosting intra-Africa trade through investment, digital trade, and value-addition. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by: Belgium, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Horn of Africa has been allocated grant funds that are eligible for direct payments under the contracts for which this request for proposal is issued.

TMA seeks to engage the services of the qualified consultancy firms/consortiums in the following areas:

1. PRQ20220908: Consultancy to Design Export-Oriented and Resilient Marine Fisheries Sub-Sector in The Horn of Africa Using a Market Systems Approach.
2. PRQ20220984: Consultancy for The Delivery and Oversight of SPS and Standards in The Horn of Africa.
3. PRQ20220872: Supply, delivery, installation, commissioning, user training and after-sales service of laboratory equipment for Somaliland Quality Control Commission (SQCC) Food Testing laboratory equipment.
4. PRQ20220837: Consultancy for the Development of a Logistics Platform to Support Efficient Logistics and Trade Along the Berbera Corridor.
5. PRQ20220894: System Developer of The Integrated Fleet Management System (IFMS) for The Ethiopian Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MOTL).
6. PRQ20220966; Consultancy to Support Review Customs Business Processes, Services Review and Optimization in Somaliland.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals documents can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkafrica.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrica.com. You are advised that only applications from registered firms/consortiums will be accepted. Interested, qualified and registered consultancy firms/consortiums should submit bids explicitly in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document. The closing dates as per the respective Request for Proposal.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven days or less prior to the submission deadline.

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Ministry must show link between jumbo numbers, tourism earnings

PERIODIC cries concerning the havoc and mayhem often sowed by elephants in villages close to national parks are intensifying each passing year, indicating that the fear level is itself on the rise. This outcry was even more pronounced with a number of legislators early this week raising concern on increasing wildlife invasions. Levels of effort the government is making to curb elephants roaming into farms or settlements are poor, despite farm destruction, risk to life.

This issue took a lot of time in debating estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism for fiscal 2023/24, where MPs were concerned that the government is insensitive over the suffering caused by jumbos. Its whole concern is with jumbo numbers, which implies that this is crucial to tourism as such, not just for what is generally understood as conservation. How far must people live with jumbos all over the place, or they can in fact be located in more appropriate parks, since we have upwards of 25 national parks to choose from?

Some of the MPs' remarks could be read to suggest that the jumbos were actually reintroduced in various or some areas, which isn't surprising. The main conservation agencies were in the past year or so working day and night to reintroduce wild dogs in a number of parks, as a section of their stakeholders believe the species is 'on the verge of extinction.' There isn't much evidence of that situation but it is true livestock keepers and farmers tolerate them even less.

MPs were especially concerned about paucity in the sense of balance relating to government conservation policy, between the sphere of wildlife

and the right to settle and be assured of safety on the borders of a national park. Authorities are scarcely concerned with the fear gripping residents in various districts all over the country, with the victim families left without compensation, whether it concerns the destruction of crops or loss of life. It is an attitude to be rectified.

That is why it is unclear if the government is ready to make robust efforts to rescue settlements, properties and crops as the MPs appealed, as that could demand something of a culture change on their part.

One MP said that many households are left without harvests while the government takes a long time to deliver the required support, including compensating the victims. In the MP's constituency, one ward had over 70 farms destroyed affecting over 200 people. That is an understatement for a farm hardly ever caters for just three persons, while limiting the reference to adults is by and large a statistical non-starter.

Looking at the matter closely, the government's attitude in this matter is a cultural problem, in the old formulation that 'I am not my brother's keeper.' So long as there is some potential benefit in having more elephants in whatever game reserve or national park, the government's interest is to pasture over the jumbos, irrespective of where they go to feed. It isn't dissimilar to usual cattle invasions on farms where the livestock herder just laughs while the peasant is totally ruined. We don't have the right reflexes to check injustice; only when we cultivate a deliberate sense of justice and fairness shall we have 'civil society.'

Improving food security and reducing tobacco smoking will end TB globally

TANZANIA is among the 30th high-burden countries for Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV infection. TB is the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious disease killer worldwide in 2021.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) framework for collaborative action on TB and comorbidities provides guidance on strengthening people-centred services for TB and comorbidities, including tobacco smoking.

Under nutrition and tobacco use are major determinants of TB globally.

WHO has urged countries to strengthen collaboration between Tuberculosis (TB) and tobacco control programmes with relevant sectors in planning and implementation of holistic people-centred services to reduce deaths and suffering due to TB and tobacco smoking.

The WHO's 'End TB Strategy' emphasises the need for action on TB and comorbidities, including tobacco smoking.

In 2021, of the 10.6 million people who fell ill with TB, 2.2 million were attributable to under nutrition and nearly 0.7 million to tobacco smoking.

At the 2018 UN high level meeting on TB, member states committed to assuring health services that address tobacco use as part of a comprehensive package of TB services.

Indeed, this requires close partnership between TB programmes and tobacco control programmes, and the engagement of all key stakeholders to scale up implementation of WHO recommendations on TB and on tobacco cessation to meet this commitment.

According to a report published recently, people who smoke tobacco have double the risk of TB disease,

slower recovery, and a higher risk of unfavourable TB treatment outcomes, including recurrence of TB, death, and post-TB pulmonary and cardiovascular disease.

Smoking cessation during TB treatment can improve treatment outcomes and has been shown to reduce the risk of TB infection and TB disease among household contacts as well. Improving food security and reducing tobacco smoking globally will therefore contribute significantly to the fight to end TB.

The theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day campaign was 'Grow food, not tobacco' provides an opportunity to highlight the critical role of these interlinked determinants of health, including TB, and the need for collective multisectoral action to address them. The theme encourages governments to end subsidies for tobacco growing and use these savings to transform farming practices to contribute to improved food security and nutrition.

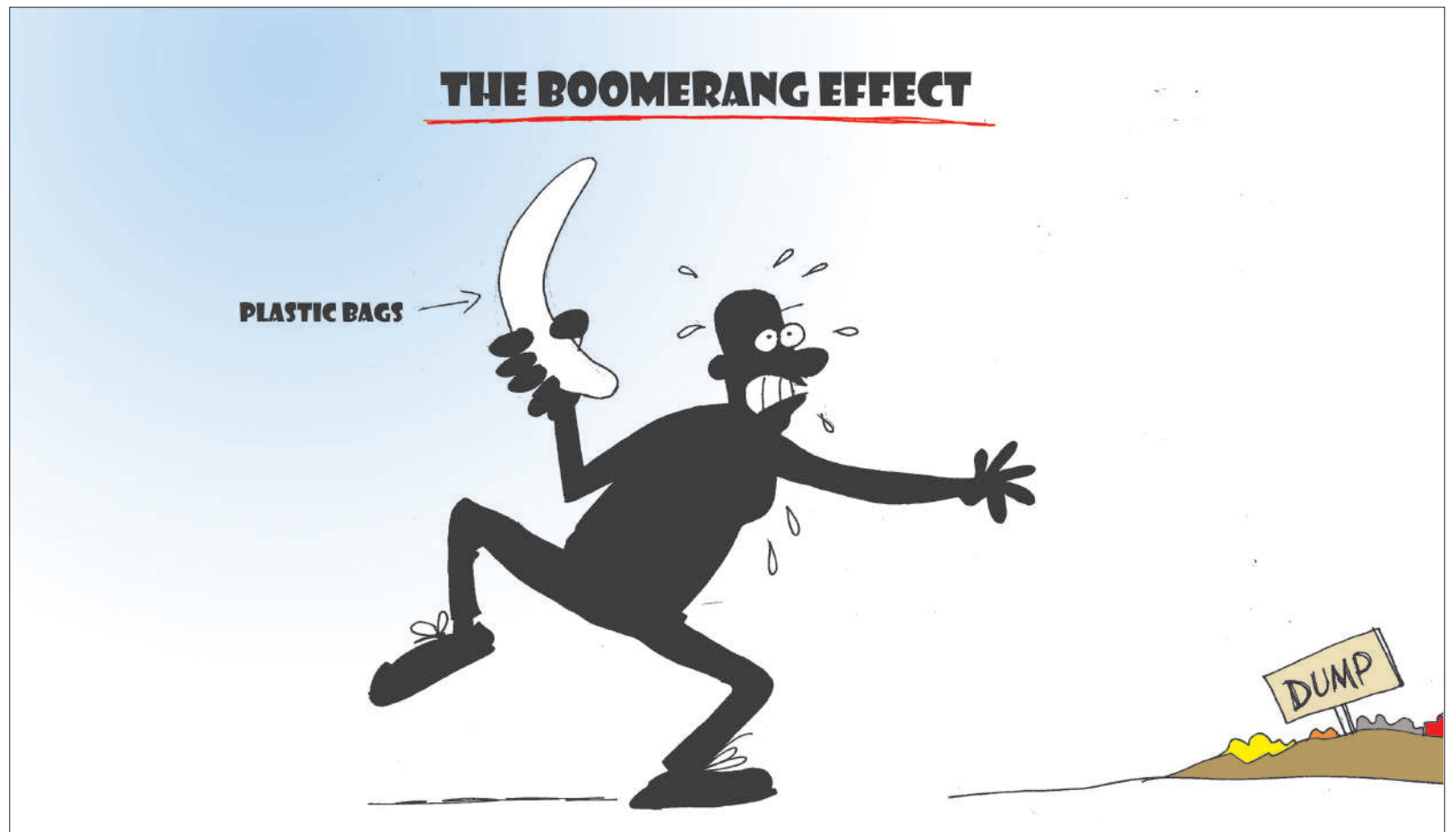
The upcoming second UN High-Level Meeting on TB provides an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen these commitments and accelerate progress to end TB.

In the context of increasing global food insecurity due to climate change and international conflict, a shift from tobacco farming towards growing sustainable food crops can significantly impact the health and wellbeing of populations.

Sustained efforts to reduce tobacco smoking and improve global food security can contribute to ending TB and achieving Health for All, and to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

World No Tobacco Day is commemorated on May 31st to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable suffering, disease, and deaths it causes.

THE BOOMERANG EFFECT



Urgency for a global fund for media and journalism

By Simone Galimberti

THERE have been an array of proposals to sustain journalism around the world from tax incentives and subsidies to the idea of allocating 1 per cent of governments' GDP to a drastically increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) for independent journalism in the global South.

The debate has been intense and rightly so.

What is needed is a long-term project that would put together a global architecture supporting serious and reliable journalism regardless of the size and business model of the outlets producing it. Amid such calls for governments and philanthropies to do more, something finally is moving.

Yet the needs require real ambition and farsightedness that in practice means a coherent global governance to safeguard trustworthy media worldwide. The International Fund for Public Interest Media, initially announced by France during the Paris Peace Forum in 2022, is taking shape and an initial pilot cohort of media outlets already got selected.

Because of its hybrid form of governance, independent but backed by governments and major philanthropies alike, the IFPIM could become the biggest source of funds for media around the world.

As per the information provided on its website, it has already raised \$50 million USD from more than 15 governments, philanthropies, and corporate entities but the ambition is much bigger.

The Centre for International Media Assistance (CIMA), an initiative of the bipartisan National Endowment for Democracy, an entity funded by the American Congress, estimates that global spending to support independent media globally should be \$1 billion a year.

The reality on the ground—considering also how many legacy media houses are struggling with revenues and a declining readership—might require a much bigger figure.

If the situation was already dire before the pandemic, COVID was the knockdown blow for many media around the world that were already assaulted by the damaging impacts of big tech companies and their social media platforms. And now we also have to deal with an even more threatening and disruptive use of artificial intelligence.

While AI-based technologies can offer some positive elements on how media engage with public, the risks are enormous. "AI-based technologies also have an enormous potential to harm our information ecosystems and threaten the fundamental human rights on which robust, independent media systems, and free societies" reads a resolution

recently passed at the International Press Institute General Assembly just held in Vienna.

With this gloomy scenario, the public interest media landscape is rapidly turning into what experts define as "news desert. We should be all very weary of the perils associated with its consequences. After all, as explained by the World Trends Report published by UNESCO, it is a vital issue because journalism is a public good that must be protected at any costs.

In such a scenario the fact that the IFPIM aims to reach \$500 million USD, itself a milestone in this quest, is a relief. Still, it is not enough.

An issue to be taken into account is the fact that we are dealing with a fragmented landscape in this line of sector. There are already a small but increasingly more visible and impactful ecosystem, still in construction that is made up of blended agencies supporting independent media around the world.

Some of the most significant among them are the Media Development Investment Fund, (MDIF) that takes a more investor like approach then what seems the still in construction approach of IFPIM, has been already able to provide a variety of funding options.

With also a mixed lineup of investors, International Fund for Public Interest Media (MDIF) has already invested \$300 million USD in 148 media outlets from 47 different countries. In addition, there is an increasing number of "intermediary" organizations.

Some of them like Pluralis acts more like investors among its own backers there is MDIF. Others offer a blended package, financial and capacity building like Free Press Unlimited International Media Support (IMS), International Media Support while United for News takes a market approach of linking ads with local online news outlets.

BBC Media Action and Internews, on other hand, are intermediary closer to the field.

Though each of these represent a different model of support, are different from each other, they are all aimed at enhancing the viability of robust, independent media.

Interestingly we are seeing a crosspollination of such initiatives because their backers are often interlinked to each other with a major philanthropic foundation or bilateral donor supporting multiple initiatives at the same time.

And we are not mentioning the mechanisms that several bilateral institutions in the West are putting together only exclusively to safeguard and protect journalists in danger.

For example, the recently announced Reporters Shield, an undertaking of USAID, is particularly

designed on tackling

Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), the strategic lawsuits against public participation.

Undoubtedly the IFPIM is going to be a standout catalyst but it is rightly showing commitment to partner with other key stakeholders.

The recent MoU signed with Reporters without Frontiers, (RSF) and the Forum on Information and Democracy, the latter itself a global initiative leading the debate on safeguarding journalism that is housed at RSF, is promising but it is not enough.

If the ambitions of IFPIM is to become a global fund for media and journalism support akin to the funding mechanisms being used to fight HIV and Tuberculosis, all the actors investing in independent media must truly come together.

The fact that some of the major philanthropic organisations are putting resources in different baskets could be a positive element in a yet to establish globally coordinated multilayered approach promoting journalism and media houses.

Such common intent would enable a truly global ecosystem allowing media to return to prominence they used to command and becoming, once again, a central pillar of public debate.

First governments with adequate fiscal capacity should do whatever it takes to support their own media industry. Some of them in Europe are already doing so and also in the USA there are discussions for a new legislation and other financial tools, including cash vouchers for the citizens to buy subscriptions.

Yet if we want to safeguard journalism and media around the world, it is essential to boost public and private media working with integrity in the North, including legacy newsrooms.

It is not just about providing incentives, rebates or other financial support or ensuring that big tech owned platforms pay what is due to the newsrooms like it is slowly starting to happen.

It is also about re-persuading people, including the youths, to read news, on and off line.

Massive awareness initiatives involving schools and universities should also be prioritized in a way that a common user of news, can also turn into a citizen journalist or opinion writer.

Second, a truly global and truly massive funding for media and journalism should be established even by merging existing entities. The result could become mega funder or donor of donors, a true Global Fund for Media and Journalism.

All major governments and philanthropic organizations would inject financial resources and know-how that would then trickle to other smaller actors in the supply chain.

In a potential ecosystem protecting media and journalism, there would be enough spaces for intermediary organizations like the ones already operating close to media houses on the ground, especially in the global South.

It might be that entities like IFPIM and MDIF, each with its unique identity and features but united in their intents, one day might come together or might themselves act as at the upper level of a pyramid sustaining journalism and media, just a step below what would be a Global Fund for Media and Journalism.

Journalism and the thriving of media should also become a central area of focus of the United Nations. Despite the obvious resistance that might come from certain camps, the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres should include it in its ambitious Our Common Agenda.

Two of its twelve strategic pillars, "promote peace and prevent conflict" together with "build trust" should be strengthened with initiatives focused on media. A global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information, one of the milestones under "build trust" should be accompanied by other bold actions.

Let's not forget that UNESCO has been already involved in the promotion of media with two programs, like the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) on the top of the narrower, journalist focused protection tool Global Media Defence Fund.

Positively, at the present, the momentum to save the media is gaining strength.

Yet it is indispensable to ensure that the focus is going to be on medium and long term measures rather than on a short term fixes.

Without a global design and ambition, it's certain that the situation is only going to be worse. All global actors, together with the professionals and activists on the ground, must come together. The level and speed of discussions around the future of media must step up.

It is only with profound changes in the funding mechanisms of journalism that serious and reliable news outlets both in North and South, either legacy or startups thriving on internet, will be able to continue to operate and thrive.

