

National Pg 3
Walking the talk on climate change



National Pg 4
Call for audit of Covid-19 funds



National Pg 6
Entrepreneurs in agribusiness sector



World Bank policy head lands, views Dar projects

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government intends to fast-track the Tanzania cities transforming infrastructure and competitiveness project (TACTIC) and the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP), now in its second phase.

Umyy Mwalimu (pictured), the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the government was finalizing the project proposal for project financing from the World Bank.

The minister accompanied Mari Pangestu, the visiting World Bank managing director for development policy and partnerships who inspected the Makangarawe market and Buza health centre in Temeke District to hear from firsthand beneficiaries of the projects.

Pangestu, arriving on a two day visit in the country, is scheduled to hold discussions



Tanzania is part of regional projects in energy, environment and education where the global lender has committed \$698.3m in five major projects

with President Samia Suluhu Hassan and senior government officials, development partners and youth representatives, along with members of the academia and think tanks.

Mwalimu said when often scheduled city transformation project starts, it will improve infrastructure in a total of 45 urban centres, from cities, municipalities and town councils.

"We are finalizing the project proposal and will submit to the bank for further consultations on implementation," she stated, underlining the government's commitment to improving urban infrastructures to enhance productivity of economic activities.

As for the Dar metropolitan project, she said that phase I involved the construction of roads, markets and health centres to improve productivity, with over 690bn/- having been used in the three municipalities to implement the first phase in the given time frame.

The project involves improvements to

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Govt bans exports of logs, thin timber

Stakeholders want consultations



Commander-in-chief President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after opening a general meeting of Tanzania People's Defence Forces commanders. Photo: State House

Samia: TPDF needs media, civic groups to stifle terror

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has asked the military to engage stakeholders in national defense matters including the media in the war against terrorism which is a new threat to national security.

Opening the 2021 meeting of the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) with senior officers of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF), President Samia said involving other players such as the private sector would ease the national defense task.

"In your discussions you should also consider looking into engaging other stakeholders such as the media and civil



It cannot be compared with any other task and it is important for the country to strengthen its defense mechanism to overcome internal and external threats

society organizations for them to provide civic education but also participate in anti-terrorism campaign, thus helping to simplify your work," she urged.

The president hailed TPDF for a job well done in restoring peace in Mtwara Region especially along the border between Tanzania and Mozambique where there were threats of terrorism, noting that threats of terrorism attacks were heard in recent months along that border, making residents in the area live in fear.

"A terrorist group in Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique threatened to carry out attacks in some villages in

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By Songwa wa Songwa, Iringa

THE government has banned the export of a range of forestry products in a move meant to increase investment and value addition in the country.

Then ban was announced here yesterday by the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, on the last day of the forestry investment forum, citing export of veneers as 'unacceptable' at a time when the country is encouraging value addition as opposed to export of raw materials.

The primary engineered wood product -the most sought after raw material from Tanzania-is used for manufacture of luxury furniture, the minister noted, similarly citing gum whose export should end with immediate effect.

It is possible to install a processing plant in Tanzania, he said, urging investors to make finished products here in the country so that we create more jobs.

Ben Sulus, president of the Tanzania Forestry Industries Federation, said the body will seek an audience with the minister and

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Set up seed nurseries in all districts, minister says

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

AGRICULTURE minister, Prof Adolf Mkenda has directed that district councils establish seed nurseries to facilitate availability of a variety of quality seeds and increase productivity.

Officiating at the opening of the seed manufacturers' annual general meeting here yesterday, the

Minister stated that the government will continue to monitor and control seed manufacturing companies to avoid production of low quality seeds.

"We will control companies manufacturing low quality seeds for various crops. Our aim is to see farmers access quality certified seeds for improved productivity," he said, noting that district councils charging levies on transportation of seeds must immediately stop the practice as the government had already scrapped nuisance agro-sector taxes.

"Seeds to be produced at the nurseries should have a logo to verify their quality," the minister elaborated, saying that ensuring availability of quality seeds to farmers would enable them produce enough for food security and sale.

More funds will be allocated for agricultural research including the development of seeds,

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How to cash in on carbon trade

By Songa wa Songa, Iringa

If you have a planted forest or can increase biomass on natural woodland, you can cash in on that from monies made available voluntarily by global big emitters of carbon dioxide.

You engage consultants who visit your forest and prepare a project document detailing the size and amount of oxygen it can produce annually. This is verified by another team of experts who, if satisfied, submit the write-up to a global registry where you open a carbon credit account and wait for you money.

Demetrius Kweka, an expert from Green Resources, told this paper at the Forestry Investment Forum which ended here yesterday that one unit of carbon credit is equal to one tonne of carbon dioxide which currently sells at USD 30 (over 60,000/-). So, more credit means more money.

"Project proponents (farm owners) can sell their credits either to brokers at a lower rate or to end users (emitters) at higher prices," he said.

The end users are big companies such as airlines that willingly compensate their pollution by buying carbon credit as part of corporate social responsibility.

But there are some terms and conditions. Kweka said for one to qualify, there must be evidence that the forest in question was not there 10 years ago.

"This is meant to encourage afforestation to counter global impact of climate," Kweka said.

For a natural village forest for instance, he said what needs to be established within years is that tree there are increasing rather than decreasing. This, he said, is meant to

encourage communities to protect natural forests against depletion from human activities such as logging and man-made disasters such as fire.

Green Resources joined this programme and recently earned USD 1.2 million (over 2bn/-) in carbon credit.

The organization gave 1 per cent of the money (over 280mn/-) to four villages surrounding it forest farms in Iringa Region to encourage conservation of forests and woodlands.

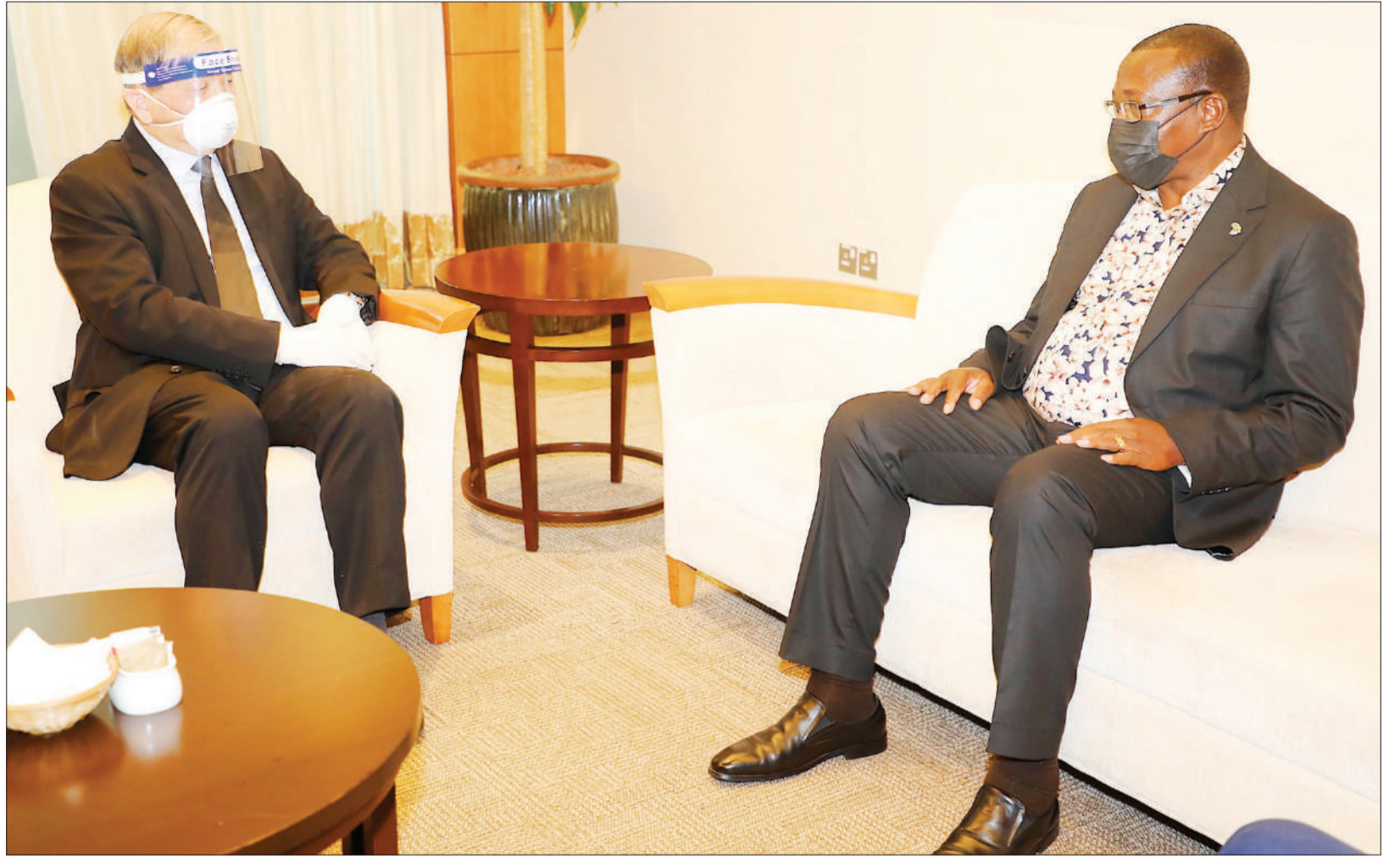
The villages were handed their dummy cheques at the forum at the weekend. The beneficiary villages are Uchindile (over 140mn/-), Chogo (over 60mn/-), Mapanda (over 60mn/-) and Kitete (over 8mn/-).

He said it took about seven years to finally get the money, adding that one has to prepare to invest in the services of local and sometimes international consultants for their projects to be registered.

"Consultants of such caliber are not everywhere; so I advise villages with forest reserves or companies and individuals with farms to with financial institutions to help them on technicalities," he said.



Project proponents (farm owners) can sell their credits either to brokers at a lower rate or to end users (emitters) at higher prices



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (R) in talks with Tanzania's Honorary Consul to Singapore, Teo Siong Seng, moments after the VP landed at Singapore's Changi International Airport yesterday. He is in Singapore to attend Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2021. Photo: VPO

Govt bans exports of logs, thin timber

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other authorities on the export ban, as this announcement has come in an abrupt way.

"We have respectfully received the directive issued by the minister and we understand the good intention of creating a robust engineered wood products industry in the country," he affirmed, expressing the wish to engage the government to find helpful ways of implementing the directive.

More time is needed because forestry investments are operating entities with running costs and various levels of ownership, he said, citing loan servicing which will definitely be affected by the sudden ban on exports.

"The imminent negative impact can be avoided by engaging stakeholders for smooth implementation," the industry leader asserted.

Meanwhile, Lands minister William Lukuvi, who represents

Ismani constituency in Parliament, has directed that large scale commercial farms be surveyed so that investors in forestry pay their due land rents, pointing out that nearly 40 per cent of Iringa Region is forests but nobody is paying land rents.

The ministry will arrange rapid processing of title deeds so that by the time the forum is convened next year, eligible investors can be handed land occupancy documents.

He similarly objected to landlords demanding 12 month rent in house rent contracts, reiterating that house rents be paid on monthly basis, castigating rogue real estate agents whose work shall soon be regulated. It was shocking to learn that such middlemen get one month rent as fees, he declared.

"We want to bring sanity to this profession. We have qualified lawyers all over the country who can do this professionally and pay taxes," he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L) exchanges greetings with leaders of the Hindu community in Tanzania upon arriving at the Dar es Salaam venue of Hindu Diwali and New Year celebrations yesterday. From-R: the president of the Hindu Council in Tanzania, Bavin Borkhataria, council vice president Jigar Patel and Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla. Photo: PMO

Set up seed nurseries in all districts, minister says

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alongside agro-sector training in universities within and outside the country, which will help to reduce the current gap of agro-expertise at different levels, he told the gathering.

Financial institutions and banks need to invest more in agriculture projects to reduce complaints from stakeholders, he urged, pointing out that agro-sector entrepreneurs complain over limited financing as affecting productivity.

The ministry has requested abandoned horticultural farms in Arusha as agricultural research and quality seeds production centres, he further noted.

Baldwin Shuma, the Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA) CEO, said it is important to have seed nurseries to ensure availability and reduce importation from abroad. It is high time for the country to attract investors in seed production, he said.

Fatma Fernandes of Quince Wood Group said the firm is setting

up a channel enabling agents of agricultural inputs including seeds to purchase and sell quality seeds, elaborating that the channel maintains records of seed buyers and loans to agents, records that are thereafter shared with the government.

The channel has been developed in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), a global agro-sector facilitator founded by the late Dr Kofi Annan, a former United Nations secretary general.

This application is being used in seven regions around the country with over 600 agents using it in purchasing and selling seeds to farmers, she stated.

The Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) recently said that it has increased its quality seed production capacity from 557 tonnes in 2016/17 to 1,750 tonnes during 2018/2019.

The state-owned agency is fifth among major seed suppliers, out of 42 companies that produced quality seeds locally in the 2019/20 period, the agency underlined.

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Msimbazi flooding channel banks and rebuilding of Jangwani Bridge, along with improvement of the road infrastructure in Kigamboni, Ilala, as well as Kibamba zone of Ubungo district, plus extension of the Mbagala health centre in Temeke district

Mwalimu directed Temeke district authorities to start evaluating Makangarawe market surrounding houses so that they are compensated to pave the way for extending the market, she stated.

For her part, the visiting director said the bank seeks to see further partnership with Tanzania to improve grassroots productivity, expressing satisfaction on the way

World Bank policy head lands, views Dar projects

projects the bank handles change health and economic prospects in many areas.

Buza health centre is doing better in offering quality healthcare services, she stated, expressing the hope that similar projects will be taken up by the bank in other places.

Makangarawe market chairman Mohamed Bantule had earlier asked the government to compensate owners of houses surrounding the

market so that the market can be extended, to reduce congestion that vendors face, as well as their customers.

Dr Gwamaka Mwabulambo, senior medic at the Temeke Regional Referral Hospital, said that Buza health centre care for mothers in delivery has increased from 60 to 180 per day after its renovation, reducing congestion at the referral hospital.

According to statistics, the

World Bank has a portfolio of 21 national projects with \$4.8bn net commitment in sectors like transport, urban development, education, energy, water, social protection, environment, natural resources, digital development and governance.

Tanzania is part of regional projects in energy, environment and education where the global lender has committed \$698.3m in five major projects.

Samia: TPDF needs media, civic groups to stifle terror

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Mtwara Region which brought business activities to a standstill," she said.

The group has been carrying out attacks in border villages in the region, with army units doing a commendable job in restoring peace, she affirmed, dressed in a military uniform. The government was aware of the challenges facing TPDF in conducting their duties, she stated, promising to work on them.

President Samia asked TPDF to look keenly at terrorism threats as this was a spreading cancer

threatening world peace. "The world is facing a security challenge, that of terrorism," she said, underlining that terrorism was colour blind, it chooses no religion and can victimize anyone.

Military officers must maintain discipline for the country to win the war against terrorism, she said, noting that national defense is an expensive task.

It cannot be compared with any other task and it is important for the country to strengthen its defense mechanism to overcome internal and external threats, she added.



Saidi Mkabakuli (R), TIB Development Bank's marketing and corporate affairs manager, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend briefing Emmanuel Tutuba (L), Permanent Secretary in the Finance and Planning ministry, on the bank's participation in the just-ended National Financial Services Week commemoration. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

President Samia orders bridge linking Karatu, Lake Eyasi to be built before next Monsoons

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Karatu

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has ordered the bridge along the road linking Karatu and Lake Eyasi be constructed as soon as possible before the next Monsoon.

The head of state was communicating on phone with the Minister from the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance Mohammed Mchengerwa who was at the remote Laja village, in Karatu District.

Mchengerwa was responding to a request made by 1309 residents of Laja village that upon completing the construction of the first bridge, want support to build a second one to make the road passable throughout the year.

"I have just communicated with the President and she has agreed that funds be mobilised to construct the second bridge along the road and engineers will be doing feasibility studies as early as next month," he said.

The minister, together with Members of Parliament from Dodoma, happened to have been at Laja village, in Kansay Ward of Karatu District where they had just inspected and inaugurated a newly constructed bridge linking the Laja village to Umbani.

The bridge solves the historically long problem where communication will break off during rainy seasons. There is a river flowing within a very deep gorge cutting across the road.

However, according to the Member of Parliament, Daniel Awakie the bridge solves just one problem, because there is another even deeper gorge near Laja primary school, linking the village with Duda Ward, which is mapped onto a section of Karatu-Eyasi road.

"When it rains, pupils cannot attend school, livestock get swept away by floods and communication between Karatu and Lake Eyasi gets broken," added the Karatu Legislator.

The Distance between Karatu Township and Lake Eyasi is 73 kilometers, but the road linking the two destinations is in pathetic shape, even worse, rivers and deep gorges crisscross the dusty motorway making it impassable during rainy seasons.

The villagers, through a staged play, revealed that flooded rivers have caused pregnant mothers to deliver in bushes on their way to hospital, pleading to the government for help.

Villagers at Laja, have so far managed to construct the first bridge with funds from the Tanzania Social Action Fund.

Built at the cost of 75 Million/-, the completed bridge surprised members of the Parliamentary Governance and Local Government Committee that were inspecting TASAF projects in Karatu District.

"It is hard to believe that this durable and quality looking bridge was constructed at just 73 Million/-," exclaimed the Parliamentary Committee chairperson, Abdallah Jaffar Chairemba.

The parliamentary committee was also satisfied with other projects in the district and admitted that the other bridge along the road was also important to ensure that the road remains functional in all weather.

Lake Eyasi is one of the tourist destinations but the road from Karatu to the basin also links to Meatu on the Bariadi Region side as well as linking the commercial important Onion farms at Mang'ola ward.

We're changing climate discourse, walking the talk - minister

By Poycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is walking the talk on climate change mitigation by investing in projects that are environment friendly, minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Selemani Jafo said here yesterday.

He cited the ongoing construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR) and the Dar Rapid Transit system as some of the investments that help reduce emission of toxic gas into the air.

Jafo explained that the two projects help reduce the number of daladala and private cars which produce a lot of smoke into the air.

He added that the ongoing plans to have gas driven vehicles in the country and efforts to plant trees throughout the country are some of

the initiatives that amass even the rest of the world.

Briefing journalist on the achievements of the ministry in the 60 years of independence, Jafo who recently came back from the just ended COP 26 in Glasgow, said that some of his colleagues from other countries who attended the meeting were amazed by how Tanzania is strategically fighting climate change.

The minister said the national tree planting drive which has seen at least 608,494,464 trees planted across the country by May 2020 is another move admired by other countries.

He said through the plan, all district councils in the country have the obligation of planting 1.5 million trees annually and after evaluation it was realized that at least 62.8 percent of the trees survive.

"The government is committed to climate change mitigation initiatives and continues providing public knowledge on the matter" he said, adding that some countries are amazed on the ongoing efforts.

He said other achievements in the environment sector include ban on plastic bags through which groups of entrepreneurs making paper bags, clothing parcels and baskets have been established, noting that currently 2,772 small groups making alternative bags have been formed, creating more than 50,000 employment opportunities.

Jafo urged the public, institutions to stop use of firewood and adopt alternative source of energy like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and briquettes.

On union matters, the minister noted that union gets stronger

everyday as the contentious issues are resolved, noting that some 18 out of the 25 matters have been solved.

On national security, the minister said in the 60 years of independence and 47 years of union, matters of peace and security have been given the due attention, noting that security forces and the public are on the alert.

On education, the minister noted that the union has made serious stride in education development as there similarity on education system in both parts of the union.

The minister said the future plans on the ministry is to solve all the union matters by 2025, continue strengthening gains realized in the union throughout its existence and continue working together with other stakeholders in promoting environment matters.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Consultancy: Scoping Study to Assess Women Engagement in Forest Products Value Chain in EAC and SADC regions

1. BACKGROUND
The Eastern Africa Sustainable Forest Programme (EASFP) is a four-year programme (2016-2020) Programme being implemented by WWF – with support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland – in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique and Madagascar. The programme's overall goal is to build the capacity of Eastern Africa governments and local communities in priority landscapes in the region to take full responsibility and ownership over the sustainable management of their forest resources.

The initiative aims to protect forest reserves and buffer zones, prevent deforestation, and promote wildlife and sustainable agriculture land use. To do so, the programme has adopted the following strategic approaches:

- i. Strengthening forest governance, civil society and inter-governmental collaboration
- ii. Improving transparency and sustainability of timber trade supply/value chains
- iii. Promoting sustainable forest management approaches

Forest, tree and agroforestry (FTA) value chains involve a full range of activities to bring timber and/or non-timber forest products from the forest to the final consumer. Women perform a variety of functions in the value chains; however, their roles tend to be poorly visible and inadequately acknowledged. This is at mostly due to the fact that there are either operating in the informal sector, are part time employees, or carry out their activities at their homes between family responsibilities. Women also face socio-economic and other challenges, such a limited access to land and credit.

There therefore exists a critical link between gender and forest-based livelihoods and a need for women to be empowered through gender-oriented interventions. The forestry sector offers great promise and opportunity for women and efforts to alleviate poverty through increased involvement of women in the value chain. These efforts are to address traditional, cultural, social and economic constraints to women and recognise gender differences in knowledge, management and use of natural resources, biodiversity and conservation. This will facilitate the sustainable management of our precious forestry resources, promote food security and economic empowerment as they play a central role in our futures as studies have shown that women can become a powerful force in transforming the lives of their families and communities.

OBJECTIVES OF CONSULTANCY
WWF's EASFP is therefore seeking a consultant(s) to undertake this assignment to Assess Women's Engagement in Forest Products Value Chain in the East Africa Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions.

Key responsibilities of the Communications Consultants:



1. Undertake a Capacity Needs Assessment for Women's Empowerment in forest products value chains in the EAC and SADC regions;
2. Conduct a policy analysis on women empowerment in forest product value chains in the EAC and SADC regions;
3. Identify best practices for women empowerment in forest product value chains;
4. Consultant to recommend methods to empower women in forest products value chains in the EAC and SADC regions;
5. Organize a regional workshop on women empowerment in forest products value chains.

Application procedure & Submission of Applications
All interested applicants may get the detailed ToR on WWF websites at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ and also, send your full proposal (technical & financial) through procurement email at procurement@wwf.tz only softcopy proposals are accepted addressed to:

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;
website. www.wwf.or.tz

Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience about this consultancy. Submit a concise 2 – 4 page technical proposal highlighting the proposed approach, methodologies, brief work schedule, team composition and timings of the process. A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying the time professional fees, and proposed implementation costs. A 2 - 3 page CV of lead should also be attached.


All applications should reach us by or before 10.00am Tanzania local time on **Friday, 4th December 2021**

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Tanzania due to launch clinical centres to fight blood disorders

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA is set to launch clinical centres for hemophilia and sickle cell in all referral hospitals across the country which will facilitate the establishment of a national registry on the blood disorders to ease access to care.

Speaking at a meeting between officials from the ministry of health from Tanzania and Kenya, Dr Stella Rwezaura head of hematology department at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said the registry will facilitate data collection on the actual number of people suffering with blood related complications in the country.

Currently there is a knowledge gap in treatment and care for people suffering such diseases among health workers due to the fact that there are few experts in the country but also because the diseases are rare occurrences.

