

National Pg 3

Samia's luring of investors lauded



National Pg 4

Mwanamke Kinara sponsors grace launch



National Pg 6

Cooking contest drives women food vendors



BUSINESS
Dairy board requires 15bn/- for school milk programme
China aims to boost its capacity in grains
Awori leads Ecobank Group as new CEO
Expert says timber will solve urban housing challenges

Page 13

Tanzania is for all, Samia tells opposition

Kenya banks facing low forex supplies, tap Tanzania banks

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

KENYAN commercial banks are running low on US dollar flows, pushing some importers to turn southward to obtain the greenback, along with other neighbouring countries.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) ordered commercial banks to restrict the number of dollars they give out, with currency merchants and importers limited to daily dollar purchases of not more than \$5,000 per firm.

Businesses are finding it difficult to get enough foreign currency to meet their supply needs, with experts saying the shortfall results from the need to increase exports of raw materials and obtain equipment following global economic recovery, driving up dollar demand.

The lack of US dollars has been challenging for manufacturers and importers of general items to meet their daily targets, as the creeping shortage of dollars led to a rush to protect reserves, instituted by CBK.

Industrialists are now compelled to look for dollars on a daily basis and from many lenders to meet their monthly hard currency demands. This makes it more difficult for them to maintain good supplier relationships and bargain for favorable rates in spot markets, financial analysts affirm.

Banks, especially the big ones, running out of dollars shows that currency problems that began in the middle of last year with lenders rationing limited dollars are now worse.

TURN TO Page2

“The lack of US dollars has been challenging for manufacturers and importers of general items to meet their daily targets”



President Samia Suluhu Hassan holds one-year-old Zaujia Swalehe shortly after addressing a rally at Usa River in Arusha Region yesterday. Left is the child's mother, Ashura Mohamed. Photo: State House/Msala

Govt moves into action over 776 sand bags in inputs warehouse

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

AN executive in the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) and two senior officers of the Minjingu Fertiliser Co. are being investigated in relation to suspicions of intention to mix fertiliser with sand.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe directed the arrest and interrogation of Michael Sanga, the TFRA manager in Southern Highlands Zone, and two officials of the firm, namely marketing officer Mshindo Msola and the Minjingu fertiliser warehouse supervisor in Njombe town.

Bashe issued the directive after 776 bags of sand were found in

the warehouse suspected of being used in adulterating fertiliser sold by the company, referring to the incident as economic sabotage that cannot be tolerated.

He appealed to the regional authorities to make sure legal measures are taken against all those involved in the wake of the regional defence and security committee unveiling the situation.

A reports at the public meeting said the committee, in collaboration with the ruling party political committee led by Anthony Mtaka, the regional commissioner visited the warehouse and discovered the bags of sand.

The RC told the minister that he led the regional defence and

security committee, the regional political committee and TFRA officials, and found the 776 bags of sand.

The bags had not been labelled as subsidized fertiliser, but were the same bags as those with Minjingu labels. TFRA fined the company 30m/- on February 24 but the bags remained in the warehouse, he said.

After the RC made this observation, the minister said he had no information about payment of the fine. "I do not have that report, therefore the NFRA man who came to take samples and satisfied himself should be arrested to provide more information," he stated.

TURN TO Page2

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday said that she will not treat the opposition as enemies as they help in bringing up challenges and loopholes which need solutions from the government.

The president made this affirmation at a public meeting at Usa River area in Arumeru District of Arusha Region, stopping to greet residents crowding to see her. Tanzanians only differ in views but they need to work together to build the nation, she stated, insisting that opposition criticism helps to further improve service delivery.

Narrating the case of former Arusha MP Godbless Lema whom she addressed as a younger brother, saying that when meeting him in his he said he wished to come back but he faces court cases. She said she assured him that the cases will be withdrawn, which enabled his return.

She rejected an appeal from the MP for Arumeru that Usa River obtain the status of a town, underlining that the government does not expect to add new administrative areas.

This would increase operational and administrative costs,

thus impairing capacity for the government to deliver required services to the people, she said.

She was affirmative that the country was doing well economically, with people's developmental needs especially in education, water and health being improved. The government was strengthening infrastructures so that the people can access required services smoothly, she stated.

She said that the government has completed assessment of Arusha airport expansion, assuring the crowd that residents who invaded plots near the airport establishing settlements will be paid compensation amounting to 11bn/-.

In a calculated gesture, she commended motorcycle taxi service providers for supporting her and escorting her while she was in Arusha. She said the government recognises them and that they should continue with their positive spirit.

Maryprisca Mahundi, the Water deputy minister, said the government was implementing projects all over the country to improve water supply, noting that in Arusha there is an ongoing project billed at 8bn/-.

TURN TO Page2

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON COMPLETION OF TWO YEARS UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF



HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

The Guardian Limited will publish a special supplement with "The Guardian" and "Nipashe" Newspapers, with a special report focusing on the achievements of the Government under the leadership of President **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**

20th March 2023

We wish to invite you to be a part of this special supplement by publishing your **Special features, Congratulatory messages, Advertorials** and **Advertisements**.



TO BOOK YOUR SPACE PLEASE CALL US TODAY ON +255 677 020 701

Email: advertise@guardian.co.tz or Visit us at The Guardian Limited, Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, Opposite ITV / Radio One, Dar es Salaam
Web: www.ippmedia.com / paper.ippmedia.com

617309101

TCRA wants courier operators licensed

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has called on unlicensed courier service providers to abide by regulations and register their businesses.

Haruni Lemanya, the postal services manager, said in an

interview at the weekend that the regulation is meant to ensure fair competition and consumer protection. Businesses need to operate responsibly by obtaining a TCRA-issued license that validates their operations as licensing service provision enables greater transparency and accountability in

the industry. It helps to avoid potential penalties as operating without a license is to break the law, he stated, underlining that operating a courier service without a license is illegal.

TURN TO Page2



TCRA wants courier operators licensed

FROM PAGE 1

TCRA will not hesitate to take legal action against non-compliant service providers, he stated, noting that the primary target of the warning is a few regional bus operators who provide courier services without having a licence.

He demanded that they sign up for the Tanzania Portal, the TCRA online licensing system, as they would quickly obtain licences.

"We have noticed that some bus operators are providing courier services without acquiring a license from TCRA. We would like to remind them that this is against the law and they must apply for licenses through our online licence application system; they don't need to physically come to our offices," he emphasised.

TCRA similarly reiterated its vow to make sure licensed postal operators offer customers quality services, underlining that it is crucial for customers to have simple ways to complain and obtain assistance if they lose something.

That is particularly so if they mail parcels through registered and recognised courier service providers, he stated.

"When faced with challenges, customers of licensed courier services can bring their concerns to the relevant authority if the service provider is unable to address the issue.

"However, if you choose to use an unlicensed courier, you run the risk of having no avenue to lodge your complaints," he pointed out. The Electronic and Postal Communications Act (EPOCA), of 2010 mandates the TCRA with licensing and regulating postal operators, ensuring that postal services offer quality services, along with protecting consumer interests.

TCRA similarly approves codes of conduct for postal operators, enforcing compliance with regulations for postal services rendered by various operators.

EPOCA provides a robust legal framework for the regulation of postal services in Tanzania, to ensure the provision of quality, affordable and accessible postal services while promoting competition and protecting consumer interests.

TCRA



Nuru Ndos, Deputy Secretary General (Mainland) of the opposition Chadema's women's council wing, plants a fruit tree at Nronga Secondary School in Hai District yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania is for all, Samia tells opposition

FROM PAGE 1

Upon completion, it will provide relief to the city and nearby towns, for years facing water shortages, urging irrigation scheme applications in the

district as the government gears up to implement scores of irrigation schemes.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe said that the government will put 300 acres in Arusha Region into block farms, dividing

them to residents to increase production of vegetables and fruits in particular.

He warned leaders cooperating with dishonest traders to raise prices of maize obtained from the National Food Reserve

Agency (NFRA), citing a case of a leader in Babati District, Manjara Region, abetting the selling of maize at a high price contrary to current price caps from the agency.

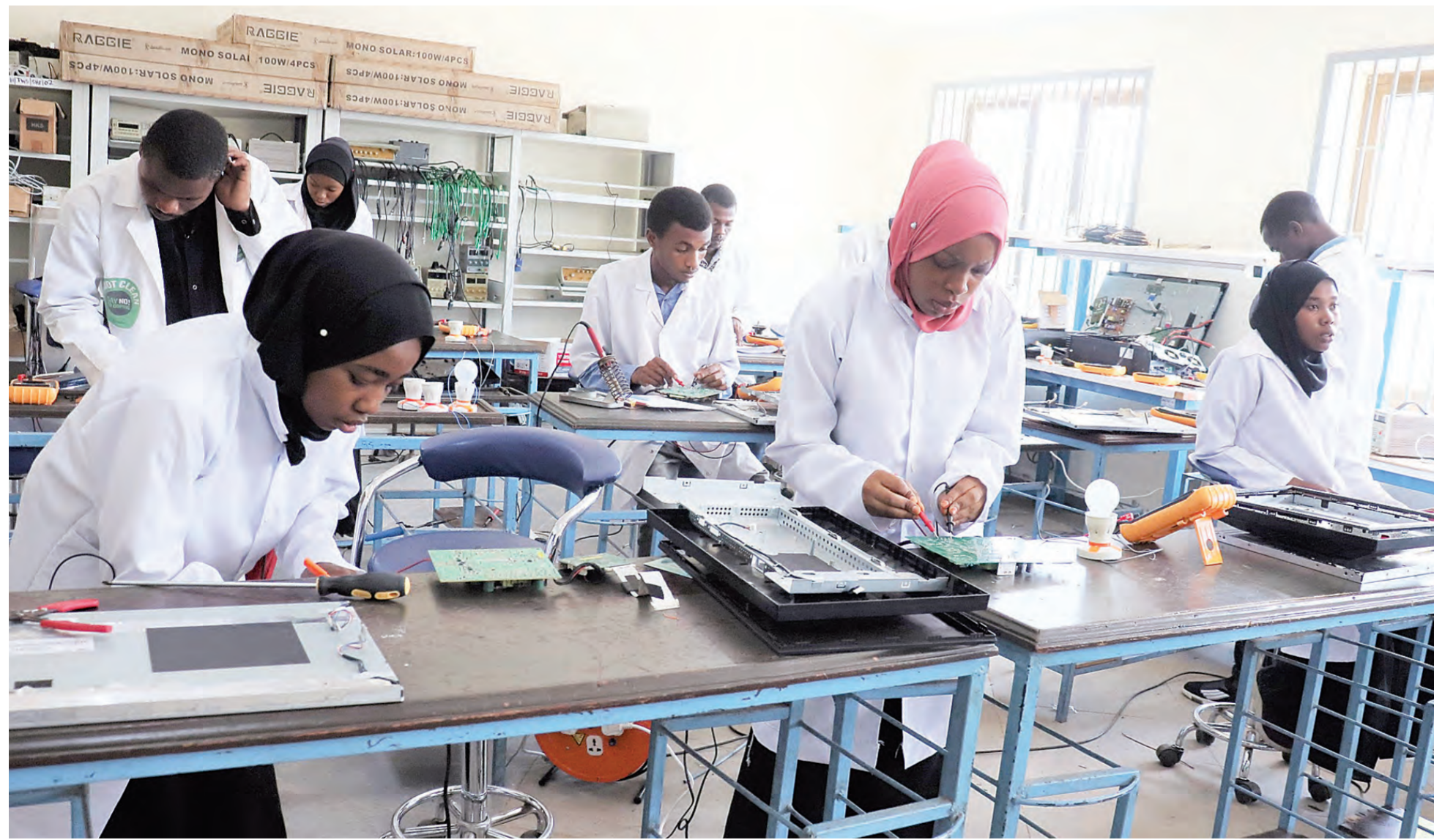
Freeman Mbowe, the Chade-

ma national chairman, told a press conference in Arusha that President Samia is expected to grace the opposition party's women wing gathering as part of commemorating the International Women's Day, on Wednesday.

On that event the president will speak to Tanzania-

nians at the national conference slated for Moshi municipality in neighbouring Kilimanjaro Region.

"We have invited her and she has agreed to attend, and listen to Chadema's women's views and see how opposition does in all spheres," he added.



Third year Diploma in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering students at Zanzibar's Karume Institute of Science and Technology do first semester practicals, as found at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kenya banks facing low forex supplies, tap Tanzania banks

"We are now scavenging for dollars. Only half of every six banks we call daily for dollars will have something for us. Three of the banks will ask us to check later," said a top executive of a manufacturing firm who sought anonymity for fear of central bank reprisals.

"What is available at banks is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. One will be fortunate to get \$20,000 and extremely lucky to get \$50,000 from a single bank. This is crazy for a business that requires \$1m monthly for supplies and we are getting each dollar at Sh137," he explained. Importers claim they are compelled to purchase dollars at a rate of Sh137 or more since they are unable to access them at the official buy rate of Sh127.39.

Leading companies have begun trading dollars among themselves, and those in need of hard currency are showing an interest in hotels and aviation companies, they said. "This is breaking the law and fostering a paral-

led dark market that could lead to several economic outcomes such as deterring foreign direct investment (FDI)," the business operator said.

Hotels and aviation are supposed to bank foreign exchange and it is traded by banks, not release it into the market at competitive street rates that promote rent-seeking, and shrinking the interbank foreign exchange market.

Some lenders acknowledged the dollar purchase caps but chose not to publicly declare it for fear of CBK reprisals, with industry leaders saying their limited access to hard currency significantly impacts their capacity to make timely payments to foreign suppliers. The industrialists' organization asserted that the dollar crisis has harmed relationships with suppliers at a time when global competition for raw materials has increased as a result of rising demand and persistent supply chain restrictions.

Govt moves into action over 776 sand bags in inputs warehouse

FROM PAGE 1

Minjingu officials should also be arrested for investigations, he said, promising to issue a statement on the matter as it is unacceptable to have bags of sand in the fertiliser warehouse. "We do not know how many farmers have been sold sand instead of fertiliser."

Demanding further investigations on the fine, he said 30m/- is too small, asking that legal experts

should look into the fine issue in tandem with fake fertiliser. "We have to take steps to carefully look into the whole issue," he said, rejecting the warehouse operators' assertion that they did not know about the sand bags. "Take them to the police," he insisted.

He demanded an inquiry into how far the racket has worked, to find out the number of farmers in Njombe Region who were handed the Minjingu fertilizer, as the RC

urged Njombe traders to be patriotic. Noting that there was no sand truck that came here to offload sand, and since the warehouse is centrally located the bags of sand must have been brought piecemeal with other forms of transport.

"This issue is a farmers' matter, I appeal to all Njombe residents, motorcycle (bodaboda) and bajaj drivers and other warehouse workers that whenever they carry

goods that they find suspicious they should inform government organs," he said, intimating that it must have taken plenty of such transport for 776 bags containing sand to be delivered at the warehouse.

Authorities had already received a case involving reduced fertiliser or packed in fake bags but now they have come up with another case, where sand is now delivered as fertiliser.

Msola said the report was with the police as the company's employee who conducted the transaction was not present.

Hamisi Issah, the regional police commander, said samples have been taken for legal steps to be taken, with the CCM regional chairman Deo Sanga saying the party has received with dismay the report, as these actions undermine efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to serve Tanzanians.



What is available at banks is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. One will be fortunate to get \$20,000 and extremely lucky to get \$50,000 from a single bank. This is crazy for a

Exim Bank launches programme to unlock the potential of women

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

EXIM Bank Tanzania has launched a women-based product dubbed 'Supa Woman', a transformative program designed to unlock the potential of women in the country.

The program aims to equip women with business skills, offer them mentoring, expose them to networks, provide them with access to capital and equip them with the tools they need to succeed. Arusha region commissioner John Mongella launched product over the weekend when officiating the opening of the 2nd Edition of The African Business Women and Youth Trade Fair and Summit 2023, themed: "Strengthening African Women and Youth Businesses for a sustainable tomorrow."

Mongella said it goes in line with the government's call that encourages financial institutions in the country to develop various services and products that aim to support the vast majority of women economically. "It is a satisfactory move for the government to see that the financial institutions in the country continue to respond to the call made every day by our senior leaders, including President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been encouraging the financial institutions in the country to keep on being closer to women and youths in the country." "Exim's 'Supa Woman account' is a correct response to the government's call...I congratulate the bank and urge all women to respond to it positively," said RC Mongella.

Earlier, speaking at the conference that was or-

ganized by the Tanzania Women Empowerment Network (TAWEN) in collaboration with the East African Business Council (EABC) with the purpose of promoting the participation of women and youth in trade, Exim bank's Board Director Ms. Irene Mlola said the event provided the bank with an opportunity to meet its key stakeholders adding that women empowerment remain the bank's important pillar of economic development plans.

"At Exim, we believe that real economic prosperity can be achieved more easily by investing in women. Women empowerment and entrepreneurship is increasingly viewed as a fundamental argument in economic growth and that is why Exim has come up with the 'Supa Woman' product aiming to support the right perspective," she said.

Exim Bank's Head of Branch Network, Agnes Kaganda said that it aims to facilitate the running of business among businesswomen in the country by enabling them to save easily, receive payments through digital means and connect the group with various business opportunities including friendly loans according to their business.

"In addition to our sincere commitment to be closer to women, the new product is a response to the opinions and suggestions that we have been receiving from our various stakeholders, including our female customers who really have big ambitions of success in their business" he said.



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella (5th-R) pictured in Arusha city at the weekend launching Exim Bank Tanzania's service dubbed 'Supa Woman', a transformative programme designed to unlock the potential of women in the country. The RC was opening the Second (2023) Edition of The African Business Women and Youth Trade Fair and Summit - which Arusha Region is hosting. With him are senior Tanzania Women Empowerment Network (TAWEN) and East African Business Council officials as well as Exim Bank Tanzania staff. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mining stakeholders praise Samia's initiatives for luring more investors

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

MINING stakeholders including Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) have expressed satisfaction with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiatives to attract more investors and strengthen the mining sector, to ensure their continuous annual economic growth.

GGML also pledged to continue engaging with the government to guarantee that the mining sector's contribution to the gross national revenue reaches 10 percent by 2025, despite the fact that it currently accounts for 9.2 per cent.

Simon Shayo, Vice President for

AngoGold Ashanti Sustainability for Tanzania and Ghana made the remarks when speaking yesterday in Geita region during the national conversation about President Samia Suluhu Hassan's two years in office.

He said that recent reports from the Institute for Transparency and Accountability in Mineral Resources, Oil, and Natural Gas (TEITI) show that GGML contributes between 30 and 40 percent of all income or all gold sold in the mining sector in Tanzania.

"It is reassuring for us, and here in Geita, we feel that by cooperation with the regional government, our

council, and our districts, we can increase our mine's production, and the mine will always produce more over 500,000 ounces per year," he said, stating: "We believe the mining industry can surpass the government's targets provided investors and small miners continue to improve the investment climate."

"We continue to ask the government under the leadership of President Samia to continue creating a good environment for us, we pledge to increase the productivity of our mines, and we at AngloGold Ashanti through our GGML mine believe that we will always be a significant contributor to the success of the

mining sector," he noted.

He added that the presence of GGML in Tanzania constitutes not only gold mining and tax returns, but also community investment.

"Our main goal is for the community to be better off for having AngloGold Ashanti there. Since we commenced mining in Geita in 2000, we have done our best to achieve this by actively entering into partnerships with our councils for the implementation of our Corporate Social Responsibility program. "Our commitment to the community through the CSR plan that has been jointly signed between GGML and the

Geita Councils since 2017 has seen us contribute between 9.2bn/- and 9.5bn/- annually, and this year we believe we will have the opportunity to combine the CSR plans of 2022 and 2023, where we will invest 18.4bn/- in the Geita region alone," he said, urging the government to continue ensuring their efforts to provide services for the community boosts productivity in a bid to help the state in taking additional measures in community service delivery for the mine's neighborhood.

Geita Regional Commissioner Martin Shigela stated during the session that the region is the biggest producer of gold ore and that

minerals account for sixty percent of the country's GDP.

In the past two years, small-scale miners have produced 13,000 kilograms, which is equivalent to 13.5 tonnes, while large mines such as GGML have produced 35,000 kilograms, which is equivalent to 35 tonnes.

"Our contribution over the previous two years indicates that this region's land is worth 5 trillion, which is equivalent to a quarter of the national budget," he remarked.

During the course of two years, he stated that Geita gold mines have generated more than 400bn/- in revenue.

Vacancy Advertisement

A career at PwC

Bring your experiences. Grow your skills. Make your mark. Our community of solvers is ready to apply your expertise in new and unexpected ways. You'll be empowered by a career that's flexible, human-led, tech-powered and purpose-driven.

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We're a passionate community of solvers working together in unexpected ways to create solutions that untangle some of the world's most complex problems. We combine perspectives and technologies to create new solutions, and help our clients build trust and make a lasting difference. We're a network of firms in 152 countries with 327,000+ people who are committed to delivering quality in Assurance, Advisory and Tax services.

Job Profile Summary

To really stand out and make us fit for the future in a constantly changing world, each and every one of us at PwC needs to be a purpose-led and values-driven leader at every level. To help us achieve this we have the PwC Professional; our global leadership development framework. It gives us a single set of expectations across our lines, geographies and career paths, and provides transparency on the skills we need as individuals to be successful and progress in our careers, now and in the future.

PwC Tanzania invites applications from qualified candidates for the position below: -

Procurement and Supply Management (PSM) Expert for Health Products

As a Procurement and Supply Management Professional, you'll work as part of a team of problem solvers, helping to solve complex business issues from strategy to execution.

Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Experience/expertise in assessing policies, systems and structures in the public and/or private
- health sector relevant for managing effective and efficient access to pharmaceuticals and other health products, particularly for AIDS, TB and malaria;
- Experience/expertise in the procurement of health products including regulations and tendering process;
- Experience/expertise in supply chain/logistics management systems;
- Experience in quantification and forecasting of health product needs in public health programs;
- A good understanding of AIDS, TB, malaria market

dynamics and existing global supply challenges as well as international health products procurement and supply management practices, applicable national and international laws and recognised standards;

- Proven project and program management expertise gained in implementing change and leading Supply Chain techniques in similar situations;
- Proven success working in complex multi-stakeholder environments, requiring decision making abilities with limited information available and under tight deadlines;
- Good writing and analytical skills.