There is no firewall to stop the journalism's decadence. Only urgency and bold actions offer the best chance to ensure a "New Deal" for global media and journalism.

Simone Galimberti is the co-founder of ENGAGE and The Good Leadership. He writes mostly about youths' involvement in the UN, social development and human rights.

By Prof Raphael Mwalusi

A look at development of environmental assessment in Tanzania

ENVIRONMENTAL assessment (EA) is a study that establishes the impacts either positive or negative of a project, policy, plan, or programme. It involves technical evaluation of environmental, economic and social impacts that the project, plan, policy or programme can cause. Specifically, EA identifies possible environmental effects, predicts whether or not there will be significant adverse environmental effects, even after their mitigation. EA also proposes measures to mitigate adverse effects and recommends an impact management and monitoring plan.

Since projects, plans, programmes and policies have planning processes in which EA can be integrated, and given EA sensitivity to the socio-economic and environmental implications, it can be used to accomplish many different objectives.

For example, EA can be effectively employed by proponents to compensate for shortcomings in the planning process and help establish and strengthen decision-making and communication mechanisms. EA may also reveal sound environmental, social or economic reasons for changing planning direction, location, technology, scale or temporal.

In view of the importance accorded to stakeholder views and opinions in the EA process, it may further function as a planning control mechanism. In short, the benefits to project propo-

nents include reduced cost and time of project implementation, cost-saving modifications in policy, programme and project (PPP) design, increased project acceptance, avoids impacts and violations of laws and regulations, improves PPP performance, and avoids treatment or cleaning up costs.

On the other hand, benefits to local communities and other stakeholders include a healthier local environment (forests, water sources, agricultural potentials, aesthetic values, clean living, improved human health, and maintenance or improvement of biodiversity, decreased or sustainable resource use, and fewer conflicts over natural resource use.

There are many types of EAs including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Social Impact Assessment (SIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Risk Assessment (RA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Cumulative Effect Assessment (CEA) and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA).

Thus, EA is increasingly becoming a popular tool for decision-making in Tanzania. This is exemplified by the recent Julius Nyerere hydropower project EIA in the Selous Game Reserve, a famous photographic tourism area and a World Heritage Site following its inscription in 1982 by UNESCO.

Its universal outstanding values are centered on two major criteria namely being one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in Africa, and having a higher density and diversity of species than any other Miombo woodland area in the world.

Generally, awareness of and the capacity to carry out EAs in Tanzania has greatly increased although more work is needed to enhance the effectiveness of these tools. Historically, the first



EIA in Tanzania was conducted by the then Rufiji Basin Development Authority (RUBADA) in the early 1980s on the then proposed Stigler's Gorge Hydro-power and Flood Control Project in Rufiji Basin.

In 1997, Tanzania passed the National Environmental Policy, which stipulates the need to apply tools such as EIA to inform decision-making for development. In 1998, National Environment Management Council (NEMC) issued Draft EIA Guidelines to support application of EIA in Tanzania.

Earlier in 1995, the Institute of Resources Assessment (IRA) of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) conducted the first ground-breaking 'Needs Assessment for Environmental Assessment in Tanzania'. The study noted the need for EA and sustained capacity development for the application of EA at the level of decision-making, managing the EA process and for training EA practitioners.

In 1998, IRA developed the

first training modules to cover

three areas as per the needs assessment namely Introductory Course in EIA in Tanzania, a one to two-day course for decision makers, Orientation Course on EIA in Tanzania, a 10-day course for practitioners and Review and Quality Control Course on EIA in Tanzania, a five-day course for EA process and review managers.

After 1998, IRA embarked on short-term training programmes using the manuals targeting Training of Trainers (TOT) from government, NGOs and universities in Tanzania and outside such as Ethiopia and other countries in Southern Africa.

The Manuals were adopted and used by several other trainers later. Since 2005, IRA embarked on specialised EA training at the postgraduate level. Thus, over 260 Master of Science students have been trained on EA techniques and practices and some of these are registered with NEMC as practi-

tioners.

Due to increased EA training and awareness drives undertaken so far, it is now widely offered in universities in Tanzania using the foundation set by the IRA. Over 60 EAs have been conducted by IRA in Tanzania, including the more recent large scale coal and iron ore mining and steel works in Ludewa District, Njombe Region and the Julius Nyerere hydropower project

But more encouraging is that since 2005, more than 2,218 EIAs have been undertaken in Tanzania. Out of these, 850 are related to the industrial sector (Energy 289; manufacturing 219; mining 167; tourism 112; and oil and gas 63). Notably, the communication sector leads with a total of 1,065 EIAs.

To date, Tanzania has an Environmental Management Act and EIA regulations, and EA is now widely accepted as a tool for decision-making in development planning, thus minimizing environmental damage and

social wellbeing such as in mining, tourism, and infrastructure projects.

However, there is a need to enhance capacity building in areas such as public involvement, impact prediction, EIA monitoring and audit especially for emerging areas of the economy such as oil and gas, coal, geothermal related projects; secure more enforcement of the existing laws and policies regarding EA; address ethical matters related to EA practice in Tanzania; and upscale EA to legislations, policies, plans and programmes through SEA.

Generally, application of SEA as a tool for integrating environmental issues into PPPs nationwide is on a relatively limited scale to date. The poor performance is said to be due to: limited capacity (skills, funds and personnel) to carry out and manage SEA; ignorance of legal requirements for SEA application; limited political will to apply SEA in planning process; and limited capacity to integrate SEA recommendations in planning processes.

Tanzania Vision 2025 refers to "Transforming Tanzania into a semi industrialized" country largely through agro-industrial development. To achieve the desired goals, the government plans more use of natural gas and coal which are associated with major environmental pollution and water use.

Assessment of Power System Master Plan for electricity in Tanzania shows increase in environmental burdens in all chosen impact categories during 2000-2030. Given the current limited capacity (skills and personnel) to carry out and manage SEA in Tanzania; ignorance of legal requirements for SEA application; limited political will to apply SEA in planning process; and limited capacity

to integrate SEA recommendations in planning processes, there is need to reinforce SEA training at all levels.

Application of EIA on projects nationwide is relatively more widespread in Tanzania compared to SEA with encouraging emphasis on the industrial sector. However, EIA is generally reported as relatively weak and largely ineffective for decision-making.

Elsewhere, it has been documented that over 70 per cent of industries have effluents with COD (amount of oxygen required to degrade all oxidizable compounds) and BOD5 (dissolved oxygen needed in a given time for the biological degradation of the organic wastewater constituents) well above standards; over 65 per cent discharge effluents with TSS (Total Suspended Solids) and TDS (Total Dissolved Solid) above standard while only 58 per cent had waste water treatment facilities and 17 per cent had none.

Therefore, there is a need to assess the influence and effectiveness of EA in assisting the government to implement sustainable industrial development objectives by defining the way EA should be managed and implemented with more emphasis on SEA than EIA. There is also a need for enhanced training and capacity building on EA countrywide and across the board as well as adopting cleaner technologies.

The author is an environmental ecologist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0754 270 196.

World Environment Day: Solutions to plastic pollution

By Lara Van Lith and Akilah Davitt

IT'S time to get together and celebrate the environment! June 5th is the 50th World Environment Day, where each year, the significance of transformative action from across the world is crucial to help people and the planet. This year's World Environment Day is being hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands with a theme of 'Finding Solutions for Plastic Pollution'.

We as youth activists and part of the Arizona State University Sustain Earth project see plastic pollution everywhere, but just how big is this problem?

To put it in perspective, more than 400 million tons of plastic are manufactured annually, with over half of it designed for single-use purposes. Shockingly, less than 10% of this plastic is recycled, which creates a colossal issue for our environment and human health.

Every year, an estimated 19-23 million tons of plastic make its way into lakes, rivers, and seas. Along with visible plastic waste, microplastics are becoming a bigger issue despite being invisible to the naked eye. Microplastics infiltrate food systems, waterways, and are even found in the air we breathe. According to the UN, each person consumes over 50,000 plastic particles annually. For more information on the life cycle of plastic, check out this Sustainable Explainable.

However, amid these troubling statistics, a glimmer of hope emerges- a shift towards a circular economy holds the key to reducing the volume of plastics entering our natural environment by more than 80% by 2040. The benefits of embracing this circular approach extend beyond preserving our precious ecosystems. By reducing virgin plastic production by 55%, governments stand to save \$70 billion by 2040, while simultaneously slashing greenhouse gas emissions by 25%. Additionally, this transition can create 700,000 new jobs, predominately in the global south, fostering economic growth while tackling the plastic crisis head-on.



Every year, an estimated 19 to 23 million tonnes of plastic make its way into lakes, rivers, and seas. Credit: Athar Parvaiz/IPS

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

The second session of the UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) on plastic pollution convened earlier this month. This fully in-person event, taking place in Paris, France, covers a variety of discussions including marine environments, trade measures, circular economy, microplastics, and human rights. These sessions come as a response to last year's United Nations Environmental Assembly resolution to create a global treaty to end plastic pollution with negotiations estimated to finalize at the end of 2024.

The first session (INC-1) took place in Uruguay at the end of 2022 and built the foundation of knowledge for constituents in preparation for the second session and allowed for the start of negotiations, though no policy-based decisions were made then. To ensure that a wide variety of voices were heard, members invited and present included youth groups, Indigenous coalitions,

and frontline communities.

Plastic's future 2023

Stakeholders are utilizing the move towards a legally negotiated convention to bring their ideas of solutions to the table. In a couple of weeks "Revolution Plastics" (June 20 - June 22) is hosting a conference with the mission to discuss global research in hopes of finding new, innovative solutions to the plastic problem. The conference is taking place at the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, and will be split into five sessions covering microplastics, fashion and textiles, the history of plastics, art-based research methods, and the global treaty to end plastic pollution (from discussions at INC-2). Hands-on workshops will also be present, ranging from creating fashion items from plastic waste to verbatim theater. We all need to be part of this solutions driven approach.

So what can we do?

The easiest option is to avoid single-

use plastics. If we think about the number of times that single-use plastics are offered to us throughout the day, we may be surprised. On a regular day, an individual may get two plastic bags to carry their groceries home in, a plastic cup from their favorite coffee shop, a plastic fork, knife, and spoon with their take out... multiply this every day and every person who uses single-use plastic daily, and the amount of plastic waste humans are generating is tremendous. Effectively avoiding single-use plastic may take some forethought and planning. Here are some ideas on how we can be part of the solution and can cut out single-use plastic items out of our lives today:

Swap out all the single-use plastic. Keep a reusable bottle, reusable cutlery, and reusable grocery bag in your car or bag to make it easier to make the switch. Soon enough, you'll be shocked by how much plastic you used to use once and throw away!

Be a sustainable host. When hosting events, consider using your own plates and silverware rather than plastic versions.

Going out to eat? Consider bringing a container if you suspect you'll have leftovers. It's a win-win-win situation because you'll cut down on food waste, avoid using plastic take-out containers from the restaurant, and have some tasty leftovers for tomorrow!

We understand how difficult it is to avoid plastic, so we took a plastic-free for-a-week challenge! See how that went here. We hope this gives you some ideas.

It's also important to remember each individual action underpins the systemic change required to transition to a less plastic-dependent economy. Here's what you can do to influence change on a larger scale.

Use your voice. If you see a company using unnecessary plastic or lacks a recycling system for customers, call them out! Using social media or contacting the company directly lets them know that consumers care about their plastic footprint and are serious about making changes for the environment.

Vote with your wallet. Similarly, to

what we highlighted above, it's important to trade out the usual plastic-covered purchases for more sustainable alternatives. If more people are buying sustainable products that avoid plastic waste, we can use our wallets to vote for a more circular and sustainable market.

Share solutions. If you come across a business or product that does a great job of cutting down plastic waste, let your community know! Oftentimes, people want to help in the battle against plastic pollution but don't know where to start. Help your community of conscious consumers to make a bigger difference.

Turn the pressure up! Consumer action will force companies, investors, lawmakers, and government to take real action. Consumers have a huge impact on the economy, so our voices will affect the important decisions they make behind the scenes.

Want to learn more about the plastic problem and how you, your business, your organization, and local community can make a difference? The UN Environment Programme and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire partnered to create the Beat Plastic Pollution Practical Guide to help scale the problem and give solutions. Do your part this World Environment Day to make a more Sustainable Earth!

Lara Van Lith is a member of Arizona State University Sustain Earth project. She is also recent Conservation Biology graduate and currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration from Arizona State University. She is passionate about environmental education for people of all ages and sustainability communication.

Akilah Davitt is Arizona State University Sustain Earth and is a recent Masters of Sustainability Solutions graduate at Arizona State University with interests in corporate sustainability and biodiversity conservation. Her experience includes working with Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research to understand peoples' perceptions towards wildlife and climate-related issues.

Peru's agro-export boom has not boosted human development

By Mariela Jara

PERU'S agro-export industry is growing steadily and reached record levels in 2022. But this has not had a favourable impact on human development in this South American country, where high levels of inequality, poverty, childhood anaemia and malnutrition persist, as well as complaints about the poor quality of employment in the sector.

Exports of agricultural products such as blueberries, grapes, tangerines, artichokes and asparagus generated 9.8 billion dollars in revenue in 2022 - 12 percent higher than the 2021 total, as reported in February by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism.

Agricultural exports represent four percent of GDP in this Andean nation, where mining and fishing are the main economic activities.

"The increase in revenue from agricultural exports has not brought human development: anaemia and tuberculosis are at worrying levels and now dengue fever is skyrocketing," Rosario Huallanca, a representative of the non-governmental Ica Human Rights Commission (Codeh Ica), which has worked for 41 years in that department of southwestern Peru, told IPS.

Ica and two other departments along the country's Pacific coast, La Libertad and Piura, are leaders in the sector, accounting for nearly 50 percent of agricultural exports in this country of 33 million people, which despite this boom remains plagued by inequality, reflected by high levels of poverty and informality and precariousness in employment.

Monetary poverty affected 27.5 percent of the country's 33 million inhabitants in 2022, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics. This is a seven percentage point increase over the pre-pandemic period. The number of poor people was estimated at 9,184,000 last year, 600,000 more than in 2021.

Ica, which has a total of 850,765 inhabitants, is one of the departments



Workers sort avocados for export in Peru. Agro-exports account for four percent of the country's GDP, but the prosperity of the sector has not translated into better human development for its workers. CREDIT: Comexperu

with the lowest monetary poverty rates, five percent, because it has full employment, largely due to the agro-export boom of the last two decades.

Huallanca said the number of agro-export companies is estimated at 320, with a total of 120,000 employees, who come from different parts of the country.

What stands out, she said, is that 70 percent of the total number of workers in the sector are women, who are valued for their fine motor skills in

handling fruits and vegetables.

Although a portion of the workers of some companies are in the informal sector, there are no clear numbers, the expert pointed out.

But there are alarming figures available: more than six percent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition, and anaemia affects 33 percent of children between six and 35 months of age.

"With the type of job we have, we cannot take our children to their growth check-ups, we

can't miss work because they don't pay you if you don't show up, we cry in silence because of our anxiety," 42-year-old Yanina Huamán, who has worked in the agro-export sector for 20 years to support her three children, told IPS.

The two oldest are in middle and higher education and her youngest is still in primary school. "I am both mother and father to my children. With my work I am giving them an education and I have managed to secure a home of my own, but it's precarious, the bedrooms don't have roofs yet, for example," she said.

Huamán is secretary for women's affairs in the union of the company where she works, a position she was appointed to in November 2022. From that post, she hopes to help bring about improvements in access to healthcare for female workers, who either postpone going to the doctor when they need to, or receive poor medical attention in the social security health system "where they only give us pills."

Ica currently has the highest number of deaths from dengue fever, a viral disease that led the government of Dina Boluarte to declare a 90-day health emergency in 13 of the country's 24 departments a couple of weeks ago.

Not only that, it has the history of being the department with the highest level of deaths from Covid-19: 901 deaths per

100,000 inhabitants, exceeding the national average of 630 per 100,000. "The health system here does not work," trade unionist Huamán said bluntly.

Working conditions more difficult for women

The lack of quality employment and the deficient recognition of labour rights, exacerbated by the pandemic, prompted a strike in November 2020 that began in Ica and spread to the northern coastal area of La Libertad and Piura.

Their demands included a minimum living wage of 70 soles (19 dollars) a day, social benefits such as compensation and raises for length of service, and recognition of the right to form unions.

Grouped together in the recently created Ica Workers' Union Agro-exports Struggle Committee, which represents casual and seasonal workers, they went to Congress in Lima to demand changes in the current legislation.