"We have already started talks with management of referral hospitals across the country and preparations are at an advanced stage to start installing these centres," she said.

The move to set up the centres is under the programme dubbed 'Accelerating access to blood disorders care in Tanzania and Kenya which is implemented by Tanzania Haemophilia Association (THA), Kenya Haemophilia Association (KHA) under the funding of the World Federation of Hemophilia in collaboration with Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation.

According to Dr Rwezaura, the programme aims at building capacity to healthcare providers, enhancing diagnosis and registry and providing education and empowerment.

She added there is a need for a nationwide sensitization campaign on blood related disorders, a move which she said would help to save lives of millions of Tanzanians suffering in darkness.

In his remarks, the acting Director

for Non Communicable Diseases in the ministry of Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr James Kihologwe said the government has already launched the NCDs strategy for 2021/26 which has included patients with such complications.

MNH Executive Director Prof Lawrence Museru said the programme will enhance timely access of care and services to haemophilia and sickle cell patients.

Current Data shows there are about 6000 to 12,000 people suffering from hemophilia and sickle cell in Tanzania but there are only a few registered patients who are on treatment.

Blood related diseases are posing a major threat to lives of the majority of Tanzanians due to lack of general knowledge as many turn to traditional medication on witchcraft fears hence end up losing lives due to its complications mostly over-breeding.

Hemophilia is a mostly inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots, a process needed to stop bleeding.

Researchers say the shortage of experts in haematology and blood transfusion services has a far-reaching impact on patients' healthcare provision needs. This is especially in early detection of blood diseases, laboratory diagnosis and blood transfusion.



We have already started talks with management of referral hospitals across the country and preparations are at an advanced stage to start installing these centres



Handeni district commissioner Siriel Mchembe (L) and district medical officer Dr Kanansia Shoo have a feel of delivery beds worth 31m/- donated by World Vision Tanzania at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchala

Govt wants Covid-19 funds audited

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

FINANCE and Planning minister Mwigulu Nchemba has directed internal auditors to assess funds disbursed to undertake Covid-19 recovery projects and programmes in the country.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Regional Commissioner for Arusha, John Mongella, the Finance Minister said appraisals over the state funding of the projects will help the government to also review how far the country had made strides in post pandemic recovery.

"That is in addition to ensuring that the money was well spent and reached the targeted people, programs and projects," stated Minister Mwigulu in his speech delivered to the internal auditors meeting in Arusha.

Mwigulu also advised that costs of conducting audits on projects should be included in the general budgets prior to approving the same, in order to ensure that such projects run smoothly without delay.

On his part the Internal Auditor General (IAG), Athuman Mbututuka pointed out that the country is facing acute shortage of internal auditors.

"We only have 1461 internal auditors; this is less than 40 percent of the required number of IAs which should be at least 2049 auditors. This sometimes affects performance of the sector," added IAG Mbututuka.

The Finance Minister asked the IAG to set aside budget for training more internal auditors as well as preparing special programs for enabling the auditors undertake the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) Practice Exams.

Over 400 participants, mostly Internal Auditors from Public Institutions are attending the Internal Auditors Annual Conference

organized by the Internal Auditor General's Division in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Taking place at the Arusha International Conference Center, the Auditors' conference runs under the theme of 'Effective Internal Audit is a cornerstone in enhancing public financial management, governance and accountability.'

It was stated during the conference that the government was ready to foot the bill for all Internal Auditors that want to sit for Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) Practice Exams as well as the training of more experts in this field.

ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY



**TENDER No: SMZ/FO118/NC/NCB/2021/22/18
FOR
PROVISION OF MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR AIR CONDITION.
Invitation for Tenders**

Date: 9th November. 2021.

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in **Zanzibar Leo Issue No.1821-8556-6299 dated 30th July 2021.**
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority during the financial year 2021/2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Provision of Maintenance Services for Air condition.
- Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority now invites sealed tenders from eligible Bidders to provide services for Provision of Maintenance Services for Air condition.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.BOX 2238, Room No. 011 Maisara, Zanzibar from **8.30 am to 16:00hours** on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English and additional sets may be purchased by Interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TSh.200,000/= (Two hundred Thousand Only) Payment should be by bank payable to Account Name: **Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Huduma za Maji na Nishati-Mapato, Account No. 0404 149 000, People's Bank of Zanzibar Limited (PBZ).**
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration in the format provided in the Bidding Documents.
- All Bids in one original plus Three (3) copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Secretary of the Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.BOX 2238, Room No.011, Maisara, Zanzibar at or before 10:00 Am, 30th November 2021. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the ZURA, P.O.BOX 2238, Maisara, Conference Room at ZURA Building Zanzibar.
- Late Bids, incomplete bids, electronic bids, bids not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 2238, MAISARA,
ZANZIBAR

216571901

ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY



**TENDER No: SMZ/FO118/NC/NCB/2021/22/17
FOR
PROVISION OF MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR GENERATOR AND BUILDING
ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURES.
Invitation for Tenders**

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- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.BOX 2238, Room No. 011 Maisara, Zanzibar from **8.30 am to 16:00hours** on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English and additional sets may be purchased by Interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TSh.200,000/= (Two hundred Thousand Only) Payment should be by bank payable to Account Name: **Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Huduma za Maji na Nishati-Mapato, Account No. 0404 149 000, People's Bank of Zanzibar Limited (PBZ).**
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration in the format provided in the Bidding Documents.
- All Bids in one original plus Three (3) copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Secretary of the Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.BOX 2238, Room No.011, Maisara, Zanzibar at or before 10:00 Am, 30th November 2021. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the ZURA, P.O.BOX 2238, Maisara, Conference Room at ZURA Building Zanzibar.
- Late Bids, incomplete bids, electronic bids, bids not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 2238, MAISARA,
ZANZIBAR

216571901



The Government's Internal Auditor General, Athumani Mbutuka, makes a presentation at a meeting held in Arusha city yesterday on the role of internal auditors in supervising public financial systems and promoting good governance and accountability. Photo: Finance ministry

By Guardian Correspondent

Treasury against high interest rates on non-performing loans

THE government has linked high interest rates with increased non-performing loans (NPLs) saying the situation contributes to paralyzing the economy.

Treasury Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Tutuba made the remarks over the weekend at the climax of the Financial Week Services held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam.

"When visiting some pavilions here, I have noticed that there are some financial institutions and banks which offer loans at an interest rate of 25 per cent," he said, adding, higher interest rates may result in borrowers failing to repay the loans.

According to him, some banks are charging an interest rate almost

equivalent to their profit which is between 10 and 25 percent.

Tutuba insisted on banks to make sure they know the history of borrowers to avoid giving credit to unscrupulous borrowers who borrowed with the intention of not repaying the loans.

He said: "We will open a special registration window for borrowers to have their database; this will help in tracking them and know their lending history."

Earlier, Dr Charles Mwamwaja, Commissioner for the Financial Sector Development at the Ministry of Finance and Planning said the

Financial Week Services had a total of 100 pavilions whereas each of them participated in providing financial education to the public.

Dr Mwamwaja said the provided education was on treasury bonds, loans management, savings and financial management. He said visitors were educated on how to preserve coins.

According to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), the NPLs level slightly decreased from 9.58 percent in 2019 to 9.42 percent in 2020.

Last week, central bank governor, Prof Florens Luoga, on Sunday stated that some banks and

financial institutions have been issuing loans without following proper procedures, thus resulting in NPLs.

He attributed the trend to corruption by unscrupulous employees who collude with equally dubious borrowers.

BoT stated that it will blacklist the involved employees, and bar them from being employed in any bank or financial institution in Tanzania.

Prof Luoga directed banks whose employees have NPLs with another bank, their particulars to be submitted to the Credit Reference Bureau for appropriate action.

TPSF launches AFRAP to make SMEs grow into franchise brand

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has launched an Africa Franchising Accelerator Project (AFRAP), aimed at growing hundreds of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro operators into a franchise brand.

Briefing journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam shortly after the AFRAP launch, TPSF Executive Director Francis Nanai said that in June 2016, the African Development Bank (AfDB) on behalf of the African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) signed an agreement with TPSF to enable the foundation to implement the AFRAP project.

"AFRAP is funded through a generous grant of USD 799,800 from the people of Japan and Austria who contributed toward the fund for FAPA and thus we will use it to increase awareness of franchising in the country and give the opportunity to ninety SMEs and ten micro operators to transform into franchise brands.

The AFRAP project will run for 48 months (2021- January 2025) and it will increase competitiveness for entrepreneurs, youth and women, thereby contributing to the reduction of unemployment and ultimately contributing to the improvement of the country's Growth Domestic Product(GDP), he said. "Based on the experience of South Africa where each franchise supports an estimated 17 direct and 25 indirect jobs, AFRAP targeted 2,250 franchisees with the potential to support at least 38,250 direct and 56,250 indirect jobs across the country," he noted.

The project will guide the SMEs through five phases of becoming a brand and also will aggregate micro operators into ten-value chains and into ten national brands which will help micro operators and SMEs who have a little chance of growing to become national brands and have access markets regionally and continentally, he said.

"AFRAP-TZ aims to identify current hurdles in the legal system that stifle franchising and recommend amendments necessary to support the growth of robust franchising culture that will nurture and develop entrepreneur's talents in the country," he said.

He further noted that the project will incubate the franchise association of Tanzania (FATA) to become the industry self-regulatory mechanism at project closure as it will play a key role in regulating the franchise sector by giving guidance and support to franchise operators and such support will include comprehensive information about franchising opportunity in Tanzania, provision of Training, seminars, conferences, and franchise exhibitions, disseminate information, and actively seek collaboration with other national and international franchising associations.

For his part, AFRAP Lead Consultant Wambugu Wa Gichohi said that they will be conducting six-day training that will start in Zanzibar, followed up in Mbeya, Mwanza, Dodoma, Arusha, and Dar es Salaam as part of the process of finding companies that will represent their brands.

"Criteria will be considered for the company to be chosen among of is if the company has a profitable profit of 250m/-per annum, a registered business, and also has been audited for the past three years, and we will be training the owner of the business and onto their wise, said Wa Gichohi.

Executive Director Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) Mwajuma Hamza said that women will be among the people who will be benefited from the AFRAP by 50 percent since most of them have all the qualifications needed to enroll in the project.

"We will be benefited because our business has registered and our business is well known as well as we are good taxpayers," said Hamza.



PACT TANZANIA: STATEMENT OF FUNDS COMMITTED FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE YEAR 2022.

In line with Regulation 12 of the Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Pact Tanzania hereby discloses below funds committed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of financing year 2022 budget for implementation of ACHIEVE project activities. Pact implements its activities through local civil society organizations (CSOs) whereby a significant amount of these funds will be channeled to CSOs for implementation. Pact works with around 28 CSOs on ACHIEVE project in Tanzania.

Project Name	ACHIEVE Project
Funding Agency	USAID
Project purpose	ACHIEVE is a five-year, USAID-funded global cooperative agreement with the dual objectives of attaining and sustaining HIV epidemic control among at-risk and hard-to-reach pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth, as well as to mitigate the impact of HIV/ AIDS and prevent HIV transmission among these populations; and supporting the transition of prime partner funding and implementation to capable local partners in order to meet the PEPFAR goal of 70% of funding to local partners in Tanzania.
Project duration	October 01, 2021 - September 30, 2022
Funds committed for Financial Year 2021/22	\$ 17,000,000
Regions of implementation	Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar Mjini Magharibi, Coastal, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Tabora, Kigoma, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara, Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Mbeya, Katavi, Rukwa and Songwe.

21657101



SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
P.O. Box 80462 Dar es Salaam Tanzania
T +255 22 2460526
www.sos-childrensvillages.org
A loving home for every child

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

DISPOSAL OF USED MOTOR VEHICLES: REF. SOS/DISPOSAL/MV/2021/01

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania invites applications from all interested individuals, organisations, company and/the public in a sealed bidding process of the below asset (used motor vehicles) disposal. The items are being auctioned on the condition of it's as it's basis, successful bidders will be responsible for the payment of all related taxes as established by the Tanzania Government. However all vehicles are fully duty paid.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS.

LOT #	REGISTRATION NUMBER	MAKE	LOCATION
Lot # 1	T 992 CYS	RAV 4	DAR ES SALAAM
Lot # 2	T 932 BGV	TOYOTA HILLUX (PICK UP)	ARUSHA
Lot # 3	T 891 CMW	TOYOTA PRADO	DAR ES SALAAM
Lot # 4	T 683 AHM	MITSUBISHI PICK UP	ARUSHA
Lot # 5	Z 909 AW	TOYOTA HILUX (PICK UP)	ZANZIBAR

NOTE:

- Bidders are allowed to inspect the Motor Vehicles prior to bidding at different locations of SOS Children's Village offices as indicated in the table above from November 16th to 23rd except public holidays and weekend and time from 09:00hrs to 15:00hrs.
- Tenders shall be opened soon thereafter in the presence of tenderers or their representatives who wish to attend at the Main Office Conference Hall. Any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification.
- Completed tender document should be submitted in a plain sealed envelope and physically deposited in the tender box situated at the Main Office Reception, so as to be received on or before Tuesday 30th November 2021 at 14.00hrs. Electronic submissions are not accepted.
- Every bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the Lot number and the bid reference number indicated on the envelope, clearly marked in Bold Letters: **SOS/DISPOSAL/MV/2021/01. "DISPOSAL OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE"** addressed to: -

National Director,
SOS Children's Village Tanzania, National Office,
White Star Tower, Ground Floor Wing B, Kiko Avenue, Mikocheni,
P. O. Box 80462, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

- Opening of bids will be on Friday, December 3rd, 2021 @ 11:00 AM at SOS Children's Village Tanzania, National Office located on the address above.

It is the responsibility of each bidder to ensure that bids are submitted in accordance with the instructions as stipulated in the advert, as non-compliance to the instructions will lead to disqualification and rejection of the bid.

Please note that, successful bidders will be required to pay in full amount within 7 days of receiving the award notification and failure to do so items will be offered to next bidder. Award of contract will be per vehicle and successful bidder will be communicated formally.

For any enquiries/questions please call +255 716 880076 or email national.office@sos-tanzania.org

21657101

Women in agribusiness want to be connected to markets

By Felister Peter

WOMEN entrepreneurs in the agribusiness sector have appealed to the government to assist them in finding reliable markets for their products.

They raised their voices in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking alongside a three-day capacity building training programme through the 'Waendeleze' project organized by Lindam Group Limited in collaboration with Match Maker Associates and Netherland based-Crosswise Works.

The fifteen successful women entrepreneurs will participate in the Waendeleze' project for 14 months with support from the Netherlands Embassy and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

Esterina Kilasi from Mbarali District in Mbeya Region who engages in poultry and livestock fattening and breeding business said: "We are now selling our products locally, we supply to buyers in Njombe, Mbeya and Iringa regions. We would wish to have more markets within and outside the country because we produce the best cattle breeds."

Kilasi who is the Managing Director said they operate the ranch which was previously owned by the National Agricultural and Food Corporation (NAFCO) whereas they purchase cattle from villagers, fattening them before they are sold to meat sellers.

She said with reliable markets, they would be able to expand the business and employ more people.

"We are thankful for this project as it is going to help us grow our businesses," she added.

Managing Director, AKM Glitters Company Limited, Elizabeth Swai said the training they are going to receive will help to improve their business and establish networks with local and international partners. She said the company which deals with value addition on poultry, maize farming and agri-processing produces 240 tonnes of poultry feed per day.

"We would wish to expand our markets because we are now selling our products in almost all the regions including Zanzibar and Kenya," she said.

Edmund Ringo, CEO, Match Maker Group said they are implementing the 'Waendeleze' project to promote their businesses and enable them to access markets globally. He said through the project, the women entrepreneurs would establish new networks and partnerships.

"We want to link you with some important stakeholders as well as policy makers in finding solutions to the different challenges you're facing," said Ringo.

In her opening remarks, Zuhura Muro, Managing Director Lindam Group Limited said the Waendeleze' seeks to unlock their potential and scale-up productions

"We have picked women from all over the country; we selected the kind of businesses whose owners are women although might be run in partnership with men," said Muro noting selected businesses are capable of generating an income of at least 200m/- per year.

She said before selecting the SMEs, a research was conducted to identify them as well as the challenges they face in doing business. She said a total of 173 SMEs applied for the project but only 15 were selected from northern, southern, central and Lake zones.

The entrepreneurs would be linked with important stakeholders and institutions such as the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).



We are thankful for this project as it is going to help us grow our businesses

Govt urges JATA members to assist small traders with solar powered lanterns

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has urged members of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Alumni Association of Tanzania (JATA) to raise awareness and support the petty traders, commonly known as "Machingas", with solar power facilities at their relocated areas in the region in order to extend their working-time.

Morogoro District Commissioner Albert Msando made the call when speaking during a one-day seminar held by JATA in collaboration with WASSHA—a Japanese-Tanzanian company that provides solar lantern rental and charging service using clean energy in off-grid areas through kiosks (retail stores).

The DC said most of the market areas where petty traders were relocated lack power facilities, making it difficult to work during night-time.

"It is hard for the petty traders (Machingas) to do their businesses during night-time at their current relocated market areas. I hereby request you JATA members through WASSHA to provide them with the rental solar devices in order to extend their working time during night hours," he said.

In another development, Msando expressed his gratitude towards JICA for establishing various development projects in the region, which benefit low-income residents including small entrepreneurs.

He said the establishment of development projects with direct impacts to low-income communities is in line with the sixth government's plans under the President Samia Suluhu Hassan to improve people's socio-economic services.

JATA members are JICA training programs' ex-participants both

from public and from private sectors who studied in Japan as part of the cooperation between the Government of Tanzania and the Government of Japan through JICA.

JATA Chairperson Gregory Mlay said the association implements at least six public relations activities every year in different regions under the close support of JICA.

A member of the association's executive committee Dr. Severine Assenga said that JATA had more than 4,000 members countrywide who in one way or another studied in Japan and other countries under JICA wings.

The association paid a visit at WASSHA business site and held the seminar on 30 October 2021 to learn on how the clean solar energy serves well the low-income earners as a service and business.

The seminar was organized to understand WASSHA's business model and its impacts to the development of people's livelihoods in Tanzania.

WASSHA has been providing solar power services across Tanzanian regions such as Dar es Salaam, Coast and Morogoro under a close support from JICA since 2016. It was the first case of JICA's Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) project in Sub-Saharan Africa.

JATA members also paid visit to WASSHA agents and consumers around Morogoro Municipality and along Kigurunyembe - Mkyuni road to witness and talk to the beneficiaries of WASSHA services.

The JATA members observed and understood the business model and the impact of the WASSHA services to surrounding communities and how the enterprise has been realizing its mission "Power to the people."



Members of the Parliamentary Governance and Local Government Committee inspect a 75m/- bridge built with Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) funds at Laja in Karatu District - on the road linking Karatu Town with Lake Eyasi. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

TWELVE percent of children aged between 10 and 15 in Zanzibar engage in premarital sex which leads to various side effects including early pregnancy.

Coordinator of 'Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3 Programme)' Hasina Bukheti revealed this over the weekend when speaking at the workshop organised for statistical officials from Zanzibar's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training on the response and testing of international indicators of HIV/Aids education, reproductive health, and life skills for students.

The workshop was organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in collaboration with the Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training funding from the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA).

The O3 Programme aims to support adolescents and young

'12 pct of Z'bar children engage in premarital sex'

people in SSA to realize positive health, education, and gender equality outcomes through a sustained reduction in new HIV infections, early and unintended pregnancy, gender-based violence, and child marriage.

Bukheti said the figures were in line with a study conducted by the Zanzibar Aids Commission in 2016 where there was still a negative trend for children to engage in sexual activity at an early age.

He said according to a study conducted in 2016 by sub-Saharan Africa, 28 percent of girls give birth at the age of 18 and 12 percent get married.

"According to the study, between 5 and 25 percent of adolescent

girls have had sex under the age of 15," the official said, noting that the study also found that new HIV infections had reached 141,000 men and 290,000 women aged 15 to 24 in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Presenting a paper, an officer in charge of HIV/Aids from the ministry of Education Riziki Mohammed Juma suggested the need for reproductive health education to be provided from kindergarten to higher levels.

She said the education will help the child to protect him from abusive acts because most of them do not know the consequences of such acts.

"Currently there are many cases of child abuse because children do

not understand the consequences of such actions so education will build their confidence and confidence by saying no," she stressed.

Riziki also urged teachers to teach children how to clean the body to avoid various bacteria that can cause damage to reproductive health.

Wrapping up the training, the ministry of education director of human resources, Omar Ali Omar, commended UNESCO for chipping and supporting the ministry by providing it with various opportunities.

He urged the statistics officers to work on the training to achieve the intended goal and achieve development, including keeping children safe without abuse.



Emmanuel Tutuba (L), Permanent Secretary in the Finance and Planning ministry, with M-Pesa marketing manager Noel Mazoya (R) and Vodacom Tanzania public relations manager Alex Bitekeye (C) at the firm's pavilion at the climax of the just-ended commemoration of Financial Week Services held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lord Walney to launch UK-Tanzania business forum

By Guardian Reporter

UK Prime Minister's trade envoy to Tanzania, Lord Walney (John Woodcock) is today expected to launch the first Tanzania-UK business forum in Dar es Salaam.

Walney landed in the country yesterday for five-day official visit, which is meant to cement bilateral relationship between the two countries.

According to a statement issued by the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam, the UK envoy is to attend the today's first Tanzania-UK Business Forum.

The Forum brings together

government and business to discuss how to maximise opportunities to increase trade and investment between our countries.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa and The Lord Walney will open the event.

Over 125 businesses will participate in person, with online discussion open to businesses in both countries. Dedicated business-to-business sessions will work through challenges and opportunities in a range of sectors.

Parallel government talks will build on efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her administration to improve the

business environment, and enable the growth of a strong private sector to support job creation and economic growth.

This will be the first visit by the Trade Envoy to Tanzania since taking up the position in August 2021. He met President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the UK on 31 October.

The Trade Envoy will also hold high-level meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Affairs ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Geoffrey Mwambe.

The Trade Envoy will engage with businesses and investors in Dar es Salaam and Arusha, in a range of meetings that show the breadth and depth of the UK's trade and investment relationship with Tanzania.

Speaking before his visit, The Lord Walney said: "I am delighted that my first visit to Tanzania will launch the Business Forum, and mark the start of a new dialogue that will build even more mutual prosperity for our countries. UK businesses are already a key source of investment in Tanzania, and it is my ambition to see that grow in the years ahead."



Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the achievements the Office has registered since Tanganyika's independence on December 9, 1961. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Minister Prof Mkumbo urges full participation of SADC quality awards

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Prof. Kitila Mkumbo has directed the Tanzania Bureau of Standards to organize with producers and make sure that they participate fully in the quality awards contest that was introduced by the SADC few years ago.

Speaking during the launch of national quality awards contest for 2021/2022 held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Prof Mkumbo said the participation of TBS in SADC quality award was low since it was introduced by the regional body in 2011.

Prof Mkumbo said some SADC members namely Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana have been participating in the contest several times.

"It is a must for TBS to organize themselves and make sure that Tanzania participates fully in the SADC quality award contest," he said.

He also urged the standards watchdog to find and encourage more producers to take part in the national quality award contest for the year 2021/2022.

"You have to educate and sensitize them and see how they can participate in the important initiative which aims at supporting industrial growth," he said.