Required qualifications

- A Graduate Degree (MSc. equivalent) in Public Health, Pharmacy, Medicine or other related discipline.
- A minimum of 7 years of relevant experience in managing or advising on the procurement, supply and use of health products, particularly in developing countries.

Desirable skills and attributes

The successful candidates will possess the following:

- Professional training in procurement and supply management (PSM) of health products, logistics and/or public health.
- Several years of experience in both the public and private sectors.
- Knowledge and experience of the Pharmaceutical Sector and understanding of pharmaceutical Supply Chains in developing countries.
- Knowledge and experience of public health with relationships with some Global Fund high impact countries.
- Membership of a recognized professional organization.
- Must have good written and spoken English and Swahili languages.
- Must be physically based in the United Republic of Tanzania.

If you are keen to grow your career your own way and to discover how a career with PwC will benefit you, find out more by visiting us at www.pwc.co.tz and apply online by **12 March 2023**. Your career path will be unique, diverse, and exceptional as we give you the best opportunities to excel and shine.

2172008701

STROMME FOUNDATION – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Stromme Foundation (SF) is a Norwegian-based international development organisation that has since 1976 worked to help people in Asia, South America, West, and East Africa get out of poverty. SF currently works in 11 countries across Asia, West and East Africa including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Sudan under Stromme Foundation East Africa (SFEA). SF started its operations in Tanzania in 1994 and opened its country office in 2022. Stromme Foundation does not implement directly in the field, rather implementation of all her programmes is done through local partner organisations. SFEA is in the last year of its current strategic plan (2019-2023) and therefore seeks to recruit local partner organisations for its new 2024 – 2030 strategic plan.

Stromme Foundation employs a rights-based approach in programming to ensure meaningful and systematic inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable. SF recognizes the poor not as beneficiaries, but as active rights holders and participants in their development processes. Stromme Foundation places rights-holders at the core of her programmes to ensure success and sustainability. It stands for its core values of human dignity, respect, justice, and solidarity. Stromme Foundation works through strategic partnerships with civil society, private and public sector, and importantly embeds safeguarding and transparency in its approaches.

Stromme Foundation East Africa seeks local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in Tanzania to work with in the implementation of its next strategic plan (2024 – 2030) under the following thematic goals with key interventions in education and income generation and job creation.

Thematic Goal	Interventions that will be supported
1. Inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for marginalized and disadvantaged groups	Ensure inclusive quality education and lifelong learning
	Adolescent Empowerment programming
2. Income generation and job creation for the poor	Youth skilling and job creation
	Income generation

Key programme interventions will include (a) Adolescent empowerment program (Bonga) with life skilling component and non-formal technical vocational skills training; (b) Early Childhood Care and Education program with a focus on children in pre-school and primary school and savings and credit groups integrated with food security; and (c) Income and job creation. During the strategic period, the major focus groups will be girl child, youth, women and persons with disability. The cross-cutting areas will include gender equality, inclusion, climate change and environmental sustainability, and preventing corruption.

Stromme Foundation East Africa plans to support interventions in the following regions of Tanzania:

Arusha region – Monduli, Ngorongoro and Longido districts.
Singida region – Ikungi, Iramba and Manyoni districts.
Pwani Region – Bagamoyo district and Dar es Salaam city.

Eligible Organisations should:

- Have local registration in Tanzania, must be legally registered with the state/government and with proof of registration with the relevant authorities for at least five years.
- Be an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization working at the local level and /or National level.
- Have a vision and mission that are consistent with SF work.
- Be local organisations that have been legally constituted and functional board, competent management, and field staff.
- The organization's target group fits SF's target group (girls, women, youth, and people with disabilities as defined in the Strategic Plan).
- The organization is committed to working in line with SF's cross-cutting issues (Gender Equality, Environment, and Climate Change, Inclusion of persons with disability, prevent corruption).
- The organization's book of accounts has been audited for at least three years with an unqualified audit.
- The organization has a clearly identifiable physical location with basic logistics to enable operations.
- The organization works in one of SF's chosen countries and areas of intervention.
- The organization's programmes can be aligned with one or more of SF's thematic goals and intervention lines.
- Be able to provide at least three current official reference persons/organisations worked with and their contacts.

Organisations that demonstrate the above criteria should express their interest by completing the expression of interest template downloaded from <https://strommetiftelsen.no/east-africa/expression-of-interest-for-implementing-partners-template>

All Concepts should be submitted by **31st March 2023** before **17:30 hrs** to the following address:

1. **Email address:** eastafrica@stromme.org
2. **All applications sent via email should include the following keywords in the email subject "Concept, Org Name, Country of operation".**
3. SF will only contact shortlisted organisations for further due diligence.

strommefoundation.org

STRÖMME FOUNDATION REGIONAL OFFICE EAST AFRICA | Plot 1, Kololo Hill Drive | PO Box 27200, Kampala | Uganda

+256 414 532 842/4 | uganda@stromme.org



Mwanamke Kinara sponsors grace campaign launch in Dar es Salaam



Lilian Malekea of NMB Bank and the bank's commercial manager, Winfrida Maingu, speak at the launch of this year's edition of 'Mwanamke Kinara' campaign. EATV/Radio hosted the event in Dar es Salaam on Friday. The inaugural edition was launched on March 3, 2022, with the climax held 16 days later. The twin IPP media outlets devised 'Mwanamke Kinara' as a special programme to recognise and award women who have not been recognised or feted despite the significance of their contribution to society. It is a campaign mounted as part of the countdown to the commemoration of World Women's Day (March 8). This year the climax will be on March 18. Photos courtesy of EATV/Radio



Tanzania Distilleries Limited's Konyagi Brand manager Pamela Kikuli makes remarks at the event.



Public Service Social Security Fund workers were also very much around. They are (from-L): Zainab Ndullah, Gloria Kalinga, Ritha Ngalo and Nancy Massawe.



Conjester Peter of the Finance Department of Moshi-based Bonite Bottlers, producers of Kilimanjaro drinking water, also participated in Friday's MwanamkeKinara2023 launch.

The time has come to do justice for the least developed countries - UN

By Jenifer Gilla

AHEAD of a major United Nations conference on the world's most vulnerable countries, Secretary-General António Guterres on Saturday urged the international community - particularly wealthy nations - to step up and help the more than 1.1 billion people in these countries break out of "vicious cycles" and lift themselves out of poverty.

"Countries with the least need support the most. And you need it now. You represent one in eight people on earth. But your countries are trapped in vicious cycles that make development difficult, if not impossible," Guterres (pictured) told the Summit of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in Doha, Qatar.

The summit of heads of state and government from some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries is taking place just ahead of the opening of the Fifth UN conference on the Least Developed Countries, known as LDC5, which will run in the Qatari capital from 5 to 9 March.

The LDC summit is normally held every 10 years but has twice been postponed since 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next five days in Doha, government leaders and other stakeholders are set to assess the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, adopted at a precursor UN conference held in Türkiye in 2011, and mobilize additional international support and action for the world's 46 least developed countries.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has underscored the need for strengthened partnerships between Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and developed countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

Guterres said the partnership will enable LDCs to build resilience to challenges they are facing such as low levels of education and skills, high levels of foreign debt obligations, historic injustices and the need for an impact response after COVID-19.

He said the UN is working close with LDCs to develop a smooth transition strategy based on multilateral support for the reno-

vation process as graduation from poverty ought to be a reward for change, not a tool to punish them by vanishing the support when they skip acute poverty.

"This is why the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) includes an online diversity to provide a country with better access to science expertise and technology to develop more innovative and diverse economies and workforce," he explained.

Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera who is the chairman of the LDCs Group, urged LDCs to collaborate and come up with solution-based conversations that will lead them to deliver on the promise of the DPoA and meet sustainable development benchmarks.

"The world we live in is no longer in which a nation can build itself on the back of forced labour of another people. It is no longer a world that a nation can pursue prosperity using a path that violates human rights and destroys the environment," he stated.

He affirmed that it isn't a world where innovation can empower itself by building institutions and social structures on the foun-



Ugandan Vice President, Jessica Alupo said the DPoA will enable the LDCs to build resilience in areas exposed to be more vulnerable, including constraints in mobilizing

Ugandan Vice President, Jessica Alupo said the DPoA will enable the LDCs to build resilience in areas exposed to be more vulnerable, including constraints in mobilizing

sufficient means of implementation, particularly financial resources, making it hard to reach their goals.

Despite Tanzania's slight move from low to lower middle-income economy it drifted back within a year or two in the aftermath of the Covid-19 and the impact of climate change that slow progress to faster economic development.

Tanzania alongside other 45 countries is part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) being held here in Doha, Qatar for six days to discuss ways to build resilience to such impediments by taking up the Doha Program as a tool of realizing the key goals.

About 46 countries are gathered at Doha for six days to discuss the implementation of DPoA which identifies five key deliverables that will assist in removing a number of structural impediments to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The impediments include the lack of provision of high-quality education, a sustainable graduation support facility (IGRAD) and enhancing LDCs' capacity to address food security by providing a buffer against food shortages and price volatility.

NEMC received 369 public complaints on environmental degradation in eight months

By Guardian Reporter

WITHIN a period of eight months the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) received and dealt with 369 complaints regarding environmental degradation including noise pollution from music halls.

This was revealed by NEMC director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka at

the weekend in a statement on NEMC activities. He said the complaints were received between July 2021 and February 2022 that included oil spill from leaked pipes, burning of hazardous waste in violation of legal requirements, destruction of water sources, emission of liquid waste and industrial air pollution.

Others were noise pollution from

music halls and other placed, flourishing of unofficial garages in residential areas, use of banned plastic bags.

He added that during the same period, NEMC had been addressing the issue of solid waste including issuance of destruction permits for seized drugs and other goods with expired shelf life. "NEMC also dealt with applications for the destruction

of hazardous waste including scrap metal, disused car batteries, electronic waste, old tyres, chemical and plastic waste as well as their applications for the importation, transiting or export," the NEMC boss said.

In addition, he said during the same period, NEMC established nine zones in the country with environmental experts who implement

their responsibilities according to the 2004 environmental protection law in collaboration with various stakeholders, district and urban councils which simplified the work in addressing environmental complaints.

Regarding environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the period under review, the Council registered 1,702 projects out of which 967 were

in regard to EIA and 735 were environmental inspections.

He added that NEMC also issued 174 permits countrywide for dealing with hazardous waste, 10 for the importation, transiting or export of 516,041 tonnes of various waste collected by licensed firms to ensure environmental laws and regulations thereof were adhered to.

Agriculture ministry lauds steps to improve horticulture farming

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock has lauded steps being taken by development partners in boosting horticulture farming through the ongoing projects under implementation.

This was revealed following during the ministry's team to beneficiaries of the AGRI-Connect Tanzania programme under EU sponsorship in Pemba that aimed to assess the programme's implementation.

The visit was led by Dr Suleiman Shehe, the Ministry's principal researcher who said big efforts being taken by the projects under the programme help in adding value to the crops as for a long time they were not being given priority as the nation's important economic sector.

He explained that many people did not see the importance of engaging themselves in horticultural farming for economic gain but through the expertise given by the projects, many farmers have started the cultivation of horticultural crops including fruits, vegetables and spices.

He called on implementers of the projects to stress in empowering

farmers to address challenges facing them, socially infrastructures in order to attain their production targets.

"I express my pleasure, we have done a big job in providing farming education and in this visit we have seen that the farmers have adequate education," said Dr Suleiman.

For his part, Omar Mohamed, AGRI-CONNECT Zanzibar consultant said there was the need for the projects to know strategies to woo youths into farming to make them abandon the concept that farming is a form of cruelty to them.

"As we implement these projects, we should look more into activities that directly touch the youth to make easy for them to be attracted into farming," he said.

Ali Abdallah, an official for following up spices projects said apart from the big efforts being taken by various projects to boost farming in Zanzibar, still more efforts from the government and stakeholders are needed to make research on challenges facing farmers including poor soils and other crops diseases.

Among farmers who were visited by the team included Hassan Shamte, a banana farmer in Mkoani District, and beneficiary of the spices project.



Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc officials led by marketing officer Dorothea Lyimo in a group photo with representatives and students of suburban Dar es Salaam's Bunju B Primary School at the weekend. The bank's delegation presented foodstuffs and various other items for use by students with mental health challenges. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NBC Bank takes part in African business women, youth trade fair

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE various financial services provided by the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) specifically for women have been seen to attract many participants of the 2nd Edition of The African Business Women and Youth Trade Fair and Summit 2023 that is ongoing in Arusha region.

The five-day meeting and exhibition that was launched by the Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella recently and was made possible by the Tanzania Women Empowerment Network (TAWEN) in collaboration with the East African Business Council (EABC) with the aim of promoting the participation of women and youth in business.

Prince Moshi, NBC Bank's Arusha branch business development manager said that their participation is encouraged by the various services provided by the bank specific for women entrepreneurs.

"We've planned well to use this opportunity to promote our specific services for women and entrepreneurs which are Kua Nasi and Johari Accounts."

"Speaking of Kua Nasi account is a special account for small businesses such as food vendors, retail store owners, food and produce processors, bodabodas and the similar groups while the Johari account is specifically for women that makes it possible for them to save little by little with a start of only 10,000/-All the two accounts do not have monthly deductions," he said.

Moshi said that they have also planned to equip women with business skills, offer them mentoring, and expose them to networks.

"That is why NBC has been at the forefront to ensure that we continue to increase the skills of women entrepreneurs to improve their ideas and products in order to build capacity that will enable them to do their business professionally and make a profit that will enable them to repay their loans.

Kinondoni DC to mobilise more youth into entrepreneurship skills

By Guardian Reporter

KINONDONI district commissioner in Dar es Salaam region, Saad Ahmad Mtambule has pledged to mobilise more youth to engage in entrepreneurship skills so as to free themselves from unemployment.

DC Mtambule made the pledge during his visit to GSI Tanzania, saying there are many things from the institution, and many youth stand to benefit from various trainings.

He lauded the GSI Tanzania Beyond barcodes project that aim to advertise goods produced by factory owners and from entrepreneurs through the Barcode system to enable them access to both internal and foreign markets.

"My office will collaborate with GSI Tanzania to help the Kinondoni youth engage in entrepreneurship to solve the unemployment challenge," he said.

He explained after the visit, he has learnt a lot and understood the importance of advertising Tanzania goods through GSI Tanzania Barcodes hence I will be its ambassador for the Kinondoni district.

"I will mobilise the youth to produce goods and pack them in packages with Barcode No. 620," he added.

Earlier GCH Tanzania chief executive officer, Fatuma Kange, apart from thanking DC Mtambule, he said since the institution was established 12 years ago, he will be the first DC to visit its offices.

"Hon DC Mtambule has pledged to assist and advertise the GSI Tanzania Agenda hence instilling new hopes to the private sector to grow," she said.



PUBLIC NOTICE Intention to Cancel Registration for Value Added Tax of Traders No Longer Possessing Registration Criteria

Dar es Salaam, 1st March, 2023:

The provision of **Section 28** and **Section 29** of the **Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148 (R.E 2019)** require persons who meet the set Value Added Tax (VAT) registration criteria, to apply to the Commissioner General to register for VAT. Among the criteria for VAT registration is the attainment of set turnover threshold. Moreover, **Regulation 14 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations 2015** clarifies the set registration threshold to be **One Hundred Million Shillings**.

The review of our database for VAT registered traders has revealed that, some of VAT registered traders have turnover below the required threshold hence have lost criteria for registration. In order to increase efficiency in administering VAT, the Commissioner General intends to exercise powers conferred under **Section 41** of the **VAT Act** to **cancel VAT registration** of all traders whose turnover have fallen below the required threshold and those who lost qualities provided under **Section 29** of the same Act. **However, this notice does not remove the obligation to pay tax liabilities or submit previous tax returns by taxpayers who are intended to be deregistered.**

In view of the above, the general public is notified that, **the list of taxpayers whose VAT registration will be cancelled is available in the TRA Website (www.tra.go.tz)**. Taxpayers who will be aggrieved with this decision, are required to file to the Commissioner General statement of reasons stating why they should not be deregistered from VAT. The statement should be channelled through respective **Regional Manager's Offices**, and be made **within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice**. The Authority will continue with the deregistration process without further notice upon expiration of the provided period.

For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or use the following contacts to reach us: -

Website: www.tra.go.tz
Toll Free: 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078
WhatsApp: 0744 23 33 33
E-mail: services@tra.go.tz or huduma@tra.go.tz

"Together We Build Our Nation"

A. J. Kidata

A.J. Kidata
Commissioner General

Cooking competition drives women food vendors groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AS the world celebrates the International Women's Day on Wednesday, a non-governmental development organisation—Tulia Trust in collaboration with Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited (OGTL) organised a traditional dishes cooking competition for women groups food vendors in Mbeya region which saw winners going home with gas cylinders, stoves and cash totalling 5m/-.

The food competition which was held in the city over the weekend is one of OGTL's efforts in educating Tanzanians on the importance of using clean energy for cooking as an alternative to fire wood and charcoal.

Speaking at the event, Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited marketing manager, Peter Ndomba said there has been serious health, environmental and economic consequences associated with the use of fire wood and charcoal in cooking.

He said one of the endeavours the company is doing is to join the government's efforts towards ensuring that Tanzanians use clean energy for cooking, thus save them from various health risks caused by the impact of high carbon footprint as a result of burning fossil fuels.

"Our efforts aims to make sure majority Tanzanians are gradually adopting clean cooking energy solution as per pledge by President

Samia Suluhu Hassan. The President set the target of Tanzanian people using clean energy solution, including LPG, to be at least 80 per cent of the population by 2032," said Ndomba.

He added: "Apart from providing education to encourage the use of gas in cooking; we have been distributing gas cylinders and stoves for free to majority Tanzanians across the country. Through this competition, we also aim to encourage food vendors to use clean energy in cooking."

Ndomba called upon the public to protect their health by avoiding the use of dirty energy in cooking. He said the company has already started to see changes especially in areas which were mostly affected by deforestation.

Over 33,000 Tanzanians die annually from using firewood for cooking. Biomass accounts for almost 90 per cent of the energy consumed by households across the country.



Apart from providing education to encourage the use of gas in cooking; we have been distributing gas cylinders and stoves for free to majority Tanzanians across



Abel Mushi (R), Serengeti Breweries Limited's sales manager for Kilimanjaro Region, presents a smart television to Abdul Msafiri for emerging one of the winners of the firm's Pilsner Lager campaign dubbed 'Kapu la Wana'. The event was held at Sanya Juu in Kilimanjaro Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Photographer

25 journalists awarded for exemplary reporting on gender equality

By Correspondent Carlos Banda

TWENTY-five journalists from the Eastern and Southern African region were awardees for their outstanding reporting on gender equality at a Gender Journalism Awards ceremony that was organised by UN Women in Tanzania and Malawi, in partnership with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), the African Women Leaders' Network and the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA).

Speaking at the award ceremony which was held virtually, the Director of Gender at the Ministry of

Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Badru Rwegalurira, emphasized on the crucial role of the media in raising awareness about Tanzania's generation equality commitments.

"The media are indispensable partners in the implementation of the generation equality agenda, and essential partners in informing the public on the centrality of gender equality," he said.

When presenting the awards for technology and innovation for gender equality, Dr Mzuri Issa, a member of the Generation Equality National Committee appointed by the Presi-

dent Samia Suluhu Hassan, highlighted the critical need to ensure that those left behind are able to benefit from new technologies.

"This is a key area of Tanzania's generation equality which seeks to increase investments in STEM education for girls, and to ensure women and girls have better access to affordable and relevant technologies," she said.

Among the 25 awardees, four journalists from Tanzania were recognized, with Jennifer Gilla from The Guardian, winning first prize for the category on Women's Rights Activism and Leadership. Other winners from

Tanzania included Hawa Bigoha from Deutsche Welle, Adam Hando from CG FM and Yohani Gwangway from Radio SAUT FM.

Generation Equality is the world's leading initiative to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality bringing together governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, the private sector, and the media to realize transformative results for women and girls.

Over 40 billion dollars in financial commitments, as well as policy and program commitments to be achieved by 2026 have been made

across the globe under six action coalitions, including feminist movements and leadership; gender-based violence; sexual and reproductive health and rights; feminist action for climate justice; technology and innovation for gender equality; and economic justice & rights championed by Tanzania.

UN Women's regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Mr. Maxime Houinato, said that the regional gender journalism awards comes at a point when the world is gearing up to take stock of progress at the generation equality mid-point meeting, to be held on sidelines of

the UN General Assembly this year.

"I am proud to share that the United Republic of Tanzania will co-host the mid-point meeting in September," said Houinato.

"UN Women looks forward to collaborating with the media further towards and beyond the mid-point, working together to ensure we achieve the transformative change we want to see for generations to come," he added.

The Gender Journalism Awards which specifically focus on Feminist Leadership and Movement Building were created by the UN Women global generation equality initiative, for



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

REMOVAL OF SCRAP

Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM006/2023	Removal of Scrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Collector must be registered by NEMC/ Vice President's Office as approved scrap/ waste materials collector in Mainland Tanzania. ii. Valid Permits from NEMC/Vice President's Office to Collect, transport and recycle waste/scrap materials. iii. Availability of Collector's machinery and equipment – Means of Collection, Transportation and Disposal. iv. Safety and Environmental Compliance – Site based EHS personnel, OSHA Compliance Certificate. v. A minimum of 5 years' experience and references for similar services rendered at any mine sites. vi. Local Content Compliance.

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 12 March 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

217310001

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Simply Computers Tanzania Limited	National Application Services	1. Shakeel Nazarali-canadian 2. Sidika Nazarali-tanzanian	45 55

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 Of The Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P. O Bo 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

217310001

Lalji Foundation, Lions Club, Rotary EClub conduct free eye screening camp in Kahama

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Lalji Foundation in collaboration with Lions Club District 411C and Rotary EClub of Masaki have jointly conducted a free eye screening camp to residents in Kahama district, Shinyanga region through a special camp held from March 2nd to 6th this year.