Susan Quintanilla, 39, originally from the central Andean department of Ayacucho, is the general secretary of the union. She arrived in Ica in 2014 after separating from her husband. She came with her two children, a girl and a boy, for whom she hoped for a future with better opportunities.

After working as a harvester in the fields, and cleaning and packing fruit at the plant, she decided to work on a piece-work basis, because that way she could earn more and save up for times when the companies needed less labour.

"It was incredibly hard," she told IPS. "I would leave home at 10 in the morning and leave work at three or four in the wee hours of the next morning to be there to get my kids ready for school. I was 29 or 30 years old, I was young, but I saw older women with pain in their bodies, their arms and their feet due to the postures we had at work, but they continued because they had no other option."

"I saw many injustices in the agro-export companies," she added. "They made you feel that they were doing you a favour by giving you work, they wanted you to keep your head down, they shouted at and humiliated people, and they made them feel miserable. I protested, raised my voice, and they didn't fire me because I was a high performance worker and they needed me. The situation has changed a little because of our struggles, but it hasn't come for free."

The late 2020 protests led to the approval on Dec. 31 of that

year of Law No. 31110 on agricultural labour and incentives for the agricultural and irrigation sector, aimed at guaranteeing the rights of workers in the agro-export and agro-industrial sectors.

But in Quintanilla's view, the law discriminates against non-permanent workers who make up the largest part of the workforce in the sector, since the preferential right to hiring established in the fourth article of the law is not respected.

"Nor have they recognized the differentiated payment of our social benefits and they include them in the daily wage that is calculated at 54 soles (a little more than 14 dollars); it's not fair," she complained.

At the same time, she stressed that the agro-export work is harder on women because they are the ones responsible for raising their children. "We live in a sexist society that burdens us with all of the care work," Quintanilla said.

She also explained that because several of the companies are so far away, it takes workers longer to get to work, which means they are away from home for up to twelve hours a day. "We go to work with the anxiety that we are leaving our children at risk of the dangers of life, we cannot be with them as we would like, which damages us emotionally."

Added to this, she said, are the terrible working conditions, such as the fact that the toilets are far from the areas where they work, as much as three blocks away, or in unsanitary conditions, which leads women to avoid using them, to the detriment of their health.

Agro-export companies and human rights

Huallanca said that Codeh Ica was promoting the creation of a space of diverse stakeholders so that the National Business and Human Rights Plan, a public policy aimed at ensuring that economic activities improve people's quality of life, is fulfilled in the department. Five unions from Ica and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism participate in this initiative.

"We have made an enormous effort and we hope that on Jun. 16 it will be formally created by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the governing body for this policy," she said.

In the meantime, she added, "we have helped bring together women involved in the agro-export sector, who have developed a rights agenda that has been given shape in this multi-stakeholder space and we hope it will be taken into account."



Susan Quintanilla, a union leader of agro-export workers in the department of Ica in southwestern Peru, has witnessed many injustices, saying the companies "made you feel like they were doing you a favor by giving you work, they wanted you to keep your head down." CREDIT: Courtesy of Susan Quintanilla

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania to submit VNR report next month on SDGs progress

TANZANIA is next month expected to submit its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023 report highlighting the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High-Level Political Forum.

Reynald Maeda, United Nations Association of Tanzania, Executive Director said recently that in March 2022, Tanzania was accepted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to submit its second 2023 VNR report to the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023.

This year's event is themed: 'Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.'

Maeda said all goals will be under review with a special focus on SDG 6 (water and sanitation), 7 (Clean Energy), 9 (Industrialization, Infrastructure and Innovation), 11 (Sustainable Cities) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

"The Ministry of Finance and Planning started the national process by sharing a national roadmap for 2023 VNR, in particular the time frame for stakeholders' consultations," he said.

The Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform commenced the 2023 national Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) VNR consultations, said Maeda.

However, before commencing national consultations, Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform conducted a series of preparatory VNR multi stakeholder workshops aimed at receiving feedback, experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of SDGs, analysing progress, achievements and critical success factors to attain sustainable development including best practices by CSOs.

The workshop also discussed challenges and gaps in implementation and any new and emerging issues concerning SDGs implementation in Tanzania since 2019.

Through the platform's consultations, CSOs had an opportunity to identify ways and techniques on how marginalized and vulnerable groups would be involved in the 2023 VNR processes, created a CSOs data collection tool and CSOs 2023 VNR report structure. One of the outcomes was a national CSOs VNR roadmap to lead the process in the country.

During the last quarter of 2022 until April 2023, the platform started national consultations which have already involved 2,720 civil societies, community based organizations, local groups and faith based organizations from 6 zones of the country and at all levels from village, ward, district, region and national level which is a major improvement from the 2019 VNR report where



UNA Tanzania, co-convenor of the Tanzania sustainable development platform executive director Reynald Maeda provides an overview of the voluntary national review process during VNR consultation session in Dar es Salaam recently.

only 500 CSOs were reached.

Goodluck Willy, UNA Tanzania's SDGs & Human Rights Program Manager, said the CSOs involved are working in diverse sectors such as agriculture, water, climate, gender, education, energy, mining, peace, justice, infrastructures, innovation, industrialization, economic development and health.

Moreover, thematic leads were responsible for leading sessions for each specific goal. For example, HakiElimu led Goal 4 (Quality Education), Forum for Climate Change led Goal 13 (Climate Change), TGNP led Goal 5 (Gender Equality and Women Empowerment), Policy Forum led Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goal), HAKI RASILIMALI led Goal 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) and THDR led Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Maeda said, since the fundamental principle governing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: "Leave no one Behind" calls for inclusiveness in the implementation, monitoring and reporting

of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Governments and other stakeholders are obligated to respect this principle by ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, youth, people with disabilities, children and others are actively engaged towards attaining these global goals.

Maeda said in ensuring that the principle of 'Leave No One Behind' is realized, the Platform organized Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Hearings aimed at amplifying the voices of vulnerable groups in the VNR process in Tanzania. For instance, Save the Children led consultations for children, UNA Tanzania in collaboration with UNESCO Tanzania led consultations for media and UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) supported consultations for People with Disabilities in collaboration with SHIVYAWATA and ADD International, UNA Tanzania in collaboration with Restless Development and Mulika Tanzania held young people consultation. This ensured that they captured their specific

needs and integrated into the CSOs VNR Report as well as the national VNR report 2023.

According to Maeda, the Voluntary National Review Report provides a range of opportunities to stakeholders working toward SDGs implementation, monitoring and reporting.

These include CSOs 2023 VNR Shadow Report (which will be used as an advocacy tool), participation in regional and global forums such as Africa Regional Forum on SDGs and High Level Political Forum respectively.

These platforms offer side events, VNR Labs, Special Events, and Exhibition in which CSOs discuss their progress, challenges, lessons learnt, best practices and experiences on SDGs.

He said, VNR is a platform where CSOs can form new partnerships, networks, and alliances necessary for SDGs implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Elaborating on the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform, he said the platform leads Civil Societies Voluntary National Review Process in

Tanzania whereas for the first time since the inception of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, Tanzania reported the progress of SDGs implementation in 2019.

This was a landmark milestone in the history of the country in which not so many UN member states had conducted such an important national-led process by that time.

Globally, this process is convened under the authority of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and presented at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) annually since 2016.

Every member state is voluntarily required to report on the progress that it made on the implementation of SDGs from local, regional to national level, involving stakeholders such as the Government, civil society organizations, media, local governments, private sector, UN agencies, development partners, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), community based organizations (CBOs), etc.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate

the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Tanzania, this process is coordinated by the Government through the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP). This Ministry is the custodian of the national plans and budgets which are important tools for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In regard to the principle of inclusivity while preparing the Voluntary National Review, civil society organizations working towards the achievement of fulfilling the SDGs are coordinated through the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform which was established in 2015 and is convened by UNA Tanzania and Africa Philanthropic Foundation (APF).

The platform operates according to the National Coordination Framework for the Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of SDGs (NCF-SDGs), which aims at facilitating smooth, efficient and effective coordination of the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs and other international and regional development commitments.

Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform self-organizes, coordinates and documents CSOs' contributions towards the implementation, follow up and monitoring of the SDGs.

The platform is part of the Africa Civil Society Working Group (AWG). Members of Tanzania National CSOs Platform on Sustainable Development consist of diverse civil society organizations from grassroots organizations to international non-governmental organizations and representing different constituencies seeking to contribute meaningfully towards the implementation and follow-up and review of sustainable development in Tanzania.

In 2019, the Platform conducted national CSOs consultations which led to Tanzania's first CSOs VNR report and CSOs contribution into the national VNR report.

At that time, the national review indicated that of the 17 Goals, the United Republic of Tanzania was doing reasonably well in addressing eight goals (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 16).

With commensurate domestic partnerships, efforts and international support, four goals (7, 9, 11 and 12) were expected to be achieved by the target year 2030. Five goals (1, 13, 14, 15 and 17) were considered to need extra efforts to be achieved.

Maeda added that in March 2022, Tanzania was accepted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to submit its second VNR report to the High Level Political Forum in July 2023. The Ministry of Finance and Planning therefore informed the Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform to start the national CSOs VNR consultations.

Tanzania emerges victorious in battle against Marburg: A triumph of vigilance, teamwork

By George Mwita

TANZANIA, East Africa's vibrant nation, has achieved an extraordinary milestone in the realm of public health. With unwavering determination and meticulous surveillance, the Ministry of Health, under the guidance of Umyy Mwalimu, Minister for Health and the visionary leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, has successfully quashed the Marburg virus outbreak that threatened the nation. This remarkable achievement not only demonstrates Tanzania's commitment to safeguarding its citizens but also underscores the nation's ability to combat infectious diseases through collaboration, resilience, and unwavering resolve.

Marburg, a highly infectious and often fatal virus, belongs to the family of filoviruses, alongside its notorious cousin, Ebola. Its arrival in Kagera Region in Tanzania sent shockwaves throughout the nation and raised concerns about potential devastation. However, thanks to the effective surveillance system in place, Tanzanian health

authorities swiftly detected and responded to the outbreak, preventing a catastrophic escalation.

The Ministry of Health, led by the dynamic and dedicated Minister, Umyy, played a pivotal role in orchestrating an integrated and comprehensive response. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the ministry promptly activated emergency protocols and mobilized resources to swiftly contain the spread of the virus. This response included deploying expert medical teams to affected regions, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, and establishing quarantine measures to isolate and treat infected individuals.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health demonstrated its commitment to transparency and effective communication by disseminating accurate and timely information to the public. Through regular press briefings and public service announcements, the ministry ensured that citizens were well-informed about the situation, providing critical guidance on preventive measures and

dispelling rumors or misinformation that could have fueled panic and hindered the response efforts.

The successful containment of the Marburg outbreak can also be attributed to the strong leadership and strategic vision of President Samia. Recognizing the threat posed by infectious diseases, Dr. Samia made public health a top priority for her administration. Her unwavering commitment to the well-being of Tanzanians galvanized the entire nation and instilled confidence in the effectiveness of the response.

President Samia worked tirelessly to garner international support, forging partnerships with global health organizations, neighboring countries, and experts in the field. This collaboration bolstered Tanzania's ability to respond effectively by providing technical expertise, resources, and medical supplies. It further highlighted Tanzania's commitment to global health security and its willingness to share knowledge and best practices in the fight against infectious diseases.

The success against Marburg is a testament to Tanzania's remarkable ability to leverage its strengths, overcome challenges, and harness the power of collaboration. By mobilizing a vast network of healthcare professionals, scientists, community leaders, volunteers and NGOs, Tanzania created a unified front against the virus. This collective effort showcased the resilience and determination of the Tanzanian people, who united in their commitment to protect their fellow citizens and their nation's future.

Tanzania's accomplishment in combating Marburg goes beyond the immediate containment of the outbreak. It also serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of investing in public health infrastructure and disease surveillance systems. The nation's effective response can be attributed to years of strategic planning, capacity building, and investment in healthcare facilities and personnel. Tanzania has set a precedent for other nations to follow, demonstrating that a proactive and well-prepared approach to public health can save countless lives and

preserve societal well-being.

As Tanzania emerges triumphant in the battle against Marburg, the world looks on with admiration and respect. The nation's success serves as a beacon of hope, showcasing what can be achieved when a government, its people, and international partners unite in the face of adversity. Tanzania's commitment to vigilance, collaboration, and scientific innovation has not only safeguarded its own citizens but has also contributed to global efforts to combat infectious diseases.

In conclusion, the victory against Marburg in Tanzania stands as a shining example of effective leadership, comprehensive preparedness, and unwavering determination. Minister Umyy and President Samia deserve recognition and commendation for their exceptional efforts in protecting the nation. Tanzania's success serves as a powerful reminder that, in the face of formidable challenges, humanity's resilience and collective action can prevail, ensuring a healthier and more secure future for all.

Ramaphosa embarks on attempted 'course correction' of SA's Russia stance

By Peter Fabricius

President Cyril Ramaphosa has embarked on a "course correction", despatching special envoys to the G7 countries to try to counter the damaging impression that South Africa has become pro-Russian.

A growing opinion in the government and the ANC – which Ramaphosa himself apparently shares – that Russian President Vladimir Putin should not come to South Africa in August to attend the BRICS summit appears to be part of the same rethink.

A report from the SA Reserve Bank last week that secondary US sanctions could have a "catastrophic" impact on the SA economy, by cutting SA out of the US financial system and triggering a financial crisis, appears to have jolted the government into pre-emptive action to try to persuade the US and other G7 countries that Pretoria does in fact remain non-aligned.

Late in May, Ramaphosa appointed International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor as his special envoy to the G7 specifically to explain the six-president African peace initiative to Russia and Ukraine that he is part of.

The presidents are expected to visit Ukraine and Russia next week. Pandor met her French counterpart and spoke by phone to the German and Italian foreign ministers on 26 May and to British Foreign Secretary James

Cleverly the following week. Pretoria is still trying to organise meetings or calls with the US, Canada and Japan.

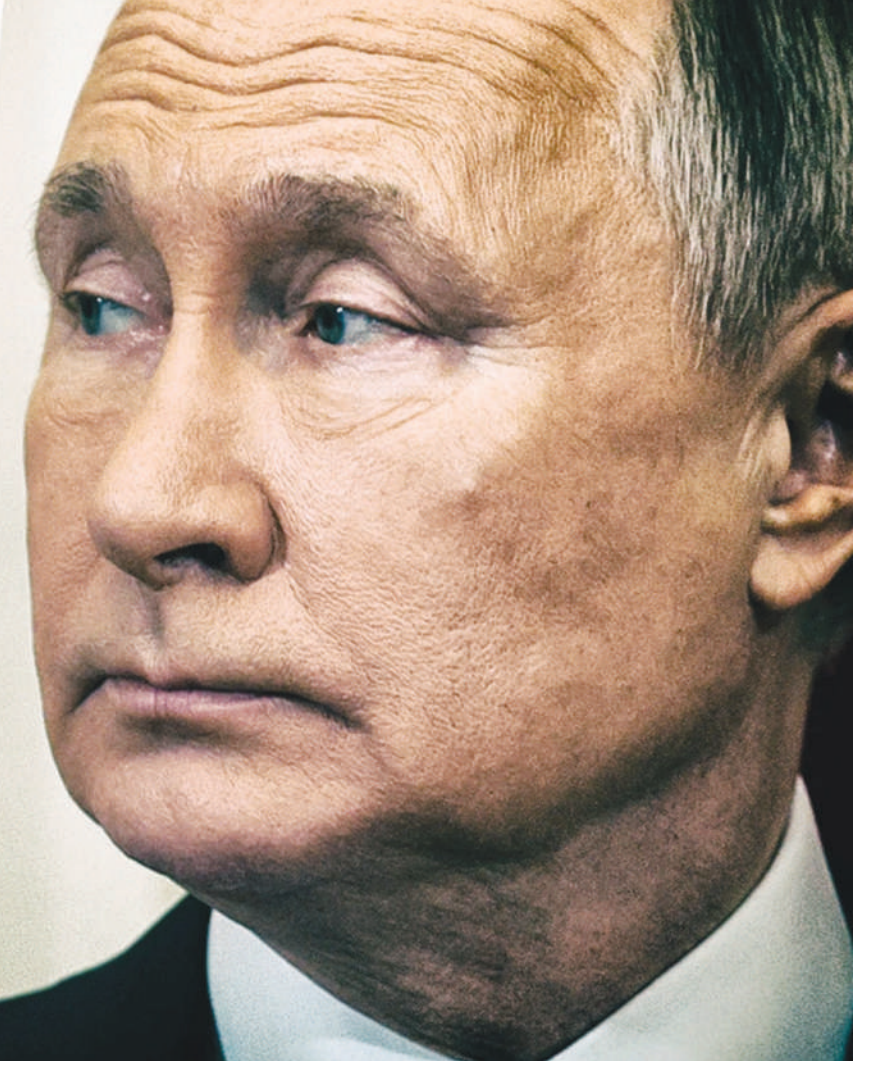
Mission scope expands

But then last week, Ramaphosa expanded both the size and the scope of the mission to the G7, announcing in Parliament that because of concerns "raised about our commitment to our non-aligned position", he was also sending Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, Trade, Industry and Commerce Minister Ebrahim Patel and Minister in the Presidency responsible for State Security Khumbudzo Ntshavheni "as my envoys to the G7 countries, to explain our peace mission and to deal with various diplomatic matters".