Minister Mkumbo said more efforts should be directed to small and medium entrepreneurs because they consist of the large group in economic creation activities.

According to him there are over 60,000 micro enterprises in the country which most of are not aware of standards related matters.

He said more efforts were needed to make Tanzania enter into the Africa market with a population of 1.2billion and market value of USD

3.1trillion.

He congratulated the management of Tanzania Bureau of Standards and Tanzania Private Sector Foundation for their collaboration and making sure that the contest is held as scheduled.

Speaking earlier, the TBS Director General Dr Athuman Ngenya, said the awards was introduced to help producers adhere to standards matters during production hence compete in local and regional markets.

The awards aim to recognize and appreciate organizations and individuals who are contributing to quality advancement in all sectors of SADC, by having measurement and quality systems, procedures and processes that are in line with local, regional and international practices and who use quality advancement to support national and regional economic development and growth.

Some of the categories to be contested are those of best company of the year, best product, service of the year, exporter of the year and an individual award in quality related matters.

Trophies and some cash would be provided by the organizers to the winners at the end of the contest early next year.



It is a must for TBS to organize themselves and make sure that Tanzania participates fully in the SADC quality award contest

By Special Correspondent

AfDB welcomes US\$136 million in further donor commitments SEFA

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has announced \$136 million in additional investment for its Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA).

The announcement was made recently during the COP26 conference featuring government ministers and a council of leaders in renewable energy.

SEFA - a multi-donor trust fund administered by the AfDB - has reaffirmed its support for institutional expansion for its African energy focused development programs. SEFA's founding member,

Denmark, has disclosed \$14 million in new pledges.

Denmark's Minister for Development and Nordic Cooperation, Fleming Møller Mortensen, deliberated that energy was a transformational mechanism for economic growth, job creation and strengthening climate resilience.

"The good news is that green energy - such as wind and solar - has become cheaper than fossil fuel.

This opens a unique opportunity to close the energy gap for the almost 600 million people living in Africa without access to electricity today with renewable energy sources," said Mortensen.

With 600 million people in Africa still lacking access to modern energy and a growing population, Africa will require strong commitments in investment activity to meet targets stipulated under The United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals.

"The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa can speed up development and contribute to the energy transition in Africa while creating universal access to energy and decarbonizing economies. Therefore, Germany recently increased its contribution to SEFA by another €100 million," said Parliamentary State Secretary of Germany Dr Maria Flachsbarth.

NNATIONAL INVESTMENTS PLC



NOTICE OF THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE NATIONAL INVESTMENTS PLC (NICOL)

Notice is hereby given that the 7th Annual General Meeting of the National Investments Plc shareholders will be held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) on **Friday, 3rd December, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.** The registration counters will be open from 8:30am.

The agenda will be as follows:

- 7.1. NOTICE AND QUORUM.
- 7.2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.
- 7.3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2020.
- 7.4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
- 7.5. TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020.
- 7.6. DIVIDEND DECLARATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021.
- 7.7. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION.
- 7.8. RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS.
- 7.9. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021.
- 7.10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. Members wishing to attend the meeting must submit one of the following: a copy of his/her depository receipt, passport, voters ID card, or driving license.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf in accordance with the provision of the Articles of the Company. The proxy form must be deposited at the registered office of the company (physical or by email to invest@nicol.co.tz) not later than 04:00 pm **Thursday, 2nd December, 2021.**
3. Copies of the Annual Report and proxy forms will be available at the NICOL's office 50 Mirambo, 3rd Floor Street, Mirambo House and on the company's website www.nicolplc.co.tz. For more details please contact 0733 006 177 or 022 2111 399.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
NATIONAL INVESTMENTS PLC**

Adv. Benjamin Mwakagamba
Company Secretary
11th NOVEMBER 2021

216572001

ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY



TENDER No: SMZ/FO118/NC/NCB/2021/22/15 FOR PROVISION OF MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR LIFT

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 9th November, 2021.

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in **Zanzibar Leo Issue No.1821-8556-6299** dated 30th July 2021.
2. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority during the financial year 2021/2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Provision of Maintenance Services for Lift.
3. Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority now invites sealed tenders from eligible Bidders to provide services for Provision of Maintenance Services for Lift.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.BOX 2238, Room No. 011 Maisara, Zanzibar from **8.30 am to 16:00hours** on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Document in English and additional sets may be purchased by Interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TSh.200,000/= (Two hundred Thousand Only) Payment should be by bank payable to Account Name: **Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Huduma za Maji na Nishati-Mapato, Account No. 0404 149 000, People's Bank of Zanzibar Limited (PBZ).**
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration in the format provided in the Bidding Documents.
8. All Bids in one original plus Three (3) copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Secretary of the Tender Board, Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority P.O.BOX 2238, Room No.011, Maisara, Zanzibar at or before 10:00 Am, 30th November 2021. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the ZURA, P.O.BOX 2238, Maisara, Conference Room at ZURA Building Zanzibar.
9. Late Bids, incomplete bids, electronic bids, bids not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
ZANZIBAR UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 2238, MAISARA,
ZANZIBAR**

216571901

TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Remembering road traffic victims builds more societal responsibility

GLOBAL activists have on the past two decades been dedicating November 15, falling on a Monday this year, to remembering the victims of road traffic accidents. The commemoration did not in actual fact start as a world day but taken up by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 after scores of civic and organizations, civic and religious, had started observing the day at least since 1993. Chroniclers say that the first day of remembrance was organised by a local non-governmental organization in Britain, Road Peace, as data was being collected that people die in road accidents than in wars around the world.

In 1995 another civic organization, the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims added its support and by 1998 the event was being held in a number of countries including Argentina, Australia, Israel, South Africa, as well as Trinidad and Tobago, apart from Britain. But it wasn't until 2003 that the World Health Organisation (WHO) joined the movement, thus in 2005 the UN General Assembly resolved to invite all nations to observe the day 'as the appropriate acknowledgment of victims of road traffic crashes and their families.' The Vatican joined in 2005 with Pope Benedict XVI, solidifying the moral argument.

UN chroniclers say that in 2007 events were held in 18 countries, marked by candlelight parades in Israel, a multi-faith gathering in Australia, theater performances in Mexico, and a wide ranging seminar in Japan. Participating countries rose to 28 the following year and

steadily those thereafter, marked by the presence of European nobility chipping in to make these events more colourful.

These commemorations have also helped to train the light on countries where fatalities are commonest, where India leads the numbers. In these days of post-COP26 reflections, it is interesting to see how far accidents are tied with pollution there

Looking at the matter from an internal viewpoint, it is clear that in the past few years the worst source of road accidents is speeding motorcycled where youths bare music as they race down the streets, excessively depending on blaring horns to stem accidents. With current efforts to build highways that separate traffic not to meet face to face at the centre of the road or in overtaking, highway accidents are likely to come down. Indeed we don't hear these days of the legendary Tumbi fatalities, an accident prone spot near Kibaha in Coast Region that appears to have cooled, given the round roads to enter the highway.

Still it is evident that road accidents due to speeding involve scores of other forces psychologically or in terms of vehicle working state. That is why current strategic projects like the Standard Gauge Railway and connection with the Tanzania-Zambia Railway will cut plenty of transit trade by lorries, and with it a portion of the worst accidents. Long road safaris by buses diminish, making travel safer, but education and supervision are vital to stem short route accidents, especially for speeding motorcycle drivers.

Ngorongoro parliamentary race will test multipartism heartbeat

EXCITEMENT is building up to the holding of a parliamentary by-election in Ngorongoro constituency following the death of erstwhile deputy minister William ole Nasha, with 13 political parties apparently showing up to pick nomination forms. While scores of those parties don't have a chance in the world of being successful, it is not a written law who shall emerge the winner, as there is always a constituency where the ruling party slips up. In the first place it depends on local circumstances and the personalities in contention, and then it involves the degree to which campaigning, voting and counting is free and fair.

It must be stated that with the majority of observers, not just in civil society but also among the parties, the issue isn't really who wins but how those who hold regulatory and law enforcement power will conduct themselves. Recent events in Zanzibar where a by-election was held in Konde constituency show mixed lessons, but as they say 'all is well that ends well,' we hope that the lessons of Zanzibar will be taken up in this by-election. First there was a false start, where machinations were made to rout the opposition, and then there was a disquiet and the still unsworn winner skipped, so the opposition won.

With the current effort to build a national unity ethos by involving the opposition, that experience was close to throwing a spanner into the works but it was rapidly corrected. Similarly, executives on this side of the union shouldn't confined

themselves into the 'happy' ways of the past where CCM was assured of practically all seats before voting is done, as that way we don't build the necessary harmony for stability. Recent experience shows that the more inhospitable the climate is for opposition parties, the less convivial is the ruling party atmosphere itself, as breaking constitutional rules is a sin that eats both ways.

That said, it is possible Ngorongoro is a safe seat for the ruling party as their MP was recognized and was sitting as an assistant to the Education portfolio holder in the cabinet, so they have many reasons to continue trusting the ruling party. The trouble is that some zealous officials take support for granted and actually block expression, whereas the test of support is when it is shown freely, not when blocking such expression will not meet with demonstrations. Destabilization tremors are quickly felt in the country's investment atmosphere, rapidly.

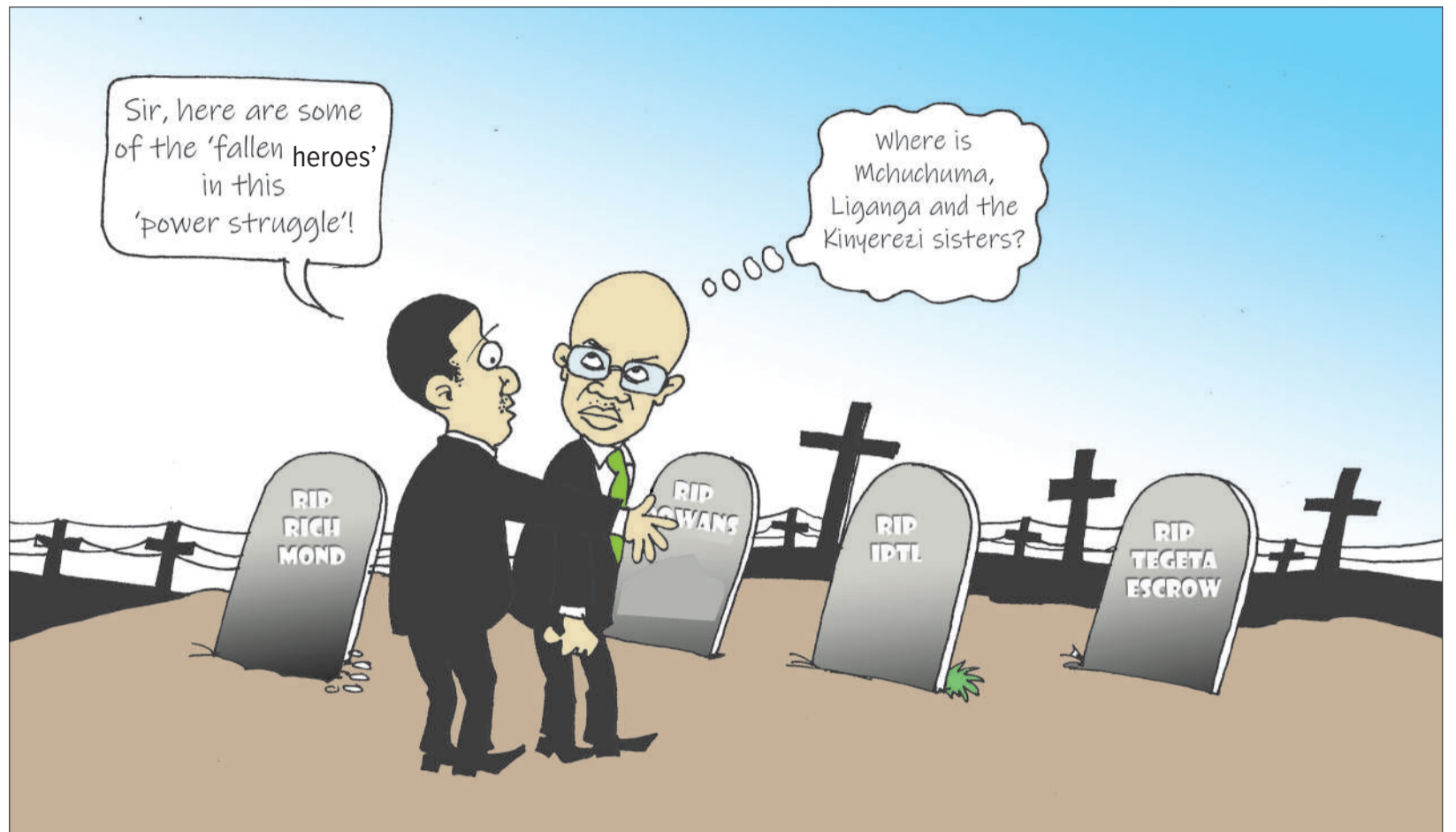
Long term investments are pared down or diminish and short term money makers flood the country. They are those who will pay any kickbacks to get deals rather than expect good governance, as it isn't possible to refuse good governance in polls and exercise it in investments.

Good governance is largely a synthetic quality which a country or government opts to take it or leave it, and as the sixth phase is genuinely interested in inviting foreign investors and building extensive links around the world, good governance is a must.

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By Ephrem Andragchew

SIDAMO was a province in the southern part of Ethiopia, with its capital city at Irgalem, and after 1978 at Awasa. It was named after an ethnic group native to Ethiopia, called the Sidama, who are located in the south-central part of the country. Their major political state was the ancient Kingdom of Sidama.

Climate change affects all living organisms; it has done so in the past and will do so in the future. However, current climate change is exceptional both in terms of the rate of change and the impact of multiple types of global change on individuals, populations, species, and ecosystems. Effects of Climate Change on Birds provides an exhaustive and up-to-date synthesis of the science of climate change as it relates to birds. Compared with any other class of animals, birds provide more long-term data and extensive time series (some dating back more than 100 years), a more geographically and taxonomically diverse source of information, and a longer tradition of extensive research.

Ethiopia is one of the countries of the world rich in biodiversity. The altitudinal difference with the highest peak at Ras Dashen (4620 m above sea level) and the minimum 126 meters below sea level in the Afar depression is the main reason that makes Ethiopia one of the very few countries that are rich in biodiversity. The country has various endemic animals, mammals, and birds. More specifically, Ethiopia hosts two of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, namely, the Eastern Afromontane and the Horn of Africa hotspots.

Weldemariam Tesfahunegny in his article in 2016 entitled "A catalogue for endemic birds of Ethiopia" stated that the wildlife biodiversity of Ethiopia assists more than 926 birds with 24 endemics. Because Ethiopia is the 27th largest country in the world with an area coverage of 435,071 square miles. This large size makes Ethiopia ecologically diverse ranging from arid areas to tropical forests in the south. The nation enjoys a high level of endemics with 31 species of endemic mammals and over twenty species of endemic birds.

Nevertheless, Ethiopia's some biodiversity resources are moving to extinction. Extinct occurs when a species, family, or another group of animals or plants has no living members or is no longer in survival. Extinction is to vanish a kind of organism or a group of kids (taxon), usually a species. The moment of extinction is by and large reflected to be the death of the last individual of the species, nonetheless, the capacity to breed and recover may have been lost before this point.

Extinction may have various

Save the Sidamo or liben lark before it is too late



causes, and it may happen when a species dies out from cataclysmic events, evolutionary problems, or human interference. Human beings could also cause other species to become extinct by hunting, overharvesting, introducing invasive species to the wild, polluting, and changing wetlands and forests to croplands and urban areas. Besides, extinction happens anywhere and everywhere if humans don't take cautions plan for their day-to-day activities.

Ethiopian Biodiversity Institutions Ornithologist Amare Gibru told The Ethiopian Herald that in Ethiopia, Birds are estimated about 926 which 24 of the species are endemic. Among them, The Liben Lark, among others, is critically endangered. It was believed that the Lark once used to be found in the Ethiopian Somalia Region, Borena, and Somaliland. However, the Lark species is on a verge of extinction. Some years back the population of the Liben Lark has estimated from 50 to 250 which many of which are Cocks and the number of Hens is less, he said.

People agree on the vulnerability of the bird, but the name is debatable. Some call it "Liben Lark" while others call it "Sidamo Lark." Kotebe Education University Biology Department Assistant Professor Bruktawit Abdu, who did her PhD dissertation on Ornithology, has put the name the Sidamo or Liben Lark the same. And the name can be used interchangeably.

She also told the Ethiopian Herald that the name "Sidamo Lark or Liben Lark" was the same. The Lark is an endemic bird that is found only in Ethiopia. The Lark is previously known as Sidamo Lark because there was a province called Sidamo. But with the change of administration border in Ethiopia for the last 27 years and the name, Sidamo Lark has changed into Liben Lark. The name has changed through several

discussions with the community living in the Borena area where the bird is found. So, the name comes from the Liben Plain. Whether the Bird is named Sidamo Lark or Liben Lark, seems to be extinct soon.

The Lark is dependent on grassland which is 5 to 15 centimetres tall and the annual rainfall of 300-400 mm (12-16 in) is the bird's preferred habitat. Apart from the Liben plain, there is no similar vegetation for over 200 km, meaning the lark has nowhere else to go, she explained.

The Lark is critically endangered and currently, 80 per cent of the population of the Lark has declined due to various reasons such as the decline of the grasslands in the area, the expansion of farming land, even the existing grassland is covered by bushes, people from outside the inhabitant is coming to look for farming land and turned the area into farmland, and so on. It is obvious that extinction is a very bad thing for endemic birds like Sidamo Lark and unless immediate action is taken to save it, the bird will disappear, she noted.

Apart from agricultural practices, pastoralism, and invasive weeds, threats including wildfire, severe weather events, and climate change are reasons for the extinction of the lark. These reasons, further, degraded the quality of the area which severely affects the life of the Lark, she added.

According to studies, the Sidamo lark (*Heteromirafra sidamoensis*) is an enigmatic species, and one of the most ancient types of lark known anywhere. Discovered by scientists in 1968, the bird was only seen once in the following 25 years. If the planet loses this species, then it loses an important ancestral link in the evolution of the entire radiation of lark species.

The Liben or Sidamo Lark is indeed a kind of bird that lives only in the Liben Plain. Birds, including

the Liben Lark, are important to human life. Saving and conserving birds from extinction are important things to this planet since birds are indicators of quality life, clean water, an unpolluted environment, and so on.

Besides, birds are important specious for many ecosystems. They have been playing a vital role in controlling pests, acting as pollinators, and maintaining island ecology. They are important to humans in many ways, such as serving as a source of food and providing fertilizer in agricultural settings.

Therefore, it is very important to apply a conservation approach to save the Sidamo Lark. To do so, the concerned body should do researches on the existing population ecology of the species, and implement other threat reduction strategies, she noted.

Moreover, the way forward towards conserving the Liben Lark is to work closely with local Borana people to improve the quantity and quality of grassland habitat by reducing grazing pressure, agricultural expansion, and scrub encroachment.

It is also essential to identify the Liben Lark breeds seasons and work on it to save it from extinction. The breeding time of the Liben Lark is the Ethiopian winter season. During this season protecting the area from farming, human activities, and grazing is important.

According to Assistant Professor Bruktawit, Borena is a place where it is known for its cattle. The place is rich in animals breeding. Hence, the people need grazing lands for their animals. Due to this reason, many people think that protecting or providing grassland for the Lark to breed would affect the life of the cattle. But it is not true.

"Winter is the lark breeding season. Then, it is possible to protect the grassland during the Lark breeding season and give the grass to the cattle after the season is over. So, breeding cattle and saving the Lark from extinction can go together harmoniously without affecting one another" she stated.

Birds are indeed indicators of quality of life. Apart from attracting tourists and generating incomes, the existence of birds in one area has shown the quality of the place. The government, the communities, stakeholders, and environmental activists, hence, should raise their voice to the Sidamo or Liben Lark before it is too late. Because saving birds from extinction is saving the planet.

Climate Africa: Resilience and adaptation

By Mark Mwandosya

“IT is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change”.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882).
I would like, at the outset, to congratulate Aliu Akoshile, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief and the Team at NatureNews Africa, for making it through what has been, globally, a very difficult year.

Covid-19 has caused havoc to the extent that we can only meet virtually, at least for the time being. One year of existence under the conditions of the coronavirus is something worthwhile to celebrate. Bravo Team NatureNews Africa.

The 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP26) is right now in session in Glasgow, Scotland, (Oct 31 to Nov 12).

The expectations are high. I must add that it depends on one's perception of success when it comes to global negotiations on climate change.

My anticipation is measured and is borne out of a long experience of participating in a number of Conferences of the Parties.

I had the unenviable yet unique task of chairing the group of 133+ countries, the Group of 77 (G77) and speaking for the G77 and China in 1997 during the negotiations which led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, a multilateral instrument that was the precursor to the Paris Agreement.

I worked closely with Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo (Nigeria), Bernardias Muller (The Philippines), Rungano Karimanzira (Zimbabwe), Madeleine Diuf (Senegal), Mohamed Salem al Saban (Saudi Arabia), Zhenmin Liu (China), Tuiloma Neroni Slade (Samoa), Buruhani Salum Nyenzi (Tanzania), Eric Mugurusi (Tanzania), Verdiana Macha (Tanzania), and other delegates.

My friend, colleague and fellow university alumnus Abdoulaye Bathily was then Minister for Environment of Senegal.

Background. In 1985, scientists from across the world met in Villach, Austria, under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in order to discuss the effect of greenhouse gases on the climate. They concluded that climate change was plausible and its occurrence a serious probability.

From then onwards, a number of studies and meetings have supported these conclusions. Policies for the reduction of greenhouse gases (mitigation) and strategies to minimise the impact of climate change (adaptation) were proposed.

These efforts led to the establishment of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 and the inception of World Climate Conferences.

The United Nations took the lead



in the matter and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed by 154 states in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the 'Earth Summit' held in June 1992.

The main objective of the Convention is "to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".

The objective has a timeframe that is "sufficient to allow eco-systems to adapt naturally to climate change to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner" Through the Convention structure, intergovernmental negotiations take place under its Conference of Parties arrangements.

The objective of these negotiations is to arrive at a global consensus on the setting of, and agreeing upon, the temperature increase beyond which the earth would be propelled into catastrophic circumstances, and how to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are now discernible.

I attended the first Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Convention which took place in Berlin in March/April 1995. Angela Merkel, the then Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany responsible for the environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety, was the president of COP1. The ongoing multilateral discussions on climate change have resulted from the decisions taken at COP1, and specifically Decision 1 of COP1 (the Berlin Mandate).

COP1 reviewed the implementation by member states of their obligations under the Convention and found them inadequate in the quest for the stabilisation of the global climate system.

Therefore, the Conference decided to kick-start a process to strengthen the commitments of developed countries through the setting of quantified limitation and reduction objectives, within specified timeframes. It was mindful of the global nature of climate change, which calls for "widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions".

The negotiations during subsequent COPs have centred on the review of the commitments and obligations of member states in the furtherance of the objective of the Convention, informed by science. The foregoing provides the context

for COP26 meeting in Glasgow.

The industrialised world is responsible for historic emissions concentrations. The Kyoto Protocol did set quantified limitation and reduction objectives within specified timeframes for them.