Speaking to the journalist, Coordinator from the Lalji Foundation, Judith Kahatano said they are happy to be part of the free eye screening camp that aimed to assist people in need while noting that more than 1,800 people have been examined and given treatment along with glasses for those diagnosed with eye complications.

"We are happy to be here and participate in this exercise to help our fellow Tanzanians with eye complications. As you can see, people have come out in big numbers, we have so far attended to over 1,800 Kahama residents who have undergone various eye examinations and those diagnosed with serious eye

problems have undergone surgery and others given glasses and medicine," said Kahatano.

One of the people who showed up for the free eye screening, Shija Michael thanked Lalji Foundation, Lions Club District 411C and Rotary EClub of Masaki for the treatment he received calling upon other institutions to emulate the spirit.

Shija urged Kahama residents to show up for the eye screening because it is provided for free.

"I have been suffering from eye problems for a long time; I was among the first people to attend the screening as soon as I heard the news. I have been treated for free and given free glasses. I appreciate the support because I was not sure of when I will get such quality treatment," he added.

The special medical camp was conducted in Kahama district, Shinyanga region for five days and attracted a large number of people with eye complications.



Eye care specialists attend to a patient at a free March 2 to 6 screening camp organised jointly by Lalji Foundation, Rotary E-Club of Masaki and Lions District 411C in Kahama District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

What President Samia has achieved in her two years

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

HIGH-PROFILE scholars from various local universities, elders, former politicians and students from higher learning institutions convened in Dodoma over the weekend to discuss President Samia Suluhu Hassan's successes in her two years in the country's top office.

The dialogue staged at the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) was part of curtain raiser events to prepare for celebrations of President Samia's two years in office to be observed nationwide on March 19th, this year.

The discussion highlighted key issues carried in a special book called

'Continuity with Vision: The Roadmap to Success for President Samia Suluhu Hassan'

The 606 page publication is the brainchild of IRDP in cooperation with experienced academicians from several universities and institutions, including the Institute of Financial Management (IFM), the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) and others writers from abroad.

Among others, the publication comprises three sections, an evaluation of the legacy of the late President John Pombe Magufuli, a review of policies, initiatives and actions of the first-one year of President Samia's administration and a consideration of the future opportunities and challenges, likely to face the government.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule hailed the academicians for their brave idea to develop the book.

She said: "It has been common that people write books about the good of people and leaders after they retire from their roles or leadership, but in this case, you have demonstrated a major peculiarity that you have written about President Samia's success while she's still in office, it is impressive."

Dr Mutakyahwa Ruta, executive director of the Eastern and Southern African Universities Research Programme (ESAURP), the Programme which played key role for the development of the book,

said that President Samia has so far maintained all the good things from previous governments and introducing changes according to her vision.

"The book has 27 substantive chapters, each dealing with one particular sector of Tanzania's economy or society as pointed out by the president. Each chapter has been written by an academic or a professional person who has had a wide experience and is widely recognised as having an extensive understanding of the selected sector," he stated.

IRDP Deputy Rector (Academic, Research and Consultancy), Prof Provident Dimoso said the publication is the voice of the country's academicians towards President Samia's administration and success

within two years.

"This book has been compiled for several notable reasons. For instance, it is the first time Tanzania gets a president whose ascending to power resulted from the passing away of the leader who was in charge, and above all it was the first time for the country to get a woman president," he expressed.

IRDP's Rector, Prof Hozen Mayaya who also authored the book, said apart from compiling the publication, the fast-growing varsity will continue conducting key research and several programs for spurring economies within communities as well as the youth across the country.

During the event which attracted contributions and views from di-

verse scholars towards President Samia's success in dragging forward key sectors in the country, the participants underscored the need for the book in question to be interpreted in Kiswahili so that the message reaches the wider population across the nation.

Backed financially by CRDB, NMB, and AFRICAB, the book has been scribed by 45 writers from within and outside the country, with 22 of them, equivalent to 50 percent being from the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP).

Apart from being suitable for the entrepreneurs and business person, the publication is useful as contextual reading for students in colleges, universities and the higher grades in secondary schools.



Vodacom Tanzania PLC managing director Philip Besimire (4th-R) poses for group photo in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with judges and winners of the second phase of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator programme contest. Three innovative technological firms - BizyTech, Smart Class and Twenzao emerged winners. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Airtel Africa reiterates commitment to provide quality education to children

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Africa, with a presence in 14 countries across Africa, has restated its commitment to the relentless pursuit of a better future for African children through the provision of access to digital education.

Dr Segun Ogunsanya, CEO of Airtel Africa plc, made this commitment at the opening of a two-day conference in Nairobi, Kenya over the weekend where executives of Airtel Africa and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) convened to discuss implementation of the landmark partnership across 13 out of Airtel's 14 markets.

Airtel Africa committed to invest \$57 million into educational programmes during the five-year partnership with UNICEF.

Ogunsanya reflected on the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on education in Africa leading to school closures and charged the participants to continue to work closely with stakeholders, especially the governments and educational authorities, to ensure

that children, especially vulnerable children in remote communities, are given the opportunity to learn.

He acknowledged the challenges faced in the implementation of the partnership in some of the 13 African countries and urged the governments of the affected countries to support this important initiative.

Ogunsanya reiterated Airtel Africa's corporate purpose of transforming lives and pledged that the organisation will continue to champion the quest for bridging the digital divide and promoting financial inclusion.

As a leading telecommunications company in the region, Airtel Africa is using its unique insights to stand up for the children of Africa's right to education and equality of opportunity.

Deputy Regional Director of UNICEF, Lieke van de Wiel described the Airtel Africa/UNICEF partnership as an important collaboration of private and public sectors, aimed at putting children at the heart of their learning, and changing the narrative in education after years of loss during the Covid-19 pandemic.

TEA provides 130 million/- grant to TAHA for development of skills in agriculture

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) through the Development Skills Fund (SDF) has provided a 130 million/- grant to the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) for training of development of skills in agriculture sector.

The goal of the grant which was provided in 2021 was to benefit 400 young people by building their capacity in horticulture.

Gilliad Daniel who is the Production Leader from TAHA said through the grant from Skills Development Fund (SDF), a total of 437 young people have benefited from the training that took place in various areas of Arusha City provided by the TAHA Institute.

He said currently 90 percent of those young people are large vegetable and fruit farmers who enjoy the market inside and outside of Tanzania.

Gilliad said the grant given to them through the Skills Development Fund (SDF) has brought positive changes within

their Institute through a training program to build the capacity of young people in Horticulture after the response was great different from what they expected.

"The agreement of the project was to reach 400 young people on the completion in terms of providing training, but we were surprised how young people were excited about the opportunity and in the end we trained 37 more than those we have targeted," said Gilliad.

Either, he said TEA provided a grant to TAHA with the aim of funding skills training for young people in the Agriculture Sector as one of the priority sectors that has a major contribution to Tanzania's economy.

He said various statistics and publications have been showing that 90 percent of Tanzania's land is cultivated by small farmers and the agricultural sector provides employment for 65.5 percent and contributes 29.1 percent of the national income, 30 percent of the foreign market and 65 percent of industrial raw materials.

Recently, the Director General of the

Tanzania Education Authority (TEA), Bahati Geuzye visited Arusha last week with the aim of meeting the leadership of TAHA but also visiting some of the beneficiaries of the skills training to see their progress after capacity building through the SDF Fund grant

During the visit, Geuzye was happy to see the beneficiaries developing agriculture using the expertise they got under TAHA but she was also relieved to hear that for them the market is no longer a challenge because the training they received helps them to produce quality products according to the market's needs.

"I am very happy to see that you did not relax after the training because many young people don't like agricultural work due to various challenges. It is high time that other young people learn to dare and not to give up through you who are successful in this sector," said Geuzye

Geuzye added that the Government recognises the contribution of young people in developing the country's economy but

also the contribution of the agricultural sector in developing the national income. "That is why young people are encouraged to invest in this sector, through various opportunities provided by the Government, stakeholders and the private sector, as agriculture is the key to the development of our country," said Geuzye.

Lugano Ipyana, who is one of the beneficiaries, thanked the government for helping young people adding that he studied up to Diploma level and succeeded to work with various private companies.

He said he was not satisfied with the income he was getting from his job, so he decided to find something else to increase his income.

Ipyana explain that, in 2021, he heard an announcement to empower young people to build their capacity to do horticulture given by TAHA and without hesitation he applied and was successfully selected.

"The training was short-term and focused more on practical training, something that built my confidence in what I was doing,"

he said.

He explains that, during training, he had a one-acre farm and used it as an experimental farm for growing tomatoes and green peppers.

He said Horticulture experts from TAHA installed irrigation infrastructure for him and provided him with inputs including seeds and medicines and later connected him with markets to sell his crops.

"Currently, I have more than five acres where I can cultivate five types of crops at the same time. I am also thankful that I really wanted to produce products for the foreign market and I have succeeded, the first time I cultivated beans (French Beans) I got 2 tons which I sold for about 16 million," said Ipyana

The Skills Development Fund (SDF) coordinated by TEA has brought positive changes to young people through training in technical education and work skills. Approximately 35,000,000 young people have benefited from the training in six priority sectors.

MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Five key areas that Africa must work on to become a global leader

Without a shadow of a doubt, Africa has a huge potential of becoming a world leader on various aspects, ranging from economy, to technology, and culture. There are a number of factors however that have kept the continent from realising its true potential, and adopting a number of key strategies could help to remedy this situation.

One of the strategies that needs to be adopted to boost the continent's productivity is to prioritise education. Investing in education and providing access to quality education for all will help to build a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. This will help to drive innovation and entrepreneurship, leading to the development of new technologies and businesses.

Second, the African continent needs to focus on infrastructure development. This includes building roads, bridges, ports, and other transportation networks to support trade and commerce. It also involves investing in clean energy and developing efficient energy systems to meet the needs of a growing population and to support economic development.

Third, the African continent must work to improve governance and political stability. This includes reducing corruption and ensuring the rule of law is upheld, which will create a more favorable business environment and attract foreign investment. The recently released Mo Ibrahim report on Africa's governance and leadership index revealed worrying trends, for instance, the report indicated that Africa is less safe and more undemocratic than it was a decade ago.

We must elect leaders who are development - centric and forward thinking if Africa is to sit on the throne that is really ours to take.

Fourth, the African continent must focus on promoting entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses. Today, business laws and regulations in majority of African countries make it even harder for young people and individuals to formally incorporate their businesses, locking them out of funding opportunities that could change their fortunes. We must work to refine these laws to fit the African market's needs. This will help to create jobs and spur economic growth.

The African continent must also focus on developing its agricultural sector, which has the potential to be a major source of food security and economic growth.

Finally, the African continent must work to improve health and wellbeing. This includes investing in healthcare infrastructure and improving access to medical services and treatments, as well as addressing health challenges such as infectious diseases and malnutrition.

In conclusion, the African continent has the potential to become a leader in the world, but this will require a concerted effort from governments, businesses, and communities. By prioritizing education, infrastructure development, governance, entrepreneurship, and health, the African continent can create the conditions necessary for economic growth and prosperity, and ultimately, become a leader on the global stage.

With globalisation, Africans ought to resist rising transcontinental tribalism

TRADERS in the Nairobi city centre appear to be undertaking in broad daylight action that reflects what occurred in Dar es Salaam more than a decade ago, of protesting the presence of retail traders of Chinese nationality. The standard argument used in such contentions is that as foreign business people they are supposed to be investors, not retailers, which means they will not be jostling for space with local traders. That may be wide advice, but it isn't a regulation.

What is required for anyone to do trading or any business for that matter is that the person entered the country legally, usually having something useful to do, for instance in the case of the Chinese, they often were part of construction projects, etc. Once they are through with the work and they obtain terminal benefits, they have an option of applying for a residential permit, or go back home. Once they have such a permit it follows they engage in generating an income like any other bona fide resident of the city without any discrimination.

Not everyone understands the issue that way, thus definite groups of people, when they sense there is one or other type of competition rising say in public trading zone, gang up to eliminate the threat. One way is to seek exclusion from the viewpoint of nationality, which is inseparable from race, thus a rule is created among an agitated crowd that Kariakoo or such other trading area ought to be for Tanzanians only. The same

is now being heard in Nairobi, a vexed demand as one can't say a Chinese national can build a road, not sell clothing.

Discussants of the issue over international media pointed out that were the responsible authorities to try to remove the Chinese traders from the market area, chances are that the Chinese government would reciprocate. The standard method is denying traders from an offending country the visas to travel to China to purchase goods at the right stores, where the price is more palatable. They would obtain /Chinese goods from second hand sources, thus lose edge/

So for those who think there are easy solutions to the problem of Chinese traders they would better have other ideas. Those who are now trading did not come into the country, whether it is Tanzania or Kenya, by accident but by solid contribution to our economic aspirations, and it is unreasonable to say that after they were paid their benefits they go back home. Residence is a right gained by legal presence in a country, but some backward looking people think it is tied up with birth which they tie up with nationality while there are villages.

In other words we are all migrants where we are, as even those in villages were in the distant past migrant to the area. Citizenship and residence in a global village has to transcend narrow tribal feelings against 'outsiders.' They are doing a great job building our countries' future so they have

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

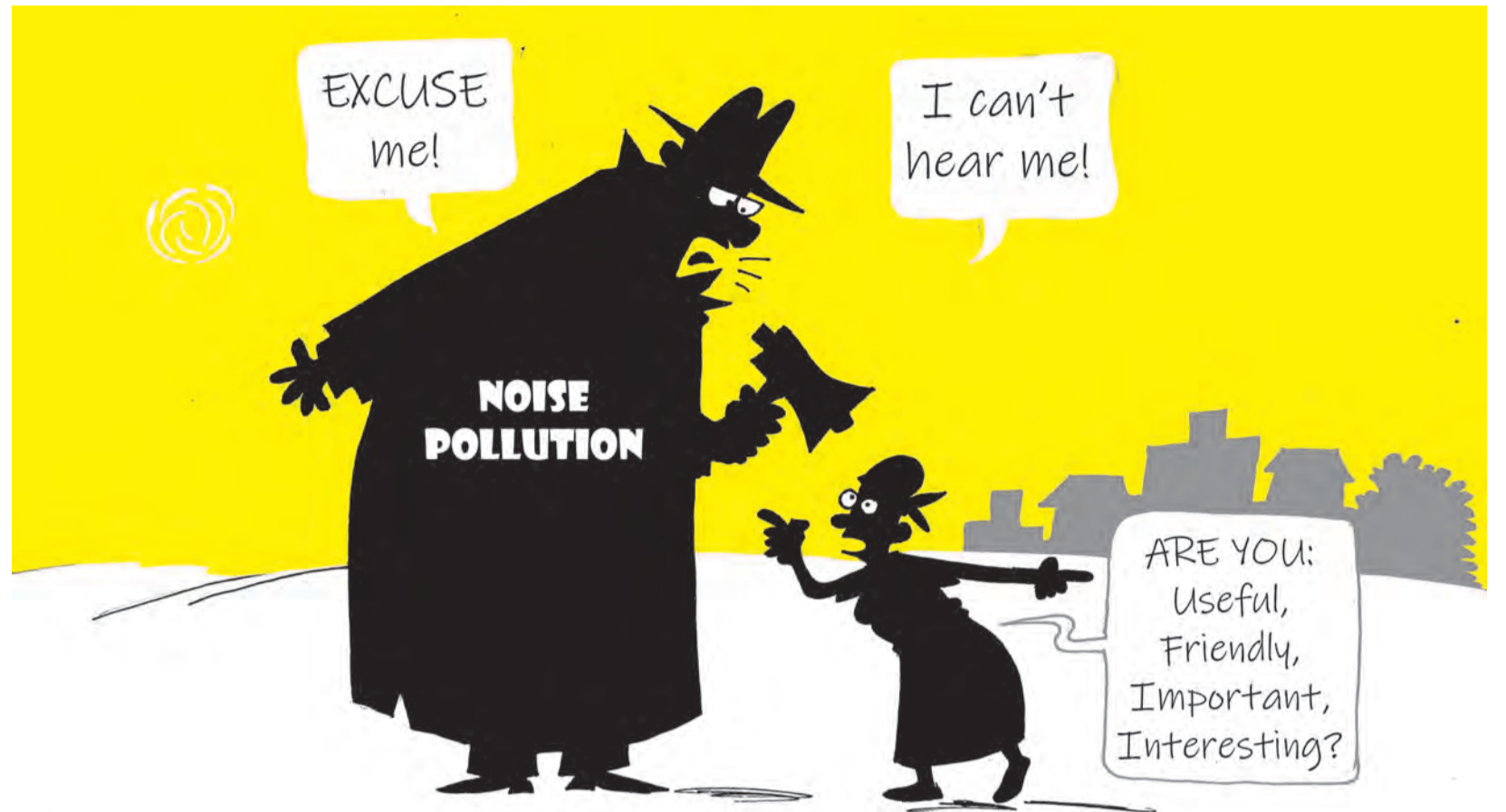
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



My choice, my right - what form of personal is political for Nigerian women?

By Oluwatoyin Christiana Olajide

THE factors responsible for women's abysmal performance in the political domain are rooted in and sustained by a deeply patriarchal system that considers women's leadership a taboo.

In the Nigerian context, is the personal political because women have taken the time to study the manifestos of the candidates running for various offices to determine if their vision is transformative towards women and promotes gender equality or is the personal political because their husbands and partners have said so?

Advocacy around increasing women's participation in politics in Nigeria is popular and quite widely accepted. I mean, women's representation in political leadership is a right enshrined in key international and regional human rights frameworks like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, both of which Nigeria has signed and ratified.

Granted that the most important matrix for women's substantive participation in politics is enfranchisement, it is important to note that women have always been important players and contributors to nation building-politics, being a component of this broad domain. Women in Nigeria began to get enfranchisement in 1954 with the Universal Suffrage provision of the Lyttleton Constitution. When I put it this way, it connotes that suffrage was a progressively realised right among Nigerian women because the dynamics of regional politics heavily influenced its actualisation. Women in the East were the first to be enfranchised in 1954, followed by women taxpayers in the West in 1955. Down South, women got enfranchised in 1959, while in the North, women gained the right to vote at a much later time of 1979.

Of course, the timeline for women's enfranchisement reveal that the political, social and cultural mechanisms in each region were characterised by certain peculiarities, which limited women's voting realities. It is also true that cultural ideals and expectations are the foundations upon which women's social behaviour rest.

In the Eastern and Western polities for example, it was not unusual for women to participate in public life, especially through organising and unions. In addition, the status of the Obi (male monarch) was equivalent to that of the Omu (female monarch) in Eastern Nigeria. Likewise in the West, women held significant positions within the society as Iyalode(s), Queen Mother, village chiefs and chief priestesses; and in more religious or metaphysical dimensions, as gods, deities and spirits.

The case in the North was very

different and this greatly impacted women's participation in public life. Women's mobility was revoked during the Sokoto Jihad of 1804 to 1812 and their social and political activities were extremely curtailed. Even though some women like the Queen Amina of Zazau in the pre-colonial period and Hajia Gambo Sawaba of the colonial and post-colonial times stood out as great examples of leaders, women in the North remained largely marginalised in politics and public life. In 1979, the efforts of women like Hajia Sawaba paid off in the eventual enfranchisement of Northern women.

I acknowledge that women have made improved efforts at realising their political capabilities by contesting for office and this signifies that women have some measure of agency in political and public life. I am however inclined to introduce another dimension of women's agency that might be significantly responsible for the low output of women's efforts in electoral politics.

Certainly the enfranchisement of Nigerian women is a very important matrix for evaluating their political rights, so is women's representation in political office as elected and appointed officials. Women's efforts in electoral politics in Nigeria have garnered increased momentum over the years.

A significant number of women have run for positions at the different levels of political governance and, as at today, the total number of women contesting in the 2023 elections stand at 1,524, out of a total of 15,336 candidates - precisely 9.9%. One woman among 18 candidates contested for the office of the president and one woman is in the race for a gubernatorial seat; noting that there is yet to be a female governor in the federation. It goes without saying that the representation of women in politics leave much more to be desired.

The factors responsible for women's abysmal performance in the political domain are rooted in and sustained by a deeply patriarchal system that considers women's leadership a taboo.

Women are confronted with financial barriers, threats of physical harm and a very strong ideological resistance towards their visibility and leadership in the public space.

Ironically, women's visibility is not resisted when it comes to their performative contributions in terms of singing and dancing to support male candidates. Women continue to be used as tools for men's political ambitions and, at best, as appendages to men's leadership as vices or deputies.

I acknowledge that women have made improved efforts at realising their political capabilities by contesting for office and this signifies that women have some measure of agency in political and public life.

I am however inclined to introduce another dimension of women's agency that might be significantly

responsible for the low output of women's efforts in electoral politics. This dimension of agency, though very complex, is instrumental to dismantling misogynistic structures and ideals ingrained in and internalised by women themselves.

A few weeks ago, Iyabo Ojo, a well-known Nigerian actor, made her choice of presidential candidate public on social media and this generated mixed reactions. In one of the reactions, it was insinuated that her choice was influenced by her romantic relationship along supposedly ethnic lines and that had she not made the choice, she would be chased out of her partner's house. She responded by stating that she is rich and comfortable, such that her support for any political party cannot be determined by anyone, including her partner.

This exchange and especially the expectation that Iyabo should support who her partner chooses to support made me question the real status of women's agency in political decision making. Do women really have the agency of choice, even if they have the agency to vote or are they still tools in the hands of partners and husbands?

Iyabo was apparently to exercise her agency of choice because she is rich and comfortable. What about women who are not rich and have no means? Can they make their choice and stand by it without retribution, especially in their personal relationships?

I do not think that the choice of who to vote for is detached from an individual's values and ideals. I also do not particularly believe that because two people are partners, they will always have the same values in all circumstances. If it comes to it that values are not aligned in this context, does the burden rest on the woman to abandon hers because she considers the man the 'head' or will both their values co-exist...

The agency of choice is so critical to women's lives because it determines whether or not candidates who represent the interests of women are elected into office. What further makes the agency of choice so complex is the expectation for women to be obedient and submissive, especially in the context of matrimony in the Nigerian society. Would it be an act of rebellion if women declared support for different candidates than their partners and husbands?