The impression South Africa has created in Western capitals, particularly Washington, DC, that it has abandoned its professed "non-aligned" stance on Russia's war against Ukraine and is moving steadily closer to Moscow is the source of SA's deteriorating relations with the G7.

Pretoria has contributed to this perception by holding a joint naval exercise with Russia and China which coincided with the anniversary of Russia's 24 February 2022 invasion of Ukraine; by sending several high-level government or ANC delegations to Moscow and by allowing the US-sanctioned cargo ship Lady R to secretly dock in the Simon's Town Naval Base last December.

According to Defence Minister Thandi Modise, the Lady R offloaded Russian ammunition for SA's Special Forces. But last month the US ambassador to SA, Reuben Brigety, dropped a diplomatic bombshell by claiming he had hard evidence that weapons and ammunition bound for Russia were also loaded on to the Lady



From left: President Cyril Ramaphosa. (Photo: Gallo Images / Luba Lesolle) | Russian President Vladimir Putin. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Vladimir Smirnov / Kremlin Pool)

R. This claim remains unproven, but the accumulation of these episodes has persuaded Western governments that Pretoria is joining the Russian camp.

A little confused Western diplomats are nonetheless a little confused by Ramaphosa's G7 special envoys initiative. Initially, Pandor was the only envoy and her mission was just to explain the African peace mission which Ramaphosa was originally expected to embark on this week, with the presidents of Senegal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Egypt and Uganda.

The visit of the six presidents to Kyiv to meet President Volodymyr Zelensky and to Moscow to meet Putin was postponed probably to mid-June, apparently because of the African presidents' clashing schedules.

Diplomatic sources told Daily Maverick that, as a special envoy of Ramaphosa, Pandor first sought meetings with the G7 heads of state, but none could see her, so she was "defaulted" to her counterparts.

She met French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna in Paris on 26 May and spoke telephonically to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, and to Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani as neither could meet her in person.

Daily Maverick understands a phone call between Pandor with Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly is being arranged. It is not clear if calls with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi

have also been finalised. G7 embassies in Pretoria have apparently not yet been asked to arrange meetings or phone calls with Ramaphosa's other three special envoys.

Defence delegation

An announcement by the SA Department of Defence on Sunday that it was sending a 20-member delegation to Washington this week to participate in the 19th SA-US defence committee meeting is also being viewed by some observers as part of Pretoria's "course correction".

Sources said the SA defence department did not usually make a fuss about this routine meeting and that the announcement appeared to have been designed to send a message that South Africa also enjoys close defence cooperation with the US and not just Russia.

The statement said the meeting with the US would continue and consolidate the "Strategic Defence Relationship and partnership between the two countries".

It said the SA delegation would be headed by the acting secretary for defence, Thobekile Gamede.

The moves in the ANC and the government to withdraw Putin's invitation to visit SA for the BRICS summit are apparently also a part of the course correction. Senior government official sources have told Daily Maverick that Pretoria was exploring the possibility of asking China to host the summit instead or to hold it entirely online.

At the weekend, the Sunday Times quoted ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula as saying SA would not undermine its membership of

the International Criminal Court (ICC) by welcoming Putin to the country and not complying with the ICC warrant to arrest him. The ICC issued the arrest warrant in March, charging Putin with complicity in the abduction and deportation to Russia of Ukrainian children during the war.

Mbalula suggested that the BRICS Summit would still be held in Johannesburg, but that Putin would be asked to participate remotely. Other government sources have said the thinking is that Pretoria will ask China to host the summit – or it will be held entirely online. They said inviting the other three leaders to participate in person while only Putin remained online would be insulting to him.

Western diplomats skeptical

The interministerial committee which Ramaphosa appointed last month to discuss how to resolve the Putin dilemma was expected to meet on Monday and to make recommendations for the Cabinet to finalise.

Some Western diplomats are sceptical about Ramaphosa's diplomatic charm offensive changing perceptions about SA's Russia stance.

One said that the G7 countries did not need envoys to explain SA's nonaligned stance, but needed Pretoria to act in line with this professed stance.

Another saw Ramaphosa's despatch of the special envoys as largely a "course correction" after the Lady R incident, the naval exercise and the possibility Putin might attend the BRICS Summit in person.

But this diplomat wondered what substance the special envoys would put into this course correction.

In her conversations with G7 foreign ministers so far, Pandor has evidently been told very clearly that the six African presidents' peace initiative is a non-starter if it does not respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In other words, no peace plan will be accepted unless it is based on Moscow returning to Ukraine the approximately 18% of its territory which Russian troops now occupy.

Italy's Tajani, for example, told Pandor that Italy appreciated South Africa's commitment to negotiations "towards a just, comprehensive, lasting peace in Ukraine that will comply with the UN Charter and Kyiv's sovereign prerogatives".

"It is crucial to foster favourable conditions for Kyiv and to put pressure on Moscow. Only in this way can a path to peace be set in motion and the primacy of international law be re-established.

"We believe that South Africa, and Africa in general, can contribute to our efforts by articulating the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities to Moscow," Tajani noted.

An official from another country whose foreign minister Pandor had been told that any peace plan would have to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and the UN Charter.

The charter states in Article 2 (4) that all UN members "shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state". DM

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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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Dar STICE to attract over 500 participants

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 500 participants are expected to participate in the eight Science, Technology and Innovation Conference and Exhibitions (STICE) where experts will exchange views on the promotion of science and technology for development.

Themed: "Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable development", this year's STICE gives an opportunity for researchers and innovators to share experiences and propose workable solutions for policymakers and adopt in the wider goal of advancing Tanzania's sustainable development agenda.

Dr Amos Nungu, director general of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) unveiled this in Dar es Salaam on Monday when briefing editors on the next week's STICE event.

He stated that the conference offers a platform to share wide-ranging issues on what researchers and innovators

have been doing, the challenges they face and how the same could effectively be dealt with.

"This is an opportunity for the government to inform researchers and innovators and the general public of its plans regarding science and innovations.

According to him, it's also an opportunity for policy makers to get information to help them make decisions.

A number of presentations will be made while several other researchers will be exhibiting their innovations.

There will also be also debates on innovation work. "The main topic will be to look at the system of science and innovations and its contributions to the society. In that we'll look at the readiness of the government in the establishment of industries," he said.

We'll also look at the green economy and climate change and extensively discuss creativity and people's development," he said.



Jenipha Omolo (R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, and Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata consult during the opening of training on the use of improved Electronic Withholding Tax Management Systems for Accountants from Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Government Institutions. The training was organised by TRA in collaboration with the ministry in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Oil erases all gains after Saudi Arabia-led production cut

SINGAPORE

Oil erased all the gains that followed Saudi Arabia's surprise weekend pledge for extra supply cuts.

West Texas Intermediate dipped below \$71 a barrel on Tuesday, down by about \$1 from Friday's close. The drop comes after Monday's short-lived surge following the tense OPEC+ meeting and Saudi announcement. The kingdom also raised its crude prices for July.

Saudi Arabia pledged to do "whatever is necessary" to stabilize the market with concerns over the demand outlook, especially from China, weighing on prices in recent weeks. Oil tumbled 11% last month, in part due to resilient Russian output, despite the OPEC+ producer saying earlier this year it would reduce supply.

"The Saudis undoubtedly believed a unilateral cut of 1 million would give prices a boost," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank A/S.

"The 10% production cut would need an \$8 higher price to keep revenues stable, and that is clearly not happening. But considering the higher fuel burn inside the kingdom during the next couple of months, exports will be lower."

Saudi Arabia followed its move to cut output in July with an increase to its crude prices for the same month. That's pushing some Asian refiners to consider buying more crude from other suppliers including Russia.

WTI oil prices have also fallen further down the futures curve, with prices for December 2023 and 2024 lower than Friday's close.

"Demand is looking weaker and non-OPEC supply stronger by year-end than many analysts had forecast," Citigroup Inc. analysts said in a note. The bank's view is now "even more bearish demand for 2H '23 than it was at the start of the year. This is particularly true for China, and not only in oil but across commodities."

GGML now educates, equips local communities on plastic pollution

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GGML Gold Mining Limited (GGML), one of AngloGold Ashanti's flagship mines in Tanzania, marked World Environment Day on 5 June with educational activities on the different types of plastics and the donation of containers that enable the public to properly separate plastic waste.

The event took place in Geita town, where GGML staff and local authorities worked together to raise awareness about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling plastics.

World Environment Day is an important global event organised by the United Nations Environment Programme, and this year the theme is 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution'. Plastic waste is a global problem that poses many threats to the environment, wildlife and human health.

GGML is aware that mining has a direct impact on the environment as land and water resources need to be developed. The company is committed to environmental stewardship and has taken various measures to minimise its environmental footprint and enhance its positive contribution to the communities around Geita.

One of these measures is the management of plastic waste from various sources such as packaging materials, personal protective equipment, water bottles and food containers. The company also trains all employees and contractors to separate and dispose of different types of waste using



GGML senior communication officer, Laurian Pima addresses residents of Uwanja Street in Geita District on the importance of separating plastic waste in continuation of the company's efforts to preserve the environment.

colour-coded and labelled bins. All employees and contractors receive environmental training to ensure compliance with waste management policies and procedures.

Mine's Environmental Manager, Yusuph Mhando, said: "We are proud to celebrate World Environment Day and share our best practices with the communities

around Geita. We believe that by educating and empowering people to properly separate plastic waste, we can make a positive difference in the fight against plastic pollution. We also encourage everyone to embrace the 3Rs principle: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle plastics whenever possible."

GGML takes its duty to limit its environmental impact very

seriously and is committed to responsible environmental management. The mine has been operating in Tanzania for over twenty years and is one of the largest and most compliant taxpayers in the country. It employs over 5,000 people both directly and through contractors, about 98% of whom are Tanzanian nationals.

Marking 50th anniversary of Swedish-Tanzanian relations



Prof Makame Mbarawa

By Guardian Correspondent

The governments of Tanzania and Sweden, together with stakeholders in the automotive and transportation sector, have come together to celebrate 50 years of SCANIA, a leading company in the production of transport vehicles, marking half a century since the company, which originated in Sweden, entered the Tanzanian market.

Speaking at the celebration event marking 50 years of SCANIA in the country, Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said that the cooperation between two

countries has enabled innovation and significant development for many years.

"I congratulate SCANIA and all its employees for their great work in strengthening the relations between our countries. This shows the strength of cooperation. I urge them to continue to focus on the quality of their work. I am particularly impressed by these natural gas-powered vehicles, which will reduce operating costs and air pollution," said Professor Mbarawa.

"The government is considering the possibility of introducing a subsidy program to encourage more people to buy vehicles that

use natural gas. This will help us," he added.

The Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania, Charlotta Ozaki Macias, speaking at the commemoration event held in Dar es Salaam, congratulated SCANIA, saying it is unique for a company to last for 50 years in the Tanzanian market.

"I congratulate SCANIA for reaching 50 years in the country, and it is unique to last in the market for all those years. Sweden and Tanzania have a long history and great working relationships in many areas of development such as democracy, human rights, infrastructure, and so on. One of my goals as an ambassador

is to see increased trade and investment between our two nations, and I believe that SCANIA has an important role to play in this cooperation in the area of ensuring that Tanzania moves towards a green economy," she said.

The 50th-anniversary celebration event in Tanzania was attended by various people who gathered to learn about SCANIA's journey in the transport sector in Tanzania, with the Managing Director of Scania Tanzania, Lars Eklund, stressing that they continue to look for investment opportunities in the country to promote Tanzania's development.

Singida's gold mine in Tanzania achieves commercial production

PERTH

Am-listed Shanta Gold has announced that its Singida gold mine, in Tanzania, has achieved commercial production.

CEO Eric Zurrin said this followed a rapid ramp-up period after the first gold pour on March 30, after achieving 30 consecutive days of mill throughput, exceeding 95 percent of nominal name-plate capacity of 1,000 t/d, overall plant use and gold recovery exceeding 95 percent and plant availability above 90 percent.

In addition, key necessary permits and equipment are all in place, along with key personnel required to maintain stable production at Singida, with the first gold shipments having been successfully completed last month.

"The mine delivered steady results against production key performance indicators, including consistent gold production and higher-than-expected gold recoveries, culminating in several successful gold shipments.

"I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our team, which has successfully designed and delivered the project over the past two years from construction through to commercial production,"



Zurrin said on June 1.

He added that, with this key milestone achieved, he was confident that Shanta had reached an inflection point at which the company could now look further forward for its next phase of growth.

In addition, Zurrin said mining activities at the Gold Tree open-pit were progressing according to schedule, with nearly six months' worth of feed already stockpiled and positive grade reconciliation against the resource model being achieved.

The current stockpile totaled 187,673 t at 2.17 g/t gold, containing 13.09-million ounces, inclusive of 37,844 t grading 2.40 g/t gold, containing 2,917 oz for in-plant crushed ore.

Zurrin said the cash flow contribution from Singida materially increased financial flexibility for the company, allowing management to comfortably take the next steps required in its growth journey.

"This has already been demonstrated through our recent decision to undertake targeted investment

in drilling throughout the Shanta portfolio, where we see material opportunities for reserves and resource growth.

"With our balance sheet in a healthy position, underpinned by two producing gold mines delivering 100 000 oz/y, we are excited by the potential that Shanta has to offer," Zurrin said.

All key internal commercial production measurements have been achieved, including processing rate, plant availability, gold recovery and plant utilisa-

tion, with mining activities progressing according to schedule. Zurrin said the 2023 financial year production guidance for Singida would be published later this month, along with a five-year forecast.

The company announced the first gold pour on 30 March 2023, on schedule and on budget.

Through increased local employment and subsequent economic activity, as well as our investment in initiatives focused on improving health, water, and education services,

Singida has already started to transform the social and economic potential of the region.

Meanwhile, exploration drilling is planned for the third quarter to target reserve additions and resource conversion, tapping into the 885,000 oz of resources currently outside the reserve-based mine plan.

Zurrin has announced that he is to depart the East Africa-focused gold producer, developer and explorer in September this year.



'Inflation is strong, ECB to hike further'

BRUSSELS

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said inflation pressures remain powerful and borrowing costs will be raised further to tackle them – cementing expectations for another interest-rate hike at next week's meeting.

With the full effects of the ECB's already historic monetary-tightening campaign still materializing, Lagarde reiterated that there's no clear evidence that underlying inflation has peaked. Food inflation, for one, remains elevated, she said Monday.

"Price pressures remain strong," Lagarde told European Union lawmakers in Brussels. "Our future decisions will ensure that the policy rates will be brought to levels sufficiently restrictive to achieve a timely return of inflation to our 2% medium-term target and will be kept at those levels for as long as necessary, she said.

The remarks, while largely reiterating language many ECB officials have been using of late, indicate that the recent bout of rate increases isn't done just yet. Despite May bringing a second straight slowdown in the gauge of core inflation that's currently the focus of policymakers, most investors and analysts predict another hike on June 15.

Ireland's Gabriel Makhoulouf has said the ECB is likely to raise at both its June and July meetings – bringing the deposit rate to 3.75% from 3.25% now. Ignazio Visco, the more dovish head of Italy's central bank, said at the weekend that "would have pushed for a more gradual approach" to hikes, which have totaled 375 basis points since last July.

Speaking separately on Monday, Bundesbank President Joachim Nagel once again suggested that rate increases may need to persist beyond July.

"As things stand, several interest-rate steps are still needed," he said in a speech. "In my view, it is by no means certain that interest rates will reach their peak as early as this summer."

Discussing euro-zone banks following the wider turbulence in that industry, Lagarde was optimistic.

"Financial stability in the euro area has proved robust so far, but we continue to assess possible risks, taking into account a wide range of indicators," she said. "We do not see a trade-off between financial stability and price stability in the euro area."