However, even at that early stage, it was realised that emerging nations, such as China and India, were on a trajectory to overtake developed nations in 'current emissions'.

The Paris Agreement has as its goal the limiting of global warming to well below 2 degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Greenhouse gas emissions peaking before, and neutrality by 2050, is central to the achievement of the temperature goal.

Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, which targeted industrialised countries only in greenhouse gas mitigation, the Paris Agreement embraces all nations within the remit of the Convention. Poverty reduction is the paramount objective for Africa and developing countries in general. Climate change has become an added burden. Greenhouse gas emissions from them are minimal. According to the Brookings Institute, Africa contributes about 3.8 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Consequences of climate change, however, are more marked and more severe in developing countries owing to their inability to meet the costs of vulnerability and adaptation.

In the book I wrote in the aftermath of Kyoto, I referred to emissions by developing countries as 'survival emissions', those emissions that are absolutely necessary to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Paris Agreement adopts the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities among nations by recognizing that peaking, and greenhouse gas emissions neutrality, will take longer for developing countries to achieve.

Central in the ongoing discussions in Glasgow is the authenticity of goals set by industrialised countries to attain greenhouse gas emission peaking and neutrality. The phasing out of coal is bound to feature prominently. In respect of coal, it will be interesting to hear the positions of the United States, Australia, Japan, Germany, China, India, South Africa and other coal producers and users.

Low to zero-carbon technologies (and the transition to renewable energy technologies) and other solutions, which are required in mitigating climate change, should form an important part of the negotiations.

It is worthwhile to bear in mind that the development and ownership of the technologies is largely the preserve of developed countries. Developing countries constitute a disparate group. They include: India and China; highly populated, huge economies and high greenhouse gas emitting countries; and the African continent.

The classification also includes petroleum-producing countries, mainly members of the Organisa-



President Samia's COP26 address in Glasgow, Scotland

tion of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and associated petroleum producers.

The main concern of the latter group relates to the sustainability of their economies in the light of future declines in demand for petroleum. Small island states are highly vulnerable to sea water level rises. They are, and rightly so, the conscience of the world when it comes to forcing the pace of negotiations. They are likely to demand, as they have done so often, that nations take drastic actions, urgently, to avert a looming catastrophe.

Many foreigners consider Africa to be, or think that it is, a country. Perhaps it should be. It is a continent comprising 55 countries of different sizes, geography, natural resources, and wealth and poverty levels. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 46 countries are categorised as Least Developing Countries (LDCs) - 33 of them in Africa.

LDCs are "low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets".

They include: Angola, petroleum producing, OPEC member and mineral rich; the Democratic Republic of Congo, mineral rich and bearer of a large forest and carbon sink of global importance; Chad, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali and other Sahelian countries.

Also in the category are: Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi and other land-locked countries; eastern and Southern African states of Mozambique, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan Somali, and Ethiopia; and the small island states such as Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Comoros.

There are many manifestations of

long-term climate impacts in Africa. They include: the steady expansion of the Sahara Desert; the shrinking of Lake Chad by a staggering 95 per cent between 1963 and 1998; and the severe floods of Sudan and South Sudan. Among the others: the drying up of the Lake Faguibine system in Mali; the disappearance of Maziwe Island in the Indian Ocean in coastal Tanzania; the shrinking of the glacier on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Interneccine conflicts are now more climate-related than in the past, taking the form of clashes between cattle herders and farmers.

Africa has been resilient to disasters, both human-induced and natural. These have in the past included slave trade, colonialism, interneccine wars and pandemics. African populations have over the centuries shown resilience to climate variability. However, climate change resulting from human-induced global warming is upsetting life patterns and livelihood.

Water scarcity and the resulting food insecurity are indicators of climate variability and climate change. Water scarcity calls for efficient management of transboundary and internal water basins. The mantra should be 'more produce per less drop of water'. Adaptation to climate change has to be the priority of African governments at national and local levels. Climate change should not be treated as a subject or a discipline requiring separate considerations. It should be part of sustainable development.

Mainstreaming climate change throughout the entire economy is imperative. In doing so, governance, poverty alleviation, equity, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, indigenous knowledge, capacity building, and technology development and cooperation become important considerations in meeting the challenges

posed by global warming and the resulting climate change.

A financing mechanism has been established through the Paris Agreement framework to assist developing countries build the resilience to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Africa, however, has to be wary of the prospects of benefiting from the arrangement. There are many examples of developed countries renegeing on their commitments.

Through the United Nations, the Monterrey Consensus in particular, these countries have committed to set aside 0.7 per cent of their Gross National Product (GNP) for development assistance to developing countries, and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent to least developing countries.

However, thus far, only a handful have done so. If the global Covid-19 vaccine and vaccination disparity and inequity are anything to go by, Africa has no choice but to pull itself by its own bootstraps in order to create resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Let me end in the same manner I started - by congratulating Aliu and Team NatureNews Africa. It has been a singular honour to me to present the First Anniversary Lecture. Let us wish for ourselves Godspeed in our endeavours.

• Prof Mark James Mwandosya (pictured) is a former Tanzanian Minister for: Communications and Transport; Water and Irrigation; and Water; and a former Minister of State: Vice President's Office (Environment) and President's Office (Special Duties). He is currently Chairman of Stanbic Bank Tanzania Ltd. He delivered this NatureNews Africa First Anniversary Lecture at Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre in Abuja, Nigeria, on November 9, 2021.

South Africa: Reflections on a budget of 'unmet expectations'

By Russell Rensburg

IN the week leading up to the tabling of the medium-term budget policy statement, expectations were high that addressing the impact of poverty and inequality would feature strongly.

Sadly, this was not the case.

Instead, we got what we always get - the request to be patient, to stick to the dream of a primary account surplus, and then maybe we can make the investments needed to implement expanded social security and invest in strengthening the health system. So, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's maiden budget speech this week just translates into the trite "but until then, let's just do more with less".

Granted, budgets on their own do not solve structural issues, but what it does is provide some insight into the government's plans for addressing its broader developmental priorities.

Hinting at these developmental priorities in respect to healthcare is South Africa's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030. South Africa is

a signatory to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A recent publication assesses South Africa's progress towards UHC using routine health information. The UHC tracer indicators are categorised into four categories: infectious diseases, reproductive, maternal, and child health (RMCH), non-communicable diseases, and service access. South Africa's performance against these targets was assessed for the period 2008 to 2017 and showed that progress towards effective coverage on most targets remains woefully POOR with just 56% coverage.

Doing more with less: The current context for this budget

Government invested heavily in mitigating COVID-related risks by implementing several regulations, such as alcohol bans to reduce the impact of trauma-related injuries on the health system along with significant budget allocations for vaccines.

It is important to be reminded that there have been over 265 000 excess natural deaths between March 2020 and November 2021. This is almost three times more than the official number of COV-

ID-19 deaths, at around 89 000.

While necessary, COVID-related restrictions also had some unintended consequences, as shown in the NIDS-CRAM Study on the unintended consequences of COVID-related restrictions on access to routine health services. The findings, among others, showed a drop in clinic visits, HIV testing, immunisation of children, and contraceptive uptake, as well as reduced reproductive health access. The report warned that "negative consequences may unfold over an extended period if interventions to 'catch up' are not urgently prioritised and closely monitored". Correcting these disruptions to routine health services will require careful and targeted planning, but, importantly also resources.

Added to this, we also saw the impact of the inefficiencies of South Africa's parallel health system across the COVID cascade. Surveillance reports published by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases reported that between March 2020 and March 2021 over 50% of COVID tests were done in the private sector despite only 15% of the population enjoying private medical scheme coverage. Over the same period, hospital admissions also showed a bias towards private sector admissions with over 40% of COVID-related admissions occurring in private facilities. Official COVID deaths also appeared higher in public health facilities, often as a result of delayed seeking of care.

Unmet expectations and budget cuts

So, considering all of this, there was a genuine expectation that the government would seize the moment and make the necessary investments to prioritise and

improve access and responsiveness to quality healthcare. Instead, the budget proposed further cuts to an already collapsing health system.

Health is a shared competence between national and provincial health departments, meaning that while the national department is driving issues such as health policy, provincial health departments are the implementing agents.

Delivering healthcare services is a provincial function that is funded from the provincial equitable share. Over the next three years, however, this crucial funding allocation is reduced.

Health allocations make up around 27% of the provinces' share of national revenue. These resources are augmented by conditional grants that are allocated nationally but implemented by the provinces.

Good governance of health systems relies on good quality data on the burden of disease, delivery of health services, outcomes of interventions, and advances on equity, particularly the limiting of out-of-pocket expenditures. For example, the National Health Insurance indirect grant is intended to facilitate the strengthening of health management information systems to improve decision-making and prioritisation. The cut to this grant sets back this crucial investment in strengthening health system responsiveness.

A recent report from the Medical Research Council that evaluated the readiness of public hospitals for the implementation of DRG (Diagnosis-Related Groupers) as a funding mechanism for hospitals highlighted the woeful state of hospital administrative systems with 40% of hospitals assessed being unable to produce discharge

records, among other challenges. In this context, these budget cuts compromise long-term efficiency.

The health revitalisation grant that is intended to support the building of new facilities and the refurbishment of existing facilities remains static with R18 billion allocated over the next three financial years.

Considering the significant overruns in the management of these projects this may have been an opportunity to reduce expenditure while prioritising the strengthening of organisational systems which the grant also accommodates. Investing in infrastructure is risky when we do not have the organisational and governance capacity to support it.

The HIV/AIDS, TB, and community outreach grant is largely protected. However, some consideration should be given to how effective the current grant is. To end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat, 90% of people living with HIV must know their status, 90% of people with diagnosed HIV must be initiated on treatment and lastly, 90% of those initiated on treatment must be virally suppressed.

'TTB is well organised to use IMF cash disbursed by the government'

CORRESPONDENT Christine Kamuzora interviews Berrita James Iyimo, the Acting Director General for the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) in the wake of current revamping of the sector following the COVID-19 travel restrictions abroad and their impact on the country's economy.

Can you please tell us what the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) is all about and what does it actually do?

TTB is a government institution under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, started in 1992 on the basis of Act No. 364, revised in 2002 after initial legislation on tourism was amended with the winding up of the Tanzania Tourist Corporation (TTC) and the new board given five major operational areas. These are:

To use various promotional techniques in order to make Tanzania a well-known tourist destination around the world, where this function includes seeking outside markets which are the main source of tourists visiting Tanzania.

To take various measures targeting mobilization of tourism products plus its infrastructures so as to enhance the quality and value of Tanzanian tourism;

To conduct various researches related to markets and others related to tourism as a whole; To mobilize understanding among Tanzanians so that they take awareness of the importance and benefits of tourism, and this helps to develop domestic tourism by involving tourism sector stakeholders, to map out methods and strategies to mobilize citizens to visit tourist attractions found aplenty in the country; and

To collect various reports to the extent that it shall deem fit which shall facilitate implementation of its functions efficiently.

What has helped the tourism sector to start drawing many visitors again? How far has the Covid-19 vaccine helped to put tourism in Tanzania on its feet again?

Tanzania is one among countries which did not close their borders. This situation helped tourism commerce to return to the country, as we continued to receive tourists, but having massive precautions by observing directives issued by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, collaborating with the Ministry of Health, created Standard Operating Procedures which the country has continued to supervise in order

to ensure that COVID-19 infections are controlled for visitors and local people as well. The SOPs are implemented across all areas of Tanzania which receive visitors entering the country for various activities, including visiting Tanzanian attractions. These areas start from airports, borders, hotels, and in vehicles used to ferry visitors to tourist attractions. Another issue is for Tanzania to be recognized internationally that it is a country safe for visitors. This was confirmed for Tanzania to have received the Safe Travel Stamp in July 2020. This stamp was issued to Tanzania by the World Travel Organisation-WTO, by recognizing our country that it is safe for visitors to come and visit since we were following health guidelines as stipulated by the World Health Organization.

-ii) The presence of COVID-19 vaccines has increased the motivation for tourists to come into the country, in the belief that this vaccine has diminished the level of infections around the world and in Tanzania as well. This situation has enabled our country to start again receiving various groups of tourists entering the country through the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) and the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar. Briefly, most of these tourists



come from Israel, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, South Africa, France, the United States, etc.

During the COVID-19 infections period, Tanzania did not close its borders. Why is that tourist did not come to Tanzania?

It is true that in our country we did not close our borders, but it should be remembered that Tanzania receives visitors from other countries in the world, and some of these countries put up restrictions for their citizens to travel. Or some tourists found themselves unable to travel as their trips were postponed by airlines where they had paid their fares to come to Tanzania. For instance, Tanzania before the outbreak of Covid 19 was receiving so many tourists from Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Spain and the US. Other nations which have been sending many tourists in the country are like France, Netherlands, China, Canada and Israel. All these countries placed restrictions on their citizens from travelling (lockdown). Following this restriction, tourists from these markets could not come to Tanzania. Even then, Tanzania continued to receive visitors from several countries, who did not have the foreign travel restriction, leading to our country receiving 620,867 visitors who brought in \$714.59million in 2020.

4) How is TTB organised to promote internal tourism?

i) To promote internal tourism, TTB is implementing strategies as follows: First of all, TTB is using media outlets in advertising tourism attractions for Tanzanians. This is done by organizing tours specially designed for media practitioners so as to be exposed to the relevant attractions, liaising with media people from local outlets. Again the media practitioners were intensely involved in various exhibitions and festivals. These include the Bagamoyo Festival, Dodoma Wine Festival, Majimaji Festival, Mama Afrika Festival, Kilifair, Karibu Fair, 'Let's go to Butiama' and marathon runs.

Secondly, TTB in collaboration with tourism stakeholders, make affordable packages to bring Tanzanians to visit attractions in the country.

Third, making short films and placing placards at various spots in the country.

Fourth, using information and communications technology (ICT) including website and social media to promote local tourism.

Fifth, to organize visits of prominent people or celebrities in Tanzania in promoting attractions

Sixth, to conduct seminars in schools and colleges so as to provide tourism education to pupils and students

Seventh, to continue canvassing for tourism in conducting campaigns, various seminars concerning tourism in schools and colleges

Finally, using the Tanzania Safari Channel to design programs that attract Tanzanians so that they arrange trips to go and watch those scenes.

5) What strategy does TTB have to increase the number of tourists?

TTB has put in place a number of strategies to increase the number of foreign and local tourists as follows:

To enhance conference tourism (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events- MICE) and cultural tourism

To promote Tanzanian tourism by digital means and social networks To encourage the use of Tanzania tourism identification among public sector and private sector stakeholders, as with Tanzania Unforgettable! To work with Tanzanian embassies abroad in strategic markets to promote Tanzanian tourist attractions To promote broadening of tourism products for instance water tourism, beach tourism and sports

To work with other government institutions like the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and the Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) in enhancing and developing tourism as a whole

To increase energy to create new methods in promoting internal and foreign tourism in Tanzania To cooperate with municipal authorities, regions and districts to promote attractions in their respective areas To cooperate with other countries in the East African Community in promoting attractions found in our countries and here we have started a strategic plan for collective promotion of markets known as the East African Com-

munity Tourism Marketing Strategy 2020/2021-2024/2025

How do you ensure the safety of tourists when they are in the country?

Tanzania as a country is completely safe and has no negative history of evil deeds on visitors. Along with the security that exists, still the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is continuing with ardent efforts to ensure that the country's security is strengthened for visitors and local people within its borders.

7. Why is it that when tourists come to Tanzania they do not come back again?

It is not true that tourists do not come back absolutely; there are those who come back despite that it is in small numbers. Here at the moment we do not have correct statistics showing the extent of tourists coming back to the country, right after visiting Tanzania for the first time. Along with lacking such statistics, we still believe that when tourists come to Tanzania they enjoy attractions and when they return to their countries, make public the beauty of these attractions to their kith and kin, neighbours and friends. Just last year, international visitors were fewer in number because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The chart below shows the flow of international visitors in the past five years which is sufficient evidence that tourists are increasing from one year to another.

8. What role shall the Royal Tour film; have on increasing the number of visitors to Tanzania?

First TTB extends congratulations to efforts by H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, our sixth phase president for her efforts to promote attractions found in Tanzania. We in TTB are confident that the presence of this film, when it is launched shall be of great success, and we believe the country shall see an increase in tourist flows. Even before it is launched we have seen an awakening of domestic visitors and outside being motivated in one or another right after the Royal Tour film started being worked upon.

9. How much does tourism contribute to national income?

i) The tourism sector is one among sectors which contributes up to 17.5 per cent of national income. This sector also contributes massively in producing employment for Tanzanians. For instance, on the basis of 2018/2019 statistics, the tourism sector issued 600,000 direct employment opportunities and indirect job opportunities counted more than 1.5million, bringing up to 25 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

ii) Last year, 2020 the number of tourists from foreign countries visiting Tanzania stood at 620,867 and brought in income reaching 714.59m dollars, equivalent to 1.63trillion shillings. In 2019 around 1,505,702 tourists visited Tanzania and brought in income amounting to 2.6bn dollars (equivalent to 6.05trillion shillings). Comparing earnings in 2019 and 2020 this is equal to a decline of 59.3 per cent in a period of one year.

10. The Sixth Phase Government, under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, has issued money that is a loan from the IMF. And the tourism sector has received its share. In what way are you organised to make sure that the money is used to enhance tourism in the country?

It is true that the government has issued money that is a loan from the IMF and the tourism sector has received its share, where we are properly organised to improve the sector by doing the following:

To continue promoting our attractions inside and outside the country so as to work in rhythm with HE the President by her Royal Tour film participation and our motto that 'Royal Tour continues' by 100 per cent at high speed!

To build and improve existing infrastructures within and next to our attractions like roads, airstrips and bridges

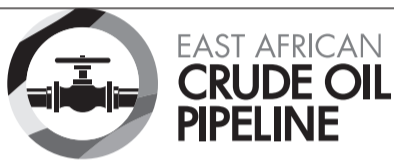
To buy equipment, building gates and information centres, plus improving information and communication technology networking To improve the collection of taxes and levies

To conduct stakeholders' training related to the tourism and hospitality sector in Tanzania, including how to protect oneself from COVID-19, and

Continuing to produce various leaflets in English and Swahili, to meet with local and international journalists, attracting influencers inside and outside the country and continuing to invite various companies for familiarization trips in our attractions.

CONCLUSION

Since the main task of TTB is to promote Tanzanian tourism inside and outside the country, the board will continue to cooperate actively with stakeholders in the public sector and in the private sector so as to make the country's tourism attractions be well known internationally, and ultimately being visited by more tourists from all over the world for purposes of enhancing the national income, to create jobs, to develop investments, to yield more foreign currency and to improve social conditions as a whole.



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE

DEADLINE EXTENSION - REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF LARGE SCALE PRINTING AND BRANDED PRODUCTS SERVICES TO THE EACOP PROJECT TANZANIA REF.0010007126

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an international energy company, invites experienced and reputable specialist large scale printing and products branding to express their interest in providing services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The COMPANY requires the services of communication company to provide support of the mentioned service/s as per demand:

- Provision of Large-Scale Communication materials printing in different formats.
- Provision of Products branding services including branded notice boards and suggestion boxes.

Note: An interested company can apply to provide support in one or more services and suggestion boxes.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of experience and good performance along with samples in delivering the communication support of interest. At this stage, samples will be submitted in form of image and should be shared through links that are not expected to expire.
- Proof of Technical capacity such as equipment's, facilities, and team composition.
- Proven experience of working in major projects with high demand for communication support.
- Ability to install or manage logistics of distributing branded communication along the pipeline corridor where required, specifically in Kagera, Geita, Tabora, Shinyanga, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga will be highly regarded.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for 2020.
- Application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Appropriate licensing from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services where necessary.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year.

Interested companies which have the capacity and resources to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to ecop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on **19th November 2021**. Email subject: **0010007126**

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English language. If your submission was successful in the previous attempt, do not resubmit another EOI. This extension targets new applicants and applicants whose emails could not be delivered to the EACOP Project.

216572101

**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 MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Simbachawene: LSF strategic plan will help dispense justice

By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs minister George Simbachawene said the Legal Service Facility (LSF) 2022/2026 programme plan will help dispense justice and create a better environment for women to contribute in economic development of the country.

Speaking during the 10th Anniversary of the LSF in Dar es Salaam recently, Simbachawene noted that the five-year plan would provide the vision and direction of the organization to assist people at the grassroots realize their economic and legal rights. "It will facilitate the accessibility of quality legal aid services to the marginalized communities in particular women in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar," he added.

Equally, the minister said it will identify priorities necessary to adopt in dispensing justice and also enhance a conducive environment that improves institutional development and sustainability of the legal aid sector, all aimed at improving the lives of women and

their families.

"I commend the LSF for launching a new five-year strategic plan 2022/2026, which aims at working closely with government and stakeholders to improve policies, laws, and create a better and enabling environment for communities, especially women to do business," he added.

Describing how the government was initially providing legal aid services to suspects charged with serious offenses such as murder, involuntary manslaughter and treason, he praised the NGO for offering to educate Tanzanians on the laws of the land.

"Various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been providing some legal services to the citizens, including legal advice and representation in court... this work has come to the rescue of several Tanzanians," he pointed out.

LSF Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said the Strategic Plan 2022 to 2026 aims to work closely with government's various institutions in improving policies, laws and creating a better and



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (2nd-L, foreground) presents an award to Zanzibar Legal Aid assistant Hija Masoud Ame (3rd-L) in recognition of his contribution. Others include Legal Services Facility CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala (L), Danida representative Mette Bech Pilgaard and the UK's Chief Political Affairs Officer in Tanzania, Laurence Wilkes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

enabling environment for communities, especially women and children to access legal aid services.

Commenting, LSF Board Chairman Beng'i Issa said for the past decade, they have been implementing various programs to help women have access to legal aid.

"Tanzanians have been able to get legal aid easily without having to go to court and spend

money," he said.

Presiding over, Malinyi District Legal Aid Agency Director, Rashid Kiding'a, said: "I urge the government to look at us as a third party legal aid because we are working hard in a very difficult environment trying to see into it that Tanzanians are conversant with the legal processes.

The representative of the Danish International

Development Agency (DANIDA), Mette Bech Pilgaard said for 10 years the LSF has been implementing a major program that affects ordinary citizens, a situation that has made them great facilitators throughout its 10 years.

Over the past 10 years, the LSF has provided grants to more than 200 legal aid providers and legal assistants in mainland Tanzania and the Islands.

TIB Development Bank reaches the public through National Financial Services Week

By Guardian Reporter

TIB Development Bank's manager for marketing and corporate affairs, Saidi Mkabakuli has described the just-ended National Financial Services Week as key platform for the public to understand full potentials available in the country's financial sector.

The week-long event held at the Dar es Salaam's Mzazi

Mmoja Grounds, between November 8th and 14th, themed "Improve your life through financial education" created an avenue for the public to know different products and services offered by the financial institutions in the country.

Speaking at the climax of the week, Mkabakuli said the bank participated in the exhibition to create awareness and understanding of TIB

activities on products and services to stakeholders available during the weeklong exhibition. Being one of the country's development financial institutions (DFIs), TIB used the week to increase its visibility and showcased different products and services to the public.

Mkabakuli said that the bank used the exhibitions for information dissemination

and finding out perceptions, concerns and information needs of the stakeholders.

"As one of the Ministry of Finance and Planning's institutions, we participated in this exhibition in order to reach the public in order to educate and increase public awareness on the usefulness of financial services to enhance economic growth and poverty reduction," he said.