When Carol Hanisch declared in 1969 that 'the personal is political', it was a call for political mechanisms and agents to give priority to the conditions in which women lived that deprived them of opportunities to pursue other interests that were different from those they had been stereotyped into as mothers, wives and home makers.

In the Nigerian context, is the personal political because women have taken the time to study the manifestos of the candidates running for vari-

ous offices to determine if their vision is transformative towards women and promotes gender equality or is the personal political because their husbands and partners have said so?

This question is not to belittle the mental and emotional intelligence of women in any way, instead it is to question if the infusion of religious, cultural and social norms of obedience, submission and strict acquiescence to the dictates of men has filtered into the decisions that women make at the polls. Is a woman's vocal admission of her preference for a candidate respected or met with resistance in informal discussions and debates around elections? Do women have the resolve to cast their votes for their preferred candidates - an exercise performed with utmost confidentiality without the conditioning of obedience and submission interfering?

I do not think that the choice of who to vote for is detached from an individual's values and ideals. I also do not particularly believe that because two people are partners, they will always have the same values in all circumstances.

If it comes to it that values are not aligned in this context, does the burden rest on the woman to abandon hers because she considers the man the 'head' or will both their values co-exist as an indication of the woman's absolute agency to make this critical choice as an agentic entity?

This makes me question the position of women's values. Do women continue subscribe to retrogressive notions about women in politics and leadership?

Think about it; the mere thought that a woman is capable of leading as president is itself a strong position against sexist politics, misogyny and the marginalisation of women. Going by my logic, we ought to have more women in political leadership if women basically subscribed to the idea that they should be substantially represented in nation building and governance.

Women can exclusively ensure that the 35% quota is attained and surpassed if women vote for female candidates. What exactly has stopped women from doing this? Do they not want to be chased out of their homes, as in the case of the fate that could have befallen Iyabo Ojo?

Do women equate their divergent positions to rebellion against the God ordained authority over them in the person of their husbands or men in general? Is the personal political because their partners say so?

Do women have the agency of choice, even given the orientation they have been raised with - one whereby women must follow while men lead? These are questions worth answering at this crucial season of Nigeria's elections.

Oluwatoyin C. Olajide is a gender and development scholar and practitioner.

Village shifts from hope to despair with lots of powerless electric poles

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari

WHEN contractors engaged by Rural Energy Agency (REA) drove to Kamundi village in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region, over a year ago and erected electric poles in selected areas, there were ululations and dances. For the sleepy village tucked some 20 kilometers north-east of Mangaka township was about to be electrified for the first time.

Youth and women were particularly happy because this would come with numerous business opportunities that cannot be tapped without power. But over a year now, should crave your favourites soft drink here, you have two choices: cough up between 3,500/- and 4,000/- in bodaboda fare to take you to the neighbouring electrified Mikangula village or walk for eight kilometres.

Getting a photocopy service in a village which is the headquarters of Kamundi Ward is a luxury here. To have one copy, one needs four hours of matching or at least 8,000/- transport to facilitate a service worth 100/-.

Unlike villages with grid or off grid electricity, Kamundi residents who are 3,119 out of which 1,759 are women according to 2022 Population and Housing Census, have almost all social services except power, pushing them to spend more money to access services that need electricity.

"We spend more money to boost the economy of our neighbouring Mikangula village at the expense of our own village," said the village resident Jamila Millanzi (58).

For some residents who cannot afford such an amount of money to access services such as welding, pho-



Technicians erect electric pole in one of the villages in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region recently. Photo courtesy of REA

tocopy and others, their only option is to walk for eight kilometres.

"We access cheap services at high cost and due to financial implication most of us opt to march on foot to Mikangula," said Abilah Jumba (47), another resident of Kamundi.

Local authorities here are concerned with lack of power in the village despite earlier initiative by REA which threw the village into songs and dances over a year ago after the delivery of poles.

"We don't know what went wrong because as you can see poles were erected for over a year now. We followed up at the district commissioner's office but they only leaded with us to be patient," said Ahmadi Machopa, Kamundi village

chairperson.

While residents of Kamundi pay the high price that comes with absence of power, their counterparts in the electrified Mikangula celebrate the benefits of cheap services as well as employment and comparatively more robust financial circulation.

"Services are cheaper here and businesses like welding and cold drinks are booming here and the village is slowly transforming into a small town," said Imran Juma (34), resident of Mikangula village.

"We receive a lot of people from Kamundi other villages with no power for photocopy, welding or just a cold drink to quench their thirst. I know the incur

cost but we do business which is not a bad thing for us."

The government has allocated 92.1bn/- for implementation of REA phase III round I and II in Mtwara Region. The two rounds targeted a total of 585 villages in the region.

According to Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) Mtwara Region September 2022 report, the project implementation was divided into two rounds. The first round covered 181 villages and 404 in the second round.

The report shows that implementation of REA III first round was done by 97.5 per cent but not much was attained in the second round. During the second round which had a deadline of Decem-

ber 2022, only 2.2 per cent of 404 targeted villages were electrified.

Two companies namely Namis Corporate Ltd and Central Electrical International Ltd were given contracts to electrify a total of 404 villages in the second round worth 62.1bn/-.

Nanyumbu Member of Parliament Yahya Mhata admitted the fact that Kamundi village has no electricity despite being in the REA III programme.

"Kamundi is one of the villages under REA III second round programme which covers 52 villages which commenced in August 2022 for 18 months but so far only eight villages have been covered and the rest 43 are under construction," he said.

"There is snail's pace in the project implementation in some areas where poles have been erected for a number of months and some have already been ruined."

One of Namis Corporate Ltd officials who preferred to remain anonymous told this paper that delay of the project has been caused by delay in release of funds from the government.

"When there is delay in funds, then expect delay in implementation of the project. Some materials are imported from abroad which consumes a lot of time to put on site," he said.

Tanzania has made strides in electrifying rural areas in the last 10 years where 10,361 villages out of 12,317 have been connected to electricity equivalent to 84 per cent by December 2021 and the remaining 1,956 were scheduled to be connected by the end of 2022.

REA Director General Hassan Saidi admitted that there was delay in implementing the project in the area and said strong actions will be taken to bridge the gap but without responding to the said payment delays to contractors.

"I will not hesitate to take action against anyone responsible the delay of the project. We will fast-track the implementation of the project to hasten development in that village and others that are not electrified yet," he said.

Israel today and another possible Israel tomorrow

By Joseph Chamie

ISRAEL of today as a Jewish and democratic state is a contradiction of terms and as such may possibly become transformed into a genuinely democratic Israel tomorrow with justice and equality for all.

In Israel today, citizens who are not Jewish are treated differently than those who are Jewish, who benefit from certain rights and privileges. In a national opinion poll, most Jewish Israelis, about 80 per cent, say Jews should get preferential treatment in Israel. Also, nearly half of Jewish Israelis say that Arab Israelis should be expelled or transferred from Israel.

In addition, several years ago Israel passed the "nation-state law", which among other things, states that the right to exercise national self-determination in Israel is unique to the Jewish people and also established Jewish settlement as a national value. While embraced by many Jewish Israelis, the nation-state law was considered apartheid by the country's non-Jewish population, ostensibly making them second-class citizens.

In a democratic Israel, in contrast, all Israelis irrespective of their religious affiliation would have the same rights and privileges. In such a state, justice and equality would prevail across the entire country's population, not just for a single dominant religious group.

A democratic Israel would be similar in many respects to Western liberal democracies such as the United States. In that democracy, all religious groups, including Jewish Americans, have the same rights, privileges and equality under the law.

Most Jewish Israelis, some 75 per cent across the religious spectrum, continue to believe that Israel can be a Jewish state and a democracy. In contrast, non-Jewish Israelis, including the majorities of Muslims, Christians and Druze, generally do not believe Israel can be a Jewish state and a democracy at the same

time; it's simply viewed as inconsistent.

Further complicating political, legal and human rights matters for Israelis as well as Palestinians are the new government's recent proposals for judicial reform, which would impact the independence of the Israeli Supreme Court.

Many Israelis have gone to the streets to protest the proposed reform. Objections to the reforms are being raised by former government officials, military officers, business investors and others. Foreign allies, especially officials, Jewish leaders and journalists in America, have also expressed concerns over the proposals. In addition, the majority of Israelis, about two-thirds, oppose the proposed judicial reform.

Turning to demographics, Israel's population stood at 9.656 million at the end of 2022. The composition of the population was 74 per cent Jewish, 21 per cent Arab (largely Christian and Muslims) and 5 per cent others.

In 1948 when Israel was established, the country's proportion Jewish was 82 per cent of its population of 806 thousand. By the 1960s the proportion Jewish reached a record high of nearly 90 per cent. Since that high, the proportion Jewish in Israel has been steadily declining to its current level of 74 per cent.

In addition to Israel's changing demographics, the Jewish Israeli population has not been confined to its 1948 borders. Large numbers have expanded to settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Israel's Jewish settler population in the West Bank, for example, is now estimated at more than half a million. Many of the estimated 700 thousand Jewish Israelis now living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are motivated by their religious mission to restore historic Israel to the Jewish people.

The Jewish settler population is continuing to increase rapidly in the West Bank, which is a top priority of ultranationalist parties who oppose Palestinian statehood.

The Israeli government has also pledged to legalize wildcat outposts and increase the approval and construction of settler homes in the West Bank.



Israel's separation barrier as seen from Al Ram.. Credit: Jillian Kestler-D'Amours/IPS

In contrast, the United Nations Security Council and much of the international community of nations, including the United States, the European Union and the United Nations, continue to support the idea of an independent Palestinian state. However, the changing demographics in the West Bank have virtually eliminated the possibility of the two-state solution.

Without the two-state solution, Jewish Israelis face a major challenge affecting their majority status, namely the possibility of the one-state solution.

The one-state solution would involve the entire Israeli and Palestinian populations now living between the Mediterranean Sea and Jordan River. In such a population numbering approximately 15 million inhabitants, the Jewish population would become a ruling minority of approximately 47 per cent, a fundamental change from the sizable Jewish majority of 74 per cent in Israel today.

Even today the Israeli government is confronting human rights issues with its expansion throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. International, Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations as well as independent observers have found Israeli au-

thorities practicing apartheid and persecution in the occupied Palestinian territories.

According to those human rights organizations, Israeli government policy is to maintain the domination by Jewish Israelis over Palestinians as well as the abuses and discriminatory policies against Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Israel rejects those accusations, saying it is a democracy and committed to international law and open to scrutiny. The government cites security concerns and protecting the lives of Israelis for its imposition of travel and related restrictions on Palestinians, whose violence in the past included suicide bombings of Israeli cities and deadly attacks against Israelis.

Many have come to the conclusion that given the policies of the current Israeli government, a political path for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully is simply wishful thinking. For some the two-state solution is effectively dead and it is simply waiting for its formal funeral.

In addition, the human cost of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been high and is rising. So far in 2023, the conflict has resulted in the deaths of an estimated 63 Palestinians and

13 Israelis.

From 2008 to 2020 the numbers of killed and injured from the conflict among Israelis and Palestinian documented by the UN were 251 and 5,590 deaths, respectively, and 5,600 and 115,000 injuries, respectively. In brief, over that time period approximately 95 per cent of those killed and injured due to the conflict were Palestinians (Figure 3).

It is evident that the Israeli government and many Israelis would like to continue the Jewish settler expansion in the West Bank. That expansion clearly has serious consequences for the resident Palestinian population and the Israelis as well as the prospects of an independent Palestinian state.

The demise of the two-state solution and the possible one-state solution also creates a major foreign and domestic dilemma for the United States, Israel's major political, military and economic supporter and biggest ally.

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance, estimated at more than 3 billion dollars annually and more than 150 billion dollars cumulatively. Also, America has vetoed scores of United Nations Security Council resolutions critical of Israel, including at least 53 since 1973.

Racist political system thwarts candidacy of Mayan woman in Guatemala elections



By Edgardo Ayala

Thelma Cabrera and Jordán Rodas launch their candidacy for the presidency and vice presidency of Guatemala in December 2022, which has been vetoed by the courts, in a maneuver that has drawn criticism from human rights groups at home and abroad. CREDIT: Twitter

CENTURIES of racism and exclusion suffered by indigenous peoples in Guatemala continue to weigh heavily, as demonstrated by the denial of the registration of a political party that is promoting the presidential candidacy of indigenous leader Thelma Cabrera in the upcoming general elections.

On Mar. 2, the Guatemalan Constitutional Court ruled against Cabrera's party, the leftist Movement for the Liberation of the Peoples (MLP), which had appealed a Feb. 15 Supreme Court resolution that left them out of the Jun. 25 elections.

Cabrera's candidacy and that of her vice-presidential running-mate Jordán Rodas are now hanging by a thread, with their hopes depending on a few last resort legal challenges.

The deadline for the registration of candidates is Mar. 25.

A centuries-old racist system

Guatemala's political and economic elites "are looking for ways to keep her (Cabrera) from registering; everyone has the right to participate, but they are blocking her," Sonia Nimacachi, 31, a native of Santa Catarina Palopó, told IPS. The municipality, which has a Cachiqual Mayan indigenous majority, is in the southwestern Guatemalan department of Sololá.

"We would like a person with our roots and culture to become president, I think it would help our people," added Nimacachi, standing by her street stall in the center of town.

Nimacachi, a Cachiqual Mayan woman, sells "granizadas" or snow cones: crushed ice sweetened with syrup of various flavors, perfect for hot days.

"There is a racist system and structure, and we indigenous people have barely managed to start climbing the steps, but with great difficulty and zero opportunities," Silvia Menchú, director of the Kak'a Na'oj (New Knowledge, in Cachiqual) Association for the Development of Women, told IPS.

The organization, based in Santa Catarina Palopó, carries out human rights programs focused on indigenous women.

"Racism has prevailed, we are mistreated everywhere by the government and the authorities, we are seen as people with little capacity," said Menchú, of the Maya Quiché ethnic group.

An alleged illegality attributed to Rodas, the vice-presidential candidate, was the cause for denying



Guatemala's political and economic elites are determined to block the candidacy of indigenous leader Thelma Cabrera, says Sonia Nimacachi, a Cachiqual Mayan woman selling snowcones in Santa Catarina Palopó, in the country's southwest. She would vote for Cabrera again, if her candidacy is finally allowed. CREDIT: Edgardo Ayala/IPS

the MLP the right to register for the elections.

Analysts and social organizations perceive obscure maneuvering on the part of the powers-that-be, who cannot accept the idea that an indigenous woman is trying to break through the barriers of the country's rigid, racist political system.

Cabrera is a 51-year-old Mayan Mam woman who is trying for a second time to run in the unequal fight for the presidency of this Central American country of 14.9 million inhabitants.

Of the total population, 43.7 percent identify as indigenous Mayan, Xinca, Garifuna and Afro-descendant peoples, according to the 2018 census.

In the 2019 elections Cabrera came in fourth place, winning 10 percent of the total votes cast.

In the Jun. 25 general elections voters will choose a new president for the period 2024-2028, as well as 160 members of Congress and 20 members of the Central American Parliament, and 340 mayors.

In Guatemala, the ancient Mayan culture was flourishing when the Spanish conquistadors arrived in the 16th century.

The descendants of that pre-Hispanic civilization still speak 24 different autochthonous languages,

most of which are Mayan.

Years of exclusion and neglect of indigenous rural populations led Guatemala to a civil war that lasted 36 years (1960-1996) and left some 250,000 dead or disappeared.

A blatant maneuver

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal's (TSE) rejection of the MLP arose from a complaint against Rodas, who served between 2017 and 2022 as head of the Office for the Defense of Human Rights.

In that office, Rodas strongly questioned alleged acts of corruption by the current government of Alejandro Giammattei, who took office in January 2020.

The criminal complaint against the vice-presidential candidate was filed on Jan. 6 by the current head of the Office for the Defense of Human Rights, Alejandro Córdoba.

After Cabrera and Rodas attempted to register as candidates, Córdoba said he had "doubts" about some payments allegedly received by his predecessor in the Office for the Defense of Human Rights.

His "doubts" apparently had to do with some alleged illegality on the part of Rodas, but since Córdoba has not described it in detail, his statements have been nothing but a weak half-hearted accusation.

However, that was enough for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to reject the MLP on Feb. 2, which triggered protests by rural and indigenous people, who blocked roads in at least 12 parts of the country.

According to Guatemalan law, all candidates for popularly elected positions must have a document that attests that they have no pending legal issues.

But analysts have pointed out that this document should only take into account actual legal rulings handed down by courts, and not "doubts" vaguely expressed by some government official.

By vetoing Rodas, the TSE automatically bars his presidential running mate Cabrera, who may actually be the ultimate target of the maneuver, since she is the one who is trying, once again, to win the votes of the indigenous population.

On Feb. 15, the MLP running mates filed a provisional injunction with the Supreme Court, so that it would take effect immediately and overrule the TSE's decision, while the Supreme Court studied and resolved the matter in depth.

But the injunction was rejected, so the MLP appealed the next day to the Constitutional Court, asking it to review the case and order the

Supreme Court to admit the provisional injunction, to allow the fight for the registration of Cabrera and Rodas to continue forward.

But the appeal was denied Thursday Mar. 2 by the Constitutional Court.

However, the Supreme Court has not yet issued a final ruling on the injunction, but only a provisional stance. This means that when it is finally issued, if it goes against the MLP, Cabrera and Rodas could once again turn to the Constitutional Court, in a last-ditch effort.

But it seems as if the die is already cast.

In a tweet on Thursday Mar. 2, Rodas wrote: "The constitutional justice system has denied my constitutional right to be elected and denies the population the right to choose freely. We await the Supreme Court ruling on the injunction and the position of the @IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights). Our fight continues."

Cabrera's second attempt

This is Cabrera's second attempt to run for the presidency. Her first was in the 2019 elections, when she failed to fully capture the indigenous vote.

"I would dare to think that the majority of the indigenous population did not vote for her because of those instilled prejudices: that she is a woman and also indigenous, not a professional, are issues that have nothing to do with the dignity and the quality of a person," argued Silvia Menchú.

She added that the right-wing parties have been allies of the country's evangelical churches, through which they keep in submission segments of the indigenous population that end up supporting conservative parties, rather than a candidate who comes from their Mayan culture.

To illustrate, she said that in Santa Catarina Palopó, a town of 6,000 people, there is only one school to cover primary and middle-school education, "but there are about 15 evangelical churches."

The TSE's veto of the registration of Cabrera and Rodas puts the credibility of the elections at risk. Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) warned on Feb. 27.

In a joint statement, the two organizations said the electoral authority's rejection of aspiring candidates "is based on dubious grounds, puts political rights at risk, and undermines the credibility of the electoral process."

"The electoral process is taking place in the context of a decline in the rule of law, in which the institutions responsible for overseeing the elections have little independence or credibility," they stated.

In addition to Cabrera and Rodas, the TSE also rejected the registration of right-wing candidate Roberto Arzú, because he allegedly began campaigning too early.

HRW and Wola added that "efforts to exclude or prosecute opposition candidates create unequal conditions that could prevent free and fair elections from taking place."

Meanwhile, the TSE did endorse, on Feb. 4, the presidential candidacy of Zury Ríos, daughter of General Efraín Ríos Montt, who governed de facto between 1982 and 1983.

In 2013 the general was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity for the massacre of more than 1,400 indigenous Ixil people in the north of the country.

He was sentenced to 80 years in prison, but the Constitutional Court later revoked the ruling. Ríos Montt died in April 2018.

Article 186 of the Guatemalan constitution prohibits people involved in coups d'état, or their relatives, for running for president.

Meanwhile, snowcone vendor Sonia Nimacachi said in the central square of Santa Catarina Palopó that she still held out hope that Cabrera would be able to register as a candidate.

"If they let her participate, I would vote for her again," she said, while serving a customer.

DC, lawmaker counsel beneficiaries of Azania Bank on loan payments

By Guardian Reporter

BUNDA District Commissioner Dr Vincent Anney and the constituency's legislator, Boniface Getere have advised youth who received 68 motorcycles valued at over 184m/- through 'Jikwamue' concessional loan scheme of Azania Bank Limited, to repay on time.

The DC and lawmaker said in Bunda district over the weekend during a handing over ceremony of the 'bodabodas' that repaying the loans on time will allow the bank to lend to more youth who are struggling against unemployment.

"I urge you the beneficiaries to use these motorcycles as

per their initial purpose so that you can service your loans," Dr Anney advised while also urging the beneficiaries to strictly adhere to road traffic use when rendering their services.

The DC's advice was backed by MP Getere who further wanted the beneficiaries to stick to the lending rules so that they can contribute towards national development. "I am happy that we worked hard to form these groups and now we are reaping benefits from Azania Bank," he said.

He urged youth and women in his constituency to income generating groups so that financial institutions such as Azania Bank can easily lend them to become productive. The groups which

received the motorcycles were from Sarawe, Nyang'aranga, Kihumbi and Nyamuswa.

In remarks after handing over the motorcycles, Azania Bank's Lamadi branch manager, Muhidin Mjuvi said the Dar es Salaam based lender designed 'Jikwamue' loan scheme targeting special groups in the community which have failed to meet strict lending rules by financial institutions in the country.

"A key condition for 'Jikwamue' loans is that beneficiaries should form groups of between 5-10 people only," Mjuvi said while noting that the scheme exempts borrowers from stringent bank lending rules which deny many access to such financing.



Azania Bank Limited's Lamadi branch manager, Muhidin Mjuvi (R), presents ignition key to Bunda district commissioner Dr Vincent Anney (2nd L) and the constituency's legislator, Boniface Getere (L) at a ceremony to hand over 68 motorcycles worth 184m/- to youth groups in the area under a concessional loan scheme known as 'Jikwamue.' Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bethuel: NIT ex-student shares his success story

National Institute of Transport (NIT), former student PETER BETHUEL is currently having an impressive career in transport working with Bureau Veritas, a French company specialized in testing, inspection and certification as an industrial engineer. Bethuel recently spoke to The Guardian Reporter in a Question and Answer (Q&A) interview. Excerpts.

Question: How would you summarize your career at Bureau Veritas, a French company specialised in testing, inspection and certification?