Global carbon markets face upheaval as nations remake the rules

NEW YORK

The \$2-billion market for carbon offsets is heading for a massive reset, as a growing number of sovereign governments announce their intention to tax, regulate or restrict trade in credits generated within their borders.

The details vary, but from Indonesia to Kenya to Honduras, the goals are the same: Governments want to retain more of the benefits of emissions-reduction projects, whether as revenue or as credit toward their own national climate goals.

"If you are a developing country and you have the right kinds of project opportunities, you've got a golden goose," said Mark Lewis, head of climate research at Andurand Capital Management.

For countries with dense rainforests, mangrove swamps or other natural carbon sinks, carbon credits are increasingly considered alongside valuable minerals and metals like gold, lithium or copper.

"Commodities markets have created the precedent," said Samuel Gill, president and co-founder of Sylvera, a carbon research and ratings firm. "It is almost inevitable that nations come to see and treat carbon as any other national resource."

That wake-up call has been prompted



in part by a growing awareness that, as of now, governments and local stakeholders might receive just a tiny slice of the revenues made by foreign project developers, said Pablo Fernandez, chief executive of Eco-securities, a project developer and investor.

For example, most of the €100-million in proceeds from one of the biggest offset projects, a forest-protection site called Kariba in Zimbabwe, were accrued by the Swiss developer South Pole and

its Guernsey partner Carbon Green Investments. In Mexico, BP paid rural villagers a small fraction of the market value of the credits generated on their forest land, according to a 2022 Bloomberg Green investigation. "I'm not saying it's the pattern of the market, but we do have some projects that are badly designed and badly executed," Fernandez said. "That leads to these situations."

At the same time, carbon credits have new value for emerging markets. Under the

1997 Kyoto Protocol, wealthy countries had emissions targets and could buy credits from projects in developing countries to meet them. The 2015 Paris Agreement introduced targets for all, developing countries included, effective from 2020.

This means governments now view the units not just of a source of revenue, but as a tool to meet their international obligations. "The Paris Agreement acknowledges emissions as sovereign liabilities," said

Finn O'Muircheartaigh, director of policy and markets at BeZero Carbon, a research and ratings firm. "Countries are now recognizing they also have sovereign assets, which are their ability to reduce carbon or sequester carbon."

The new sovereign trading market is being set up by the United Nations, with an accounting framework that prevents the same credit from being applied to more than one country's climate goal. That means countries will have to decide if and when credits produced within their borders will be made available for use by others and when they'll be used for national goals.

Though the details are still being fine-tuned, some countries have already begun to strike deals to ensure supply. More than three quarters of countries say they plan to or are considering using the UN carbon market to meet their targets, known as "nationally determined contributions."

"Adjusting the amount of supply going to NDCs, rather than offset markets, has big implications," according to BNEF, which predicts the voluntary offset market could reach \$1-trillion by 2037.

BAT cuts contracted farmers' pay to five-year low

NAIROBI

Earnings for farmers contracted by British American Tobacco (BAT) Kenya have dropped at the fastest pace in more than five years largely on falling production, the firm says in its latest annual filing to shareholders.

BAT Kenya says payment to its contracted leaf farmers dropped 21.17 percent to Sh946 million last year, down from Sh1.2 billion in 2021.

This reflects the growing shift in tobacco-growing zones to more productive and sustainable crops.

The pay was the lowest since Sh831 million in 2017, according to an analysis of the company books,

signalling falling tobacco leaf yields over the years amid the reduced domestic sale of cigarettes.

The publicly-traded firm said tobacco leaf yield by farmers – largely concentrated in Migori, Bungoma, Meru and Busia counties – dropped 30.56 percent year-on-year to a new low of five million kilograms in 2022.

This means earnings per kilo averaged Sh189.20, a growth of 13.52 percent over Sh166.67 in 2021.

"We introduced elite tobacco seed varieties which guarantee better yield and disease resistance. To date, 53 percent of the tobacco planted is of the elite variety, which has significantly enhanced farmer's fortunes," BAT Kenya wrote in the

2022 annual report.

Farmers have been transitioning from tobacco to alternative higher-yielding crops like beans in recent years in projects funded by anti-tobacco organizations, including United Nations agencies like World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The yield has fallen by nearly half from a recent high of 8.9 million kilograms in 2019.

BAT Kenya's net profit in the review year grew 6.3 percent to Sh6.89 billion, with shareholders set for a total payout to Sh57 per share after a virtual annual general meeting scheduled for June 15.

"We believe that crop diversification can help mitigate agricultural economic risk by reducing farmers' dependency on tobacco as a single source of income. This is especially important on the back of climate change impacts," Mimi Mavuti, the head of business communication and sustainability for BAT Kenya, East and Southern Africa, said in a statement on May 29.

"Further, given that the tobacco crop is in the ground for only six months in a year, the subsistence crops enable farmers to drive food security and earn extra income from the sale of surplus harvest, as well as improve soil health."

BAT's contracted tobacco leaf

farmers have shrunk by nearly two-thirds to 2,083 last year from 5,537 producers, according to the company reports.

Farmers ditching the crop – whose end-product has been linked to increased risk of contracting life-threatening diseases such as cancer as well as lung and heart diseases – are usually provided with farm inputs such as seeds and fertilizers by financiers like the UN-led Tobacco-Free Farms project.

The giant cigarette maker, whose parent is the world's largest by sales, is investing heavily in a strategy aimed at keeping pace with health-conscious consumers who have been gradually moving away from tobacco smoking.

BAT Kenya has completed the building of the oral nicotine pouches manufacturing plant in Nairobi primarily targeting the 21-member Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) bloc at a cost of Sh1.5 billion.

An additional Sh1 billion budget was earmarked for marketing and distribution campaigns for products consumed by placing between the upper lip and gum.

"To fully commercialise it [oral nicotine pouches factory], we need to have more confidence in the fiscal [taxation] and regulatory framework that is applied to these products," Crispin Achola, the managing director of BAT Kenya, said in an interview in March.

Mining company breaks silence on menstrual hygiene

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has taken steps to support menstrual hygiene initiatives in the areas where we operate.

This is due to the fact that the mining company believes that by improving menstrual hygiene could empower women and girls, reduce stigma and discrimination, and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day, which is observed on 28 May every year, GGML organised a series of activities to raise awareness and address the challenges associated with menstrual hygiene. One of these was a visit to Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School, where members of the community team spoke to hundreds of students about this important issue. GGML invited a health worker to explain the biological and psychological aspects of menstruation and proper menstrual hygiene. GGML also distributed 72 boxes of sanitary pads to the students and showed them how to use them properly, a company that values sustainability and com-



GGML's Community relations officer, Ruth Mharagi giving information to the Nyankumbu students about sanitary pads.

munity development, is taking On that day the mining firm organised a rally with the Geita Town Council to mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day in Geita. The rally was attended by various stakeholders including local government officials, civil society organisations, media and community members. The aim of the rally was to spread the message that menstrual hygiene is a human rights issue, not just

a health issue, and that every person who menstruates deserves respect and dignity. Gilbert Mworia, GGML senior manager for sustainability said: "GGML is proud to be part of this global movement to break the silence on menstrual hygiene and create a more inclusive and supportive environment for people who menstruate." He said: "We hope our efforts will inspire others to join us and

make a positive difference in the lives of millions of women and girls around the world." Georgia Mugasha, headmistress of the Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School said the issue of safe and clean menstruation ways is a priority that has been set for a safe environment in every area of the school. The headmistress said they regularly teach the students about reproductive health and how to take

precautions, due to their tender ages.

She added: "Everywhere we put pads in their hostels/dormitories they have them, if they are in school there is a special room for girls that has pads and infrastructure for change.

"Others are placed in the doctor's or nurse's clinic near this school... so even if a student has stomach pain going to the hospital will also enable her to get free pads so everyone in the neighbourhood gets this service free."

Elaborating, she noted that the menstruation education and clean and safe ways is being provided at all levels from school to students in collaboration with the District Council involving the parents.

"We explain to parents that right now the issue of clean and safe menstruation is something that every girl should have, not something to hide as a taboo, so we talk to them to make them they become aware of their responsibility.

"In the WhatsApp group, the parents of all the students are reached as members, where we make it clear that every month a parent must think of allocating a budget to her daughter for the purchase of the pads, or simply put buy her one packet of pads

that sells 1, 500/- or 2000/-," she said.

In addition to these methods, she noted that they always use the forums to educate parents and girls on the importance of clean and safe menstruation for further their hygiene and health.

She also lauded GGML for continuing the efforts to help the students and the community around the mine with various equipment including pads that have become a lifesaver for the school's children and even reduced the cost of running the institution.

In celebration of World Menstruation Day this year, there was a national slogan that said: "Menstruation is precious and the foundation of health for girls and women, empower us".

The declaration was aimed at laying emphasis on safe menstruation for girls and mothers for the benefit of present and future generations.

Menstruation is a natural and healthy part of life, but for many people who menstruate, it is a source of shame, fear and discrimination. Lack of access to adequate menstrual hygiene products, facilities and education can have serious consequences for their health, education and livelihoods.

Absa now doubles gold units at NSE on high demand

NAIROBI

South Africa's Absa Bank Limited has doubled the units of gold-backed exchange-traded fund (ETF) at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) to match increased demand.

The NSE Limited has disclosed in the latest annual report that Absa, which was last December weighing to add between 250,000 to 400,000 units eventually settled for the maximum as investors sought out gold as a safe haven, exhausting supply.

The listing of 400,000 units doubled the number of units given that Absa had debuted the NSE with 400,000 units on March 27, 2017, promising to add more units depending on demand.

"As a result of the growing demand for the NewGold ETF the issuer listed an additional 400,000 units in the year (2022)," says NSE in the latest annual report.

The doubling of the listed units came on the back of increased demand, with a total of 827,400 units traded last year compared to 75,800 units in the previous year, representing a 10.9 times jump in volumes.

The NewGold ETF debuted on the NSE at Sh1,250 per unit but the price has been appreciating, especially last year as investors sought out gold as a safe haven.

"This reflects investor confidence in the asset's ability to support portfolio diversification and hedging amidst geo-political tensions in Europe," says NSE.

Globally, spot gold was traded at \$ 1,979.55 (Sh274,465) per ounce on Friday, with the daily prices

staying above \$1,900 (Sh263,435) since mid-March.

Each NewGold security is equivalent to about 1/100th of an ounce of gold, which is held in a secure depository on behalf of investors and is backed by physical gold.

The NewGold ETF last year gained by 15 percent on increased demand, registering a turnover of Sh1.28 billion compared to Sh139 million in 2021.

The price of the ETF rallied further in March, hitting historic highs of above Sh2,600 per unit. The ETF opened Friday trading at Sh2,560.

The current price translates to a year-to-date return of 15.47 percent in a market where more than half of stocks have shed value and even dragged the market to levels last seen a decade ago.

The NewGold ETF or Absa's gold-backed exchange-traded fund was first listed on the Johannesburg bourse in 2004 but it has since had secondary listings on other African exchanges, including Botswana, Nigeria, Mauritius, Namibia and Ghana.

The gold-backed fund is traded in the same manner as normal shares of companies and its price is based on the Kenya shilling equivalent of the prevailing international market price of gold in US dollars.

Data from World Gold Council, the market development organisation for the gold industry, showed ETFs backed by physical gold posted net inflows of \$824 million (Sh114.2 billion) in April while holdings increased by 15 tonnes to 3,459 tonnes of the yellow metal.



This reflects investor confidence in the asset's ability to support portfolio diversification and hedging amidst geo-political tensions in Europe,

UZALO

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

MONDAY 29 May	TUESDAY 30 May	WEDNESDAY 31 May	THURSDAY 1 June	FRIDAY 2 June
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:00 ITV Top Ten
11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Jungu Kuu
12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:40 Art and Lifestyle
13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:00 Art and Lifestyle
14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen	14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru:	15:00 Meza huru:	15:00 Meza huru:	15:00 Meza huru:	15:00 Meza huru:
16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 DW: Afrimaxx	18:15 DW: Afrimaxx	18:15 DW: Afrimaxx	18:15 DW: Afrimaxx	18:15 DW: Afrimaxx
18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela
19:00 Afa ya Jamii	19:00 Afa ya Jamii	19:00 Afa ya Jamii	19:00 Afa ya Jamii	19:00 Afa ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Bundesliga na DW	22:00 Bundesliga na DW	22:00 Bundesliga na DW	22:00 Bundesliga na DW	22:00 Bundesliga na DW
22:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV

CAPITAL TV

Wed 31 May	Thurs 01 June	Fri 02 June
06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Dw	09:00 Dw	09:00 Dw
11:00 Al Jazeera	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt	11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt	11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00 Dw News Africa rpt	12:00 Dw News Africa rpt	12:00 Dw News Africa rpt
12:30 Our Earth	12:30 Our Earth	12:30 Our Earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana	13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana	13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Business Edition Rpt	16:00 Business Edition Rpt	16:00 Business Edition Rpt
16:30 Culinary delight rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Sports Gazette	19:00 Sports Gazette	19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu	19:30 Chetu ni chetu	19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt	20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt	20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:	22:00 Dakika 45:	22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Décor	22:45 The Décor	22:45 The Décor
23:15 Al Jazeera	23:15 Al Jazeera	23:15 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Shelling, looting in Khartoum as military factions battle

KHARTOUM

SHELLING and heavy clashes hit areas of Sudan's capital on Monday, residents said, with reports of spreading lawlessness in Khartoum and in the western region of Darfur after more than seven weeks of conflict between rival military factions.

Fighting between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) intensified after the expiry late on Saturday of a ceasefire deal brokered by Saudi Arabia and the US.

The war has uprooted more than 1.2 million people within Sudan and sent about 400,000 fleeing into neighbouring countries, inflicting heavy damage on the capital where the remaining residents are at the mercy of battles, air strikes and looting.

On Monday, residents reported a second consecutive day of fighting across the three cities that make up the nation's wider capital - Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri. They said there had been rare ground clashes in Omdurman as well as shelling, and fighting in East Khartoum district and on the southern rim of the capital.

"The neighbourhood where we live in the centre of Omdurman is looted

publicly on a daily basis without anyone intervening to prevent it, with clashes and shelling continuing around us," said 37-year-old resident Mohamed Saleh.

In Khartoum East, RSF troops who have spread out in neighbourhoods across the capital were in full control and were looting extensively, said Waleed Adam, a resident of the area.

"You see them right in front of you, taking cars, money, gold - whatever they can get their hands on," he told Reuters by phone. "I guess it's just a matter of time until they come to my street."

The RSF says it has been working to protect civilians by arresting looters.

Darfur violence

Some of those who fled the war have headed to neighbouring countries including Chad, South Sudan, and Central African Republic (CAR) which are already struggling with poverty, conflict and a dip in humanitarian aid.

The arrival of nearly 14,000 people in northeastern CAR and a halt to cross-border trade "puts additional pressure on the limited resources available to the 130,000 extremely vulnerable people in the region," Mohamed Ag Ayoya, the UN humanitarian coordinator for CAR, told a press briefing in Geneva.



Smoke billows behind buildings from a reported fire in Khartoum, on Monday. AFP

The war has also triggered unrest in Darfur in Sudan's far west, a region that was already suffering from mass displacement due to earlier conflict and where residents in several cities and towns have reported attacks by militias linked to Arab nomadic tribes.

In recent days at least 40 people were killed and dozens more were wounded in Kutum in North Darfur State, according to activists who monitor the region. Residents have also reported widespread looting and insecurity in the area.

On Monday, the RSF, which has its power base in Darfur and its origins in the Arab-dominated militias, released a video purporting to show they had taken over the army headquarters in Kutum, a commercial hub and one of

the larger towns in the state.

There was no immediate comment from the army, which had denied on Sunday that the RSF had taken the town.

There have been long communication blackouts in parts of Darfur, where aid groups have found it especially complicated to bring in humanitarian supplies.

In El Obeid, a city 360 km (220 miles) southwest of Khartoum and on a key route from the capital to Darfur, residents reported large deployments of RSF forces and the closure of some roads.

Recent days have brought the first showers of the year in Khartoum, marking the start of a rainy season that is likely to complicate a relief effort already hampered by bureaucratic delays and logistical challenges.

West exerts efforts for humanitarian, military penetration into Central Asia - Lavrov

DUSHANBE

THE Western countries have been exerting efforts for humanitarian and military penetration into the Central Asian region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a speech at the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University yesterday.

"Today, we are witnesses to systematic efforts by the West to assertively penetrate in various ways, including humanitarian and military ones, into Central Asia," Lavrov said.