He added that event is considered to be tool for beneficial and prudent for the bank's visibility in implementing the Financial Sector Development Master Plan 2020/21 - 2029/30.

According to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, there are guidelines for improving financial education in the country including events and techniques that will be used

in the provision of financial education to the public. One of the strategies is to conduct Financial Services Week every year in which financial education will be provided to the public through various channels.

The main objective of the Financial Services Week is one of the strategies in the implementation of the Financial Sector Development Master

Plan 2020/21 - 2029/30. Moreover, the Financial Services Week aimed to reach various stakeholders including public servants; students; teachers; women, youth, people with special needs; small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs); non-government organizations; editors and journalists; financial service providers; children and general public at large.

GCF boosts SIDS early warning systems to avert climate-related disasters - board

By Special Correspondent

A Green Climate Fund (GCF) event at COP26 brought together a panel of international and national organisations, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and young professionals to boost capacity in climate early warning systems in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and discuss how to turn this data into action that protects people's lives.

Carolina Fuentes, GCF's Secretary to the Board, told the COP26 event "Early Warnings for Small Island Developing States - Bridging the Capacity Gap by 2030" that GCF has become the largest financier of early warning systems in the world and this investment is starting to see results.

She elaborated that USD 1.2 billion of GCF's approved budget is going to climate information and early warning, but barriers remain with budgets, coordination at local or international level and market access barriers. "We need to transform the data into input that drives action on the ground," Fuentes said.

The panel also heard how the entire community needs to be involved in the design and execution of early warning systems, according to Tagaloa Cooper-Halo, Director of Climate Change Resilience at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional

Environment Programme (SPREP).

This sentiment was echoed by Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), who stressed the organization's community-based approach to climate warning systems. "These crises happen in the community, there must be people in the response who also know these communities," he said. "The success of early warning systems depends on trust," Chapagain added.

Ambassador Jan Wahlberg, the Finnish representative to GCF's Board, described the efforts of Nordic states to work together closely to close the adaptation finance gap and to channel resources to early warning systems in SIDS.

Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States joined the discussion virtually and described what he called the "unique challenges" facing SIDS and the need to be able to access climate finance with ease, to channel funding towards critical early warning and other adaptation projects.

Adele Young, Coordinator of the Early Warnings Systems Young Professionals group in Trinidad and Tobago, also joined the panel virtually and described how early warning systems must capitalize on the



skills and passion of young professionals, to allow them to have real impact on their communities by providing local expertise and new, innovative approaches. "Investing in us is investing in the future," Young said.

The session closed by hearing from Mami Mizutori, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, who stressed the ability of early warning systems to protect the economies of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS from the impact of climate-related disasters such as hurricanes and other extreme weather events.

"It's not easy to understand what

the data means and to turn that into action. You need the capacity to do that. You also need to involve the community, early warning only works when it's combined with early action," Mizutori said.

Climate early warning systems have a huge potential to help those countries on the frontline of accelerating global heating avoid extensive damage and deaths. The Global Commission on Adaptation has found that just a 24-hour warning of an incoming storm can reduce the rate of damage by 30 percent.

While the death and destruction following extreme weather events grabs the news headlines, the long-term economic hits caused by ex-

treme weather act as a severe brake on the continued development of SIDS. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) estimates that since 1970, SIDS has lost USD 153 billion due to weather, climate and water-related hazards. This is a significant amount given that the average SIDS' GDP is USD 13.7 billion.

The impacts of accelerating climate change are particularly telling for SIDS in the current environment as COVID-19 closes borders and dries up flows of investment and tourists. Fiji's Minister Responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, told another recent GCF forum at COP26 that his vulnerable island nation has been smashed by

three cyclones since the onset of COVID-19 - with one causing more rainfall in 24 hours than London receives in a year.

The UNFCCC established GCF in 2010 to provide financial support for developing country needs in taking climate action. As a country-driven organisation, GCF will continue to respond to SIDS' calls for assistance in building climate early warning systems.

It is critical for SIDS to improve their ability to deal with a warming planet. Nearly 90 percent of the world's SIDS has identified the development of early warning systems as a priority in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

By Special Correspondent

African leaders meet in Niger to support girls' rights

AFRICAN leaders should prioritise education for pregnant girls and married adolescents at the Third African Girls' Summit in Niamey, Niger, from November 16-18, 2021. Governments attending the summit should commit to stronger human rights protections for girls' education.

Even though many governments in Africa have protective laws and policies, hundreds of thousands of girls and young women in Africa are denied an education because they are pregnant, married, or mothers. Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire are among the

countries that guarantee girls the right to continue school during pregnancy and after giving birth. However, governments such as Tanzania have policies that ban or expel pregnant girls or adolescent mothers from school. Even where laws and policies exist on girls' education, protections to continue education, as well as implementation and adherence, vary.

"The Third African Girls' Summit points to the growing commitment by African leaders to end discrimination

against girls, but governments need to take further actions to ensure that all girls can enjoy their childhood and contribute to their society's development," said Agnes Odhiambo, senior women's rights researcher and Nairobi office head at Human Rights Watch. "African governments should ensure access to education for all girls by providing clear school and community-based plans to support those who are pregnant or mothers to return to school and succeed academically."

The summit platform brings together stakeholders from across the region and beyond to galvanize support to end harmful practices against girls in Africa. Participants include the African Union and its human rights entities, national governments and political leaders, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, girls and young people, and traditional leaders.

While there is legal and policy recognition of all girls' and women's right to educa-

tion. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) should consider issuing guidance in the form of a general comment, Human Rights Watch said. A general comment could provide detailed guidance to countries about their legal obligations to provide equal education to girls and women without discrimination, and ensure effective monitoring of compliance.

The African Union and its human rights bodies can provide further guidance and take action to ensure effective implementation of girls' and women's right to educa-

tion. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) should consider issuing guidance in the form of a general comment, Human Rights Watch said. A general comment could provide detailed guidance to countries about their legal obligations to provide equal education to girls and women without discrimination, and ensure effective monitoring of compliance.

Model policies are an established strategy to push for policy change on the African continent. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has developed two model laws - one on ending child marriage and another on HIV in Africa - that have stimulated policy dialogue and change in the region. The African Union Commission (AUC) should also consider developing and popularizing a model regional policy for ensuring continuing education of pregnant girls and adolescent mothers and "re-entry" for those who leave school, Human Rights Watch said.

Can insurgencies be beaten; can outsiders help? Oman's lessons for Afghanistan and Ethiopia

By Greg Mills

ACCORDING to this argument, Afghanistan is now, stripped naked of the internationally supplied paraphernalia of statehood, exposed as a loose collection of warring tribes, clans and religious tendencies, all of which apparently transcend Afghan identity.

Put differently, the core problem identified in this "don't try to nation-build" argument is that this is impossible when the majority of people living in a territory don't identify first and foremost as citizens.

On top of this, the Afghan state possessed a limited ability to govern, reflecting both the source of its income and character of other power centres. Afghanistan after the Taliban's (temporary as it turned out) removal from power in 2001 was extraordinarily dependent on foreign aid, generated from the taxpayers of others, to keep it afloat. And having opium as its principal export accentuated the power of warlords over the state.

The difficulty of the state-building challenge is influenced by the neighbourhood. Afghanistan is surrounded by a collection of countries – Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran included – that could be classified among the least helpful possibilities. All were less committed to peace than to the transactional opportunities that arose from the inter-

national presence and from, paradoxically, the continuation of conflict. It's tough to prevail in any conflict when the insurgency receives support from just across the border.

All of these factors – identity, economic viability and governance, and neighbourhood – are intensified by incompetence and corruption.

These pointers don't only apply to Afghanistan, but resonate with the earlier US experience in South Vietnam – a dilemma which President Lyndon Baines Johnson aptly described in 1965, even prior to the massive US military build-up: "I feel like a jackass caught in a Texas hailstorm. I can't run, I can't hide, and I can't make it stop."

Contemporary Ethiopia contains many of the same state-building danger signs: internal division, a tough neighbourhood and a weak state, and leadership under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed that has lost touch, distracted by messianic purpose and challenged, like President Ashraf Ghani's Afghanistan, by an insurgency that is disciplined and has a clear purpose.

The flip side of leaving these conflicts alone – essentially to give war a chance – is that the consequence of such neglect is seldom bliss. Aside from the shared human rights concerns in a world which professes common values, there are clear shared interests in not allowing chaos to ensue. Unhappy people flee across borders, humanitarian disaster stories flood



The odd royal yacht aside, Oman has been steered adroitly over the last 50 years.

our screens and gnaw (for good reason) at domestic political conscience, radicalism seems like a popular (and perhaps the only) option and sometimes, in the circumstances, the victims (never mind the protagonists) strike back, including through terrorism.

Yet there are circumstances in which a combination of domestic ownership and external assistance has made a positive difference, helping to create the conditions where an insurgency accepts peace over war. Colombia is one; Oman is another.

Oman, at least before 1970, is a case study on the compounding effects of internal rivalries and weak governance producing a series of bloody rebellions and little development. Once the colonial power in Zanzibar, from which it had profited handsomely in the trade

of slaves and spices, by the 1960s it was a development backwater, dependent on Britain for protection, divided between north and south, and between the coast and the interior. The Sultan, Said bin Taimur, had ruled through a combination of paying off the warring tribes and by eccentric neglect. At nightfall, the gates of Muscat would be locked, and anyone walking around had to carry a hurricane lantern. The country – covering a piece of real estate larger than Italy or the Philippines – had just five kilometres of paved road, while there were just three primary schools and one hospital. Per capita income was around just \$400 in 1970, though the advent of oil production in the mid-1960s had started to drive it upwards.

In learning from its experience in fighting the Saudi-supported insurrection in the Jebel Akhdar in the

"empty" interior of Oman in 1957-59, in the 1960s the British military drew up a "five-fronts" concept to restore stability, centring on having a national aim and a better understanding of what made citizens unhappy, which they might be able to deliver against, including aspects of healthcare and education, along with military effectiveness.

Still, the Dhofari insurgency in Oman's south, inspired by the prevailing revolutionary Nasserite zeal and armed by the Soviets and Chinese, took on an increasingly threatening character. Then, in a British-supported coup, in July 1970, the Sultan was deposed by his Sandhurst-educated son, Qaboos bin Said, who instigated a five-point plan, encompassing major social, economic and educational reforms: A general amnesty, the incorporation of the province of Dhofar, a strategy for wider international diplomatic recognition, a national development drive, and effective military opposition to those who did not accept amnesty.

This new, enlightened leadership made a difference. The back of the Dhofari insurgency was broken at the Battle of Mirbat in July 1972, a battle described as a scene from Dante's seventh circle by the author Rowland White, when a force of around 400 rebel ados (Arabic for "enemy"), advanced on a position defended by a nine-person British SAS training detachment and a

hundred local firqat soldiers and paramilitary askars. With increased assistance thereafter from the Shah of Iran and Jordan, the rebellion was all over by 1976. This was helped by the steady flow of oil revenues, while small by regional standards, which had started to come on stream, with per capita income of \$2,760 that year.

Qaboos ruled until his death from cancer in January 2020. By then per capita income had, while suffering from depressed oil prices, increased to more than \$15,000. And while always vulnerable to the vagaries of commodity prices, average economic growth increased from 6% in the 1970s to 10% in the 1980s, averaging 5.5% from 1970 to 2019. GDP increased over the 50 years of Sultan Qaboos' rule, from \$6-billion to \$72-billion.

Figures aside, this shows more vividly in the extent of infrastructure development. The odd royal yacht aside, Qaboos spent the oil windfall wisely, less on the regional habit of skyscrapers and vanity projects than on roads, schools and hospitals. The UN Development Index, which measures health, education and income, in 2010 listed Oman as the country that had improved the most over the previous 40 years, while just three – Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia – had worsened. By 2021, the Index placed Oman 60th out of 189 countries. South Africa is at 114. DM

CIIE pools strength for jointly building open world economy

By Wang Di, Meng Xianglin

THE 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in Shanghai is offering the world a vivid demonstration of the new development drivers and opportunities China has brought to various parties by expanding opening-up.

As a global public good for the world to share, the CIIE has provided new opportunities for world economic recovery and growth and pooled strength for jointly building an open world economy.

"Green" and "low-carbon" are key words of this year's CIIE, signaling that promoting green economic recovery in the post-COVID era has become a general consensus.

A special exhibition zone for low-carbon energy and environmental protection technology has been newly added to the Intelligent Industry and Information Technology exhibition area of the 4th CIIE, where French multinational company Schneider Electric's zero-carbon factory solution is showcased.

Thirty of the company's factories across the world, including 14 in China, have reached the zero-carbon standard set by the company, according to Yin Zheng, executive vice president of Schneider Electric.

China has actively pushed ahead with green transformation and high-quality development, which provides more opportunities for and injects stronger impetus to the company's business in the Chinese market, Yin noted.

America-based engine manu-

facturer Kohler Power, which has participated in the CIIE every year since its inception, puts on display exhibits including its latest environmentally friendly and efficient hybrid diesel engine and electronic fuel injection (EFI) gasoline engine at the 4th CIIE.

The CIIE has built an excellent platform for multi-level exchanges and cooperation, facilitated the reaching of a global consensus on common development, and helped encourage various parties to carry out further practices in low-carbon energy transition and upgrading, environmental protection, and other fields, said Li Shaoqi, commercial director of Kohler Power China and Asia Pacific.

Exhibitors from various industries have brought healthier, more diversified and more user-friendly products to the Food and Agricultural Products exhibition area of the 4th CIIE, mirroring the common aspiration of all people in the world to pursue a better life.

Danish biotech company Novozymes exhibits a wide range of biological solutions that cover almost every link of food production and consumption.

"We hope to, via the platform of the CIIE, help increase agricultural output, improve food quality and reduce food waste together with partners from different industries, so as to better facilitate industrial transformation and high-quality development," pointed out Chen Xiaohui, president of Novozymes China. Amorepacific Corporation, a



Photo taken on Nov. 4, 2021 shows blooming flowers and fluttering national flags of different countries at the south square of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), venue for the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE).

South Korean beauty and cosmetics conglomerate, installed a lot of curved screens for its exhibition booth at the Consumer Goods exhibition area of the 4th CIIE.

Located in the center of the exhibition booth are five stands, each with a star product of the company on the top. After visitors pick up any one of them, the curved screen will play videos about details related to the product.

"We hope to better grasp the development opportunities offered by the Chinese market, and continuously respond to Chinese consumers' expectations of a better

life through product upgrading and innovation," said Gao Xiangqin, president of Amorepacific China.

At the booth of American medical technology company Edwards Lifesciences at the Medical Equipment and Healthcare Products exhibition area of the 4th CIIE, a simulated operating room has been set up to show how its products are applied in real surgical procedures with holographic projection technologies.

"We have felt deeply how the CIIE has helped increase the popularity of products," said Ye Tiancheng, general manager of Edwards Lifesciences China, who believes

that the CIIE has further unleashed opportunities in the country and demonstrated the huge potential of the Chinese market.

German material manufacturer Covestro AG, which participates in the CIIE for the first time this year, showcases at the expo many new technologies and application cases concerning circular economy.

The CIIE reflects China's determination and efforts to continue to relax market access and create a fairer and more transparent business environment, according to Markus Steilemann, chief executive officer of Covestro AG. He believes that the CIIE is not only an important occasion for multinationals to raise brand awareness, but a shared platform for companies to forge closer ties with cooperative partners and customers.

Unlike previous expos, this year's CIIE has a special exhibition section for cultural relics and artworks, where heavyweight cultural relics and artworks from 11 countries and regions, such as the U.K. and Spain, are on show, including Beatrice Hastings devant une porte by Italian painter Amedeo Modigliani and Veduta di Venezia con il Molo della Piazzetta verso punta della Dogana by Francesco Guardi, also an Italian painter.

The 4th CIIE provides a high-quality platform for building a bridge of communication for culture and art, and creates broad space for close interaction between museum institutions, individual collectors and art lovers, pointed out Yang Yuancao, chairman of Christie's China.

People's Daily

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



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Arusha Hotel conducts fruit-mixing 'ritual' to usher in recovery of hospitality industry

By Smart Money Reporter

As the end of year festival approaches, Four Points by Sheraton Arusha Hotel has performed a fruit mixing Christmas cake ritual to signal recovery of the hospitality industry that was hard hit by the coronavirus outbreak this time last year.

The iconic hotel located in the country's northern tourism circuit, is credited to have vaccinated its entire workforce against the Covid-19 to prepare for foreign tourists arrivals, is also home to world class five star services.

"This annual Christmas cake fruit mixing ceremony symbolizes the beginning of the festive season and the many festive events that are to follow" said Four Points by Sheraton, The Arusha Hotel's General Manager, Krishna Suri.

Suri said in Arusha last week that the fruit-mixing ceremony is, but a part of a string of events to be hosted at the hotel showing confidence in the recovery process of the industry hence invited customers to stay at the hotel when in Arusha city.

The exercise involved mixing and tossing chopped dried fruits, nuts and fresh ground spices with liquor added to the mix for fermentation so it matures in time for Christmas holidays. One of the participants, Esther Charles lauded the hotel's management for leading the way in the hospitality industry in terms of creativity and upholding the industry's core traditional values.

"Cake mixing is one of the most important traditional rituals that ushers in the Christmas season. Apart from the fact that mixing dry fruits ahead of time brings richness to the cake, it is a great opportunity for all," she noted.

Another participant, Mike Adamson said, "The Four



Four Points By Sheraton, The Arusha Hotel staff in a jovial mood after finishing to prepare a fruit mixed Christmas cake at the hotel last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Points By Sheraton's fruit mixing episode rekindles the festive vibes and Christmas cheer fills the season and our hearts," Adamson said adding that it is the sneak peak of all the ceremonial action.

The history of the fruit mixing ceremony

goes back to the middle ages when friends and family used to get together, a few weeks before Christmas, and mix various kinds of dry fruits, nuts with a wide variety of liqueurs and spices and store it away till Christmas time.

This mix would infuse a plethora of aromas

and flavours into the final product, the Christmas cake. The ceremony was also a way to welcome the upcoming festive season. Fruitcake made with butter and sugar was banned for a while in Europe in the 18th century because it was thought to be just too rich and tasty. From the 19th century on this fruitcake was incredibly popular in Victorian England, when it became a vital part of celebrating holidays and weddings.

Founded in 1894, The Arusha Hotel has been credited as a city landmark-playing host to many dignitaries and well-known personalities over more than 120 years. Rebranded after renovation, the hotel retains its unique charm reminiscent of a bygone era and a fabled past.

Nestled within three acres of lush tropical gardens, it sits snugly in the central business district of the city, within the shadow of the majestic Mount Meru forming the perfect gateway to the popular Serengeti Northern Safari Circuit and to

Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Tanzania has long been on the global travellers' bucket list and the Four Points by Sheraton brand with its blend of stylish comfort and genuine service offers an ideal choice at an honest value," Suri noted.

Designed for the modern traveller with an emphasis on approachable design, the 114 room hotel features spacious and modern rooms including suites. "This ceremony also marks the beginning of the festive season and we at Four Points have many special offers prepared for the guests and patrons of the hotel we are looking forward to," said the hotel's Senior Sales and Marketing Manager, Farida Khatibu.

"We are committed to creating memorable guest experiences by combining the signature brand experience with the hotel's rich history, unique character, and the city's local attractions," Khatibu added while inviting both local and foreign guests to choose the iconic hotel.

NSSF net assets value crosses the 5trn/- mark in a fragile social security market

By Smart Money Reporter

WHILE other social security funds are on the blink of collapse in the local market, NSSF is enjoying stellar performance and has not crossed the 5trn/- mark for its net assets value. It's value is actually 5.2trn/-.

The fund which mainly retains the majority of its members from the private sector is also handsomely paying its retirees their dues on time plus other statutory perks to existing members. National Social Security Fund's Director General,

Masha Mshomba said in Dar es Salaam last week during the climax of National Financial Services Week held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam that the fund remains strong and sustainable thanks to its diversified investments.

"We remain the market's strongest fund and as a result our members have been receiving all their payments including pension on time," Mshomba said while noting that the fund also continues to pay its members all other payments including unemployment benefits.

He said NSSF has maintained its growth trajectory for many years also because of complying employers who submit members' contributions on time hence allowing management to invest in profitable vehicles such as government securities.

"All services that we offer our members are proceeding well because we have simplified them through digitization which means no needs for physical appearance," he stated adding that NSSF will continue to grow because of the good



National Social Security Fund's director general, Masha Mshomba (R) listening to a visitor at the fund's pavilion during last week's National Financial Services Week held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of NSSF.

compliance but also good investment decision made.

A social security expert who visited the NSSF pavilion, Nelly Mwingira commended the fund's management and members for the sustained

growth saying it's a result of good partnership and competence in the running of the fund.

"With this growth by NSSF, Tanzania can soon join the list of countries in the world which pay all nine pension related payments to members," Mwingira said while noting that under the Social Security Minimum Standards Convention of 1952, nine payments were agreed by governments through International Labour Organization.

The payments including pension for retirees, health insurance, unemployment benefits, disability, maternity, dependence, prolonged sickness and injury while at work.

Oil dealers need billions to keep fuel prices unchanged

NAIROBI

THE State will pay marketers billions of shillings through a fuel subsidy to keep pump prices unchanged and ease public anger over the rising cost of living. Marketers will fully be compensated for their margins of Sh12.39 per litre of super petrol and Sh12.36 for diesel.

This allowed the energy regulator to keep diesel and petrol prices unchanged at Sh110.60 and Sh129.72 respectively. Without the subsidy, motorists would have paid a historic high of Sh143.48 per litre of petrol and Sh126.28 for diesel in what could have stoked pressure on inflation.

"Despite the increase in the landed costs, the applicable pump prices for this cycle have been maintained as the ones in the previous cycle. The government will use the Petroleum Development Levy to cushion consumers from the otherwise high prices," Daniel Kiptoo, the Epra director-general, said in the notice yesterday. The landed costs of super rose to Sh67.35 a litre from the previous Sh61.39 while diesel rose Sh62.42 from Sh55.64.

billion to support standard gauge railway (SGR) operations under Chinese operators.

Policy makers and politicians are taking notice of the online campaigns by ordinary Kenyans concerned about reduced cash flow, fewer employment opportunities, and rising cost of living as campaigning for next year's election gathers pace.

The subsidy scheme is supported by billions of shillings raised from fuel consumers through the Petroleum Development Levy, which was increased to Sh5.40 a litre in July last year from Sh0.40, representing a 1,250 percent rise.

The fund is meant to cushion consumers from volatility in fuel prices but has also seen motorists lose out when paying the Sh5.40 for a litre at the pump. Oil prices hit \$82.87 a barrel last week, a Reuters report showed, pointing to more pain at the pump given the current prices are based on \$69.73 per barrel for October.

The costs of energy and transport have a significant weighting in the basket of goods and services that is used to measure inflation in the country. Producers of services such as electricity and manufactured goods are also expected to factor in the higher cost of petroleum.

The economy also uses diesel for transportation, power generation and running of agricultural machinery such as tractors, with a direct impact



Industry and Trade, Prof minister Kitila Mkumbo, presents a certificate to one of the best students (L) during a graduation ceremony for College of Business Education in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Global wealth surges as China overtakes US to grab top spot

NEW YORK

Global wealth tripled over the last two decades, with China leading the way and overtaking the US for the top spot worldwide.