Answer: I'm currently working as Industry Engineer at Bureau Veritas Tanzania LTD since 2021. Industry as one of the departments of Bureau Veritas it handles different activities such as vehicle inspections, lifting equipment inspection, nondestructive testing, calibration services and electrical inspections.

Being a fresh graduate, I joined Bureau Veritas early 2021 as Intern where I had a chance to learn and develop my abilities & skills I got from the college. Few months later I was employed as industry engineer of Bureau Veritas Tanzania.

Despite being in the field as an inspector I was also act as a coordinator of all industry operations. For almost the whole year of 2022 I was the main person coordinating all industry operations at Bureau Veritas Tanzania.

It was not easier handling managerial activities but the technical knowledge, skills, and engineering management I got from NIT helped me to perform my duties better.

Question: What did you study at NIT and what is your say about the programme you took?

Answer: At NIT I studied bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from 2015 to 2020. Mechanical engineering is one of the programme I had interests in, furthermore it exposed me into many areas of opportunity where I see the chance to develop more.

Question: What inspired you to be a professional in transport industry?

Answer: I discovered it early before studied my degree level. I was interested more in engineering especially mechanical, and I saw NIT as one of the best place to take my carrier to the next level.

Question: Explain abilities that are required for being successful in your role?

Answer: For being successful it requires someone to be flexible - since industry covers a wide scope of activities; time management to meet deadlines. Critical thinking, problem solving and good communication skills.

Question: How have you stayed connected to the NIT's alumni network?

Answer: Currently we have a WhatsApp group as the mechanical engineering graduates where we share opportunities in the market, Information; like knowing

what is happening currently at NIT. Through this platform we support and advise each other for the opportunity we come across and the way of taking our carrier to the next level.

Question: What advice do you have for the next generation who are wishing to be industry engineers?

Answer: Industry covers a wide scope of activities such as transports, lifting, oil and gas, power & utilities. It is one of the best places where someone can grow fast by practice the knowledge they have and develop new skills to become best in the engineering field.

Question: What is your advice to NIT in increasing women enrollment in engineering courses?

Answer: It's true that number of women in the Engineering field it's still small. I would like to advise NIT to encourage more women, starting at the lower level of Secondary and Advance schools where most students are making their decision. The activities I have seen in Industry can be done by anybody despite their gender.

Question: What else are you passionate about? What drives you at work, at home, in your community?

Answer: I'm very passionate to use my Engineering knowledge and skills to solve problems around my society. This has been my driving energy at work. I also like interacting with people in my community for the purpose of learning new things apart from my carrier.

Question: What are your future objectives?

Answer: My long-term range is to grow my skills more and become one of the best solution providers in the industry field and to my society in general. At that level I would also like to transfer knowledge and skills I have to other people around me and supporting them to become better in Industry field.



Budget allocation in implementing SDGs vital 'leaving no one behind'



United Nations Association of Tanzania executive director Reynald Maeda speaks during a policy forum breakfast debate over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. Photo: courtesy of Policy Forum.

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development's fundamental principle of "Leave no one behind" among other things, calls for inclusiveness in the implementation, follow up and review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reynald Maeda, United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA Tanzania)'s executive director made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking the Policy Forum's Breakfast Debate whose theme was "Leave no one behind: the importance of stakeholders engagement in the voluntary national review (VNR).

Maeda urged the government to set aside financial budget that can enable it implement the SDGs successfully, noting that as a nation, it should have clear priorities and the budgets set aside for that purpose need to reflect the implementation of those SDGs as the government has agreed and signed to implement.

Maeda also urged the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and other key players to openly talk about the challenges faced; and to push the different stakeholders to continue taking their positions in implementing the SDGs.

According to him, as part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "Conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the

national and Sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven," he told the gathering.

These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF).

As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim at facilitating the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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

He said that in Tanzania the implementations of these SDGs have been incorporated in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

Maeda noted that the involvement of citizens to participate in the District, regional Strategic plans in implementing the SDGs is very crucial and important.

"One of the requirements of VNRs is for the government to ensure all stakeholders have been involved and participated fully."

Hussein Melele, Mulika Tanzania's executive director called on the government to localize these global actions at

the community level so as to be well understood by them and hence become easy for them to implement.

He also urged the government to involve the youth in the processes and implementations of SDGs because they are a catalyst for development.

"It is very important to involve the youth in implementing the SDGs because they like an impetus to attain them."

Steven Kitomari, a participant to the debate urged stakeholders to start collecting views on how to successfully implement the SDGs from the youth who are still in secondary schools.

Gidion Mshobozi also suggested that if the country wants to get the expected results in implementing the SDGs, needs to involve the youth from the grassroots.

A Katavi-based resident, Douglas Mwaisaka tasked stakeholders collecting the views on SDGs to reach people living in peripheral areas, instead of concentrating in towns and cities only.

In relation to SDGs, youth development stands at the center of national development policies and strategies such as Tanzania.

Development Vision 2025... Vision 2025 for instance, identifies unemployment as a critical youth development challenge which is attributed to the inability of the education system to innovatively engage in entrepreneurship and self-employment as well as limited youth participation in wealth creation and ownership.

In Tanzania, youth are estimated to constitute 35 percent of the population and 65 percent of the active workforce.

Despite Tanzania sustaining the national economic growth at 6.9 percent for the past three years, youth unemployment has significantly remained stagnant.

The United Republic of Tanzania, which comprises the Mainland and Zanzibar, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) has come as a catalyst towards the realization of the country's aspirations.

The country has robust development frameworks being supported by policies, plans and strategies, as well as a legal framework for the implementation of the country's development agenda in general and the SDGs in particular. The supportive environment for implementing the SDGs in Tanzania is strong.

Preparation of this Voluntary National Review is being coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, which is mandated to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Mainland Tanzania and by the Zanzibar Planning Commission.

The process of preparing the Review needs to be participatory and involve all stakeholders including government ministries, departments, agencies, United Nations Agencies, civil society, the private sector, Parliament and House of Representatives (Zanzibar), local government authorities (LGAs) and the media.

By Romi Sigsworth

TRANSNATIONAL organised crime is usually associated with violent mafia-style groups that traffic drugs, people, arms and wildlife. Less dramatic but equally damaging is the effect of organised crime on global supply chains for legal goods.

These logistics networks provide many opportunities for crime syndicates to commit various illegal activities. Illicit labour practices, business fronting, and misrepresenting price and quantity are just some examples that threaten the procurement, transportation and retail systems for the global commodities trade.

Industries and governments are familiar with shrinkage from global supply chains and consider the loss of tax revenue as “the cost of doing business.” However, the increasing involvement of organised crime networks raises the risk of financial and reputational damage. It also makes consumers unwittingly complicit in unsavoury sourcing and supply practices.

There are many vulnerable supply chains from and in Africa. The fishing and cocoa industries are good examples of how multinational logistics systems present opportunities for exploitation by insiders, criminal networks and corrupt government officials.

The global fish industry generated over \$164-billion in exports in 2018, 60% of which came from developing countries. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing makes up a significant portion of this global economy. It is conservatively estimated that the European Union alone imports 500,000 tonnes (worth €1.1-billion) of illegal fish annually. In African waters in particular, this practice has profoundly negative effects – depleting fish stocks, decreasing biodiversity, damaging ecosystems and threatening food security.

About two-thirds of cocoa production for the \$30-billion global chocolate industry occurs in West Africa. Illegal activity in that region has fuelled the loss of hundreds of thousands of acres



Cocoa producers in Ivory Coast only see about 6% of the value of the final product. (Photo: Chris Terry/Fairtrade)

Organised crime infiltrates African, global supply chains to detriment of environment and human rights

of forest and is responsible for an array of human rights abuses.

A complex web of licit-illicit relationships – both witting and unwitting – facilitate criminality at various stages of the supply chains in these two industries.

Human trafficking for forced labour onboard fishing vessels is a serious problem. Brokers use deception or coercion to recruit fishers and migrant workers to toil in terrible conditions. Unethical fishing practices, such as the illegal use of high sea drift nets of up to 20 km long, damage fragile marine ecosystems and result in overfishing. The haul is then sold on to illegal middlemen.

Transshipment (moving fish

from fishing vessels to refrigerated transport ships at sea) allows overfishing, ‘laundering’ of the catch by mixing illegal and legal fish, and misreporting actual volumes extracted.

In the chocolate industry, cocoa farmers help drive deforestation in Côte d’Ivoire by allowing loggers and timber traders to illegally remove trees from protected areas to make way for cocoa crops. The industry is also dogged by reports of forced and child labour, sustained by human smuggling and trafficking networks.

This criminality becomes murkier when other professionals are involved. These include

industry experts who develop legitimate business infrastructure to front illicit operations; or business owners, lawyers and bankers who launder money and evade taxes. It also entails corrupt state officials who enable smuggling and other criminal transactions. Legitimate transport networks are also drawn in to smuggle stolen commodities, drugs, arms or people alongside legal stock.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is often hidden by document fraud, scant inspections of containerised shipments and bribes for government officials. The fishing industry can also be a cover for other forms of

organised crime, including drug and arms trafficking.

The same applies to the chocolate business. In 2019, significant lapses in compliance reviews of the cocoa industry resulted in the approval and certification of cocoa from West African farms that violated child labour and deforestation laws.

Similarly, a recent investigation revealed that licensed buying companies and farmer groups in Ghana were illegally renting their cocoa certification licences to cocoa traders. This allowed them to export ‘certified’ cocoa from uncertified farms, making a sizeable profit in the process since licences enable

farmers to charge a premium on their beans.

The range of crimes that can be committed along these supply chains makes it difficult to accurately quantify the overall impact. Disrupting crime at one point in the system may not curtail criminality at other points, and may even cause new offences to emerge elsewhere.

Businesses and individuals invested in supply chains who know or suspect that crime is happening may not even know where to direct law enforcement. These challenges are exacerbated by the involvement of corrupt government officials, sometimes at the highest levels, and the transnational dimensions of supply chains and crime networks. And the lack of cooperation between countries doesn’t help.

Several good practice interventions have been tested. These include voluntary standards, certification and traceability systems, and artificial intelligence security. However, these actions don’t always eradicate the targeted crime, and are undermined by corrupt public and private actors willing to break or circumvent the law for a price.

This systemic form of transnational organised crime presents fundamental barriers to development, the rule of law and good governance. Even national security is threatened by the creation of a parallel, illicit and unregulated economic system.

Prevention requires closely monitoring individual commodity supply chains to understand where their fault lines lie, and developing corresponding interventions. This will entail a whole-system approach involving public-private partnerships that gather and share information, pool resources and develop innovative solutions. And central to any solution is taking aim at corruption. DM

Romi Sigsworth, Research Consultant, ENACT, Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

ENACT is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Institute for Security Studies in partnership with Interpol and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime.

Three in four African govts spend more on arms, less on farms

By Baher Kamal

THE data is shocking: three-quarters of African governments have already reduced their agricultural budgets while paying almost double that on arms.

Africa is home to a quarter of the world’s entire agricultural land. Nevertheless, in the 12 months that African leaders vowed to improve food security in the continent, over 20 million more people have been pushed into “severe hunger.”

Today “a fifth of the African population (or 278 million) is undernourished, and 55 million of its children under the age of five are stunted due to severe malnutrition,” Oxfam International adds to the above data in its report: Over 20 million more people hungry in Africa’s “year of nutrition”.

“The hunger African people are facing today is a direct result of inadequate political choices...” said Fati N’Zi-Hassane, Oxfam in Africa Director.

Chronic underinvestment

The report further explains that chronic underinvestment in agriculture is a key cause of the widespread hunger experienced in 2022.

Specifically, it adds, the majority of African governments (48 out of 54) reportedly spend an average of 3.8% of their budgets on agriculture – some spending as little as 1%.

“Nearly three quarters of these governments have reduced their agricultural spending since 2019, failing to honour their Malabo commitments to invest at least 10% of their budget on agriculture.”

In 2014 African leaders signed the Malabo Declaration, which



Chronic underinvestment in agriculture is a key cause of the widespread hunger experienced in 2022, according to Oxfam report. Credit: Busani Bafana/IPS.

stipulated that African governments must spend at least 10% of their budget on Agriculture and supporting farmers.

Politicians doubling military spending

In contrast, “African governments spent nearly double that budget (6.4%) on arms last year. Ongoing conflict, especially in Sahel and Central Africa, has continued to destroy farmland, displace people and fuel hunger.”

In addition, “worsening climate-fuelled droughts and floods, and a global rise in fuel and fertilisers prices, made food unobtainable for millions of people. In 2022 alone, food inflation rose by double digits in all but ten African countries.”

No access to neighbouring markets

As the 36th African Union Summit was held in February 2023, focussing on intra-continental free trade, “millions of smallholder farmers, who are vital food producers in the continent, cannot reach markets in neighbouring countries due to poor infrastructure and high intra-African tariffs.”

In other words, “many African nations find it cheaper to import food from outside the continent than from their next-door neighbour.”

According to Oxfam:

As of August 2022 (the last available figure), there were 139.95 million people in 35 African countries living in “Crisis or worse acute food

insecurity.” That is an increase of 17% (20.26 million people) over the same number a year earlier (119.69 million people).

This increase can be attributed to both a worsening acute food insecurity situation and an expansion in the population analysed between 2021 and 2022. (Source: Global Report on Food Crises Mid-Year Update 2022).

The average spending on military as share of total budget is 6.43% (2021) as reported at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, while the average spending in agriculture (2021) was 3.8% as reported on Government-SpendingWatch

South Sudan spends less than 1% of its budget on Agriculture. Calculations of all agricultural spending

in Africa is based on data from the government spending watch, national budgets and FAO.

According to the CAADP report and the FAO Crop Prospects report, Africa’s cereal production in 2022 was 207.4 million tons, a decline of 3.4 million tons from the average of the previous five years.

Five-fold increase in extreme weather events

The increasing hunger in Africa – which is imposed by both externally and internally – is just part of a widespread drama.

In fact, climate change is fuelling hunger for millions of people around the world. “Extreme weather events have increased five-fold over the past 50 years, destroying homes, decimating livelihoods, fuelling conflict and displacement, and deepening inequality,” Oxfam reports.

Hunger more than doubling

Climate change has resulted in more frequent and intense droughts, floods, and heat waves. “The number of disasters has increased five-fold over the past 50 years.”

This is hitting low-income countries hardest, Oxfam goes on, adding that the 10 countries with the highest UN appeals related to weather extremes since 2000, have seen a 123 per cent rise in the number of people suffering extreme hunger – from 21.3 million to 47.5 million.

These countries are Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia and Zimbabwe. According to this data, 7 out of these 10 countries are Africans.

Fossil fuel staggering profits

The G20 countries are amongst the most polluting nations in the world, collectively responsible for nearly 77% of carbon emissions,

reports Oxfam, a global movement of people, working together to end the injustice of poverty, by tackling the inequality that keeps people poor.

It is extraordinary that as humanity faces this existential crisis, there is still more incentive to destroy our planet than to save lives.

“The oil and gas industry has enjoyed staggering profits as they wreak havoc on the planet – amassing 2.8 billion US dollars a day (or more than 1 trillion US dollars per year) for the last 50 years.”

Seismic hunger

For its part, the World Food Programme (WFP) reports that the current seismic hunger crisis has been caused by a deadly combination of factors: conflict, economic shocks, climate extremes are combining to create a food crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Much so that “as many as 828 million people are unsure of where their next meal is coming from.”

In its report ‘2023: Another year of extreme jeopardy for those struggling to feed their families,’ WFP warns that a record 349 million people across 79 countries are facing acute food insecurity – up from 287 million in 2021. This constitutes a staggering rise of 200 million people compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

More than 900,000 people worldwide are fighting to survive in famine-like conditions, the world body reports, adding that this is “ten times more than five years ago, an alarmingly rapid increase.”

In short, politicians also in the most needed and highest exposed to staggering hunger countries, continue to attach higher relevance to spending on arms fueling conflicts, and on fuel fuels spreading climate disasters, rather than investing in saving the lives of their own people.

BUSINESS

China aims to boost its capacity in grains

BEIJING

CHINA will push to increase grain production capacity by 50 million tons under the nation's drive to bolster food security and meet rising demand.

Keeping grain output above 650 million tons is crucial to ensure adequate supply and maintain stable prices, the National Development and Reform Commission – the top economic planner – said in a report to the annual parliamentary gathering in Beijing on Sunday.

“We should keep total grain acreage at a stable level, promote the production of oilseed crops, and launch a new drive to increase grain production capacity,” Premier Li Keqiang said in his final government work report to the National People's Congress.

That will include development of high quality farming land, support for the agricultural technology sector and more innovation in the seed industry, according to Li.

Authorities in Beijing have refocused on food security since the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted global agricultural supplies and as Russia's war in Ukraine severely

restricts trade in essential fertilizers. While China is the world's biggest grain producer, the country has grown more dependent in recent decades on imports from suppliers like the US and Brazil.

“We are experiencing uncertainties in ensuring stable production of grain, and there is a tight balance between supply and demand for some agricultural products and supplies,” the NDRC said in its report. “Prices of grains on the international market remain high, which could cause ripple effects in the domestic market.”

Li set no clear timeline to achieve the increase in grain production capacity, though the plan was included among priorities for 2023 in his separate work report. China's grain harvest was 686.55 million tons in 2022, the NDRC said in its report, and has been stable at over 650 million tons since 2015, according to state media.

China will also build more grain storage and logistics facilities, and ensure good planning for sales of grain stockpiles, the NDRC said. It will also seek progress in building national centers for soybean seeds.



Harvested rice is deposited in a grain hauler tractor in Shanghai. Photo: Qilai Shen/Bloomberg

Dairy board requires 15bn/- for school milk programme



The Registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board, Dr George Msalya (standing), speaks at the milk stakeholders meeting tailored to develop an action plan for the Implementation of School Milk Programme in Tanzania (2023-2028). Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) needs around 15bn/- to provide milk to schools through School Milk programme (SMP), in the next five years.

TDB registrar Dr George Msalya told The Guardian that the program is expected to commence mid this year and will benefit 500 schools across the country.

“Numerous records prove that in Tanzania school milk feeding programs started way back in early 2000s, and has involved different models (ways of implementation), and has reached a peak of 125 schools and 99,000 children in the recent past. But despite the efforts, the vital program been limited in terms of coverage, access of dairy products to school children, involvement of stakeholders,” he said.

It is hoped that the program

will cover the whole country, starting with the schools in the areas where milk is available and the presence of dairy processing factories, according to Msalya.

He noted that the programme will start with at least 100 schools in 2023/2024, while other 100 schools will be added every year for the five consecutive years. The number of schools covered is expected to increase from 125 to 625 schools by 2027, targeting pupils and students aged between 4 to 19 years.

The distributed milk will be processed, either pasteurized, UHT, cultured milk or yoghurt depending on the availability and infrastructure of the area.

“The quantity of milk supplied will be 150mls to 200mls, whereby parents are encouraged to contribute money for the purchase of milk for their children to be taken during the break time,” he said.

Currently, TDB in cooperation

with the ministry of livestock and fisheries, and other stakeholders are jointly bridging efforts to compile the special Action Plan for Implementation of School Milk Program, 2023-2028.

Among others, the main focus behind drafting of the Action Plan is to further enhance the implementation of a sustainable school milk program.

“We have now decided to team up and draft a specific Action Plan for the execution of the helpful program with an eye to ensure its sustainability. Among others, the plan involves seven specific objectives that have been well arranged and will be useful in implementation of the plan and to respond to the main objectives,” Dr. Msalya added.

He detailed, among the seven specific objectives incorporates a move to enhance and strengthen participation of parents and other stakeholders in the program, to determine context spe-

cific modalities for implementation of the program, to identify mechanisms for coordination and collaboration of sustainably implementation of the school program.

Other specific objectives are to provide standards and qualities for milk and others dairy products to be supplied in schools, to improve collection, access, and sharing of data on the program among key stakeholders.

The action plan also targets to review and facilitate implementation of policy program in order to improve capacity of schools nutrition committees and local supervision of the program as well as to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the program.

Dr. Msalya insisted that the program, SMP, was of paramount importance as it helps families support their children's education while protecting their food security as a way also to break the intergenerational cycle of hunger and poverty that affects vulnerable families and communities.

“Implementation of this program plays a meaningful role to help spur school enrolment and reduce absenteeism whereby once the children are in schools, the program can also contribute to their learning through avoiding hunger and expanding their cognitive abilities,” Dr. Msalya observed.

To ensure for sustainability of the country-wide program, the Registrar informed that the parent ministry and the dairy board planned every financial year to construct 10 Milk Collection Centers (MCCs) and establish eight selling points to facilitate easy distribution of milk to schoolchildren.

Evidence from the Tanzania National School Malaria and Nutrition Survey (SMNS) of 2019 indicates that on average, children from public primary schools consumed limited diversified meals with animal source food being the least consumed food groups by majority of school children.

Awori leads Ecobank Group as new CEO

Lomé

ECOBANK Transnational Incorporated (ETI), the parent company of the Ecobank Group, the leading pan-African banking group, has announced that Jeremy Awori (pictured) has officially assumed his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Ecobank Group.

Jeremy Awori, commenting on his new role, said: “It's a fantastic opportunity to take Ecobank to the next level of its growth strategy. Despite current global challenges, Africa offers promising

prospects.”

He said Ecobank is uniquely positioned to provide systematic change across the banking sector at a pan-African level, using the geographic footprint it has already established.

“Through our single gateway platform, we are well-positioned to provide the necessary financial products and solutions for countries, corporates, and SMEs to capitalise on the continent's vast resource, trade and investment opportunities. We also provide relevant, accessible, and affordable financial services

that address the evolving needs of a vibrant, youthful, and entrepreneurial continent. Ecobank's brand and heritage continue to be a source of pride,” Awori concluded.

Alain Nkontchou, Ecobank Group Chairman, added: “Jeremy Awori's exceptional and proven qualities as a result-oriented effective leader with an extensive knowledge of the African banking landscape, make him the ideal choice to steer the growth of the Ecobank Group through the current era of rapid global and continental changes.”

The Group Chairman further noted that Jeremy has the full support of the ETI Board.

Jeremy Awori brings with him over 25 years of experience in the banking industry, including close to a decade serving as CEO and Managing Director of Absa Bank Kenya Plc.