He urged the Central Asian partners to take a critical view of "the schemes of cooperation imposed by the West both in the military field and in law enforcement training programmes."

He also pointed out that the development assistance programs promoted by Western geopolitical engineers were in fact "instruments of control and of reformatting the political and economic landscape" of the Central Asian region to suit their standards.

"In part this concerns such a key area as water resources management, which we discussed earlier today," he added.

Earlier yesterday, Lavrov held talks with his Tajikistani counterpart Sirojiddin Muhriddin and was received by President Emomali Rahmon.



How funding slowdown is impacting startups in Singapore and India

SINGAPORE

STARTUP funding has been drying up of late. According to data from Crunchbase, total global venture funding started to fall in Q1 2022 from its peak of around USD187 billion in the last quarter of 2021. To be fair, 2021 was a unique year for various reasons (explained later in this article) and is not likely to be repeated any time soon.

In fact, the slowdown only became significant in the second half of 2022. The amount raised in the first two quarters of 2022 was in each quarter still higher than the USD100 billion raised in the last quarter of 2020.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking havoc on many industries and the global economy, the tech sector emerged as a beneficiary of the circumstances the world found itself in.

COVID-19 led to fundamental changes in the way people live and work.

"That creates new opportunities for entrepreneurs," said Harvard Business School professor Tom Eisenmann, author of Why Startups Fail. The crisis has also led to many talented, creative people losing their jobs, giving them more free time. "They'll spend that time cooking up startup ideas," he noted.

Many startups took advantage of the fact that COVID-19 accelerated the rollout of digital transformation initiatives, creating a sudden demand for innovative products and services.

On top of that, industries and investors gained from a loose monetary policy from central banks around the world and various government-led COVID-19 aid packages which made cheap financing available and encouraged risk-taking. Tech companies were valued richly and went public at prices that brought in huge profits for their investors. The crypto market was also booming.

However, in the second half of 2022, and into 2023, interest rates rose, valuations fell along with the stock markets, and crypto markets collapsed. A looming recession resulted in tech companies laying staff off. All these caused venture capitalists to rein in their investments.

Total global venture funding in 2022 came in at USD445 billion, falling 35 per cent compared with the USD681 billion startup received in 2021. The declining trend seen in 2022 continued into 2023.

In Southeast Asia, based on the startup tracking platform Tracxn, a total of USD 11 billion went into the region's startups in the first quarter of 2023. This is 69 per cent lower than the same quarter last year and down 42 per cent compared with Q4-2022. Across the region, seed-stage investments decreased 27 per cent year on year, and 73 per cent month on month.

However, it is interesting to note that the average deal size for late-stage investments was higher.

For Q1-2023, this stood at USD83 million compared to USD61 million from the same quarter last year, and USD68 million in Q4-2022. This may be a result of a flight to quality as well as venture capitalists betting on firms with more certain futures.

Segments that received the highest funding in the first quarter of this year are fintech, insurtech and auto tech.

Singapore attracted USD516 million in startup funding in Q1 of 2023, the highest in the region.

Top funding rounds in Singapore included fintech startup Aspire's USD100 million, and healthtech startup Holmusk, which raised USD45 million.

UN chief calls for global action to reduce plastic pollution

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for concerted global action to reduce plastic pollution.

The UN chief made the plea in a video message for an event at the UN headquarters in New York to mark World Environment Day, which falls on June 5.

This year's theme is "Solutions to Plastic Pollution."

Every year, over 400 million tons of plastic is produced worldwide, one-third of which is used just once. Every day, the equivalent of over 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic is dumped into oceans, rivers, and lakes, said Guterres.

"The consequences are catastrophic. Microplastics find

their way into the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe," he said. "Plastic is made from fossil fuels. The more plastic we produce, the more fossil fuel we burn, and the worse we make the climate crisis."

But, there are solutions, said Guterres.

Last year, the international community began negotiating a legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution, which is a promising first step, he said.

A new report by the UN Environment Programme shows that we can reduce plastic pollution by 80 per cent by 2040 if we act now to reuse, recycle, reorient, and diversify away from plastics.

Guterres called for concerted action. "We must



This picture taken on June 3, 2023 shows a wild elephant eating rubbish mixed with plastic waste at a dump in the eastern district of Ampara, Sri Lanka. (PHOTO / AFP)

work as one -- governments, companies, and consumers alike -- to break our addiction to plastics, champion zero waste, and build a truly circular economy. Together, let us

shape a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for all," he said.

Indian Navy takes green initiatives, imbibes green technologies

NEW DELHI

THE Navy, as a self-driven and environmentally responsible force, has always been committed towards environment protection and green initiatives.

As guardian of the seas, the Navy employs a number of ships, submarines and aircraft that have high energy intensity, thus increased energy efficiency is paramount in every operation and process the Navy undertakes, an official statement said on Sunday.

Some of the noteworthy initiatives towards 'Clean and Green Navy', are elaborated in succeeding paragraphs. IN has commissioned solar power with a cumulative capacity of 15.87MW which is in line with the Navy's objective of fulfilling Govt of India's 'Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNSM)' mission.

These plants are grid-connected utilising single-axis sun tracking technology with computerised monitoring & control. Additionally, the 16 MW capacity of SPVs is at various stages of execution.

As a maiden initiative, an indigenous make and patented retrofit device developed by M/s Chakr Innovations for reducing diesel engine emissions were installed on a shore-based Diesel Generator for long-term trials.

Trials have indicated a 70 per cent reduction in Hydrocarbon, Carbon Monoxide, and Particulate Matter in the engine's exhaust emissions.

The retrofit device for diesel engine exhaust emission reduction is being inducted in a phased manner on all land-based Diesel Gensets, and once inducted, it would go a long way in

enabling the Navy towards reducing the emissions levels further.

Towards combating oil spills at Naval harbours, eco-friendly marine bio-remedial agents have been indigenously developed through NMRL. The state-of-the-art technology is unique in the maritime domain. The product consists of a combination of micro-organisms and their growth stimulant, which consume various types of oils such as diesel, lubricating, dirty oils etc, thus cleaning the seawater from any oil contamination and its consequent damage to the marine ecosystem. ANI

Science-based measures implemented to protect old, valuable trees

OLD and valuable trees are "living fossils" that carry the memories of civilizations. Over the recent years, local authorities across China have been working to ensure that the responsibility of conserving and protecting old and valuable trees is fulfilled, rejuvenate them in a timely manner, and strengthen relevant monitoring and law enforcement, making remarkable progress in protecting and managing these plants.

In Guanhe village, Jinping township of Chongxin county, Pingliang, northwest China's Gansu province, there stands a gigantic pagoda tree that is 26 meters high. It has an east-west crown spread of 43.2 meters and a north-south one of 37.7 meters. According to estimation, the tree is more than 3,200 years old. Today, the ancient tree is still vibrant after living thousands of years,

Zhang Jizhen, head of Chongxin county's forestry and grassland bureau, told People's Daily that the county is home to 222 registered old and valuable trees.

The county has taken the protection of old and valuable trees as an important measure to advance ecological progress over the recent years. On one hand, it launched surveys to get the picture of relevant resources in the county; on the other hand, it improved policies and mechanisms to ensure the responsibility of protecting these plants is fulfilled.

Three surveys were conducted to get a knowledge of the trees more than 100 years old in the county by the county's forestry and grassland bureau and township governments,

which included field trips and in-situ calculation, and recorded the heights, ages, locations and altitudes of these trees. Zhang noted that the bureau also made "ID cards" for these plants which reveal their species, serial numbers, genera, classes of protection and managing organizations.

Besides, Chongxin county also recruited volunteers for the protection of registered old trees.

In Zhengding county, Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei province, there is a 600-year-old pagoda tree whose circumference is at least as long as the arm spans of two adults.

"I used to play under the tree when I was little," said Wang Yuhua, an official with Zhengding county's urban management department, who's respon-

sible for protecting the ancient tree. She does physical "checkups" for the tree every day.

"Ancient trees have lived a very long time and their roots widespread, which makes it difficult to distribute water and nutrients. Thus, these trees are prone to plant diseases," Wang told People's Daily.

Physical "checkups" for trees, just like those for humans, examine the health conditions of trees, including their trunk stability, growth situation, root vitality and soil quality which affects the growth of roots. Wang said.

The checkups not only reveal the health conditions of the trees, but also provide basis for the protection and rejuvenation of them.

According to Wang, detailed plans

have been made to ensure these checkups and daily maintenance are well carried out, and once problems are spotted, targeted measures will be implemented. The Yellow Crane Tower in Wuchang district, Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, is a famous historical site. Many old and valuable trees are growing around it in the Yellow Crane Tower park.

Shi Hongwen, director of the center for the protection of old and valuable trees in Wuhan, noted that each old tree around the Yellow Crane Tower has its own protection plan, which was formulated based on its species, age, growth situation and the environment it is in. In the eastern section of the Yellow Crane Tower park, there is a big ginkgo tree encircled by an iron fence

as tall as an adult. The fence was erected in 2016 because some citizens often did exercise under the tree, which impacted the growth of the tree's root. After the fence was erected, the park designated another site where citizens can do exercise. This move has put the tree under better protection while addressing the demand of citizens.

In April 2017, a technical code for routine maintenance and rejuvenation engineering of historical trees in urban areas was implemented. According to the code, the maintenance of these trees shall be prioritized, which is the basis for rejuvenation. Feed and bleed, fertilization, pest control, crown cleaning, environment treatment and other technologies should be applied to maintain historical trees, the code said.

People's Daily

Russia sees no prospects for further extension of grain deal – MFA

MOSCOW

RUSSIA sees no prospects for extending the grain deal again, but consultations with UN representatives on existing agreements continue, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin told reporters on Monday.

When asked by TASS about the chances of extending the grain deal he replied:

“We do not see them, but we continue, of course, consultations with UN representatives on both parts of those package agreements that, as you know, were signed in July last year.”

The diplomat stressed that Ukraine has been putting forward various conditions for the implementation of the grain deal, which has already brought the situation to a standstill.

“We have said several times that ammonia is included in the agreements that were signed in Istanbul. This implies that it should be exported and sold as a mutually beneficial commercial transaction. Unfortunately, putting forward various kinds of requirements, as Kiev does, is very bad, and has already brought the situation to a standstill,” the deputy foreign minister said.

Vershinin also recalled that the Russian side proceeds from the fact that “the concluded and existing agreements must be implemented in full.”

“This means - without distortions in one direction or the other,” he stressed.

The senior diplomat also announced that the Joint Coordination Center (JCC) in Istanbul has resumed ship inspections under the grain deal.

“As far as we know, the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul is working to overcome all the problems that arise, based on the procedural rules that were unanimously approved last year. It is assumed that there will be a consensus solution to emerging problems. Now these inspections are being resumed,” he said.

About grain deal

On July 22, 2022, a package of documents on the supply of food and fertilizers to the international market was signed in Istanbul. Initially, the agreements were concluded for 120 days, in November of last year they were extended for the same period.

On March 18, 2023, Russia announced a 60-day extension of the deal, warning that this would be enough time to evaluate the implementation of the memorandum signed with the UN.

Following the results of the talks between the delegations of Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and the UN held in Istanbul on May 10-11, Vershinin reported that the grain deal would be terminated if Moscow did not receive guarantees by May 18 that its requirements regarding the export of agricultural products and fertilizers would be met.

On May 17, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the grain deal had been extended for two months starting May 18.

The Russian Foreign Ministry previously emphasized that the part of the agreement that concerns obligations to Moscow is not being fulfilled. Russia, in particular, insisted its ships be given renewed access to foreign ports, normalizing the situation with dry cargo insurance, reconnecting the Russian Agricultural Bank the SWIFT interbank payment system and launching the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline.

Agencies

Commerce Ministry slams US sanctions on Chinese entities

CHINA firmly opposes the sanctions imposed by the United States on Chinese entities and individuals for allegedly supplying equipment that manufactures fentanyl, said the country's Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

The comment came after the US Treasury Department recently slapped sanctions on seven entities and six people based in China, accusing them of enabling counterfeit, fentanyl-laced pill production.

China has always enforced rigorous anti-drug measures and tried its best to help the US side cope with the problem

of fentanyl in a humanitarian spirit, the ministry said in a statement.

Disregarding the facts, the US side accused Chinese entities and individuals of selling pill press machines and other equipment used to make fentanyl to the US and Mexico, and imposed sanctions on them, in an attempt to obscure the views of the public and shift the blame onto China, the ministry said.

China firmly opposes the misconduct of the US and will protect the lawful rights and interests of Chinese entities and individuals, the ministry added.

Agencies

Gender equality ‘significantly important’ for a world without hunger, says UN chief

KABUL

As the situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate under the Taliban's hardline regime, taking a veiled dig, UN Chief Antonio Guterres has said that gender equality is essential for a world without hunger, adding accessing education will increase food security for women and girls, reported Khaama Press.

In a tweet on Saturday, the UN Secretary-General stated that gender equality is a fundamental requirement that must be addressed in order to remove hunger from the globe. He did not mention a specific country. However, at this point in time, Afghanistan, under the Taliban is facing its worst humanitarian crisis and the women of the country are denied fundamental rights.

“When women and girls have access to resources and education, they will not only play a decisive role in providing food security for themselves but also for their families and community,” Guterres said, according to Khaama Press.

In addition to being excluded from social interaction and public life, more than 40 per cent of women cannot produce an income for their family in comparison to prior years, Khaama Press reported.

According to a World Food Programme assessment, Afghanistan is one of the nations with extreme food insecurity, with nine million people affected by severe economic difficulties and hunger.

Since the Taliban seized control once again in August 2021, the group has consistently placed restrictions on women and girls, preventing them from participating in public life, employment, or education.

Taliban leaders have not only disregarded international calls for women and girls to be given access to education and employment. Apparently, they have also issued warnings to other nations not to meddle in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

ANI



Inside the Taliban's war on drugs - opium poppy crops slashed



Toor Khan (right) razing a poppy field to the ground along with fellow Taliban members

KABUL

BALANCING an AK-47 assault rifle slung around his left shoulder and with a large stick in his right hand, Abdul hits the heads of poppies as hard as he can. The stalks fly in the air, as does the sap from the poppy bulb, releasing the distinctive, pungent smell of opium in its most raw form.

Within a matter of minutes, Abdul and a dozen other men raze the poppy crop which covered the small field. Then the armed men, all wearing a shalwar kameez (a traditional Afghan tunic with loose fitting trousers), most with long beards and some with kohl-lined eyes, pile into the back of a pickup truck and move on to the next farm.

The men belong to a Taliban anti-narcotics unit in the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, and we've been given rare access to join them on one of their patrols to eradicate poppy farming. Less than two years ago the men were insurgent fighters, part of a war to seize control of the country. Now they've won and are on the ruling side, enforcing the orders of their leader.

In April 2022, Taliban supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada decreed that cultivation of the poppy - from which opium, the key ingredient for the drug heroin can be extracted - was strictly prohibited. Anyone violating the ban would have their field destroyed and be penalised according to Sharia law.

A Taliban spokesman told the BBC they imposed the ban because of the harmful effects of opium - which is taken from the poppy seed capsules - and because it goes against their religious beliefs. Afghanistan used to produce more than 80% of the world's opium.

Heroin made from Afghan opium makes up 95% of the market in Europe.

The BBC has now travelled in Afghanistan - and used satellite analysis - to examine the effects of the direct action on opium poppy cultivation. The Taliban leaders appear to have been more successful cracking down on cultivation than anyone ever has.

We found a huge fall in poppy growth in major opium-growing provinces, with one expert saying annual cultivation could be 80% down on last year. Less-profitable wheat crops have supplanted poppies in fields - and many farmers saying they are suffering financially.

We travelled to provinces including Nangarhar, Kandahar and Helmand, drove through bumpy, mud roads, walked for miles in remote, mountainous areas, making our way through farmland, leaping across gurgling streams to see the reality on the ground.

The Taliban decree wasn't applied to the 2022 opium harvest, which according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) increased by a third over 2021.

This year though, is very different. The evidence we saw on the ground is backed up by imagery taken from above.

David Mansfield, a leading expert on Afghanistan's drugs trade, is working with Alcis - a UK firm which specialises in satellite analysis.

“It is likely that cultivation will be less than 20% of what it was in 2022. The scale of the reduction will be unprecedented,” he says.

A large number of farmers have complied with the ban, and Taliban fighters have been destroying the crops of those that haven't.

Toor Khan, the commander of the Taliban patrol unit we are with in Nangarhar, tells us he and his men have been destroying poppy fields for nearly five months, and have cleared tens of thousands of hectares of the crop.