That's one of the takeaways from a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co. that examines the national balance sheets of ten countries representing more than 60% of world income. "We are now wealthier than we have ever been," Jan Mischke, a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute in Zurich, said in an interview.

Net worth worldwide rose to \$514 trillion

in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000, according to the study. China accounted for almost one-third of the increase. Its wealth skyrocketed to \$120 trillion from a mere \$7 trillion in 2000, the year before it joined the World Trade Organisation, speeding its economic ascent.

Richest 10%

The US, held back by more muted increases in property prices, saw its net worth more than double over the period, to \$90 trillion. In both countries – the world's biggest economies – more than two-thirds of the wealth is held by the richest 10% of households, and

their share has been increasing, the report said.

As computed by McKinsey, 68% of global net worth is stored in real estate. The balance is held in such things as infrastructure, machinery and equipment and, to a much lesser extent, so-called intangibles like intellectual property and patents.

Financial assets are not counted in the global wealth calculations because they are effectively offset by liabilities: A corporate bond held by an individual investor, for instance, represents an I.O.U. by that company. 'Side effects'

TCC marks 60 years with stellar performance in the local market

By Smart Money Reporter

ON December 4th, 2021, Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited (Plc) will mark 60 years of operations in the country during which the cigarettes manufacturer dominated the market as a distributor, marketing and selling of the product both at home and abroad.

The Dar es Salaam based company which also exports its products to DR Congo, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia, has also maintained profitability. TCC's General Manager and CEO, Michal Bachan said in Dar es Salaam this week that both domestic and export volumes have grown by 16.5 percent and 3.7 percent respectively while overall volume increased by 12.5 percent this year.

"This volume growth reflects the strength of the revised domestic distribution model. With these results, the company is optimistic about the results of the second half of the year in December 2021," Bachan said.

He said over the past six decades, the cigarettes maker has maintained dominance of the domestic market with over 90 percent of the share. "This year, TCC (Plc) is celebrating 60 years of operations in style as we continue to record excellent results. Despite the coronavirus outbreak challenges over the past two years, the company has recorded an outstanding performance in the first half of the year," he said.

He attributed the stellar performance to the unwavering commitment of TCC's workforce which constitutes the number one asset to the organization with invaluable contribution to the business.

"TCC focuses on investing in people's health, welfare and talent. We have enhanced the working dynamics and raised the standard which has been acknowledged both nationally and internationally. This has led to innumerable accolades for our company," the TCC GM and CEO noted while referring to Best Employer award that the company has won four years in a row from Tanzania Employers Association.

Seconding her boss, TCC's Corporate Affairs and Communications Director, Patricia Mhondo said the company which is owned by Japan Tobacco International continues to invest in technology, human capital and expansion of production.

"As we continue to expand, our contribution to the government has also increased reaching an annual average of over 200bn/- in tax payment to Treasury," Mhondo said while acknowledging that the company faced challenges during last year's peak of the



TCC's CEO and general manager, Michal Bachan speaks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Right is corporate affairs and communication director Patricia Mhondo. Photo courtesy of TCC.

Covid-19 outbreak.

TCC has a strong history in Tanzania as it was officially launched by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere on December 4th, 1961, a few days before Tanzania was declared an independent nation by Britain. It was therefore Mwalimu's milestone to symbolise an end of the colonial administration.

The chronology of the company's success shows an enormous historical background of how it has progressed over the decades on its strong foundation. In 1967, when the country adopted the Arusha Declaration, the government nationalized the company acquiring 60 percent stake from British American Tobacco. In 1975 Treasury acquired the remaining 40 percent to become the sole owner of the company.

When the country bounced back to free market economies in 1999, Japan Tobacco International (JTI) bought the 51 percent stake from Treasury and in 2000, the company was listed on Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange where JTI increased its stake to 75 percent. Since then, the value of TCC's shares has continued to grow to become the most valuable on DSE.

The overall contribution and performance of TCC has been consistent over the years reaching a production capacity of about 10 billion sticks per annum while maintaining an average of 90 percent market share over the past 18 months.

Over the years, the strong leadership and resolute investment

in people has paved the way for 25 Tanzanians to work on international assignments in different positions outside the country as Vice President, Directors and Managers, in places such as Switzerland, UK, Canada, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Sudan, Geneva, Iran, Jordan, Ethiopia and UAE.

TCC (plc) continues to give back to the community directly and indirectly through partnership with social and cultural partners to promote a holistic and inclusive sustainable transformation of livelihood.

In the past 12 months, TCC has supported various programs in economic empowerment and poverty alleviation, donation of assistive devices to people with disability and programs in arts and culture. "The company has donated 2,326 assistive devices (213 tricycles, 937 pairs of crutches and 1,176 white canes) to people with disabilities," TCC's half year report stated.

They have also supported 29 groups of less privileged women and young adults with facilities (155 sewing machines, 5 oil pressing machines, 3 maize mills machines and 2 vibrators for bricks making) to improve their businesses.

"The company prides on having sponsored over 100 students in arts and culture to study at Bagamoyo College of Arts at both certificate and diploma levels," the company stated while unveiling that from next year, in collaboration with Embassy of Japan, it will support a scholarship program for qualified Tanzanians to study for Master's degree courses in Japan.

Kiwi Pay plots 'biggest online marketplace across SS- Africa'

YAOUNDEY

BACKED by its strategic partnership with African transport and logistics firm Bolloré Logistics, Singapore-based Fintech firm Kiwi Pay Group says it is ready to launch what it describes as "the biggest online marketplace in Sub-Saharan Africa."

Kiwi Pay claims that it has been building its newest mobile application "in stealth mode" for the last few months, and is about to launch it in Cameroon first. Kiwi Pay Group, Bolloré Logistics and the Customs Bureau of Cameroon signed a strategic agreement earlier in the month in Douala. Prior to this, Kiwi Pay Group has penned agreements with different economic zones across Africa including CEMAC and GIM-UEMOA, allowing them to offer transactions in the local currency, FCFA.

A statement from the company reads: "...with a strategic partnership with the French group Bolloré Logistics, allowing them to offer millions of products from European retailers to the African market, with affordable price, local payment methods including credit cards and mobile money, and 4 to 5 days shipping by air to various delivery collection points in the country."

Fongod Nuvaga Edwin, Director General of Customs in Cameroon, said: "This strategic partnership with Bolloré Logistics and the Customs in Cameroon is allowing us to benefit from the strong growth of the ecommerce in the country, while leveraging from decades of



Serge Agnero, regional manager for Bolloré Transport & Logistics.

experience from our partners to ensure a trustworthy experience for the customers and compliance with the local tax system."

Serge Agnero, regional manager for Bolloré Transport & Logistics, added: "We are thrilled to initiate this strategic partnership in Cameroon and the region with an experienced player such as Kiwi Pay Group, to allow millions of local customers to benefit from attractive prices from retailers in Europe, and be able to order quickly and securely the products they are looking for, delivered

at their place within a few days with our smooth service."

Earlier this year, Kiwi Pay Group also launched its token KGO, that will be used as a way to reward users of the app, on all sides, vendors, drivers and customers, to allow them to hold it and use it later on for benefits on their ecommerce platform.

The company plans to push the token rewarding process as soon as they launch their ecommerce platform in Cameroon and other markets in the upcoming few months.

Heineken to buy S.Africa drinks maker Distell, along with Namibia Breweries

JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG European brewing giant Heineken has agreed to buy Distell, South Africa's largest alcohol producer, in a deal that values Distell at approximately R40.1bn. The company made a recommended offer of R180 a share, according to a statement released on Monday.

The Distell takeover forms part of a larger transaction that sees Heineken having entered into an agreement with Distell, Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) and Ohlthaver & List Group of Companies (O&L) with the intention to merge their respective businesses in southern Africa into one large southern African drinks group worth €4bn (\$4.6bn).

Distell is Africa's leading producer and marketer of ciders, flavoured alcoholic beverages, wines and spirits, owning prominent brands including Savannah, Nederburg, Klipdrift, Amarula and Hunters Dry, while NBL is the beer market leader in Namibia with brands including Windhoek and Tafel. Dutch group Heineken is the world's second-largest brewer after Anheuser-Busch InBev.

Heineken said the proposed deal will be implemented through a number of inter-conditional steps, and will involve: A recommended offer by Heineken for Distell, which values Distell at approximately \$2.5bn (€2.2bn); The proposed acquisition from NBL of its 25% shareholding in Heineken South Africa (HSA), which values the whole of Heineken's SA operations at approximately \$1.7bn (€1.5bn); and The acquisition of O&L's 50.01% interest in Namibia Breweries Limited, the controlling shareholder with a 59.4% shareholding in NBL. Heineken already owns a 49.99% interest in the Namibian brewer. NBL's current market valuation is approximately \$458m (€400m).

Heineken will contribute these acquired assets plus its 75% directly-owned shareholding in Heineken South Africa and certain other fully-owned export operations in Africa, into an unlisted public holding company called Newco. Heineken's total investment in Newco will be approximately €2.5bn (\$2.86bn), in return for a 65% shareholding, with the remainder held by Distell shareholders who elect to reinvest.

Distell communicated the possibility of a merger with shareholders in May this year. The deal marks Heineken's most significant acquisition since 2018,

reports Bloomberg. Heineken said the deal will create a "southern Africa champion" and an important gateway to Africa, which it views as the next frontier of growth. Expanding on this the brewing giant said the transaction will bring about the following benefits: Strengthen Heineken's number two position in South Africa with a unique multi-category portfolio; Bring together strong portfolios in premium beer, cider, flavoured alcoholic beverages (Fabs), wine, and #2 in spirits, with well-known brands such as Heineken, Savanna, Hunters, 4th Street wine, and Amarula; and Beer to benefit from increased scale and continued premiumisation.

Acquire control of the beer market leader in Namibia: Providing premiumisation and other growth opportunities whilst benefitting from cost efficiencies when becoming part of the Heineken group; Strengthen and optimise Heineken's footprint across southern Africa to accelerate growth; Combine route-to-markets and portfolios in export countries, to increase efficiency and capture additional growth, especially in attractive markets like Kenya and Tanzania; and Explore wider opportunities to grow the acquired cider and beer brands, such as Savanna and Windhoek, outside their home markets.

Heineken's CEO and chairman of the executive board Dolf van den Brink said: "We are very excited to bring together three strong businesses to create a regional beverage champion, perfectly positioned to capture significant growth opportunities in Southern Africa. Distell is a highly regarded, resilient business with leading brands, a talented workforce and a strong track record of innovation and growth in Africa. With NBL, there are exciting opportunities to expand premium beer and cider in Namibia and grow the iconic Windhoek brand beyond its home market."

"Together we will be able to better serve our consumers and customers through a unique combination of multi-category leading brands and a strengthened route-to-market. The businesses share common values derived from their family heritage, long-term perspectives, entrepreneurial spirit, and care for people and planet."

"We have successfully built our business in Africa over 100 years. Today's announcement is a vote of confidence in the long-term prospects of South Africa and Namibia and we commit to being a strong partner for growth and to make a positive impact in the communities in which we operate."



Heineken's CEO and chairman of the executive board, Dolf van den Brink.

Stanbic forms an alliance with two Chinese firms to boost access for its import clients

HARARE

STANBIC Bank Zimbabwe has announced a partnership with Industrial Commerce Bank of China (ICBC) and Chinese trade agent Zhejiang International Trading Supply Chain Co. Ltd which the bank says will open doors for Zimbabwean businesses to import quality goods from China.

The Partnership which is called "Africa China Import Solution" will see Stanbic Bank provide its clients access to quality goods from most of the competitive manufacturers in China. Stanbic's Head Business and Commercial Clients, Patson Mahatchi said the partnership will enable Zimbabwean importers to ride on the supply chain base offered by Zhejiang International Trading Supply Chain Co. Ltd, which trades as Guomao.

Mahatchi also said Guomao has over 10 000 validated Chinese suppliers, a position that allows Zimbabwean importers access to a one-stop foreign trade supply chain and cross-border e-commerce supply chain service.

Stanbic importing clients can now have an unparalleled competitive edge over other players in their chosen business areas on the back of this partnership which ranks high up there among all the financial institution's deals. The partnership will not only boost and grow the business volumes of Stanbic bank's clients but will allow for seamless importation from China for corporates and individuals.

Mahatchi said the partnership was strategic on many fronts, one of which would be strengthening trust in African-China trade relationships by guaranteeing Zimbabwean importers access to reputable suppliers in China.

Zimbabwean importers will now be able to source and validate quality goods safely and efficiently from most of the competitive manufacturers in China as opposed to the previous blind importation of substandard products which would be condemned on arrival.

Africa leaders led by President Samia pressure rich countries to pay for climate change damage

By Geoffrey Nangai

GLOBAL leaders a fortnight ago met in Glasgow, Scotland to discuss long-term solutions to address the deteriorating climate change.

In a shocker however, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin both did not attend the 26th United Nations Climate Summit, which was widely seen as the most important gathering of world leaders to strike a deal on the climate crisis facing the world.

By simple definition, climate change is a long-term change in average weather patterns that has affected every country in the world. According to World Health Organization, by the year 2030, climate change is expected to contribute approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

The WHO said its study projected that due to climate change, 75 to 200 million people in Africa will be exposed to increased water stress. It added that coastal fisheries, mangroves and reefs will be further degraded and threatened by projected rise in sea level and regular storms.

Rich countries through the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, committed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least five percent of 1990 levels by 2008 - 2012. The rich countries, according to the protocol, produced 51 percent of such emissions then.

The protocol among other things focused on the need to develop clean energy technologies, develop economical carbon technologies that prevent the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and increase energy efficiency.

The Kyoto Protocol also advocated



for more efficient motor vehicles, appliances, lighting and industrial motors in addition to reduced electricity generation using fossil fuels such as coal. Supporters of the protocol saw this as an important step towards mitigating climate change. Opponents castigated it for unnecessary high implementation costs due to restrictions on emission trading and lack of emission limit for poor countries.

In December 2015, the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted the Paris Agreement which aimed at strengthening global response to the threat of climate change by keeping temperature rising well below two degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Paris Agreement aimed at strengthening the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, through appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework.

To this effect, developed countries like Canada committed to set up funding to help developing countries tackle climate change effects. Canada committed a US\$2.65 billion to finance its support the poorest and most vulnerable populations affected by climate change. The pledge would help developing countries transition to low-carbon and climate resilient economies.

The funds were to be invested in sectors that include clean technology and renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, watershed management and climate resilience. The issue of whether wealthy industrialized countries should pay for the damage already caused by climate change was a key agenda during the just concluded COP26 summit.

African leaders including President Samia Suluhu Hassan who attended the COP26 Summit, amplified their voices to developed countries to fulfill their commitments on mitigating climate change.

President Samia in her speech at the summit called upon developed countries to fulfill their climate finance goals of donating US\$100 billion by 2025 to facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement. She criticized the developed world for "lagging behind" while developing nations like Tanzania showed leadership in the fight against climate change.

"If the world will not act accordingly, countries like ours

with lower adaptive capacity have no option but to brace for more devastating impacts. Our pride, Mount Kilimanjaro, is drastically becoming bald due to glacier melting," she said.

The President of Malawi Lazarus Chakwera also shared the same sentiments during COP26 adding that wealthy nations should live up to their financial pledges for developing countries to mitigate the damage caused by climate change. "It's important that developed nations recognize the fact that humanity is one, and they cannot be safe when everybody else is unsafe," President Chakwera said.

Developing countries are the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change, even though they contribute very little carbon emissions which cause climate change. Although much of the accumulated greenhouse gases to date have been emitted by developed countries, deforestation in developing countries is also a major source of harmful greenhouse gases, in addition to the losses it causes to valuable biodiversity, and environmental services of cleaning air and water.

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Zimbabwe to import 400MW from Mozambique, Zambia to bridge deficit

MAPUTO

ZIMBABWE'S state power utility, Zesa Holdings, intends to import up to 400 megawatts from Mozambique and Zambia as part of measures to end a debilitating power crisis, a senior executive said.

This comes as Zimbabwe, blighted by long periods of load-shedding, is spending up to US\$20 million of scarce forex on power imports every month, Zesa executive chairman Sydney Gata revealed.

Dr Gata said in an interview this week Zimbabwe was importing between 200-400 megawatts from the region and partly blamed the scenario on delays by the Treasury to sign an independent power producer (IPP) implementation agreement.

The agreement would have expedited development of IPP projects, which reportedly have significant output potential. In fact, Dr Gata contends Zimbabwe should, at the very least, be exporting excess power.

Demand for power in Zimbabwe reaches about 2 200 MW, especially during winter peak, but the country can at best only produce roughly 1 400MW due to limited installed capacity and unreliable facilities.

The gap between demand and supply is now being minimised through imports, which sees the country part ways with over US\$20 million each month, and load shedding, which usually stretches for 12 hours a day.

Dr Gata said 20-35 percent of electricity imported by Zimbabwe from both Zambia and Mozambique, came from IPPs while the sector's contribution to domestic generation in Zimbabwe stood at a meager 1.5 percent. "This is the lowest I have ever come across anywhere in the world," Dr Gata said.

"We are importing because the Government (Ministry of Finance) has been sitting on an implementation agreement for IPPs for over two years now, we should not be importing." Efforts to get a comment from Minister Ncube and secretary for finance George Guvamatanga were not successful by the time of going to print on Friday.

Asked how the agreement the Treasury has not signed could help end the rolling power cuts engulfing the entire country, he said, it was critical for State guarantees project developers needed to source outside funding. The Zesa executive chairman said licensed IPPs in Zimbabwe had potential to generate 6000MW, of which there was a realistic possibility 600MW could easily be actualised.

This amount, Dr Gata said, was more than the country needed to secure adequate supply and do away with expensive imports, which are gobbling huge amounts of the forex industry desperately requires.

Zimbabwe's domestic currency is failing to hold steady against the greenback on the black market due to limited US dollar availability, which drives speculation that hurts the economy. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe runs a weekly auction system, a major source of affordable forex, and is saddled by a nearly US\$200 million backlog resulting from shortages of hard currency. Dr Gata said the state power utility had since taken measures to dilute the impact of the power deficit by seeking imports from EDM of Mozambique and ZESCO of Zambia. "We are going to get 400 MW from Zambia, Mozambique and repairs currently underway at Kariba South, which should be completed in December," Dr Gata told Business Weekly.

He indicated that Zesa had negotiated for 280 MW from Zambia and 180 MW from Mozambique, where the country will soon start getting power after once it has cleared outstanding payment for earlier supplies. Zimbabwe's major power generation facilities are the 1 050MW Kariba South power station, a hydro electricity plant and the 900MW rate Hwange Power Station, which is fired with coal.

While Kariba South has some challenges firing at full throttle due to limited water availability after two consecutive years of drought, Hwange frequently breaks down due to its old age. HPS, which was completed in the mid 80s, has outlived its design lifespan, which reduced its reliability and output potential and averages just about 450MW when operating at full potential.

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

World Bank, AfDB blacklist nearly 20 Kenya firms over fraud

NAIROBI

NEARLY 20 Kenya-based companies have been blacklisted by the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in less than two years over fraud and quality concerns in projects funded by the multilateral lenders.

Nairobi-based consultancy firm Africa Development Professional Group (ADP) is the latest firm with Kenyan links to join the financiers' blacklist after the World Bank banned it for alleged fraud. The World Bank said last week an investigation conducted by its corruption-fighting unit had established that ADP had engaged in fraudulent practices during a bank-funded project in Somalia.

"According to the facts of the case, ADP recklessly omitted the disclosure of a conflict-of-interest relationship when submitting a proposal for a contract under the project, which is a fraudulent practice," said the World Bank.

ADP and its affiliates have been debarred for 21 months and will be ineligible to participate in any World Bank-financed projects during the period. ADP says that it provides "consultancy and advisory services on management, investments, business solutions, corporate finance and business development."

The firm also says it has undertaken several multi-million shilling projects for government agencies. Several other Kenyan firms have been banned by the AfDB in recent months, turning the spotlight on how local firms bid and clinch lucrative tenders with the two multilateral lenders.

A spot check on the AfDB website shows some of the recently banned companies by AfDB based in Kenya include Aerospace Aviation, Beta Trading Company, Global Interjapan (Kenya) Limited, Eva-Top Agencies, Madujey Global Services, Mactebac Contractors Limited, Techno Brain (Kenya) Limited ("Techno Brain Kenya"), and Sony Commercial Agencies.

Others are inotec Co. Limited (Kenya Branch Office), Sino-Kenya Engineering Group Company Limited, Rockey Africa Limited, Reef Building Systems Limited (Reef), Ultimate Engineering Limited, Express Automation Limited and Kenya Power contractor Chint Electric.

Two individuals Mr Yuehua Bai and Mr. Joram Opala Otieno (also Known as Mr. Joram Opala) are also on the list. Arising from the huge number of Kenyan firms that have been blacklisted, the AfDB recently revealed plans to hire quality assurance experts to enable greater transparency and oversight of its funded projects.

Under a new regime, Kenyan firms bidding for the multi-billion shilling projects funded by the AfDB are set to face more scrutiny as the lender moves to seal graft loopholes. "Bank's portfolio in the region is facing a number of challenges and requires close monitoring," said AfDB in an internal document seen by the Business Daily.

"...The consultant will participate in country/regional meetings to review project and portfolio-related reports, including but not limited to project concept notes, project appraisal reports, project completion reports, country portfolio performance reviews reports."



AfDB president, Dr. Akinumi Adesina.

The bank said the consultants will also review and edit operations, strategy, and policy-related proposals to ensure "alignment with bank strategy objectives, quality standards, readiness and compliance with bank policies."

As part of its efforts to improve its cooperation with anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies, AfDB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption (PIAC) last year negotiated and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with the Kenyan Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission

(EACC). "The MoU will serve as framework for collaboration on corruption prevention, training and information sharing," said AfDB then.

AfDB's recent move to engage consultants is seen as meant to enable the bank have a tight leash on projects it finances. "(They will) assist in the identification of problems related to the bank's portfolio performance and service delivery, and promptly undertake appropriate action."

A ban from the AfDB over fraud concerns

may attract similar actions from other multilateral development banks, including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank. The financial institutions, which are mostly owned and financed by governments, have been keen to curb corruption in their projects, which run into billions of dollars annually.

WORLD

COP 26 deal closed but 'not enough'

LONDON

NEGOTIATORS agreed on a climate deal at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP 26, in Glasgow on Saturday, after last-minute concessions on coal pushed the agreement over the line.

The adoption of the Glasgow Climate Pact included some historic progress, including the completion of Article 6 of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which concerns the development of carbon markets.

Zhao Yingmin, China's vice-minister of ecology and environment, said the pact "will help kick-start a new journey of global efforts to tackle climate change".

"The new global deal, especially the finalization of the rulebook of the Paris Agreement, bears great significance for defending multilateralism and the implementation of the Paris Agreement," Zhao said.

The conference, which started on Nov 1 and ended a day late on Saturday, delivered some notable deals on deforestation, fossil fuel subsidies, coal and methane reduction, as well as engagement with the private and financial sector. China and the United States also surprised COP 26 with a welcome joint declaration on climate change announced on Wednesday.

Wang Yi, a senior scientific adviser in China's delegation, said this declaration helped bring about a broader consensus.