Prior to joining Absa, Jeremy served in leadership roles at Standard Chartered Bank across the Middle East and Africa.

His extensive expertise, skills, and industry know-how make him a valuable addition to the Ecobank Group.

Expert says timber will solve urban housing challenges

By Guardian Reporter

REAL estate expert has said timber is an important solution to the housing challenge during this era of rapid urbanization and carbon emissions facing the world.

“Timber can turn this challenge into a massive opportunity for all. We estimate that the value chain from timber housing has the potential to become an 8-billion-dollar industry,” said Sebastian Dietzold, Chief Executive Officer for CPS Limited, property developer in Zanzibar, at the Wood Conference held recently in South Africa.

“We want to do large-scale developments in Tanzania, and we want to do it with timber.”

Presenting on the paper- “The rise of a new circular economy from the tree to the house,” Sebastian noted that urbanization is currently occurring in Africa faster than at any other time in human history, thus creating an affordable housing challenge.

“If we don't change the way we build - the technology and mate-



Sebastian Dietzold addresses the Wood Conference held recently in South Africa. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

rials we use in construction, this massive challenge from urbanization will roll over us. So we need scalability, affordability and at the same time quality,” he explained.

Today most of the biggest cities in the world are in Asia, but by the year 2100, that picture will change,

according to him.

“Soon most of the biggest cities will be here in Africa, where cities like Lagos - Nigeria, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Kinshasa will have more than 60 million people,” he said.

Already, Africa has a backlog of

over 50 million residential units, and urban housing challenge must be turned into an opportunity to provide sustainable housing for all.

According to him, to conquer the massive growth of urbanization, CPS Limited is currently pro-

ducing 300 to 400 housing units in Zanzibar.

“We need 6,000, and in Dar es Salaam over 70,000 houses people can afford. These affordable houses don't have to look like refugee camps, they can be beautiful houses made from sustainable materials, and that's what we are doing,” the developer of Tanzania's fastest-selling real estate project, CPS Fumba Town, said.

Moreover, 38 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions come from construction and construction-related industries, which calls for action.

“We need to change how we build. If we continue building the same way we are today, our planet will die. That's the simple message. With rapid urbanization, global warming and climate change, more sustainable ways of construction are required. He argued that we need to grow, harvest and regrow trees to solve the carbon emissions challenge,” he argued.

Already there is massive potential for timber in Africa.

According to him, Tanzania has about 260,000 hectares of sustainably managed forest and about 52 percent forest cover and is producing about 1.58 million cubic meters of sawn timber per year.

If 10 percent of the woods were allocated to sustainable forestry, Tanzania could produce 42 million cubic meters of sawn timber per year, enough to feed the world with timber.

“We could motivate communities to grow more timber as an income generation activity. We want to tell people a story. We are building the tallest hybrid timber tower in the world, the Burj Zanzibar, to change perception and show people that this technology is modern, beautiful, durable, sustainable and a global landmark,” he elaborated.

Wolfgang Hebenstreit, the Projects Technical Director from Binderholz in Austria, the global leader in Mass Timber production, explained that there are two types of timber construction - one made on-site, and another made 100 percent in the factory.

Indian, Tanzanian pharmaceutical firms forge partnership agreement

SINGAPORE

AQUARIES Global Industries Limited, a leading global pharmaceutical company has announced that has entered into a strategic & marketing arrangement with Tanzania's top pharmaceutical company- Fitmed Pharmaceuticals Limited.

Speaking on the marketing collaborations, Dr Sameer Talim, Managing Director of Aaquaries Global Industries Limited said "Tanzania's pharmaceutical expenditure fares well against comparable countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)."

The pharmaceuticals market in Tanzania is forecast to grow strongly over the next few years, largely due to an increasing disease burden.

High rate of population growth and urbanization will continue to support pharmaceutical market growth, creating revenue earning opportunities for drug makers.

"Aaquaries Global Industries Limited is already present in major pockets of the African countries & the marketing collaboration with Fitmed Pharmaceuticals Limited will give a substantial increase in our Tanzania market". Aaquaries Global Industries Limited is a leading exporter of Oncology & Malarial APIs from natural sources with patents filed for Non-Infringing ROS. Manufacturing Facilities are EUGMP / USFDA compliant," he said.

Dr Talim further explained that the market for pharmaceuticals will increase significantly as the country lacks facilities to produce Active



Dr Sameer Talim, Managing Director, Aaquaries Global Industries Limited

Pharmaceutical Ingredients, packaging manufacturing industries and industries to manufacture excipients.

Being a leader in the Pharma API market, Aaquaries Global Industries Limited will gain greater geographical presence.

Fitmed Pharmaceuticals Limited is amongst the leading suppliers of high quality products to the Government of Tanzania via MSD (Medical Stores Department), public/private hospitals, clinic and pharmacies all over the country.

The company import and distribute a large range of drugs for the treatment of Gastro Intestinal System, Cardiovascular System, Respiratory System, Infections, Endocrine System and Malignant diseases and Immunosuppression.

Incorporated in 2007 as a is a closely held public company and located in Mumbai City India, Aaquaries Global Industries Limited leading research based pharmaceutical company focused on contract manufacturing APIs from Natural Extracts for Malaria Anti-Cancer & various other segments.

The promoters have a long history of association with pharmaceutical industry with experience spanning over four decades.

Today the company's in-house development products are being registered in various countries like Middle East, Baltic Regions & Latin America and plans to license out to major pharmaceutical companies in Europe, Australia, & South Africa are being worked out.

Its competitive edge is characterized by cost efficient development and production, creative marketing and added value customer service.

In parallel, Aaquaries Global Industries Limited is investing on the introduction of value added health care products in Anti Malarial and Anti Cancer in the local market.

With an extensive product portfolio and an experienced sales force & vertical integration, Aaquaries intends to become a leader in Natural extracts based APIs and one of the fastest growing pharmaceutical companies in India.

Airtel Africa commits to provide quality education for children

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Africa has restated its commitment to the relentless pursuit of a better future for African children through the provision of access to digital education.

Dr Segun Ogunsanya, CEO of Airtel Africa plc, made the commitment at the opening of a two-day conference in Nairobi, Kenya, last week where executives of Airtel Africa and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) discussed the implementation of the landmark partnership across 13 out of Airtel's 14 markets.

He said Airtel Africa committed to invest \$57m into educational programmes during the five-year partnership with UNICEF.



Dr Segun Ogunsanya, CEO of Airtel Africa

Dr Ogunsanya reflected on the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on education in Africa leading to school closures, and charged the participants to continue to work closely with stakeholders, especially the governments and educational authorities, to ensure that children, especially vulnerable children in remote communities, are given the opportunity to learn.

He acknowledged the challenges faced in the implementation of the partnership in some of the 13 African countries, and urged the governments of the affected countries to support this important initiative.

Airtel Africa is using its unique insights to stand up for the children of Africa's right to education and equality of opportunity.

Dr Ogunsanya reiterated Airtel Africa's corporate purpose of transforming lives and pledged that the organisation will continue

to champion the quest for bridging the digital divide and promoting financial inclusion.

The deputy regional director of UNICEF, Lieke van de Wiel, described the Airtel Africa/UNICEF partnership as an important collaboration of private and public sectors, aimed at putting children at the heart of their learning, and changing the narrative in education after years of loss during the Covid-19 pandemic.

She commended Airtel Africa for coming on board and encouraged the participants to seize the moment by sharing experiences and exchanging ideas and learning on how best to implement the initiative.

In 2021, Airtel Africa and UNICEF signed a landmark partnership committing to provide access to quality education for more than one million children by connecting schools to the internet.

Toastmasters satisfied with youth public speaking skills

By Francis Kajubi

TOASTMASTERS International Tanzania charter is satisfied with the ability and confidence among young leaders of speaking in public after the introduction of its public speaking and leadership skills programme several years ago.

The programme organized in collaboration with the Tanzania Institute of Managers has seen youth trained to build confidence of speaking in public by delivering incredible speeches or by taking part in public debates.

Speaking at the open house event held on Friday evening in Dar es Salaam to encourage young leaders to join Toastmasters clubs, John Nzira, the Division A director for Toastmasters International in East Africa expressed his satisfaction with the growing motive among young leaders in joining the clubs.

"We are thrilled to see so many individuals and companies show interest in the Toastmasters program. We believe that the program can have a positive impact on both personal and professional development, and we hope to see more corporations form their own clubs in the near future," said Nzira.

The event showcased the three Toastmasters clubs in Dar es Salaam namely Dar Toastmasters club, Masaki's Executive Toastmasters, and Bongo Toastmasters club.

Each club provided a brief presentation on their history and achievements, as well as the benefits of joining their respective clubs.

Apart from promoting Toastmasters clubs in the region, the event also aimed to generate enthusiasm and anticipation for the upcoming Toastmasters East African conference scheduled to take place in May this year in Dar es Salaam.

Wilson Asimwe, district club growth director said the agency is thrilled to host the upcoming Toastmasters East African conference in Dar es Salaam.

"This event promises to be a wonderful opportunity for Toastmasters across the region to come together, learn, network and celebrate the growth and success of our organization."

The event was attended by over 70 participants, including corporate executives, entrepreneurs, and students who were introduced to the benefits of joining Toastmasters.

Attendees were able to witness firsthand how the Toastmasters program can help individuals improve their public speaking and leadership skills.

Rodrique Msechu, a member of Dar Toastmasters executive committee said that a few speakers shared their testimonies on what Toastmasters has done to them.

He said it is important for youth to know that building confidence in speaking in public is key for them to succeed in their careers.

"Most of the time the people who are chosen to be leaders to represent an organisation is because they are very articulate and can well communicate;

Sometimes one can be frustrated that he is very smart at doing his job but why is not being promoted? But the answer is how convincing that person is in public speaking," said Msechu.

He said currently there are seven Toastmaster clubs in Tanzania.



Apple leads global companies with 71 percent 'green' revenue

NEW YORK

APPLE has topped the list with \$259 billion in sustainable revenue, with an estimated 71 percent of the tech giant's revenue coming from sustainable sources, after not even making the list two years ago.

Apple has made strides in recent years in using recycled materials and rare earth minerals.

Apple's sustainable revenue primarily comes from the sale of iPhones, iPads, and Macs, all of which have been awarded EPEAT Gold certification.

Criteria for the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) global ecolabel considers hardware products' materials, supply chain greenhouse gas emissions, product longevity, energy conservation, and end-of-life

management, among other factors.

The company offers eight devices with more than 20 percent recycled material, according to its 2022 sustainability report.

The 2020 MacBook Air with an M1 chip has the highest amount of recycled materials - 44 percent of the laptop is recycled, including a 100 percent recycled aluminum enclosure.

As of 2021, Apple began using recycled gold and tungsten in all of its iPhones. Apple shipped roughly 225 million iPhones in 2022.

What began in 2016 as a list of companies leading in clean energy has since expanded to encompass revenue that meets a range of sustainability certifications from electric vehicles to sustainable loans.

The list excludes companies

with exposure to controversial business practices such as investments in fossil fuels, weapons, and prisons or otherwise "having a record of systemically obstructing climate policy."

"These are the companies that are leading the way by putting sustainability at the heart of their products, services, business models and investments, helping to move the world onto a more sustainable trajectory," the report stated.

This year's Clean 200 list also spanned 35 countries, with the most companies listed in the U.S., China, and Japan. And with the exception of energy, there was broad sector representation: Industrials companies were prevalent as were information technology, materials, and utility companies.

Africa should build battery metals value chain, says UNECA

JOHANNESBURG

THE world must decarbonise its growth models and shift to renewable energy sources to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) acting executive secretary Antonio Pedro has said.

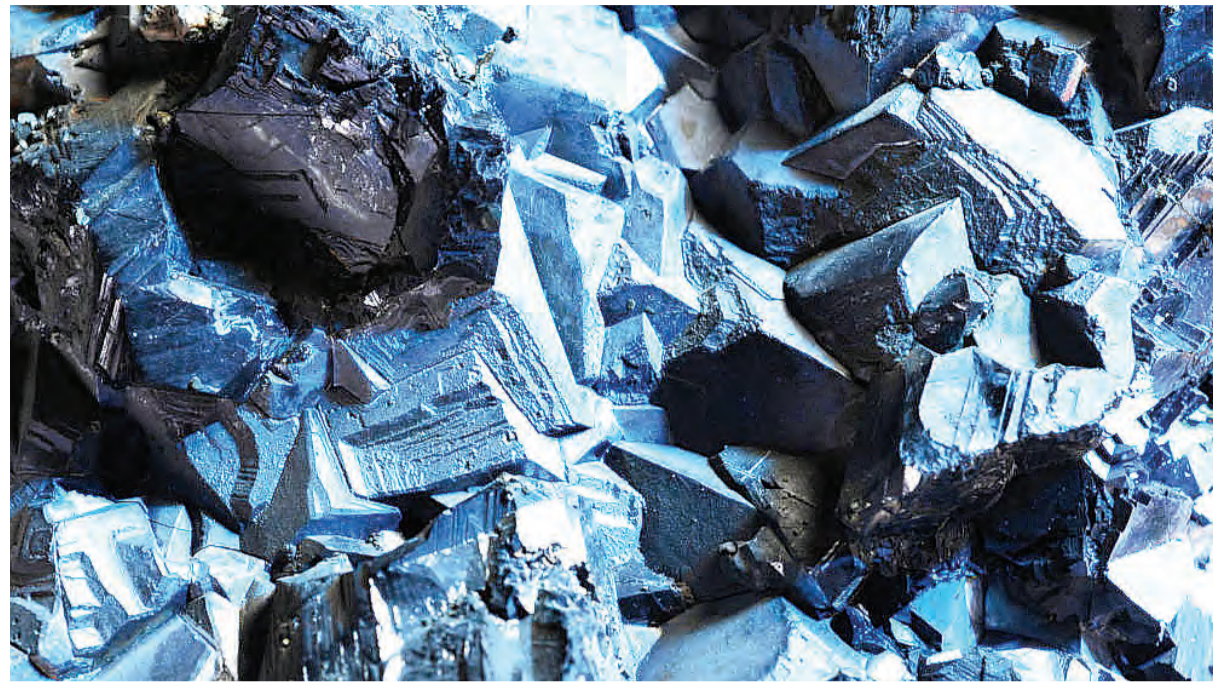
Speaking during a panel discussion on 'Building a regional battery mineral value chain in Africa' earlier this week, he said the shift to renewable energy sources was a resource-intensive path that required greater production of a variety of minerals – many of which are found in Africa – that are central to decarbonisation efforts.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for example, produces over 70 percent of the world's cobalt, while the DRC and Zambia together supply 10 percent of the world's copper. Mozambique and South Africa hold significant reserves of graphite, platinum group metals, lithium and others.

"We have clear opportunities not only from the global green mineral boom, but also from our domestic achievements, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area to facilitate the development of regional value chains for these green economy products," said Pedro.

He also noted that several innovative financing mechanisms had been developed to support initiatives such as the battery and electric vehicles (EVs) value chains.

The session was jointly organ-



Seventy percent of Africa's exports were unprocessed commodities

ised by UNECA and Afreximbank. The organisers wanted to present the specifics of the lithium-ion battery initiative to a wider audience.

In the past two decades, Pedro said, the world had seen that, without the right enabling policies and incentives, commodity supercycles come and go, leaving countries dependent on resource extraction.

He deplored the fact that about 70 percent of Africa's exports were unprocessed commodities, a situation that could change with the right policies that prioritise industrialisation and value-addition in mining and other resource sectors.

Afreximbank export development director Oluranti Doherty said it was disappointing that, despite Africa being endowed with an array of minerals, from copper and magnesium to nickel and cobalt, the continent had not been able to efficiently transition to greener forms of energy.

Underlining Afreximbank's commitment to promoting an inclusive battery and electric vehicle value chain, she said the bank was pro-

moting industrialisation on the continent and was facilitating the emergence and expansion of industrial parks and special economic zones (SEZs) in Zambia and the DRC.

"We are working on a framework agreement for SEZs for the production of batteries, electric vehicles and accessories and we will facilitate the commencement of studies to facilitate the development of this facility," said Doherty.

According to a BloombergNEF

study, the DRC is a favourable location for producing sustainable battery materials for high-nickel batteries owing to the country's abundant cobalt resources and access to hydroelectric power.

The study, which was supported by UNECA, Afreximbank, the African Development Bank, the Africa Finance Corporation, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the African Legal Support Facility, and the UN Global Compact, suggests that battery precursors produced in the DRC would be cheaper, environmentally sustainable and more competitive than material produced in China, the US and elsewhere.

The report estimates the global market opportunity for EVs at \$7-trillion by 2030 and \$46-trillion by 2050.

Jean-Marie Kanda from the University of Lubumbashi highlighted that African countries needed to own such projects and commit investment and appropriate funding for research on the battery technology.

"Africa needs to develop standards as far as batteries are concerned. We need to focus on the assembly of these batteries and focus on mineral exploitation as well as on recycling," he said.

UNECA senior economist Jean Luc Matsaki Namagebe told participants that the DRC presented

an opportunity in the development of electric batteries and vehicles not to be missed because it would move Africa up the value addition ladder as Africa was the only region that did not manufacture electric batteries.

Abdou Mousmouni University West African science service centre in climate change and adapted land use director Rabani Adamou said that, by promoting the development of mineral value chains, African countries must invest in research and development to understand the exploitable quantity of the minerals.

African Minerals Development Center interim director Marit Kitaw said the battery and EV initiative was a huge opportunity for Africa, which had triggered a huge surge of investment coming into Africa for green minerals.

She added that the centre was in the process of developing a mineral strategy for Africa and called for the institutionalisation of the initiative as well as harnessing of innovative financing for its realisation. Pedro described the initiative as one of the most transformative projects for Africa, noting that it has received wide publicity and interest.

He also called for the development of an ecosystem that taps capacities, expertise and partnerships that exist in Africa.

Global commodity trading earnings hit record \$115bn

LONDON

THE commodity industry made record gross profits of more than \$115bn from trading activities last year, as volatile energy prices resulting from the war in Ukraine drove big swings in the market.

The biggest gainers were the independent trading houses – such as Trafigura, Vitol and Glencore – which had the balance sheets to stay in the market, according to a new study from Oliver Wyman.

"This year was a bit of a perfect storm across all the commodities, from a trading opportunity perspective," said Ernst Frankl, partner at the consultancy and one of the authors of the report. "Volatility is the lifeblood of what traders need in order to trade."

The European energy crisis sparked by the war in Ukraine, as well as the imposition of sanctions on certain Russian commodities, drove a big shift in global trade flows, leading to longer voyage times as well as price volatility across commodity classes.

Trading gross profits in the sector – including banks, hedge funds, independent traders and asset-backed traders such as energy majors – soared to \$115bn, up 60 per cent from the previous year and nearly three times higher than pre-pandemic levels, according to the study.

Financial players such as hedge funds also enjoyed big gains, earning an estimated \$12bn from trading activities in 2022 compared with less than

\$3bn the year before.

The earnings bonanza among energy companies last year has raised political concerns in Brussels and in Washington, where US President Joe Biden accused them of "war profiteering" and threatened to impose windfall taxes on oil companies.

While commodity traders have so far avoided similar proposals, their increasing profits are shining a spotlight on the powerful trading houses that move raw materials around the world.

London-listed Glencore reported net income of \$17.3bn for 2022, more than triple the previous year. Singapore-headquartered Trafigura reported net income of \$7bn for its fiscal year ending to the end of September – more than the previous four years' profits combined.

However, the war was not the only factor contributing to the record numbers.

Demand for commodities also rose in 2022, as economic activity rebounded after pandemic restrictions were eased and the global economy grew, said Adam Perkins, partner at Oliver Wyman.

"We are seeing under-investment and underproduction across commodities anyway," Perkins said. "We would have probably seen volatility going up [in 2022] in any case."

Among the different commodity classes, it was gas, power and carbon trading that gave the biggest boost – with industry earnings from the three segments surging 90 per cent in 2022 against the year before.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM				
ITV				
<p>MONDAY 6 March</p> <p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 ITV Top Ten</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca</p> <p>14:40 Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumi-shi Housing</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 DW: Afrimaxx</p> <p>18:45 Kipindi maalum: Brela</p> <p>19:00 Afya ya Jamii</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Dakika 45</p> <p>22:00 Bundesliga na DW</p> <p>22:15 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 7 March</p> <p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p>	<p>Ramon</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Chetu ni Chetu</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Afya ya jamii</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti Maalum</p> <p>13:35 Shikabamba</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebeca</p> <p>14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF</p> <p>21:45 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 8 March</p> <p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p>	<p>14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt</p> <p>14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 Music: The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA</p> <p>18:30 Jarida la wanawake</p> <p>19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Aibu Yako</p> <p>21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta</p> <p>22:00 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 9 March</p> <p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT</p> <p>13:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Brela</p> <p>13:45 Shamsham za pwani rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shamsham za pwani rpt</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Kipindi maalum: TMDA</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri Wako</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p>	<p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 Music: The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 10 March</p> <p>5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Usafiri Wako</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt</p> <p>11:15 Jungu kuu</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt</p> <p>13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ</p> <p>14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base (DJ Show)</p> <p>17:30 Kiislam</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Jagina</p> <p>18:45 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet</p> <p>19:00 Shamba lulu</p> <p>19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipima Joto</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 11 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p>	<p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO</p> <p>10:05 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>13:00 Usafiri wako</p> <p>13:30 Jagina</p> <p>14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt</p> <p>16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:30 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>17:00 Shamsam za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka</p> <p>21:15 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>21:40 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>22:10 ITV Top 10</p> <p>22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>01:15 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 12 March</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt</p> <p>11:50 Bongo Movie rpt:</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>17:20 Kipindi cha kikiristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology</p> <p>21:15 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo</p> <p>21:30 Supa Jackpot</p> <p>21:30 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>21:45 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>22:20 Bongo movie:</p> <p>23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>02:05 Al Jazeera</p>



The European energy crisis and sanctions on Russian commodities led to price volatility that benefited traders

WORLD

UN appeals for humanitarian access amid clashes in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations relief official in Somalia on Friday appealed for unhindered humanitarian access to all those in need as clashes between security forces and clan leaders in Las Anod in northern Somalia intensified.