“You're destroying my field, God destroy your home,” one woman shouts angrily at the Taliban unit as they raze her poppy field.

“I told you this morning to destroy it yourself. You didn't, so now I have to,” Toor Khan screams back. She retreats indoors.

Her son is detained by the Taliban, released with a warning a few hours later.

The Taliban go armed and in large numbers, because there have been instances of resistance from angry locals in this area. At least one civilian was killed in a shooting during the eradication campaign and there are reports of other violent clashes.

The one thing Mike Pence needs to beat his old boss in 2024

WASHINGTON

IN a traditional American political world, Mike Pence's 2024 presidential campaign would have a lot going for it.

A politician with experience in both Congress and as a state governor. A former vice-president who had multiple high-profile administration roles and four years to build connections with his party's grass-roots. A methodical but reasonably charismatic public speaker who has a track record of strong debate performances and a stint as a popular conservative radio host.

This is not, however, a normal political world anymore - and it hasn't been since Donald Trump barrelled his way to the Republican presidential nomination and the White House in 2016.

Instead, 2024 will be yet another precedent-setting moment in modern American politics - the first time a former vice-president and his former president will compete for their party's presidential nomination.

“Pence is a traditional conservative,” says David Oman, former chair of the Iowa Republican Party. “He's just not a loud one.”

For the moment, Mr Pence's former boss has almost all the advantages. He has a massive campaign war chest, high approval ratings among Republican voters and unwavering support from roughly 30% of his party's voters.

That loyal Trump base also views Mr Pence with scepticism that veers toward animosity. They consider his decision not to back the former president's attempt to overturn their 2020



Donald Trump (L) and Mike Pence

electoral defeat an error at best and, frequently, as a betrayal.

Last month, Mr Pence was compelled to testify before a federal grand jury investigating the former president's role in the January 6th attack on the US Capitol and efforts to reverse the 2020 results.

And in March, Mr Pence said that Mr Trump's “reckless words” put his family in danger on that day, adding that “history will hold Donald Trump accountable”. For the moment, however, it appears Mr Trump's supporters are the ones passing judgement on Mr Pence.

Pence's narrow path to the White House

To succeed in his presidential bid, Mr Pence will need the former president to falter. But if that happens it is much more likely that his supporters go to someone like Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. There is an area where Mr Pence has an edge over his former running mate, however.

As a devout Christian, the Indiana politician has a long history of close ties to the US evangelical community. One of the reasons Mr Trump chose him for his 2016 ticket was because his campaign advisers believed Mr Pence would assuage the concerns of Christian voters who might be reluctant to support the thrice-married New Yorker with considerable personal baggage.

Mr Pence was effectively the Trump administration's ambassador to the Christian right, touting wins on high-profile cultural issues like abortion and religious freedom.

Now he hopes to capitalise on that history and peel away the former president's evangelical voters. That's particularly important in Iowa, the state that holds the first Republican presidential nomination contest and where Christian conservatives hold considerable sway.

“It's a good bloc of 30 plus percent of the Republican voters who will show up on caucus night in early 2024,” says

Farmer Ali Mohammad Mia has a stricken look on his face as he watches the unit destroy his field. Pink poppy flowers, green bulbs and broken stems cover the ground when they are done.

Why did he cultivate poppy despite the ban, we ask.

“If you have no food at home, and your children are going hungry, what else would you do,” he says. “We don't have large pieces of land. If we grew wheat on them we would make a fraction of what we could from opium.”

What is remarkable is the speed at which the Taliban carry out the job using only sticks. Six fields, each between 200-300 sq m in size, are cleared in just over half an hour.

How do they feel about destroying a source of income for their own people who are going hungry, we ask Toor Khan.

“It is the order of our leader. Our allegiance to him is such that if he told my friend to hang me, I would accept it and surrender myself to my friend,” he says.

Helmand province in the south-west used to be Afghanistan's opium heartland, producing more than half of the country's opium. We travel there independently of the Taliban's anti-narcotics unit, to see first-hand how it now looks.

Last year when we were in the province, we saw swathes of land covered with poppy fields. This time we can't spot a single field of the crop.

Alcis's analysis shows that poppy cultivation in Helmand has reduced by more than 99%. “The high resolution imagery of Helmand province shows that poppy cultivation is down to less than 1,000 hectares when it was 129,000 hectares the previous year,” says David Mansfield.

We meet farmer Niamatullah Dilsoz in the Marjah district - south of Helmand's capital, Lashkar Gah - while he is harvesting wheat. Last year, he grew poppy in the same field. He tells us farmers in Helmand, a Taliban stronghold, have all but complied with the ban.

“A few farmers tried to grow poppy in their courtyards hidden behind walls, but the Taliban found out and destroyed those fields,” Niamatullah says.

Except for the sound of wheat stalks being cut and the calls of birds, it is quiet in the farm. During the war, the field was a front line. Helmand was where UK troops had a base and where they fought some of their fiercest battles.

Niamatullah is in his early twenties. This is the first time in his life that he doesn't fear being hit by a bomb when venturing out. But for a people already battered by a long war, the opium ban has struck a crushing blow, coming as it does amid an economic collapse which has caused near universal poverty in Afghanistan. Two thirds of the population don't know where their next meal will come from.

Mr Oman. “So it's a bloc that candidates have to take seriously.”

The challenge for Mr Pence is there will be other candidates also competing for the evangelical vote. They include Mr DeSantis - who has championed conservative cultural issues in Florida - and South Carolina Senator Tim Scott. The more the field is crowded and divided, the greater the chance that no one will be able to defeat Mr Trump.

“Pence starts off with a decent part of a Republican base that will not support him,” Mr Oman says. “He has to talk about the kind of governor he was, be among those who talk about ideas for the future, someone who can show some common sense and give people a credible alternative to his former partner, Donald Trump.”

Mr Pence has been manoeuvring for a presidential bid for more than a year - well before Mr Trump made his White House ambitions clear. And given that another former vice-president currently sits in the Oval Office, his presidential dreams are not unimaginable - even if the path he would have to take to get to the White House is without precedent.

Agencies



Dar es Salaam's San Siro FC player, Rashid Hassan (R), tackles Wazawa Udom side's Aman Denis when the outfits took on each other in a friendly tie that took place at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Nafasi Art Space unveils beneficiaries of incubation grants for artists

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

DAR ES SALAAM'S cultural center, Nafasi Art Space, yesterday announced eight selected grantees of the third edition of a program, termed feel-free incubation grants, for 2023.

The grantees are set to receive financial support totaling 187,260,000m/- to implement creative projects that benefit Tanzania's artists and their audiences.

Speaking during a press conference at the center in Dar es Salaam, Nafasi Art Space's Deputy Director Lilian Mushi said it has used such an opportunity to provide financial support for the selected eight practitioners from organizations and institutions engaging in arts and culture to implement creative projects that benefit the artists and the country.

Lilian noted: "This program is designed to encourage art-

ists, cultural practitioners, organizations, and institutions from all artistic disciplines that love to create and connect with arts without inhibiting restrictions on either themes or topics that are driven by external influences."

She revealed that the program is supported by the Nafasi Art Space's core donors namely the Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania.

The embassies, Lilian noted, value ideas put forward by artists that lack the means for living up to their expectations because of a shortage of funds.

Veteran visual artist, Paul Ndunguru- the Nafasi Art Space's Board Chairman- said the center is a vibrant platform for artistic exchange in the country, which witnesses contemporary visual artists and performing artists coming together to create, learn, inspire, exhibit, and perform.

Ndunguru pointed out that

it was for that matter easy for the center to get contestants that applied for the grants to support their ideas. He further noted that more than 100 artists applied for a chance to be supported, adding that so far eight artists were selected because their ideas are new, fresh, and represent the country well.

"The selected grantees are Fahari Yetu group from Iringa which has a project titled 'Endangered Stories of Enchanted Places', Mtwara's Adea Tz with a project titled 'Makuya Cultural Festival', Tanga's Victoria Alex John with a project titled 'Kibubu Ufinyanzi', WIFI with their project 'Women Foot Prints From Zanzibar', EMEDO with the project 'Sanaa Ziwani Nyasa', and Dar es Salaam-based Scolastica Sultan (Ndoto Ya Kalista), and Bahati Female Band with its project 'Binti Sanaa'," Ndunguru noted.

Scolastica, one of the selected grantees, said that her project uses cake sculpture as

a medium of storytelling and empowerment for 18 single mothers from Tanga and Dar es Salaam, adding that through the project they will be trained as cake artists and showcase their work at the exhibition to be held later.

Eliabu Mbonimpa, a project coordinator for Fahari Yetu, said that the group's project targets the exploration, documentation, and conservation of Tanzania's cultural heritage stored in oral history and colonial memories of local communities in Iringa.

Nafasi Art Space hosts over 50 artists, 37 studios, and several exhibition spaces. The center offers regular programs including training and workshops, art talks, and public events such as film screenings.

The center's venue is also open for exhibitions, concerts, festivals, and public art fairs. On average, Nafasi Arts Space attracts more than 1000 visitors every month.

National rugby squad head coach vows to improve game's standards

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA rugby team's head coach Kevin Amiani has expressed his excitement as he prepares to channel his experience to make the country a rugby hub.

Tanzania Rugby Union (TRU) had, on May 22 this year, appointed Amiani, previously serving as Kenya's South Coast Pirates head coach, to spearhead the development and growth of rugby in the country.

With a wealth of experience and a proven track record in coaching the Kenyan coach boasts, TRU is aiming for tremendous achievements with the gaffer on board.

Amiani had led the Kenyan rugby outfit to two Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) Championship semi-finals.

He also holds level II certification in rugby coaching and his first mission will be to form a formidable team that will see Tanzania scale great heights in rugby.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian a few days after his appointment, a visibly excited Amiani said that he was looking to channel his youthful energy to make TRU a hub of rugby excellence.

The gaffer noted: "I was super excited to receive the opportunity. My long-term ambition as a coach has always been to coach at the highest level."

"My target is to help and grow Tanza-

nia's rugby to reach the highest international standards," Amiani revealed.

The tactician will be looking to build on his first assignment against a Welsh side, Bryncethin RFC, held at the University of Dar es Salaam ground on May 28 and culminated with the club cruising to a 17-7 win over Tanzania XV Select side.

Amiani's appointment comes at a crucial time when the TRU seeks to expand the footprint of rugby across Tanzania and engage a wider audience in the sport.

One of his primary objectives will be to identify, nurture, and harness the potential of local rugby talent, with the tactician revealing he aims to emphasize talent development and players' welfare.

The national rugby team consists of a talented group of athletes that are eager to represent Tanzania in international showdowns and Amiani will add his expertise to the team ahead of the coming showdowns.

The coach's role extends beyond developing rugby at the grassroots level given he has also been tasked with forming a formidable team that will represent Tanzania in high-profile showdowns.

Amiani is further required to work with the TRU's coaching staff to implement programs that will enable the national team to compete with distinction on the global stage.



Muza Secondary School's students put their hockey skills to show during training that took place at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Three judo players set for camp in Europe

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THREE Tanzania judo players are set to leave for Uzbekistan and France on Saturday to prepare for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) secretary-general Innocent Mallya mentioned the trio as Adam Mwakisoma and Ahmed Magogo that will travel to Uzbekistan and Andrew Mlungu slated to jet off to France.

Initially, Mwakisoma and Magogo, sponsored by the International Judo Federation (IJF), were to camp in Hungary but the camp was shifted to Uzbekistan due to some logistic challenges.

Mlungu is sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) through the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

Mallya noted while in Uzbekistan and France, the three performers will take part in Paris Olympics qualifying events.

"After a long, hectic exercise of securing visas and other travel necessities, we have finally

managed to get the visas of our three athletes," the JATA official stated.

"Mwakisoma and Magogo will not travel to Hungary as earlier announced, there were some challenges and instead they will be going to Uzbekistan while Mlungu's trip to France is guaranteed," he said.

After the Zone Five Judo Championships hosted by Mainland Tanzania recently, Mallya disclosed that JATA's focus is now on ensuring Tanzania's performers shape up well for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"After the Zone Five Judo Championships, our focus now is on the preparations for the Paris Olympics, we have three judo players that are expected to start preparations for the Olympics," he said.

The JATA official also poured praise on the government for setting plans for constructing a modern, state-of-the-art Sports and Arts arena in Dar es Salaam.

"Building of the Sports and Arts arena is vital for the development of judo and other sporting activities in the country, we thank the government

for this," he noted.

"It has come at a good time given many sports associations taking charge of sports that are conducted indoors face a shortage of venues, a good example is JATA, it had problems in securing a venue to host the just-ended Zone Five Championships," he said.

The news of the construction of the modern sports and arts arena was disclosed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Said Yakubu at the closing ceremony of the showdown.

He said the Sports and Arts arena to be built in Kawe in Dar es Salaam will have a capacity of 16,000 attendants and is set to be the biggest in Africa.

"Our President Samia Suluhu Hassan is very committed to sports development in the country, her government is doing a lot to take this sector to another level," the official noted.

"She has promised the country that construction of the Sports and Arts arena will start very soon," he said.

The Zone Five Judo Cham-

pionships which took place at Don Bosco venue located at Upanga in Dar es Salaam, ended with Mainland Tanzania grabbing second place after collecting five gold medals.

Burundi emerged as the continental competition's champion -having secured six gold medals- while Zanzibar took third place with one gold medal.

Mainland Tanzania's gold medals were won by Asiatu Juma in the 57kg women's category, whereas in the men's category, Thomas Mwenda (66kg), Andrew Mlungu (81kg), Adam Mwakisoma (100kg), and Saleh Baraka (100+kg) won gold medals for the hosts.

There were also three silver medals and four bronze medals won by Mainland Tanzania, with Anangisiye Pwele (73kg), Jeremia Makeme (100kg), and Danny Mkaima (100+) winning the three silver medals for the hosts.

Laurent Mtaka (60kg), Philemon Kaberege (73kg), Hamis Mrutu (81kg), and Yohana Jiji (90kg) grabbed the bronze medals for the hosts.



Tanzania's national rugby team's new head coach, Kevin Amiani.

West Ham and Fiorentina now clash for first trophy in decades

LONDON

WEST Ham and Fiorentina will seek to earn a long-awaited addition to their trophy case as they clash in the Europa Conference League final in Prague today.

Both clubs' European trophies have become genuine antiques by now as Fiorentina won the now-defunct Cup Winners' Cup in 1961, while West Ham dominated the same competition in 1965.

The winner in the Czech capital will secure a place in next season's Europa League, a thrilling prospect for both teams who have failed to qualify for a European competition from their leagues.

West Ham, led by midfield engine Declan Rice, finished 14th in the Premiership after battling the threat of relegation for much of the season. They will be seeking their first major trophy since winning the FA Cup in 1980.

Fiorentina, eighth in Serie A, took the last major honours in 2001 when they won the Italian Cup.

Both teams have made it very clear they are determined to become the second name on the Conference League trophy following Roma, who won the maiden edition last year.

"This will be the pinnacle for a lot of players. It will certainly be the biggest game of my career," West Ham winger Jarrod Bowen told the club website.

"The main priority is to win the game... I want to be part of the squad that gives the fans that moment and that's what we're all striving to do," he added.

Fiorentina manager Vincenzo Italiano said the Viola wanted to "put the icing on the cake" in Prague following an "extraordinary season".

"Personally, I'm very happy to be in a final and to have the chance to lift a trophy," said Italiano, whose team lost the Italian Cup final to Inter Milan last month.

But he knows the East Londoners, who reached the Europa League semi-finals last year, will be a hard nut to crack.

"Even if they haven't done very well in the Premier League, they are still a very dangerous team."

"We will need the utmost commitment. We will play like Fiorentina," Italiano said.

Italiano and West Ham manager David Moyes have nearly full squads at their disposal apart from long-term injury absences such as Fiorentina goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu and West Ham striker Gianluca Scamacca.

- 'Like a fairytale' -

The game at Prague's Eden Arena will have special meaning for three Czech players -- West Ham's Tomas Soucek and Vladimir Coufal and Fiorentina's Antonin Barak.

All three played for Slavia Prague at the Eden Arena before moving abroad, and they have relished the opportunity to come back home.

"This is a final and at home. It's a combination that beats everything," Soucek told the Czech news agency CTK, hailing the final as "the biggest game of my career".

"It's like a fairytale," added the 28-year-old midfielder, whose early career was at Slavia Prague.

AFP

'No fear' of City in Champions League final, says Inter's Inzaghi

MILANI

SIMONE Inzaghi said Monday that Inter Milan are not scared of Manchester City as he prepares his team for the Champions League final against the mega-rich, treble-hunting outfit.