"China and the US played a very important role to push the final outcome. A consensus

between these big countries promoted the final multilateral cooperation," Wang told China Daily on Saturday. "Some countries expressed disappointment, of course, but I think in the future we should continue to build upon this result."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who hosted this year's conference, said there is still "a huge amount more to do in the coming years".

"But today's agreement is a big step forward and, critically, we have the first ever international agreement to phase down coal and a road map to limit global warming to 1.5 C," he said, referring to the target laid out in the Paris deal to keep average global temperatures to within 2 and 1.5 C this century.

After performing weeks of mediation, COP 26 President Alok Sharma was visibly emotional when he announced the Glasgow pact. A key line in the text, pertaining to coal, was watered down for the second time this week in order to get the deal done.

"I think we can credibly say that 1.5 C is alive. But its pulse is weak," Sharma said. "I apologize for the way this process has unfolded. I also understand the deep disappointment but I also think... that it is vital that we protect this package."

Sharma said that a "gulf remained" between what countries have promised on emissions reductions and what is needed to meet Paris goals, though he said he remained hopeful that future conferences could make meaningful progress.



Xie Zhenhua (left), China's special climate envoy, speaks with John Kerry, the US special climate envoy, before a meeting at the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow on Saturday. AFP

Before the agreement was finalized, representatives from several countries including China said that the text was not perfect but they had no intention to reopen it.

An initial draft had called for nations to "phase out coal" projects this decade, and this language was changed to "phase down", after stiff opposition from Indian negotiators, who said that it was unjust for rich nations to require the phasing out of fossil fuels in developing nations that are in the midst of industrialization and urbanization.

Bhupender Yadav, India's environment minister, asked on Saturday: "How can anyone expect that developing countries can make promises about phasing out coal and fossil fuel subsidies when developing countries have still to deal with their development agenda and poverty eradication?"

Wang said the coal phase down "reflects not only China's but also the world's concerns and interests" and Zhao supported this perspective.

"The current global warming has been caused mainly by the industrialization in the past 200 years, mainly involving the developed countries," Zhao said. "This historical responsibility has been clarified by the Paris Agreement,

hence the 'common but differentiated responsibilities'. Developed countries, therefore, must take the lead to cut emissions instead of requiring the developing countries to stop consuming coal; it is unfair."

Zhao said rich countries "must implement their pledges of funding and technology support for the developing countries".

"Only in this way can all countries jointly push forward the process of coping with climate change," he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the approved texts represent a compromise, and reaffirmed his support for earlier drafts.

"They take important steps, but unfortunately the collective political will was not enough to overcome some deep contradictions. We must end fossil fuels subsidies. Phase out coal," he said.

Guterres said that COP 27 "starts now" and attempted to reassure onlookers that leadership would continue to address the climate crisis.

The Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh will host COP27 in 2022. "The path of progress is not always a straight line. Sometimes there are detours. Sometimes there are ditches," he said.

Agencies

Putin finds it inappropriate to conduct maneuvers in Black Sea in response to NATO drills

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin finds it inappropriate for Russia to carry out its maneuvers in the Black Sea in response to NATO exercises there, there is no need to escalate the situation. He said it in an interview with Pavel Zarubin, the host of the Moscow Kremlin. Putin program.

"I should say that our Defense Ministry also came up with a proposal to hold its own unplanned exercises in this water area, but I believe that this is inappropriate and there is no need to further escalate the situation there. Therefore, the Russian Defense Ministry does not go further than escorting aircraft and ships," he said.

He drew attention to the fact that now the United States and its NATO allies are now conducting unplanned exercises in the Black Sea.

Moreover, "not only they formed a fairly powerful naval group there, but they also use aviation, including strategic aviation, in the course of these exercises," Putin noted.

"This is partly the answer to your previous question of where and how our strategic missile carriers fly," Putin told the host of the program.

"B-51 are used, which is rather old aircraft, but it not the carriers that matter, the matter is that they carry strategic weapons. This is a serious challenge for us," Putin said.



India's top court seeks curbs to clean Delhi's toxic air

By Bloomberg

INDIA'S Supreme Court called for urgent restrictions on vehicle movement and industrial activities in and around Delhi to help clean some of the world's dirtiest air.

A panel headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana on Monday ordered the federal and state governments to decide steps in a day.

These may include imposing work from home, or even a lockdown if needed, as the nation's capital has been choking for about a week.

"It is unfortunate that we have to set the agenda," Ramana said. Delhi shut schools, construction activities and some government offices for a week after the top court termed the situation as an emergency on Nov 13.

Similar measures were last imposed in the winter of 2019, while the COVID-19-related lockdown kept pollution in check last year.

The air quality index, or AQI, for New Delhi was over 450 most days last week, with readings below 50 considered safe and anything above 300 as hazardous.

Air pollution costs Indian businesses \$95 billion or roughly 3 percent of its GDP every year, according to UK-based non-profit Clean Air Fund and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month pledged that India will aim to reach net-zero emissions by 2070, the country fails to tackle toxic smog that covers several of its cities every winter.

Researchers call for phasing out of cigarette sales in Australia

SYDNEY

RESEARCHERS from Australia's University of Queensland's (UQ) School of Public Health called for a restriction of tobacco sales in Australia as the next step towards phasing out tobacco related products completely.

In a perspective article published in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) on Monday, UQ School of Public Health Associate Professor Coral Gartner argued that focus needs to be shifted onto retail supply when it comes to reducing smoking rates.

"We are now calling on the governments to focus on retail supply, which is the critical link between manufacturers and consumers," said Gartner. The report also called for the Australian government to set an end-date for the phase out of tobacco retailing.

"It's time for the government to focus on supply reduction and plan an end date for tobacco retailing," said Gartner.

The report noted that this would "denormalize" smoking, preventing young people from becoming new smokers, and also helping current smokers quit, the majority of which have reported regretting starting smoking.

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019 estimated that 11 percent of Australians over 14 smoked daily, compared with 24.3 percent in the first survey conducted in 1991.

While smoking rates have indeed fallen over the years, Gartner said stronger regulatory action would be needed to reach the governmental target of reducing smoking to below 5 percent of the population by 2030.

Qaddafi son registers to run for Libyan presidential vote

By Bloomberg

A son of ousted Libyan strongman Moammar Al Qaddafi filed papers to run in December's presidential race, a move likely to further complicate a vote meant to cap a decade of conflict in the OPEC nation.

Saif al-Islam Qaddafi, who hadn't been seen in public for years, registered with the electoral commission in the southwestern city of Sebha, the body's communications director Khaled al-Manea said Sunday in a statement to Bloomberg. A video posted by Almasrad, a local news organization, purported to show him making the application.

Qaddafi, 49, whose father ruled the North African nation for four decades until his 2011 death in a NATO-backed uprising, is the first widely recognized would-be candidate to officially enter the running since registration for the Dec 24 vote opened last week.

He is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes



Saif al-Islam Qaddafi (center), the son and one-time heir apparent of late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi registers his candidacy for the country's presidential elections next month, in Sabha, Libya, on Sunday. AP

against humanity during the revolt. he was released in 2017. Held by a Libyan militia for six years, The younger Qaddafi's entry is

likely to complicate the election landscape just as tensions rise between parts of the recently unified government and parliament. Other potential candidates include the interim prime minister and Khalifa Haftar, the eastern-based military leader who had led the fight against the Tripoli-based government before a cease-fire was reached last year.

Stability in Libya, which sits on Africa's largest oil reserves, has implications for its crude output, which has often been hostage to disputes between armed factions. Current production is about 1.3 million barrels per day, the oil minister said this month, with plans to boost that in the near term.

Registrations for Libya's presidential election close on Nov 22, with a preliminary list of candidates to be published 48 hours after, al-Manea said. Authorities will decide on whether aspiring candidates meet the conditions and can be cleared to run in the vote.

Agencies

Putin, al-Sisi stress importance of coordination of steps for settling Middle East crises

MOSCOW

PRESIDENTS Vladimir Putin of Russia and Adel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt stressed the importance of further coordination of

efforts toward settling crises in Africa and the Middle East, the Kremlin press service said on Monday after their telephone conversation.

"The leaders noted the im-

portance of further coordination of steps on the international arena, including settlement of various crisis situations in the Middle East and Africa," it said.

The presidents also discussed current issues of Russian-Egyptian cooperation. "The sides highly assessed the current level of bilateral relations, which are characterized

by comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation and are steadily developing in various areas," the Kremlin said.

The two presidents agreed to continue personal contacts.

Argentina's government to lose control of Senate after midterm

By Bloomberg

ARGENTINA'S ruling coalition was defeated in the country's midterm elections on Sunday, and it's poised to lose its Senate majority in a setback for the government at a time it faces a wrecked economy.

The left-wing bloc led by President Alberto Fernandez was losing in six of eight senate races with at least 97 percent of votes counted in each province, signaling that the government will drop below the 37 sena-

tors needed to call a quorum and move legislation forward. It'd be the first time since 1983 that Peronism, the movement founded by Juan Peron in the 1940s, won't have control of the chamber.

Losing the Senate majority would mark a major setback for the government, especially for the powerful Vice-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who presides over the chamber, and will complicate the passage of legislation. On a national level, the opposition

Juntos por el Cambio got 42 percent of the electorate compared to 33 percent for the ruling coalition with 98 percent of the votes counted, according to local newspaper La Nacion.

"The market is likely to take a net positive view of the election results," Goldman Sachs Group Inc economist Alberto Ramos wrote in a research note. "A more market-friendly composition of congress could lead to more effective checks and balances and ultimately a policy regime shift in 2023, but there

is also the risk of more populist near-term policies."

In lower house races, opposition candidates won the key race in the province of Buenos Aires, the country's largest and most politically influential district, leading with 40.1 percent of votes versus the ruling coalition's 38.4 percent. Still, the government improved its performance compared to a September primary vote and was fighting to retain the first majority in the lower house. Opposition candidates won

other key congressional races in the city of Buenos Aires by a landslide, as well as in typically Peronist provinces like Santa Cruz and La Pampa.

Voters lost confidence with Fernandez's government over its handling of the pandemic and an economy marked by 52 percent annual inflation, 40 percent poverty and jitters over its weakened currency.

It also represents a comeback for the opposition bloc of former President Mauricio Macri, who was voted out of

power in 2019 amid a historic recession. Turnout was 72 percent, the lowest levels in over three decades.

New Plan

The government will submit to congress a bill with a multiyear economic program in the first week of December, and will seek consensus from the opposition on this "shared agenda," Fernandez said following the results.

That bill will seek to include "whatever best understand-

ings we have reached" with the International Monetary Fund, with which the government is negotiating to reschedule over \$40 billion in payments owed.

That debt is "the biggest stumbling block we face as we look to return to economic recovery and a more equitable country," Fernandez said in taped remarks. "I won't fall for those who speak of the benefits of austerity, a path that's already been tried and failed."

Agencies

US Democrats propose COVID-19 vaccine mandate for domestic air travel amid concerns

GLASGOW

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (Xinhua) -- Democratic lawmakers are urging U.S. President Joe Biden to require that all airline passengers either show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative coronavirus test before boarding a domestic flight, reported Business Insider on Sunday.

"This is a necessary and long overdue step toward ensuring all Americans feel safe and confident while traveling and reduce the chances of yet another devastating winter surge," said a request letter signed by more than 30 Democrats and sent to Biden on Nov. 11.

The letter came as millions plan to travel for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. An estimation from the American Automobile Association said over 53 million people were planning to travel to see loved ones for Thanksgiving this year. Of that, about 4.2 million people were expected to travel by air.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised people to avoid taking domestic flights unless they are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. The White House announced last month that international travelers coming into the United States must show proof of full vaccination to enter.

The Democrats who signed on the letter are urging that Biden expand that mandate to people traveling within the United States so as to minimize the risk of spikes in COVID-19 cases after the holiday.

"We applaud your adoption of

vaccine requirements for international air travelers coming to the United States. It is in the best interest of our nation's public health to adopt these vaccination requirements for U.S. air travel," said the letter.

GOOD NEWS

The United States administered over 9.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the past seven days, the highest weekly total since late May, the White House's COVID-19 data director Cyrus Shahpar tweeted on Saturday. Vaccinations of children ages 5 to 11, which became widely available this week, likely contributed to the total.

On Sunday, the CDC updated that 226,157,226 people had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making up 68.1 percent of the whole U.S. population. Fully vaccinated people stood at 194,951,106, accounting for 58.7 percent of the total. A total of 28,571,625 people, or 14.7 percent of fully vaccinated group, received booster shots.

New York State has opened 10 of its COVID-19 mass vaccination sites to children ages 5 to 11 who become newly eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as it seeks to expand access beyond a network of doctors' offices, local health departments, health centers and pharmacies. Over 50,000 children in the state have received at least one shot since Pfizer's vaccine was approved for the age group.

On Saturday, Governor Kathy Hochul said that she had instructed the mass vaccination sites to acquire pediatric doses and pre-



Travelers wait to claim luggage at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, the United States, Nov. 8, 2021. Xinhua

pare to administer them at those locations, adding the state aims to eventually offer the shots at all 13 of its vaccination sites in the days ahead.

California is among three U.S. states allowing coronavirus booster shots for all adults even though federal health officials recommend limiting doses to those considered most at risk.

The nation's most populous state, along with Colorado and New Mexico, instituted the policies to try to head off a feared surge around the

end-of-year holidays when more people are gathering inside.

SAD STORIES

COVID-19 cases are still climbing in places like the upper Midwest, Southwest and parts of the Northeast, "hindering the nation's progress in ending a surge triggered by the highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus," reported The Wall Street Journal on Sunday.

Nationally, the seven-day average of new cases appears to be edging back up after hovering just above

70,000 for several weeks, according to data from Johns Hopkins University, halting what had been a decline from the Delta-fueled peak that began in September, it added.

Between Nov. 3 and 4, an estimated 112 children ages 5 to 11 were incorrectly administered a COVID-19 vaccine dose intended for people ages 12 and older at Ted Pharmacy in Aldie of Virginia, said the Virginia Department of Health in a statement on earlier this week.

"Our understanding is that Ted Pharmacy attempted to give the correct 10 microgram dosage to those under 12 by administering 0.1 ml of the adult formulation," said David Goodfriend, director of the Loudoun County Health Department. "Due to the very small volume used, and concerns raised by some parents as to whether 0.1 ml was actually administered, it is possible some children were under-dosed."

The Lincoln Children's Zoo in Nebraska announced Friday evening that three of its snow leopards had died of complications from COVID-19, adding that two Sumatran tigers who contracted the virus at the zoo had "seemingly" recovered.

"Our leopards, Ranney, Everest, and Makaly, were beloved by our entire community inside and outside of the zoo," the zoo said in a statement.

"This loss is truly heartbreaking, and we are all grieving together." The zoo first reported that the tigers and snow leopards tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 13.

Xinhua

Agencies

Wang Dazhong: Leading scientist in China's nuclear energy technologies

WANG Dazhong, an 86-year-old academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and former president of Tsinghua University, won China's top science award for his outstanding contributions to the research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies at a grand ceremony held on Nov. 3 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to honour distinguished scientists, engineers, and research achievements.

At 9:35 a.m. on Sept. 12, the No.1 reactor of Shidaowan nuclear power plant in east China's Shandong province, the world's first industrial-scale demonstration plant of the high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) with the pebble-bed module, achieved the first criticality and the generating unit officially entered the state of "self-sustaining chain reaction." Wang was there to witness the historic moment.

HTGRs, globally known as the fourth-generation nuclear reactors, are believed to have broad development prospects for their inherent safety, versatility, and modular construction.

The industry widely recognizes the Shidaowan HTGR as one of the preferred types of fourth-generation nuclear reactors. Its success means that China has reached the advanced international level in advanced nuclear energy technologies mainly characterized by inherent safety.

Over the past more than six decades, Wang has led his team in blazing a trail for China in the field, turning the country from a latecomer to a leader in advanced nuclear energy technologies.

Starting from scratch, Wang and his colleagues built China's first self-developed shielded test reactor at Huyu village situated at the foot of the Yanshan Mountains in Beijing. The project involved 17 supply systems, several thousand machine



parts and components, and 200,000 meters of pipelines, among other things.

The average age of the people selected for the design and construction of the project was 23.5 years, and no one in the team had studied abroad or seen a real nuclear reactor. They started from building engineering models and conducted designing and calculations with several dozen hand-cranked computers.

After six years, Tsinghua University's shielded test reactor, also China's first self-developed nuclear reactor, was completed. Meanwhile, Wang gradually grew into a team leader with practical experience in nuclear reactor projects.

In the early 1980s, when countries hadn't focused on safety in the research on nuclear reactors, Wang set his eyes on inherent safety and concentrated efforts on research into modular HTGR. Although the development of nuclear energy was at a low ebb globally, Wang's resolution to continue digging deep into the field wasn't shaken a bit.

He made three decisions then, i.e., to develop HTGR with the pebble-bed module, to follow a development path from small-scale experimental reactors to full-size industrial demonstration nuclear power plants, and to adhere to independent innovation, which has had a significant influence on the development direction of HTGR technologies in China and even the world.

In 1986, Wang and his team again started from the very beginning to develop a 10MW pebble-bed modular HTGR, which required more than 20,000 spherical fuel elements that must pass rigorous tests and could withstand a high temperature of 1,600 degrees Celsius. Five million such particles could be produced at a time by each furnace, and the fraction defective must be lower than two in 100,000.

"Breakthroughs in key technologies couldn't be achieved overnight," Wang said. His team, which start-

ed from basic research in the field, eventually mass produced more than 20,000 spherical fuel elements that reached an international advanced level in terms of quality.

In 2000, the construction of the world's first fourth-generation advanced nuclear energy system, 10MW HTGR, was completed at Tsinghua University. "Many of my colleagues have devoted almost all their life to the HTGR project," Wang sighed.

Realizing the significance of nuclear energy for China's energy supply and environmental protection, Wang proposed achieving the transition from experimental reactors to industrial-scale prototype reactors many years ago.

In 2006, China listed the HTGR demonstration project as one of its major science projects, aiming to lay a foundation for developing the fourth-generation nuclear power technologies by building a 200MW HTGR demonstration project.

The project is exactly the Shidaowan HTGR nuclear power plant demonstration project. It took researchers more than ten years to achieve the first criticality at the No.1 reactor of the nuclear power plant.

"China was the first country in the world to build a nuclear power plant using the fourth-generation nuclear power technologies," said Zhang Zuoyi, director of the Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology, Tsinghua University.

"China's exploration of the fourth-generation nuclear power technologies will contribute more 'green strength' to the efforts to optimize and upgrade energy structure and promote ecological and environmental protection and governance in China and even the world," said He Jiankun, an old colleague of Wang and also director of China's national expert committee on climate change.

People's Daily

Xi-Biden talk seen as chance to put ties back on track

THE plan for a virtual meeting between President Xi Jinping and United States President Joe Biden is the outgrowth of the two countries' latest efforts to steer bilateral ties back toward dialogue and cooperation in the face of risks and challenges that they must be jointly addressed, analysts said.

It also reflects that Washington sees it has achieved nothing with its Cold War mentality-guided suppression of China, they added.

Ahead of the meeting to be held on Tuesday, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken affirmed in a phone conversation on Saturday the significance of the planned meeting, news of which is being keenly followed by the world.

Wang referred to the meeting as "an important event, not only for China-US relations, but also for international relations", and he said that the two peoples and the international community are expecting outcomes beneficial to both countries and to the world coming from it.

Wang said the two leaders' helmsmanship plays a pivotal role in piloting bilateral ties, and he urged the US to work in the same direction with China and bring China-US relations back onto the track of sound and steady development.

Wang also elaborated on China's solemn position in response to Washington's recent wrongdoings on the Taiwan question, saying that the US should abide by the commitments it made in the three China-US joint communiqués, put its one-China policy into action and stop sending the wrong signals to "Taiwan independence" forces.

Ma Xiaolin, a professor at Zhejiang International Studies University, said the agreement for a virtual meeting showed the importance of the two heads of state attach to their bilateral ties and their willingness to manage risks and differences so as to return the China-US relationship to the direction of positive development.

"As the two are the world's largest developed and largest developing country, it is necessary for both sides to make concerted efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and toward promoting global economic recovery and rebuilding their strategic mutual trust," Ma said.

The meeting will be the first one-on-one



President Xi Jinping (L) and United States President Joe Biden

meeting of Xi and Biden via video link since the US president took office in January. Previously, they had two phone conversations, one in February and the other in September.

Guided by the spirit and content of the leaders' telephone conversations, senior Chinese and US officials have had several face-to-face interactions this year in Anchorage, Tianjin, Zurich and Rome.

Last week, at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, the two countries' climate envoys announced a China-US declaration vowing to boost climate cooperation in the next decade.

Li Haidong, a professor of US studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said that bilateral cooperation between China and the US shows great potential and is urgently needed by both countries and the world.

As Xi pointed out in his phone call with Biden in September, whether China and the US can handle their relationship well has a bearing on the future of the world and it is the question of the century, to which the two countries must provide a good answer.

Li said that most disputes between China and the US were due to Washington's disrespect for China's sovereignty, security and development interests and its interference in China's internal affairs on issues concerning Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"Cooperation will be difficult if the US keeps stirring up trouble on these issues and does not stop infringing China's rights and interests," Li said.

Ruan Zongze, executive vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, said that the US has for some time adopted a wrong China policy due to its misjudgment on bilateral ties and thus, out of its Cold War mentality, has undertaken a series of acts that crack down on China.

Xinhua

S. Korean popular drama 'Squid Game' depicts cruelty of capitalistic society

SEOUL

A South Korean drama "Squid Game" has drawn worldwide attention as it vividly depicts the cruelty of capitalistic society through children's games played by a group of debt-ridden underdogs for money.

The dystopian drama, which debuted on Netflix on Sept. 17, attracted over 111 million views in less than four weeks, becoming the streaming service's most-watched series.

Created by South Korean director Hwang Dong-hyuk, "Squid

Game" tells the story of 456 people in various types of financial stress who enter a survival tournament, composed of children's games, in hopes of winning a cash prize of 45.6 billion won (38.7 million U.S. dollars).

The capitalistic cruelty is exposed at the beginning of the series. In the first episode, participants are gunned down in the red light, green light game when an eerie schoolgirl doll finds them moving, indicating that falling behind in the competition of capitalistic society leads to a survival contest.

In the second episode, the survivors from the first game decide by vote to leave the competition, but they voluntarily and inevitably return to risk their lives for the money as their reality is no better than the life-and-death sick game.

"Squid Game" overcame cultural and language barriers to achieve a worldwide success as it tells the story of ill-fated people, with whom the global audience can empathize and sympathize.

"Since the (COVID-19) pandemic breakout, wealth disparity widened in the world amid the rising

number of people who suffer from economic hardships. Even vaccines cannot be supplied properly to poor countries," director Hwang said in an interview with local broadcaster JTBC.

"Characters in 'Squid Game' are closely akin to people in the real world, so (global viewers) seem to empathize with the characters. Because the same thing is happening around the world, (the series) seem to win worldwide empathy," said the director.

The story is told mainly through the perspective of Seong Gi-hun

who was fired from an automaker after protesting against the corporate restructuring.

He is harassed and beaten by moneylenders but still gambles to pay back debt. He has a sick mother and does not have even money to buy a birthday gift for his daughter living with his divorced wife.