Magatte Guisse, the humanitarian coordinator for Somalia ad interim, said at

least 80 people have been killed in the violence in the disputed Sool region, with 451 injuries among those not fighting, including medical personnel.

"With the fighting now in its fourth week, more than 185,000 people have reportedly been displaced and hospitals have been damaged, jeopardizing access to essential care for the wounded," Guisse said in a statement issued in



A Somali woman and children carry water at a camp for displaced people on the outskirts of Dollow, Somalia on Sept 20, 2022. (PHOTO / AP)

Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

Local reports quoting Abdirahim Ali Ismail, the mayor of the contested town, however, said 210 people have lost their lives and 680 others wounded in the clashes which began on Feb 6.

Las Anod is in the Sool and Sanaag regions, which are claimed by both Somaliland and Puntland states.

The current fighting broke out on Feb 6 after local clan elders issued a declaration stating that they are no longer part of Somaliland and that the Sool, Sanaag and Cayn regions are now governed by the government of Somalia.

Guisse expressed concern about the humanitarian impact of the fighting which is ongoing at a time when Somalia is experiencing its worst drought on record.

"I call for respect for humanitarian and medical workers, respect for

medical facilities and services and to allow the wounded and sick to receive the medical care and attention required by their condition, without discrimination," he said.

The UN relief official appealed for restraint and recalled that force must only ever be used in accordance with applicable international law, norms and standards, including human rights and international humanitarian law, where applicable.

According to the UN, almost 214,000 people in the Sool region, 43 percent of the population, are currently experiencing a crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity.

Guisse said the high levels of displacement are expected to further exacerbate humanitarian needs, adding that an estimated 8.25 million people across Somalia, nearly half the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023.

Russian diplomat lists 11 countries that may become visa-free for Russians

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is preparing intergovernmental agreements on visa-free travel with 11 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, The Bahamas, Malaysia and Mexico, State Secretary - Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Ivanov told TASS.

"We're preparing draft intergovernmental agreements on visa-free travel for [Russian] citizens with a number of countries, such as Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Zambia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago. The agreements are at various stages of development," Ivanov said.

"However, it is important to understand that the process of negotiating such international treaties is a 'two-way street' and the pace at which they are signed depends equally on us and on our partners," the senior diplomat added.

Ivanov also noted that the Russian Foreign Ministry "will definitely inform the public" after the agreement is reached.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov earlier announced at the Duma government session that Russia planned to introduce visa-free regime with 11 countries.

Namibian Baby Expo spotlights child care, business opportunities for local entrepreneurs

WINDHOEK

FROM baby clothing to toys, the first edition of the Baby Expo, held on Saturday in the Namibian capital of Windhoek, spotlighted early childhood development.

Magnolia Lawrence, the organizer of the expo, said the hosting of the expo aims to address challenges faced by parents locating services necessary in nurturing children. "Most parents often struggle to access certain services easily."

The expo is a consolidating effort to bring services to one central point and to fill the gap. "I know that from my experience," she said.

The event attracted nearly 30 exhibitors, including fertility clinics and educational institutions. The expo was intended to debunk stereotypes through access to information.

"We have even invited some often derided as taboo to help those struggling with certain aspects regarding fertility and pregnancy, and possibly give them hope through access to information," Lawrence added.

Local entrepreneurs also seized the chance to market, provide services and sell products. For Marion van de Merwe from Kinderkinetics, the expo was a platform to promote the business that specializes in improving babies' cognitive and physical development. "Our participation here was motivated by our passion for ensuring healthy and holistic child care."

Showcasing our services means providing quality information to parents and people to do what is best for children," she said.

Faith Marais, the founder of Little Adventure, a company that sells assorted baby products, participated in the expo to network and for exposure.

"Apart from marketing the products, we hope to interact with people with common interests. Networking may lead to new partnerships. Another aim is to generate income and drive up sales," she said.

Meanwhile, the expo provided a unique platform for both businesses and locals for mutual exchange. The excitement of some visitors at the expo was profound as they strolled various stalls displaying products. "I learned much about services I had never known before, such as baby gyms, and I now know there to take my children in instances of obesity or delayed progress in areas such as motor skills," said David Kavare, a 42-year-old parent based in Windhoek.

Besides, the event organizers are exploring ways to host the annual event in March.

"From the interest expressed at the expo, we hope to create a mobile application where local parents and aspirants can easily access information in one platform in the palm of their hands," Lawrence said.

Israelis rally again against govt's judicial overhaul

TELAVIV

TENS of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Israeli cities for the ninth straight week on Saturday to fight a government plan to overhaul the country's court system.

Saturday night's demonstrations in Tel Aviv and other locations began peacefully. However, footage released by police later showed protesters breaking down barriers in Tel Aviv and igniting fires as they blocked roads. Police sprayed water cannons at the protesters.

"I came to demonstrate against the regime revolution, which the Israeli government forced upon us," 53-year-old history teacher Ronen Cohen told Reuters. "I hope that this huge demonstration will effect and prove that we are not going to give up."

The marches have attracted huge crowds on a weekly basis

since early January, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government took aim at the Supreme Court.

The protesters oppose legislation that Netanyahu and his right-wing and religious allies hope to pass that would limit the Supreme Court's powers to rule against the legislature and the executive, while giving lawmakers decisive powers in appointing judges.

Proponents say the Supreme Court needs to be reined in from overreaching into the political sphere. Critics say the plan will weaken the courts, endanger civil liberties and harm the economy along with ties with Western allies.

The intensity of the protests have been heightened since Wednesday, when Israeli police fired stun grenades and scuffles broke out in Tel Aviv during a nationwide "day of disruption".

"There's a great danger that



Israeli mounted police officers disperse demonstrators as they block a main road during a protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government to overhaul the judicial system, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Saturday. (PHOTO / AP)

Israel will turn into a dictatorship," 68-year-old high school teacher Ophir Kubitsky said to demonstrate over and over on Saturday. "We came here again until we win."

Iran, IAEA to boost cooperation to resolve safeguards issues

VIENNA

IRAN and the International Atomic Energy Agency have pledged in a joint statement to step up cooperation to expedite the resolution of outstanding safeguards issues.

Iran "expressed its readiness to continue its cooperation and provide further information and access to address the outstanding safeguards issues," accord-

ing to a joint statement by the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, which was published on the IAEA website on Saturday.

Iran's outstanding safeguards issues are reportedly one of the sticking points in the Iran nuclear talks, which have been stalled since August last year. While the IAEA has accused Iran of failing to provide "technically credible explanations" for nuclear activities at three undeclared

sites, Iranian officials have repeatedly rejected the claim and insisted on the transparency and peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

The joint statement came after IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran on Friday and Saturday, during which he met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and AEOI President Mohammad Eslami.

At a press conference held in Vienna on Saturday upon Grossi's return from Tehran, the IAEA chief said surveillance cameras will be reconnected at several of Iran's nuclear sites.

Earlier on Saturday, Grossi said in Tehran that the cooperation between the IAEA and Iran and the "good agreement" the two sides are expected to reach will contribute to the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Brazil approves GMO wheat amid food supply fears

BUENOS AIRES/SAO PAULO -

BRAZIL has approved the cultivation and sale of drought-tolerant genetically modified wheat, a major boost for the once taboo crop as global food supply fears and regional dry weather burnishes the lure of GMO.

The approval, which biosecurity agency CTNbio posted, makes Brazil the second nation after Argentina to approve Bioceres' HB4 wheat strain for cultivation. Other markets have approved it for consumption.

Brazil is one of the world's larg-

est consumer markets and food exporters. While the green-light does not mean Brazil will necessarily grow GMO wheat for production soon, it reflects a major shift in attitudes as climate change and the war in Ukraine sharpen worries over a global food crisis.

GMO wheat has never been grown for commercial purposes due to consumer fears about allergens or toxicities in the staple crop used worldwide for bread, pasta and pastries. Biotech varieties of corn and soy, used for animal feed, biofuels and ingredients like cooking oil, are commonplace.

Bioceres said in a statement on Friday the approval meant "opening the Brazilian market to the technology," adding it would help ease commercialization of the strain in Argentina. The two countries dominate South America's wheat production.

Plant genetics company Tropical Melhoramento e Genetica, a partner in Brazil of Argentina's Bioceres, made the approval request.

Warm welcome

Abimapi, an association representing biscuit, pasta, bread and cake makers in Brazil, said the ap-

proval could potentially increase internal supplies, which could reduce industry costs.

The association was against adopting GMO wheat previously, but changed its stance after a survey it commissioned showed more than 70 percent of Brazilians would not mind consuming products containing it.

Brazil has been growing domestic wheat using conventional plants adapted to local climate conditions, but still relies on supplier Argentina for sizeable imports.

Brazil plants about 3 million hectares with wheat, mostly in

southern states like Rio Grande do Sul and Parana.

Drought-tolerant wheat may appeal to farmers in that region, where crops such as corn and soy have faced water stress. In Argentina, drought since last year cut the wheat crop in half.

Bioceres has said its GMO wheat "showed higher yields than conventional varieties across all environments, with an average 43 percent yield improvement in targeted environments."

In November 2021, Brazil became the first country in the world to allow imports of flour made with

GM wheat.

Abitrigo, Brazil's flour millers industry group, also hailed the decision, saying it solves "the risk of regulatory conflicts" because approval of flour imports was granted before use of Bioceres' HB4 wheat was effectively cleared in the country.

"The approval for planting, imports and commercialization of GMO wheat resolves this issue, bringing peace of mind to different market actors," Abitrigo said in a statement. "The final word will rest with consumers."

Agencies

Green development emphasised at local 'two sessions'

By Liu Fawei

GREEN has become a defining feature of China in the new era. Green development and low-carbon transition remained focuses in the government work reports recently delivered by Chinese provinces during the local "two sessions," the annual meetings of provincial-level lawmakers and political advisors.

"Green development," "carbon reduction," and "pollution reduction" were buzzwords during the meetings.

According to statistics from China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, in 2022, the emissions of major pollutants in China kept a continuous decline, and the country has hit the targets in improving ecological and environmental quality. This marked hard-won achievements in the country's ecological and environmental protection.

Beijing, recording a higher number of days with a blue sky, has delivered satisfying performance in green development.



Photovoltaic panels are installed in a fish farm in Rudong county, Nantong, east China's Jiangsu province, Feb. 20, 2023. (Photo by Xu Congjun/People's Daily Online)

Over the past five years, the capital of China has made earnest efforts to make its sky bluer. The average annual concentration of fine particles in the air dropped to 30 micrograms per cubic meter, a 48.3 percent decline from 2017, which is hailed as "Beijing miracle" by the United Nations Environment Program.

Hebei, a neighboring prov-

ince of Beijing, is seeing a future full of vitality thanks to its afforestation efforts. So far, the province's forest coverage has been raised to 35.6 percent, and the Saihanba mechanized forest farm situated in the northernmost part of the province has won the Land for Life Award of the United Nations.

In central China's Hubei province, chemical engineer-

ing clusters along the Yangtze River are no longer a headache today. The province has shut down, overhauled, relocated, and transformed 452 chemical enterprises along the river and inspected 12,480 sewage draining outlets into the river, 9,067 of which have been renovated.

In east China's Anhui province, the proportion of surface water sections with good water

quality under national assessment has improved from 71.7 percent to 86.1 percent. Phased results have been achieved thanks to a 10-year fishing ban on the Yangtze River. Today, the ecological environment on the river is getting better and better.

In recent years, China has firmly upheld the belief that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. It has prioritized eco-environmental conservation and green development, promoted the comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development, and achieved modernization based on harmony between humanity and nature. Wonders have been accomplished in eco-environmental protection and green development.

At present, the entire country is passionate about advancing the green transition. Many provinces have vowed, in government work reports, to promote green and low-carbon development, strive for the green transition of traditional industries and focus on green

sectors.

Beijing plans to promote green and low-carbon development of industrial parks, strengthen low-carbon pilot programs, and accelerate the application of advanced low-carbon technologies such as renewable energy and integrated buildings.

Southwest China's Yunnan province said it would vigorously promote the circular economy in the next five years, build centers for the comprehensive use of massive solid waste and industrial resources and set up a batch of zero-carbon demonstration parks.

Inner Mongolia autonomous region in north China encouraged industrial enterprises to use green electricity, techniques and materials, and to build more low-carbon and zero-carbon plants.

The country's vigorous efforts to develop green industries are generating new opportunities for the ecological and environmental protection industries. According to the estimation by China Association of Environmental Protection

Industry (CAEPI), the Chinese environmental protection industry reported revenue of around 2.2 trillion yuan (\$317.5 billion) last year, up 1.9 percent from 2021.

CAEPI president Guo Chengzhan told People's Daily that thanks to the implementation of the fiscal, financial, and investment policies as well as other measures to stabilize growth and promote development deployed by the Central Economic Work Conference, the investment in the environmental protection industry will experience obvious growth this year from 2022.

Realizing the "dual carbon" goals, or peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, is a complicated and systematic mission. To achieve these goals, many provincial-level regions in China are focusing on the green and low-carbon transition of the energy structure.

On the one hand, many provinces said they would work to improve the utilization of coal and other traditional energies.

Chinese modernisation makes broader prospects for common development of mankind

By He Yin

THE governance of a country starts with the needs of the people.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all. Achieving common prosperity for all is one of the essential requirements of Chinese modernization, as well as a hallmark that distinguishes Chinese modernization from Western modernization.

Chinese modernization remains committed to the principle that development should serve the people, depend on the people, with its benefits shared by the people. It provides a Chinese solution for tackling polarization and other challenges in modernization.

To strive for a good life for the people and achieve common prosperity for all is an abiding commitment of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The CPC has promoted coordinated development across regions, adopted effective measures to improve people's wellbeing, won the battle against extreme poverty and built a moderately prosperous society in all respects. These efforts have created conditions conducive to bringing about common prosperity.

As the world's largest developing country, China has met the poverty eradication target set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule. It has set an example and made significant contributions to the cause of global poverty reduction.

For China, a huge country with more than 1.4 billion people, to achieve common prosperity for all is a long-term, complex and onerous task. The country will continue commitment to its people-centered philosophy of development and promote common prosperity through high-quality development.

So far, China has formulated a whole set of ideas, institutions



Children fly kites on a square in Tongdao Dong autonomous county, central China's Hunan province, Feb. 19, 2023. (Photo by Su Yongzhu/People's Daily Online)

and policies to promote common prosperity for all. It is confident in ensuring that its people share more fully and fairly in the gains of modernization.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, director of the China Study Center at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute of Pakistan, said that promoting common prosperity, creating more opportunities for more people to become better-off and making every effort worthwhile will further activate the productivity and creativity of the Chinese society.

Common prosperity is a challenging task in the development of human civilization. While pursuing modernization, some countries have encountered severe econom-

ic polarization and collapse of the middle class, which led to social divide, political polarization and rampant populism; some failed in economic transition and came to stagnation, troubled by the middle-income trap.

China takes meeting the people's aspirations for a better life as an immutable goal of its modernization drive. It will endeavor to maintain and promote social fairness and justice, bring prosperity to all, and prevent polarization.

"The common prosperity we have in mind aims to better meet people's needs for a better life. It aims to achieve, over time, overall prosperity and prosperity for all. We will leverage the role of both the market and the government



Photo taken on Feb. 24, 2023 shows a lively night market in Sucheng district, Suqian, east China's Jiangsu province. (Photo by Chen Shaoshuai/People's Daily Online)

and ensure both performance and fairness. We will make the pie bigger and share it fairly, and build an olive-shaped structure of income distribution," said Chinese President Xi Jinping in a written speech delivered at the APEC CEO Summit last year.

More and more international personages have come to realize that as economic globalization encounters headwinds and Western modernization sees a bottleneck, Chinese modernization focuses on benefiting the people and is committed to social equity. It has blazed a new trail of modernization.

China's efforts to achieve common prosperity for all mark the beginning of the country's endeavor to reach the greater goal of building

a community with a shared future for mankind, said Paul Zilungisele Tembe, senior researcher with the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute under the University of South Africa.

China always believes that only when countries develop together can there be true development; only when countries prosper together can there be true prosperity.

While pursuing its own development, China is constantly working for the common prosperity of the world with concrete actions.

So far, China has signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with 151 countries and 32 international organizations. The high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative is bringing tangible benefits

to the people in participating countries.

To make global development more balanced, China proposed the Global Development Initiative, which has been supported by over 100 countries and international organizations.

On its way to modernization, China stands ready to provide more resources for global development cooperation and work with all other parties to build a global community of development, so as to make broader prospects for the common development of mankind.

Achieving common prosperity involves a long historical process and calls for perseverance. On a new journey, China will strive to achieve shared prosperity for everyone, which will surely provide new development opportunities for the rest of the world and see that the gains of development benefit all peoples in a fair way.

By Wu Dan, Ding Yasong

THE World Digital Education Conference was held in Beijing recently, where a series of digital education equipment made a buzz.

For example, wearing a mixed reality headset, people could see a life-size aircraft engine in the virtual world, and even dismantle and assemble it with gaming controllers in their hands.

A 5G-enabled video camera could capture students' motions in real time when they make a standing long jump and then provide targeted guidance.

These devices are a miniature of the digitalization of China's education. Today, schools at all levels and of all types in the country are strengthening the application of digital technologies in educational activities. Digital Technology has changed the education scenario in the educational institutions by enhancing teaching and learning, research and governance.

The constant improvement of digital education facilities has laid an important foundation for the balanced improvement of education.

Today, all elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools across China have been connected to the internet, and 99.9 percent of them have 100Mbps of bandwidth. Moreover, more than three quarters of Chinese schools have wireless networks, and about 99.5 percent of schools have multimedia classrooms.

The opening and sharing of digital education resources is key to narrowing digital and educational gaps.

In last March, a public online service platform called Smart Education of China was launched, focusing on such areas as learning, teaching, school governance and educational innovation. So far, the platform has received more than 6.7 billion page views and more than 1 billion visitors from more than 200 countries and regions.

The platform provides access to quality education resources for rural primary and secondary schools in the underdeveloped central and western parts of the country. It also allows universities in the west of China

Education gets more digital in China



Students have a science class wearing virtual reality headsets in a primary school in Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei province. (Photo by Cao Jianxiang/People's Daily Online)

to share quality resources provided by universities in the east.

A school in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi province, has employed an online platform that checks students' homework and then generates an individualized mistake notebook for every one of them based on their performance. The mistake notebook includes the mistakes they have made previously, as well as other relevant exercises that help them better com-

prehend what they have learned.

Besides, teachers of the school can also check students' homework performance and their academic development on the platform.

"Based on the statistics, we can make targeted teaching plans at a faster speed, which significantly improves teaching efficiency," said a teacher named Liao Haiyan of the school.

Guo Jiezhong, head of Jiangxi province's educational department, told People's Daily that it

is difficult to help every student improve academic performance under traditional models of doing homework, as students' performance varies and even students at similar levels could have different grasps of what they have learned.

"That's why we introduced the online platform," Guo added.

With digitalization, the education sector has evolved to provide flexible and deeper learning experiences to the students.

In a virtual simulation base for

education at Jiangxi Tourism and Commerce Vocational College, which is

the first of its type in China, virtual reality (VR) equipment and controlling pads are used to help students learn the techniques. "We used to show these techniques to students with pictures and videos. Now with VR devices, it makes the scenarios more real and better attracts students," said Duan Xinxin, a teacher of the college.

It is learned that the base has virtual simulation training centers for 28 majors, as well as classrooms equipped with collaborative VR headsets. Every classroom in the base comes with a VR machine, VR goggles, and multimedia teaching facilities. The base is able to accommodate 10,000 students.

"Learning will be a voluntary, immersive, and individualized matter in the future," said professor Song Tian with the School of Cyberspace Science and Technology, Beijing Institute of Technology.

By getting into different learning scenarios with the assistance of technological innovation, students will find learning more interesting and efficient, the professor added.

TFF, Yanga reluctant to admit they goofed, so throw the matter to CAS

By Correspondent John Kimbute

IT is not often that the mother of a soccer player becomes a legal celebrity in interpreting legal clauses involving her son with a top football club either in Tanzania or elsewhere.

Often enough the father can be heard expressing this or that preference especially if the player is still young or relatively immature, which is not the case for embattled Young Africans SC midfielder, Feisal Salum.

More noticeably the player's agent could be heard in that direction, and except here, lawyers are not needed in transfer issues as people are compliant with regulations, not desires.

What is noticeable is that Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, the player's adamant employer and institution-minded committee members at the soccer federation have sort of concluded that if they listen to interventions by the player's quarter, they will lose face.

So they threw away an appeal for a review of an earlier decision (by a committee on player status or rights, etc) on the basis that there are no new grounds for hearing the matter.

That is plausible at the level of procedure, but psychologically the matter has since been closed.

In the run-up to convening a review panel on the case, there was a powerful intention from the mother of the player, who it turns out was brought to the matter by the club leadership.

When the player opted to move out, seemingly on preliminary accord with a top Premier League side where his payment would be scaled alongside that of professionals recruited from outside the country, the club sought out influential people to sound him out.



Yanga's midfielder, Feisal Salum. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

The mother was one of them, which was disrespectful, as it implied the club is a 'father' to the player.

Bringing a mother into a dispute is to seek out maternal respect because of one or other act of disobedience, and in the eyes of conservative club elders, this is what was taking place.

It was a hallmark of lack of professionalization, with a feudal claim to the player's loyalty, in that he cannot leave the club when it needs him, and that for a local player 4m/- per month is not a bad salary.

All those supposed influences to have the player reconciled with the club failed and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) panel stuck to a feudal view, elders want him back.

That was exactly the criticism the mother raised regarding her son, and then his legal team sought out another pow-

erful voice, avowedly irritating and influential advocate Fatma Karume, whose mother is a patron of the Jangwani Street side.

It was simply to say that Yanga and TFF are not being fair to the player and have virtually ganged to serve each other's interests - as TFF has an interest in keeping local players tied to their contracts, not raising issues on pay levels, etc. So there is no institutional capacity here to solve the matter.

By failing to go back on the facts of the case and admit that the player can indeed separate himself from the club if he pays a particular fee for breach of contract, they leave it to global instances to wash their dirty linen.

So the player will now have to refer the matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) where again it will take a while before the matter is cleared.