Inter will contest in Istanbul their first Champions League final since last winning the competition 13 years ago, but City are heavy favourites to be crowned kings of Europe for the first time.

Pep Guardiola's City are in their second Champions League final in three years and come into Saturday's clash after destroying Real Madrid in the last four, and winning both the Premier League and FA Cup.

"We're talking about a football match, there's no fear," Inzaghi told reporters.

"We have a lot of respect but we're proud to play this final because we wanted it with every fibre of our being."

Inter will have to stop a potent City attack led by striker Erling Haaland who has netted 12 times in Europe this season and will top the competition's scoring charts whatever happens in Turkey.

Alessandro Bastoni is one Inter's three central defenders who will be tasked with keeping tabs on Haaland, and he said he was unconcerned about the prospect of locking horns with the powerful Norwegian.

"You are scared of murderers, not football players. It would be a mistake to talk about fear," he said. "It's not Haaland versus Inter it's Manchester City versus Inter."

"There's no fear, just the right level of tension. More than anything there is happiness... I can't wait to get out on the pitch."

Inzaghi added that he hasn't yet decided who will partner Lautaro Martinez in Inter's attack as he ponders whether to play veteran Edin Dzeko or in-form Romelu Lukaku.

Belgian striker Lukaku has turned his season around since April and is once again the all-action centre forward who conquered the Serie A title and Inter fans' hearts two years ago.

AFP

Football's future? Manchester City eye first Champions League win for state-backed club

LONDON

SATURDAY'S Champions League final between Manchester City and Inter Milan in Istanbul could mark a definitive turning point in European football.

Victory for City would be the first for a state-backed outfit in Europe's elite club competition, after more than a decade of trying.

The club that has just won a fifth Premier League title in six seasons has been transformed since the 2008 takeover by the Abu Dhabi United Group, backed by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

They reached their first Champions League final in 2021, losing 1-0 to Chelsea.

Beaten by Real Madrid in the semi-finals last year, City exacted revenge on the great aristocrats of European football in this season's semi-finals.

Having added the FA Cup to their Premier League title, they are eyeing a treble in Istanbul, something City boss Pep Guardiola has called a "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

Meanwhile, the rest of Europe must wonder if the sport is headed for a period of City dominance.

They topped this year's Deloitte Football



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola with Erling Haaland last month. (Agencies)

Money League -- a reference in measuring the financial might of European clubs -- with revenue last season of 731 million euros (\$783m).

That same ranking a decade ago had City seventh, and their rise has posed problems for the sport, with City being fined 60 million euros in 2014 for breaching UEFA's Financial Fair Play regulations.

The club were banned for two years from UEFA competitions in February 2020 for "serious financial fair play breaches", but the sanction was later overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

In February this year they were charged with 115 alleged rule breaches by the Premier League, relating to the period from 2009 to 2018. That case may not be resolved any time soon.

- Old elite left behind? -

Yet if simply spending vast sums were all that mattered, Paris Saint-Germain would have won the Champions League already.

PSG were bought by Qatar Sports Investments, a subsidiary of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, in 2011.

In 2017 they signed Neymar and Kylian Mbappe for the two biggest fees in football history, and in 2020 they reached the Champions League final but lost to Bayern Munich.

A year later they lured Lionel Messi after the Argentinian had to leave cash-strapped Barcelona.

While City put their money into attracting Guardiola and building the perfect environment for him to thrive, PSG threw cash at signing superstars.

That approach has not delivered the Champions League,

but the sense is that they will eventually get there, and keeping Mbappe improves their chances.

PSG are the fifth-richest club in the world according to Deloitte's ranking.

Qatari wealth has helped decimate Barcelona, who spent beyond their means trying to replace Neymar, creating debts that ultimately led to them losing Messi.

PSG have also managed to keep Mbappe despite interest from Madrid, who are now set to rebuild as Karim Benzema departs.

"The state clubs are a new phenomenon and present a danger that football has not seen before," observed Javier Tebas, president of Spain's La Liga, back in 2019.

The old hegemony risks being broken up as the old elite struggles to keep pace.

Inter bidding for Champions League glory but off-field problems persist

MILAN

INTER Milan are one match away from becoming European champions for the fourth time after an unlikely run to Istanbul but their financial troubles provide a stark contrast to mega-rich opponents Manchester City.

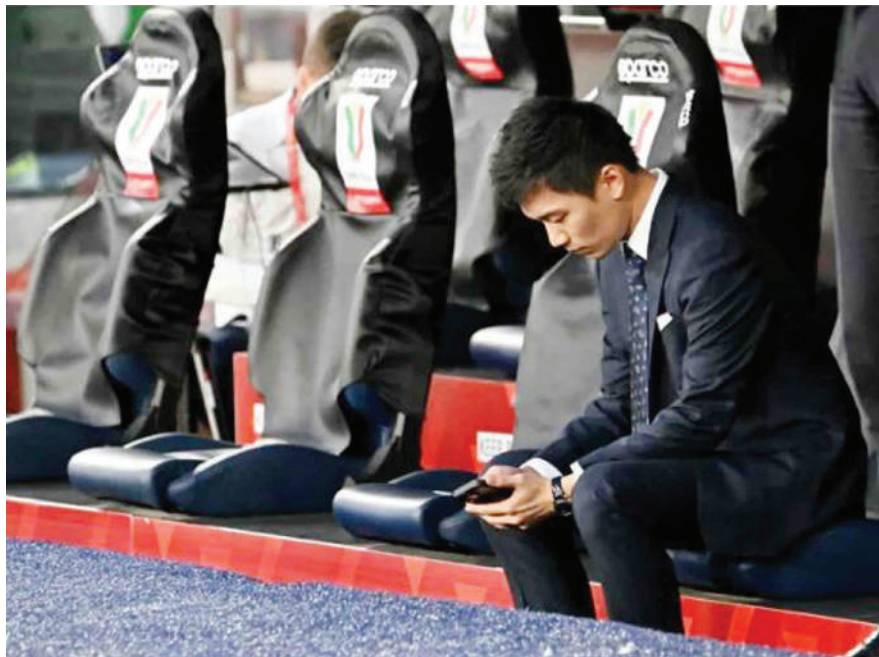
A resurgent club on the pitch, Inter exemplify the issues affecting Europe's grand old clubs as a huge debt threatens a club which won Serie A two years ago and could yet win the Champions League.

Looming over Inter is repayment of a 275 million euro (\$294 million) emergency loan, taken out with investment fund Oaktree Capital, with a reported interest rate of 10 percent, by Chinese owners Suning two years ago.

Restrictions on capital being taken out of China and the Covid-19 pandemic were a painful double whammy to Inter and led to the club quickly flogging two stars of the 2021 league title win -- Romelu Lukaku and Achraf Hakimi -- for big money and losing coach Antonio Conte.

The loan needs to be paid back in full in a year's time or Inter could end up being scooped up by Oaktree in a similar way to how fund Elliott took control of AC Milan from Chinese businessman Li Yonghong in 2018.

Last season Inter posted a loss of 140 million euros, a year after record losses of 245.6 mil-



Chairman Steven Zhang has Inter back at the game's summit but financial problems plague the club. (Agencies)

lion euros as stadiums stayed closed due to the pandemic.

"Paying a debt at the level of interest that the club is paying Oaktree is not sustainable," said former Inter general manager Ernesto Paolillo last month.

"(Chairman) Steven Zhang won't be able to export capital from China and nor will he be able to cover the debt with other resources. He will have no choice but to default on the agreement and sell the club to them."

A run to Saturday's final, whatever the result, should help Inter with problems which were exacerbated by crypto currency sponsor DigitalBits missing instalments on an 80 million euro deal.

But there is no comparison financially with

alongside a Serie A season in which they have too often been found wanting, 12 defeats leaving Inter with 12 points fewer than last season, when they went into the final day with a chance of retaining the Scudetto.

However it was clear as far back as February that Napoli would win Serie A and their dominance of the league allowed Italy's other clubs to focus more on Europe, where they have performed poorly too often.

Once the draw for the quarter and semi-finals was made in March Inter knew they had a great shot at reaching the final for the first time since they last won the competition 13 years ago.

And their push for continental glory has resurrected an up-and-down season which at one point looked like being the end of Inzaghi as qualification for next year's edition of the

Champions League was in major doubt.

Since knocking out Benfica in the last eight Inter have won 11 of their last 12 matches in all competitions, their only defeat at Napoli in a run which also earned them a second straight Italian Cup and a place in Serie A's top four.

What will also give Inter hope of upsetting Pep Guardiola's machine-like City is the form of their attackers.

Lautaro Martinez, always a streaky player, had gone eight matches without scoring before Inter's second leg with Benfica but has since racked up 11 in his last 13, while in the same period Romelu Lukaku has scored seven times and set up five more.

It may not be enough against heavy favourites City, and whatever the result the financial disparities are not going away any time soon.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Football's future?

Manchester City eye first Champions League win for state-backed club

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Aurobindo Aga Khan SC's cricketer, Vipin Abraham, bowls against Remax Strikers when the outfits took on each other in a 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament clash that took place at Leaders Club recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Vipin leads chase for Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup Best Bowler prize

By Guardian Reporter

AUROBINDO Aga Khan SC pacer, Vipin Abraham, has expressed his desire to end as the best bowler in the 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, given the cricketer is lately leading the showdown's wicket takers' list.

The experienced Abraham has up to now notched six wickets in two ties his side has featured in, boasting an impressive 3.75 economy rate.

The performer has bowled eight overs whilst conceding 28 dot balls in the overs.

Another experienced performer, Ally Mpeka of E-Parking-backed Aces outfit, is hot on the leading wicket taker's heels, having also taken six wickets in three outings his club has taken part in.

Mpeka, a feared pacer, boasts of 6.17 economy in 12 overs he has bowled, executing 36 dot balls, the slightly inferior economy rate separating him from the leading wicket-taker.

Zimbabwean all-rounder Aisah Chibanda, Mpeka's teammate, is sitting third in the leading wicket takers' list given the performer has posted five wickets in his side's three matches.

The in-form Zimbabwean has bowled 11 overs and executed 32 dot balls, staying with a 4.91 economy rate.

Ali Sumar of All Season Lions is in fourth place after taking five wickets in the only duel he participated in, recording a 5.25 economy rate in his four-over spell.

Remax Strikers' Raymond Francis occupies the fifth place, despite having also notched five wickets, in his outfit's three games.

The performer has a 5.71 economy rate, having executed 30 dot balls in the 10.2 overs he had bowled.

Athumani Siwa, the other Remax Strikers' cricketer, comes sixth in the list with his five-wicket haul and a 5.89 economy rate in three encounters.

JiuZhou Gymkhana's cricketer, Nikila Nishanga, is sitting seventh in the battle for the Best Bowler award, notching five wickets in three fixtures and recording a 6.10 economy rate in 10 overs bowled.

Zeeshan Ul-Haq of Flashnet Pak Stars occupies the eighth place, also with five wickets in his 6.4-over spell, the 6.75 economy rate leaving the cricketer placed in the spot.

Ninth-placed Sanjay Bom of Azania Bank Upanga SC has posted four wickets in 12 overs bowled and a 4.75 economy rate, followed by Asuri Rajendra of Azania Bank Upanga SC sitting 10th with four wickets in his 12-over stint

Tanzania determined to win CAF inter-club tourney's trophy, says TFF



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) says it is geared to see to it that the country's clubs successfully battle it out in next season's Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) inter-club tournaments.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, stated so at a dinner hosted by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, to congratulate the club for registering tremen-

dous achievement in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

Karia said next season the country will be represented by four clubs in CAF inter-club tournaments and he promised the President that the quartet will defy the odds and perform beyond expectations.

"We are very grateful for the support which football is enjoying in the country, President- you are always at the forefront of supporting our football clubs," Karia told President Samia.

The TFF president pointed out: "Through your excellent support, the country's football is doing well

on the international stage."

"In next season's CAF inter-club tournaments, the country will be represented by four football clubs and I am sure we will also come here, hopefully with a trophy," he said.

In his remarks, Yanga president Hersi Ally Said thanked President Samia for her support of the team, saying through her support the outfit has performed well in CAF Confederation Cup this season.

He said President Samia has dared his club to perform well in next year's CAF Champions League.

The Yanga leader disclosed: "It's a moment to treasure because it has been a tough road and a long wait, we thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her support."

The official noted: "Through her support, Yanga has this season reached the final of CAF Confederation Cup, let me assure the President that we will work hard and next season we will bring the CAF inter-club showdown trophy here."

"I can assure Her Excellency that we will do all we

can to improve technically and turn things around, we will bring the CAF inter-club showpiece's trophy here," he said.

President Samia assured Yanga and all football clubs in the country that her administration will continue working to improve football and the rest of sports in the country.

"Time has come to reclaim that winning mindset, I have been saying that we need to put our sports at their right place, with Yanga's achievements in the CAF Confederation Cup, I think we have achieved that," she said.

Yanga last week turned into the country's first club in recent years to reach the final of the CAF Confederation Cup, the side commanded a 1-0 victory over Algeria's USM Alger in the final's rematch in Algiers last Saturday.

The Jangwani Street-based side though did not bring the showpiece's trophy home because of an away-goal rule, having succumbed to a 2-1 loss to the Algerian side in the first leg played in Dar es Salaam.

Alliance Caravans hammer Azania Bank Upanga SC in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Reporter

ALLIANCE Caravans emerged triumphant against Azania Bank Upanga SC in this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, as the former continue their winning streak and consolidate their position at the top of the showdown's Group A.

The highly anticipated match held at Leaders Club showcased exceptional performances from both sides, ultimately resulting in a convincing victory for Alliance Caravans.

The game started with Azania Bank Upanga SC winning the toss and opting to bat first, aiming to set a formidable target.

However, the opening over proved to be a game-changer as Adersh Dilip of Alliance Caravans wreaked havoc, snatching three crucial wickets and immediately shifting the momentum in his team's favour.

Dilip ultimately earned the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match award for his exploits with the ball.

Despite the early setback, Maker Mukesh and Sanjay Bom fought valiantly for Azania Bank Upanga SC, displaying determination and resilience.

Mukesh scored a steady 33 runs off 40 deliveries, while Sanjay Bom provided some impetus with a quick-fire knock of 31 runs off just 22



Alliance Caravans' cricketer Rahul Sharma (R) receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from the Chairman and Managing Director of Petrofuel, Satish Kumar, once the club came up against Azania Bank Upanga SC in a 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament match in the city last Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

deliveries.

However, their efforts were insufficient in the face of some excellent bowling from Alliance Caravans.

Alliance Caravans' bowlers put up a commendable display, consistently stifling the opposition's batting lineup.

Their disciplined and accurate bowling restricted Azania Bank Upanga SC to a modest total of 110 runs for the loss of all wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

Dilip, the standout performer with the ball, claimed a remarkable four wickets, emerging as the pick of the bowlers.

In pursuit of the target, Alliance Caravans' opening batsmen, Rahul Sharma, and Amal Rajeevan, orchestrated a commanding partnership that effectively sealed the fate

of the match.

Their aggressive batting and well-timed strokes demoralized the Azania Bank Upanga SC's bowlers.

Sharma, in particular, showcased his prowess with an unbeaten 72 runs off just 45 deliveries, playing a pivotal role in his team's victory.

Rajeevan also made a valuable contribution with his knock of 36 runs off 34 deliveries before being dismissed by Azania Bank Upanga SC's Asuri Rajendra.

Sharma was adjudged the Colourflex Man of the Match for his exceptional batting performance.

Rajeevan's innings took him to the top of the batting charts earning him the coveted TATA Orange Cap after accumulating 120 runs in three matches.

Alliance Caravans' domi-

nant performance enabled them to chase down the target in just 14.1 overs whilst dropping a wicket, winning the match by nine wickets.

With this victory, Alliance Caravans is, on the one hand, now sitting comfortably at the top of Group A, having secured three wins in as many outings and are well on their way to qualifying for the next round.

On the other hand, Azania Bank Upanga Club will need to win their final group stage game to ensure their qualification for the next phase of the tournament.

The defeat serves as a wake-up call for the team, prompting them to regroup and strategize for their upcoming match.

Cricket enthusiasts and fans eagerly anticipate the

continuation of the Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup, as the competition intensifies with each passing game.

With Alliance Caravans displaying their dominance and Azania Bank Upanga Club fighting for qualification, the remaining matches in Group A promise to be enthralling displays of skill, strategy, and determination.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, Ras Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiu Zhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, Honeywell, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, Samaki Samaki, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