In the competition, Seong encounters his childhood friend Cho Sang-woo, who was an elite working for a securities company after graduating from a prestigious university but is now wanted by the police for the embezzlement

of millions of dollars after failure in speculative investment in stock futures.

The participants, including Seong and Cho, form alliances to survive but are eventually forced to betray even friends in the sixth episode, titled "Gganbu," a South Korean slang used by the older generation that means a close friend with whom you can share everything.

In the sixth episode, Seong and Cho select their respective Gganbu to pair up with before starting the game of marbles.

SPORT



Deputy Minister in the President's Office, Public Service and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi (C) presents a trophy to Dar es Salaam basketball team's captain, Hadji Tarambo (R), after the squad clinched CRDB Bank Taifa Cup 2021 tournament's title at the final played at Chinangali Park's courts in Dodoma on Sunday. Looking on (L) is CRDB Bank Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Maisha Magic Bongo channel ends season with new thrilling series

By Guardian Reporter

POPULAR DStv channel, Maisha Magic Bongo (MMB), seeks to continue offering the best entertainment to subscribers as the channel has announced the launch of two new dramas in a row.

The dramas' introduction, DStv officials disclosed yesterday, is set to make the channel continue to be a beacon of Tanzanian dramas and films locally and abroad.

Film lovers have been given a special end of the year treat as the two dramas, titled 'La Familia', and 'Danga', began airing on the MMB channel, DStv 160, from yesterday.

"These two dramas are produced by Tanzanian producers and performed by Tanzanian actors and actresses in our environment. These are 100% Tanzanian dramas," Barbara Kambogi, Head of MMB channel, stated.

Barbara said the MMB channel has always made sure that it provides an opportunity for the domestic film industry by airing many films from Tanzania, revealing currently more than 90% of MMB channel content is Tanzanian.

She stated this season, Maisha Magic Bongo is launching new dramas with new

producers, showing how much it is focused on promoting the talents of Tanzanians who dare to participate in performing arts.

'Danga' is a drama produced by a famous young man, Idris Sultan, who gained fame through the Big Brother Africa program produced by MultiChoice Africa.

The MMB channel boss revealed: "We are proud to be working with an artist who has grown through our field, and we believe the work he has done in 'Danga' will be well received by our audience."

"This drama will officially start airing on Monday from 1:30 pm on Maisha Magic Bongo every Monday to Wednesday every week."

"'La Familia' is a drama with many stories and scenes within the family, it carries the realities of our Tanzanian families as a whole," Barbara pointed out.

Maximilian Rioba, who is also a new entry for filmmakers within Maisha Magic Bongo channel, is the drama's producer.

The 'La Familia' drama was officially aired yesterday and will be airing from Monday to Friday from 4 pm.

The DStv subscribers should not miss many other episodes within Maisha Magic Bongo channel that include 'Jua Kali', from Wednesday to Friday at 3:30 p.m., 'Kitimtim', from Monday to Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., 'ICU' on Friday at 1:00 p.m., 'Scandalous Scales', on Wednesday night, and 'Huba', from Monday to Friday at 3:00 p.m.

DeRozan, LaVine in double digits, Bulls end Clippers' streak

LOS ANGELES

DeMAR DeRozan scored 35 points and Zach LaVine added 29 to help the Chicago Bulls beat the Los Angeles Clippers 100-90 on Sunday night, ending the Clippers' seven-game winning streak.

Lonzo Ball had 10 points for the Bulls, who used generous amounts of Los Angeles-area talent to earn the victory. DeRozan is a LA native who went to USC, while LaVine and Ball attended UCLA.

"We battled and fought," Bulls coach Billy Donovan said after his team held the Clippers to 35.8% from the field and 32.4% from 3-point range. "Everybody who went in there helped. It was a game where everyone went small. So yeah, I was happy with the way we played defense."

Paul George scored 27 points and had 11 rebounds for the Clippers, while Eric Bledsoe added 21 points. Los Angeles lost for the first time since Oct. 29 at Portland.

George and Reggie Jackson, who lead the Clippers with more than eight 3-point attempts per game, were a combined 5 of 21 from distance. Jackson scored 13 points while going 4 of 17 from the field.

"Couldn't make shots, couldn't get them to

fall," George said. "A lot of in and outs, lot of good looks, just wasn't my night shooting."

The Bulls' Alex Caruso, a former Laker who is in his first season in Chicago, scored just seven points but had nine rebounds and helped thwart the Clippers' long-distance shooters over a team-high 39 minutes.

"He's one of the highest IQ players I've played with," DeRozan said about Caruso. "It makes life so much easier for us when he's out there."

Chicago is 1-1 to open a five-game trip that includes a visit to the Lakers on Monday.

The Bulls had a double-digit lead less than five minutes into the game and had a 17-point advantage one minute into the second quarter after a cutting layup by Ayo Dosunmu. The Bulls led 54-45 at the half.

The Clippers did go in front 78-77 with 10 minutes to go on a fall-away, fall-down 10-footer from George. But the Bulls answered with a 9-0 run, capped by a LaVine 3-pointer, for an 86-78 advantage and held on from there.

"Our guys got tired," Clippers coach Tyrone Lue said of the loss one day after a 129-102 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. "I messed up and played them to many minutes... That was on me, so whatever. Start a new (winning) streak."

AP

“

He's one of the highest IQ players I've played with," DeRozan said about Caruso. "It makes life so much easier for us when he's out there.

SPORTS

DRC rout brings sports, wider dual citizenship as real agenda

By Correspondent John Kimbute

SOCCER pundits and fans were spending the long weekend following Taifa Stars thrashing by DRC in what we all knew was a decisive encounter in the quest to make history.

We would be returning to competitive African soccer if we reached the 10 final teams to seek just five that make it to the World Cup finals in Qatar next year - that is, do better than we did with the side coached by Emmanuel Amunike.

We would even follow Simba SC's footsteps, not in this year's but the club's campaign last year.

What we did not realize was that Taifa Stars falls woefully short of that potential at the moment, first at the level of exposure of players and the skills, they have, to comprehend what sort of pattern they ought to use or exploit opportunities, at quick notice.

At the end of the day, the issues are now clearer than they could have been earlier, as fans and even pundits were insistent that this was the national side's match to win, nearly discounting the likelihood of defeat at home. Drawing against the side in an away match sufficed.

Pundits and even the fans now appear to acknowledge that the Congolese side was or rather is better at the level of skills and ability to play together, as reports say they scarcely had camp time together and virtually came together just to climb the plane to play in Dar es Salaam.

The difference with the previous encounter was that they were more resolute about the game as they saw the trend that Taifa Stars were leading the group and that wasn't by accident, so there was vim and vigour they were resolute to put up in the game.

That means they played to capacity, even at their best as a team without much time in a camp.

At least one radio station put up a rather lengthy talk show program on 'finding the witch' for Taifa Stars' 3-0 drubbing at the hands of our neighbours, whom Africa knows more for their unequalled gifts in dance music, while their neighbours to the west, Cameroon, are all-round soccer giants.

As the terms of the discussion illustrate, the show hosts and the fans weren't trying to explain the convincing defeat but rather whom to nail concerning the matter, that is, why we are credibly no match against DRC when it comes to a



Tanzanian fullback, Adam Nditi, formerly played for England's Chelsea FC academy in 2008 and was released in June 2014 following contract expiry. AGENCIES

properly competitive encounter.

We managed to shine at a dress rehearsal on their turf earlier.

Two identifiable streams of vastly unequal distribution, that is, frequency of airtime use, could be noticed, the first being a 'patriotic' group that laid the blame on the rules, for instance, several DRC players not just play outside but were born there and live there but their parents were Congolese.

On that account, we also have several top-level players, one of them being Yusuf Poulsen, who earlier on wanted to play for Taifa Stars but was rejected, and later turns up for the Danish national side.

By contrast, Nigeria was earlier this year trying to call Arsenal midfielder, Bukayo Saka, to play for the 'Super Eagles', he refused and regularly features for the England national side - one could prolong such cases and their outcomes.

The other group of commentators can be identi-

fied as 'sectarian,' namely as refusing to see the broader picture of the difference in abilities and exposure of players in the two teams, and preferring to lay the blame on 'TFF and their coach,' for the manner of selection, the narrowness of the team, etc.

It is not a new argument as it was there aplenty in past years, at one point even organizing competitions to spot the talent that could feature for Taifa Stars, as many of us recall those misadventures.

It was subsequently decided at the continental level that regular high-level youth tournaments were best for spotting and grooming talent, as pundits acknowledged that coach Kim Poulsen had brought up several in his selection that way.

In that case, illusions that Tanzanian soccer organization and regulations as they stand to suffice to build a credible national side can be said to have emphatically dissipated with the drubbing in the hands of a hastily assembled DRC side.

The key difference does not lie in coaching as the ability of the coach to get results from the players is well beyond any shade of doubt. Only the dual citizenship item matters now.

In that context, the conservative groups in cultural and economic establishments who reject efforts of successive governments to institute dual citizenship perhaps need to be told in the fact that they are a force for backwardness.

They have no credible argument against dual citizenship except imaginary scenarios of treason in case we are at war - and one wonders when we shall be at war with Britain, or their former South African pseudo-allies, etc.

It is high time we modernized and embrace youths who speak our language (quite a few are for instance living in Oman) or identify themselves with us - like the recent Nobel Prize winner in literature, Professor Abdulrazak Gurnah if we are to make a soccer name in the region.

Security company pledges more support towards young talent

By Guardian Correspondent

THE SGA Security firm has pledged to continue supporting young talent through sponsoring football academies in Tanzania.

The pledge was made by SGA Tanzania Managing Director, Eric Sambu, during an event that brought together about 300 young football players from one of the leading football academies in Dar es Salaam, Magnet Youth Sports Academy.

The center's footballers participated in the organization's All-Stars Day event at the Law School of Tanzania grounds in the city over the weekend.

The annual event, which brings together players from all Magnet Academy centers in a tournament, was co-sponsored by SGA Security, which also sponsors the U-17 and U-19 teams that participate in the national youth league.

Sambu commended the academy for bringing together and nurturing great talent in Dar es Salaam, many of which have been picked for trials in major academies in Europe.

SGA paramedic team and ambulances were busy in the field during the event that brought hundreds of spectators to ensure everyone returned home safe from serious injuries.

Sambu noted: "As a company, our main mission is the provision of security services, but we also value health and that is why we have ambulances stationed strategically in the city, to support the society."

"Sports events like this make us healthy and beginning at a tender age creates a culture of embracing fitness, which also contributes to a healthy society hence productivity and less burden to health systems, in addition to potential career prospects in football."

Magnet Sports Academy's chairman,



A section of Magnet Youth Sports Organization's footballers feature in training at JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MAGNET YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Tuntufye Mwambusi, welcomed the support of SGA Security and other sponsors of the event, noting that SGA Security has been a partner for three years now.

He explained that his academy has produced players for the national team in various categories.

"Our players are well exposed, given that they get a chance to participate in international tournaments like in Sweden, Norway, Germany, and UAE."

"We have had professional coaches from Spain and many of our players have gone for trials in Europe", he said.

SGA Security has sponsored many events including the main marathon events organized by NMB, CRDB, NBC, and

many others, as part of their corporate social responsibility in the country, being part of their 50th-anniversary celebrations.

SGA Security is the oldest private security company in Tanzania and employs over 6,000 Tanzanians.

The firm is renowned for transportation of currency across the country, but they also provide guarding services to all sectors, courier services, alarm response, tracking solutions, and electronic security installations.

"SGA is the only company to be ISO 18788 Certified locally, and this is a specific standard for security operations, demonstrating our focus on customers and quality of our services," Sambu added.

South Africa's World Cup hopes dashed by Ghana

CAIRO

SOUTH Africa's World Cup qualifying campaign came to end after losing at Ghana 1-0, with the hosts advancing to the March playoffs that will determine Africa's representatives at Qatar 2022.

Andre Ayew's disputed first half penalty at Cape Coast was enough to allow Ghana to edge South Africa on goals scored after they both finished on 13 points in Group G, and with the same goal difference.

The Democratic Republic of Congo also won their World Cup qualifying group on Sunday. DR Congo beat Benin 2-0 in Kinshasa to finish one point ahead of their visitors in Group J. DR Congo were awarded a generous penalty inside the opening 10 minutes to allow veteran striker Dieumerci Mbokani to give his side the lead. Ben Malongo added the second with a close-range header with some 15 minutes left.

The Congolese finished with 11

points, one more than Benin.

Ghana and DR Congo join Egypt, Mali, Morocco and Senegal in the final stage of the African preliminaries.

The 10 group winners play five two-legged ties to decide the African representation for Qatar and the remaining four group winners will be decided on Tuesday.

Also on Sunday, Ismaila Sarr scored a double for Senegal as they beat Congo 2-0 in Dakar to finish their group campaign unbeaten. They also amassed 16 points in Group H but had already booked their place last month.

Coach Aliou Cisse left out forward Sadio Mane, who had suffered a hip injury in the draw with Togo last Thursday. He returned to his club Liverpool on Saturday, Senegalese officials said.

Mali, who had already ensured top place in Group E last week, also finished unbeaten and with 16 points as they beat Uganda 1-0, courtesy of a first half strike from Kalifa Coulibaly.

(Agencies)

Argentina, Brazil meet in qualifying with eyes on Qatar

SAO PAULO

BRAZIL is already the first South American team to secure a direct spot in next year's World Cup. Second-place Argentina is nearly there, too.

Anyone thinking toay's qualifying match between the teams will not be decisive hasn't considered how much pride will be at stake in the region's superclasico.

Copa America champion Argentina is determined to upstage Brazil and show Lionel Messi he has a decent shot next year of winning the only trophy missing in his career. Victory in front of home crowd could also mean, pending other results, securing qualification for Qatar 2022.

Brazil is aiming to complete the best South American qualifying campaign in history, although coach Tite is still expected to continue experimenting with his line-up with an eye on the World Cup.

Only 25,000 fans in San Juan, in Argentina's northwest, will be at the stadium to watch the teams play a full game for the first time in this edition of World Cup qualifying. The first encounter was stopped after seven minutes of play in September by Brazilian authorities enforcing protocols in place for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brazil leads qualifiers with 34 points, six ahead of Argentina. Both teams have completed 12 games, one fewer than the other eight teams in qualifying.

Ecuador remains third with 20 points, while Chile, Colombia and Uruguay have 16 points. Peru is back in contention with 14 points, two more than Paraguay and Bo-

livia and seven more than Venezuela.

The top four teams in South America earn direct entry to the World Cup. The fifth-place team goes into an intercontinental playoff for a spot in Qatar.

Also on Tuesday, Bolivia will host Uruguay, Colombia takes on Paraguay, Venezuela faces Peru and Chile plays Ecuador.

ARGENTINA vs. BRAZIL

Argentina can secure a World Cup spot if it beats Brazil and if two of three other teams – Uruguay, Chile and Colombia – fail to win.

The toughest part of Argentina's night will surely be beating the undefeated Seleção.

Messi is being spared for the match against Brazil because of a knee injury that stopped him from playing some matches for his club Paris Saint-Germain and also for most of Argentina's 1-0 win at Uruguay last Friday.

The derby against Brazil is always a major contest, and thousands of fans in San Juan stood in 2-mile long lines to get tickets. Hotels in the region are full. Confidence is high among fans to see a team that has not lost any of its 26 latest matches.

Brazil will also have a key player missing, with midfielder Casemiro suspended after the 1-0 win against Colombia. He'll likely be replaced by Fabinho. Coach Tite is set to continue making changes to his lineup, possibly with Matheus Cunha replacing Gabriel Jesus up front. Eder Militão will also take the place of Thiago Silva.

AP

Serbia shocks Portugal to join Spain, Croatia at World Cup

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

SPAIN, Serbia and Croatia are heading to next year's World Cup. Sweden, Portugal and Russia aren't – not yet, anyway.

Aleksandar Mitrovic's 90th-minute header left Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal stunned in a 2-1 win for Serbia in Lisbon, which gave Serbia an automatic qualifying spot at the World Cup in Qatar. Portugal still has a chance to qualify, but it must navigate a four-team bracket in the playoffs in March.

All of the teams which booked a World Cup place in Europe on Sunday did so with dramatic late goals.

Spain only needed a draw in its last game against Sweden to qualify, but Álvaro Morata made sure in the 86th minute with the only goal in a 1-0 win to leave veteran Sweden star Zlatan Ibrahimovic's hopes of another World Cup appearance depending on the playoffs.

Croatia laid siege to Russia's goal on a waterlogged field quickly turning into a swamp, and was finally rewarded when a Russian defender scored an 81st-minute own-goal, enough for a 1-0 win.

Russia, too, heads to the playoffs, which start March 24 and will sort 12 teams – 10 group runner-ups and two with strong records from the Nations League – into three brackets of four teams. Each bracket has one World Cup place. The draw takes place Nov. 26 in Zurich.

GROUP A

Portugal was in a strong position when Renato Sanches scored the opening goal after just two minutes against Serbia, but Dusan Tadic kept Serbia in the game with an equalizer in the 33rd. Mitrovic's late header silenced the crowd and shocked Portugal's players, including Ronaldo, who sat on the field at the final whistle.

"It was an amazing game, fully deserved," Mitrovic said. "I think we deserved to win the game and to be in Qatar."

Beating Portugal for the first time



Serbian players celebrate at the end of the World Cup 2022 group A qualifying soccer match between Portugal and Serbia at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, Sunday, Nov 14, 2021. (AP Photo)

marks a turnaround after Serbia failed to qualify for the European Championship.

There's one positive for Portugal. Its comparatively strong record in the group means it will be one of the seeded teams for the playoffs in March and will get a home draw for the single-leg bracket semifinal game. Portugal last missed a World Cup in 1998.

Ireland won 3-0 at Luxembourg in the other group A game.

GROUP B

Substitute Morata scored the winner for Spain after Dani Olmo's long-range shot bounced off the post to send Spain to its 12th consecutive World Cup.

At the age of 40, Zlatan Ibrahimovic was bidding to reach his first World Cup since 2006 with Sweden – he didn't make the squad in 2018 – but couldn't change the game after coming off the bench in the 74th.

That ended a campaign which seemed to be under control for Swe-

den before a shock 2-0 loss to Georgia on Thursday.

In Athens, already eliminated Greece and Kosovo drew 1-1.

GROUP H

The runners-up from the 2018 World Cup, Croatia, had to brave 2018 host team Russia and the weather to book its place at next year's tournament.

In driving rain on a waterlogged pitch which forced Croatia to switch its game plan to long shots and crosses, an own-goal from Russian defender Fedor Kudryashov handed Croatia a win and a place in Qatar as group winner.

Croatia dominated the game against a Russian team for which a draw would have been enough to finish first, but poor shooting and some solid saves from goalkeeper Matvey Safonov made for a tense finish. Russia will be seeded in the playoffs.

Third-place Slovakia eased to a 6-0 win over Malta with a hat trick from attacking midfielder Ondrej Duda. Slovenia beat Cyprus 2-1.

GROUP J

On a night of drama for other big European teams, Germany stayed calm in a straightforward win. Germany qualified last month and has spent this week burnishing its already impressive goal difference to +32, the best in European qualifying at the moment.

Except for Hansi Flick's winning record as Germany coach, there wasn't much riding on the 4-1 win over Armenia, a team which had only the slimmest mathematical chance of qualifying for the playoffs. Two goals from Ilkay Gundogan helped Flick earn his seventh win from seven games in charge.

North Macedonia remains in contention to reach a World Cup for the first time after beating Iceland 3-1 to secure a spot in the playoffs. Eljif Elmas scored twice for his team, which will be unseeded. Romania beat Liechtenstein 2-0 but missed the playoffs because of North Macedonia's win.

AP

France can look forward to World Cup after emotional night

By Julien Laurens, ESPN Correspondent

SATURDAY in Paris was not just about qualifying for the 2022 World Cup for France. Les Bleus booked their place in Qatar with no suspense whatsoever, with four goals for Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe in his home stadium in an 8-0 thrashing of Kazakhstan (stream the replay on ESPN+ in the U.S.). But they did more than that.

Six years to the day after a series of coordinated terrorist attacks across Paris – including at the national stadium while France were playing a match – killed 130 people and injured more than 400, there was a duty of remembering, of paying tribute and of honouring the memory of those lost on that dreadful night.

The Parc des Princes, where the game was played, was filled with emotion and banners in homage to those lost on Nov. 13, 2015. There was a minute of silence perfectly respected before kick-off. There was an incredible rendition of "La Marseillaise" by the crowd on 15 minutes to mark the moment when the first bomb exploded outside of the Stade de France on that night six years ago during a match between France and Germany, while at the same time thousands of fans lit up their phones to create an amazing wall of lights in the stadium. And there was Antoine Griezmann's celebration after his goal, when he displayed a big heart and the date "13.11.2015" written on his T-shirt under his jersey. (His sister, Maud, was one of the survivors of the attack on the Bataclan theatre that night.)

A lot has happened for the French national team between that day and this, six years later, as the trial of 20 men accused of perpetrating the attack takes place in the capital. France coach Didier Deschamps and his players won the World Cup in 2018 and will now defend their second title in a year's time in Qatar.

They will have, barring any injuries, a front three formed of Griezmann,



France forward Antoine Griezmann celebrated his goal with a tribute to those who died during the Paris attacks. (Agencies)

Mbappe and Karim Benzema. Unlike at Euro 2020, the trio has now clicked in the new 3-4-1-2 formation set up by Deschamps. Griezmann is a free role player, operating mostly as a playmaker. Benzema is the central focal point and Mbappe drifts to the left, always ready to run in behind. All of them scored against Kazakhstan: four goals and one assist for the Parisian Mbappe, two goals for Real Madrid star Benzema and one for his Atletico Madrid rival Griezmann. The performance was ideal for the confidence and the dynamic within the trio.

The relationship between Benzema and Mbappe is shaping up to be something very special. It is easy to say in hindsight, but perhaps the Euros arrived too quickly for them. Deschamps had not called up Benzema for almost six years, and he hardly had time to settle and integrate into the team before the start of the tournament. Qatar in 2022, the first World Cup to be held over November and December, will feel very different for them.

"We have an attack that imposes fear, one of the best in the world," Mbappe said after the match. "Now, whether we are the best in the world, it's down to preference. What is clear is that we understand each other very well on the pitch and we want to play for each other and for the national team."

On Saturday, Mbappe was untouchable. He had never scored a hat trick with

wing-back, the former PSG youngster has a new role to play in this team. Time will tell if he can cope in that position against better opposition than Kazakhstan and against a team that actually attacks, but he could be the X factor going forward. On the other side, Theo Hernandez could also be the difference-maker. He delivered two more assists to take his international tally to one goal and three assists in only four caps.

In terms of balance, the back three offers much more solidity, even in the absence of injured pair Presnel Kimpembe and Raphael Varane. Jules Kounde or Dayot Upamecano represent the future, but they have plenty of other young and talented central defenders like Ibrahima Konate, Maxence Lacroix, William Saliba, Wesley Fofana, Mohamed Simakan and Jean-Clair Todibo ready to seize their chance.

But before thinking of the next few months, Deschamps and his players will enjoy this qualification. France have reached their 14th consecutive major tournament, and in that run they have reached at least the semi-finals in six occasions and the quarterfinal stage nine times. The Qatar World Cup will be a new challenge for every team, but France will be as ready as any of them as they prepare to defend their title.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