Still, the court is mindful that

the player has lost a half season already and needs to be back on the pitch by the time a new season starts, so the ruling could not take too long.

While the non-professional attitude still rules high in pundits' discussions on the issue, even when bringing in ostensible legal experts, those versed in the law of sports contracting, there is a slight shift in tonality.

Earlier they tended to agree more or less in a hunting pack mentality, seeking respectability from run-of-the-mill Yanga fans, their elders, and TFF, and saw value in the view that Feisal Salum is a Yanga player. One could add, since 'his father' says so...

That level of confidence had by Thursday morning discussions before the TFF panel met on the issue, the view was somewhat constricted, a reluctant admission that 'even if the player erred' in seeking to sever his contract with the club, it does not remove his right to break the contract if he so wishes.

The irony is that these legal practitioners had to be put to some stern lecturing by the player's mother to grasp the idea that contracts can be broken.

They were also coming to grasp that terminating a contract cannot be agreed upon.

This is leagues away from the sort of unprofessional arguments that sports lawyers, speaking more or less as confidants of the club and TFF, were raising earlier, insisting that the player had to seek out the club to negotiate on his wish to break the contract.

Nor have the pundits been open to taking into account that the player raised the issue of comparable pay several times and met with blank stares from club officials.

Now of course the club is resigned that the player is leaving but still perched on a spurious legal battle to the end.

Tanzania's athletes start preparations for EAAR Junior Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has selected 19 junior athletes that enter camp in Dar es Salaam today to prepare for this year's edition of the East and Central Africa Region (EAAR) Junior Championships.

The 19 runners were selected during the Open Junior Championships which were held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city over the weekend, involving more than 200 junior athletes.

William Kallaghe, AT vice-president, said the athletes will today start a one-week camp at Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) Training & Conference Centre at Kurasini.

He said he was pleased with the performance shown by the junior athletes and disclosed that AT seeks to put much emphasis on developmental teams.

The AT official noted: "We thank all those who contributed to the success of these Open Championships, we have resolved that our focus should be on youths teams."

"In our plan of activities for this year, there are many junior and youth activities, we want to nurture young talents as we know that the future of athletics in the country is in the hands of these young athletes, we ask stakeholders to join us in this endeavour," he said.

The athletes will be training under coaches Mwinga Mwanjala (pictured) and Robert Kalyaha.

Mwinga explained that the athletes were selected based on their talent and not necessarily the number they occupied in the Open Junior Championships.

"We selected the athletes based on their potential and talent, we aim to build future athletes so results were not necessarily important, we were looking at the future potential of the individual talent," she said.

She said the 19 athletes are Siwema Julius, Shija Donald, Salma Samwel, Christian George, Elizabeth Kirario, Bravo George, Kimena Kibesa, Damian Christian, Fedelis Amadi, and Baraka Tullili.

Others are Emmanuel Amos, Eliza-



beth Ilanda, Gaudensia Manono, Elia Clement, Nicodemus Joseph, Nelson Mangura, Jackson Sylvester, Dickson Mangura, and Malcom.

The Open Junior Championships were open to all domestic junior athletes but most of the participants came from Arusha, Morogoro, Tabora, and Coast Region that had registered athletes for the showdown.

This is the second time in a row that AT is hosting EAAR Junior Championships, the regional track and field showdown, and Kallaghe described this as an opportunity for the country's junior athletes.

Initially, Rwanda was expected to be the regional track and field showdown's host but the country did not meet some of the conditions.

With Tanzania having hosted the tournament last year, the country was, for that matter, again awarded the opportunity to host it this year.

The championships will be used as qualification for Africa Junior Athletics Championships which will be held in Zambia next month.

This will be the third time in recent years that Tanzania is hosting the EAAR Junior Championships.

The country previously hosted it in 2017 and last year. World Athletics (WA) is the main sponsor of the event.

Dar school wins 2023 Rweikiza Bonanza Cup tourney



Kibaha's Sunshine Secondary School's student Abdulaziz Mwangi (L), and his counterparts Jesse Macheмба of St. Anne Marie Academy (C), and Claud Mhagama of Brilliant Secondary School participate in the eating competition, which was one of the events in the Rweikiza Bonanza Cup organized by St. Anne Marie Academy at Mbezi Kimara Kwa Msuguri in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Mwangi emerged as the winner. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MWENDAPOLE

By Guardian Correspondent

A sports tournament, dubbed 'Rweikiza Bonanza Cup', climaxed in Dar es Salaam on Saturday with St. Anne Marie's A Level side winning the football tournament with a victory over the school's O Level squad.

The showdown was held at St. Anne Marie Academy, located at Mbezi Kimara Kwa Msuguri, and involved teams from Brilliant Secondary School, Sunshine Secondary School of Kibaha, and St. Anne Marie Academy.

St. Anne Marie Academy's O Level and A Level teams recorded a victory over Sunshine Secondary School and Brilliant Secondary School teams to make it to the finals.

Other games that enlivened the bonanza included the eating competition which witnessed Sunshine Secondary School's student, Abdulaziz Mwangi, laying his hands on the top honour.

The three schools' Director, Jason Rweikiza, said after the showdown's climax they decided to organize the bonanza as

an incentive for more than 400 students of the schools who got Division One in Form Two national examinations in 2021 and 2022.

"This bonanza is dedicated to celebrating the success we achieved in these two years, our Form Two students did very well and we felt that it will be neither good nor fair to remain silent," Rweikiza noted.

"We have decided to recognize this good performance as motivation for our students. Teaching and achieving success

at this level is not an easy task, it is like a war and if you win the war, you deserve to celebrate," he said.

He said some students of St. Anne Marie Academy, Sunshine Secondary School, and Brilliant Secondary School got Division One (1.7 and 1.8).

"We have organized a dance here at the school this evening, the students of these three schools will dance to music, eat, and drink so it can serve a motivation for others to study hard," Rweikiza noted.

Boomplay partners Halotel to make music streaming more affordable in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

BOOMPLAY, the number one music streaming service in Africa, has entered a partnership with Halotel, one of the leading telecommunications companies in Tanzania, to launch the Boomplay and Halotel bundle to continue making music easily accessible to users.

The partnership offers Halotel customers free data and subscription bundles to stream unlimited music and access premium content on Boomplay at discounted rates. Halotel customers, according to the two parties, can access daily data bundles of 500/- with a bonus of 100MB, a weekly bundle of 2,000/- with a bonus of 300MB, and a monthly bundle of 6,000/- with a bonus of 500MB.

Natasha Stambuli, Boomplay Tanzania's General Manager, noted: "This partnership is another milestone in our bid to ensure that music continues to be more affordable and accessible to all Tanzanians, with millions of subscribers on their platform."

"I believe our partnership with Halotel offers an ideal opportunity to get music lovers closer to their

favourite songs, podcasts, and more content on Boomplay," the official revealed.

Commenting on the partnership, Halotel's Director of Business, Abdallah Salum, said: "As one of the fastest internet providers in Tanzania, we would like to use this opportunity to avail affordable data bundles and leverage our extensive network coverage to enable Tanzanians to enjoy a digital lifestyle."

"Through this partnership, our customers can now enjoy their favourite music on Boomplay using bundles that provide value and convenience," Salum stated.

The official noted: "Customers can enjoy ad-free streaming and unlimited downloads of millions of songs from their favourite artists through the Boomplay app at a discounted rate upon purchase of the Halotel Boomplay packages."

"Those not on the Halotel network can get a Halotel SIM card nationwide and download Boomplay App to access the services."

"Boomplay and Halotel users are encouraged to update their Boomplay App to the most recent version to enjoy the new features and offers," the official added.

Super-sub Nelson completes thrilling Arsenal fightback

BY SAM DEAN

MARTIN Odegaard fell to his knees, screaming towards the sky. Gabriel Magalhaes ripped off his shirt, pounding his chest. Thomas Partey slammed into his team-mates like a dodgem. Coaches and substitutes spilled onto the pitch, tumbling to the floor. Mikel Arteta ran in a direction he did not know, feeling emotions he later struggled to describe.

This is what football does to grown men. This is what title races do to footballers. Adult athletes reduced to hysterical pieces of fleshy rubble, while 60,000 supporters drift into a state of near-religious rapture all around them. A dream is becoming a reality in north London, crystallising in real time in front of the eyes of the players and fans.

If Arsenal do go on to win this Premier League title, there will be moments they look back upon as decisive. This was one of those. Perhaps it will turn out to be the defining moment of their journey, of their revival as a genuine force of English football.

A half-cleared cross to Reiss Nelson, a touch to control the bouncing ball and then another to laser it, left-footed, through the Bournemouth bodies and into the top corner of the net. Three actions, in barely three seconds, and suddenly it was three more points for an Arsenal team that continues to surf a powerful wave of emotion.



Reiss Nelson is congratulated by team-mates after he scores a goal to make it 3-2 in added time during Arsenal FC vs AFC Bournemouth at Emirates Stadium on March 04, 2023. (Agencies)

Perhaps it is fate, or destiny, or whatever you want to call it. Arteta said afterwards he believes in that stuff and maybe he felt something stirring in the stadium as Nelson's shot burst through the air. Three points were what Arsenal expected from this afternoon but they could not have expected them to arrive like this. Victories all mean the same to the league table, but not to the body and the mind.

"An extraordinary day," said Arteta. "A beautiful experience. Everybody is overwhelmed. It was

madness from the first seconds. At the end it was crazy. You lose sight of where you are. I didn't know where I was running. Looking at the faces of everybody, our staff, the players, the supporters... the smiles and all that joy in their eyes, it is just great to live."

This was a day of human emotion but the numbers tell a story of their own. There were only nine seconds on the clock when Bournemouth scored the opener, through Philip Billing, and there were 96 minutes and 57 seconds

on that same clock when Nelson delivered the final twist of the afternoon.

In between there were three more goals, and more chances than Arsenal were able to count. In total they produced 31 shots, the most of any team in a Premier League match this season, and completed 654 passes to Bournemouth's 103. Arsenal had more than 80 per cent of the ball and forced 17 corners, yet were just a few seconds from dropping two points.

That is the beauty of this sport. For Bournemouth, it is also the brutality of it. Gary O'Neil's side struck after just 9.11 seconds, with Billing converting the second-quietest goal in Premier League history after Dango Ouattara had burst down the right wing, but they could not survive the onslaught that followed.

"To put in so much work and come up five seconds short is a big blow," said O'Neil, whose team remain in the relegation zone. Not even a second goal, headed

in by Marcos Senesi from a corner, was enough for Bournemouth. Arsenal's Thomas Partey jabbed home from a set piece, before Ben White scored his first goal for the club and then, at the end, after so many shots and a number of appeals for a penalty, Nelson rose to the occasion.

"If we put him on the training ground and 50 times put him there, I don't know if he would score," said Arteta of Nelson, the academy graduate who has been overtaken by Bukayo Saka in recent seasons. "He did it in the perfect moment for the team, and the perfect moment for himself."

Title races are never straightforward, and life at Arsenal is rarely straightforward either. Even in the delight of the win, there was a nagging concern about their injury list: Leandro Trossard limped off to join Eddie Nketiah and Gabriel Jesus, their other strikers, on the treatment table.

Those are problems for another day, though. For the rest of this weekend, Arteta has only one intention: to enjoy this win, which preserved their five-point lead over Manchester City and reaffirmed their belief in everything they are doing in north London.

"I just told everybody to have some fun tonight," said the Arsenal manager. "When you go through moments like this, you have to enjoy it because it does not happen a lot in football. Tomorrow we can go back to work."

THE TELEGRAPH

Mikel Arteta revels in his 'most emotional moment' after last-gasp Arsenal victory

LONDON

AN overwhelmed Mikel Arteta described Arsenal's stunning victory over Bournemouth as the "most emotional moment" of his managerial career in north London as his team secured three precious points with a 97th-minute winner at the Emirates Stadium.

Reiss Nelson's remarkable strike preserved Arsenal's five-point lead over Manchester City in the title race and triggered the most intense celebrations at this club that Arteta has ever heard.

"It is probably the loudest and the most emotional moment that we have lived together," said Arteta, who also spent five years as an Arsenal player. "The journey that we have been on together, and how the supporters and the players are gliding together, it is really special."

Arsenal had conceded the second-fastest goal in Premier League history, scored by Philip Billing after only 9.11 seconds after a smart kick-off routine, and fell two goals behind before their comeback began in the 62nd minute.

Goals from Thomas Partey, Ben White and Nelson eventually turned the game around, with Nelson scoring the winner from the edge of the box in the 97th minute.

"Everybody is overwhelmed," said Arteta. "It was madness from the first seconds with that kick-off routine, and we defended so poorly. Then we had to climb a mountain against ten men behind the ball. We tried in every single way, we didn't score and suddenly we are 2-0 down from a set play."

"We showed a lot of maturity and resilience. We scored one and then the atmosphere and the energy changed. We had 31 shots and when we scored the second it was [a case of] 'throw the toys out and let's go for it.' It was an extraordinary day and a beautiful experience at the end. Dramatic, but worth living it because there was the greatest end to it."

Nelson's intervention was especially dramatic because the winger had not featured for the first team since November, before the World Cup break. Nelson was once seen as the star of the Arsenal academy but in recent seasons he has been



outshone by Bukayo Saka, and his future in north London is uncertain.

"I always saw the potential, the talent and the desire," said Arteta of the 23-year-old, whose contract expires at the end of this campaign. "Football-wise, it was my decision in the last two games not to play him because we had other options."

"But he was knocking on the door, he's been training really good and it's a good lesson for me and for the coaches that we need him and that he can be really important for the team."

Nelson described his goal as one of the "moments" his team will need if they are to claim the Premier League title this season.

"When the ball came out to me I was thinking 'please give me one chance', he said. 'I'm buzzing, really happy. I controlled it with my right foot and it came onto my left."

"We need moments like this if we want to go all the way. We're not looking at any other team at the minute. We are focusing on ourselves. We will keep going day-by-day, game-by-game. As an Arsenal fan, I'm just delighted with the result."

The late winner proved to be a savage blow for Bournemouth, who had defended impressively for much of the match. Gary O'Neil's side remain in the relegation zone ahead of a meeting with Liverpool next week.

"To put in that much work and effort, to push the team that are top of the league that close, it was a huge effort," said O'Neil. "To put in so much work and come up five seconds short is a big blow."

THE TELEGRAPH

Chris Rock punches back in new special

By JAKE COYLE

A YEAR after Will Smith smacked him on the Academy Awards stage, Chris Rock finally gave his rebuttal in a forceful stand-up special, streamed live on Netflix, in which the comedian bragged that he "took that hit like Pacquiao."

The 58-year-old comedian on Saturday night performed his first stand-up special since last year's Oscars in a much-awaited sequel that had all the hype – and more – of a Manny Pacquiao prizefight. "Chris Rock: Selective Outrage," streamed live from the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore, marked Netflix's first foray into live streaming. But it was also a long-awaited comedy counterpunch to Academy Awards infamy.

Rock, performing in all white and with a Prince medallion around his neck, immediately touched on last year's Oscars while riffing on "wokeness," hypersensitivity and what he called "selective outrage."

"You never know who might get triggered," said Rock. "Anybody who says words hurt hasn't been punched in the face."

But Rock then launched into a series of wide-ranging topics examining contemporary issues, including virtue signaling, high-priced yoga pants, the Duchess of Sussex, the Kardashians, abortion rights, the Capitol riot and what he called America's biggest addition: Attention.

"We used to want love, now we just want likes," said Rock.

Rock, who also riffed on how he'd respond if his father transitioned to a woman (he would support him, Rock said), made clear "Selective Outrage" was not going to be just a Will Smith show. Only occasionally did Rock's material dove-

tail with the 2022 Oscars, like it did when Rock joked about the oddity of Snoop Dogg becoming such a venerated pitch man for advertisers.

"I'm not dissing Snoop," said Rock. "The last thing I need is another mad rapper."

But an hour into his set, Rock closed the special with a torrent of material about the notorious Academy Awards moment.

"You all know what happened to me, getting smacked by Suge Smith. Everybody knows," Rock said. "It still hurts. I got 'Summertime' ringing in my ears."

While Smith has apologized and repeatedly spoken about the incident since last March, Rock has avoided all the usual platforms where celebrities often go to air their feelings. He never sat down with Oprah Winfrey, and turned away the many media outlets that would have loved to land an exclusive in-depth interview.

"I'm a not a victim, baby," said Rock. "You will never see me on Oprah or Gayle crying. You will never see it. Never going to happen."

But Rock did use his encounter with Smith to shape and enliven his second stand-up special for Netflix. Some of his best material was on their physical differ-

ences.

"We are not the same size. This guy does movies with his shirt off," said Rock. "You will never see me do a movie with my shirt off. If I'm in a movie getting open-heart surgery, I got on a sweater."

"He played Muhammad Ali," added Rock. "I played Pookie in 'New Jack City.'"

Ultimately, Rock suggested he was just caught in the crossfire in Smith's relationship with his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. It was a joke that Rock told about Pinkett Smith that prompted Smith to stride on stage and strike Rock. The comedian on Saturday referenced Pinkett Smith's earlier confessions of having an "entanglement" with another man while married.

"I did not have any entanglements," said Rock. "She hurt him way more than he hurt me."

"I love Will Smith," added Rock. "Now I watch 'Emancipation' just to see him get whooped."

Before dropping his microphone and holding his arms up triumphantly, Rock left the crowd with one last zinger. Rock said the reason why he didn't physically retaliate at the Oscars was because "I got parents."

"And you know what my parents taught me?" he said. "Don't fight in front of white people."

Netflix added pre- and post-show bookends of star-studded live programming with, as host comedian Ronny Chieng said, "every comedy legend who owes Netflix a favor." Bono lent an opening introduction. Dana Carvey and David Spade hosted the after-show. Paul McCartney, Tracy Morgan, Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld and one of last year's Oscar hosts, Wanda Sykes, all added pre-taped messages. Arsenio Hall guaranteed Rock's set would cause Smith to smack his television set.

For much of the past year, Rock has been touring new material in a long string of performances as part of his Ego Death tour. The shows, which had been announced before the 2022 Oscars, have featured performances with Dave Chapelle and Kevin Hart.

On the road, Rock has often worked in jokes and reflections on the slap. Rock first broke his public silence about the slap three nights after the Oscar ceremony, last year in Boston. "How was your weekend?" he asked the crowd. He added that he was "still kind of processing what happened."

After plenty of processing, Rock retook the cultural spotlight just a week before the March 12 Oscars, where

the slap is sure to be revisited by this year's host, Jimmy Kimmel. In the aftermath of last year's events, Smith resigned his membership to the film academy. The academy board of governors banned Smith from the Oscars and all other academy events for a decade.

At the annual luncheon for nominees held last month, motion picture academy president Janet Yang voiced regret about how the incident was handled, calling the academy's response "inadequate." Bill Kramer, the academy's chief executive, has said the academy has since instituted a crisis communications team to prepare for and more rapidly respond to the unexpected.

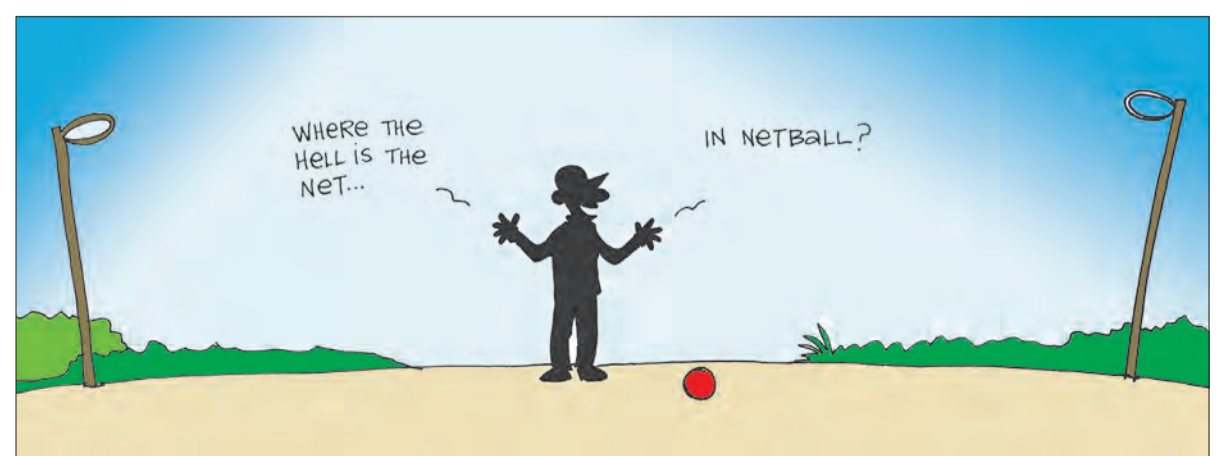
"Selective Outrage" is Rock's second special for Netflix, following 2018's "Tamborine." They're part of a two-special \$40 million deal Rock signed with the streamer in 2016.

As new as the live "Selective Outrage" was for Netflix, it was hard not to notice a few familiar things about it.

"You've got to give it to the tech companies for inventing something that existed for decades," said Chieng. "We're doing a comedy show on Saturday night ... live. Genius."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Super-sub Reiss Nelson completes thrilling Arsenal fightback

PAGE 19

Ummy to grace Bombo, JKCI 5km Fun Walk

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

MINISTER for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children, Ummy Mwalimu, is expected to grace the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) 5 kilometers Fun Walk and physical exercises scheduled for March 11 in Tanga.

The 5-kilometres Fun Walk is themed 'Walk with JKCI- Protect Your Heart Health'.

The walk and physical exercises have been jointly organized by Tanga's Bombo Referral Hospital in collaboration with Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI).

According to Bombo Referral Hospital's Medical Doctor in Charge, Naima Zakaria, all preparations for the events have been completed timely.

She further explained that the walk, which will take place from 6.30 am to 8.30 am, will get underway at National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) ground and participants will walk to Bombo Referral Hospital premises, and pass through Mkonge Hotel and Raskazone police post.

It will later pass through Nyinda Classic Hotel, GBP, Masai Utalii College, Lulu Image, then turn around to Tanga International School.

The walk will then head to Splendid Hotel, Tanesco regional office, Toyota agent shop, and climax at NIMR grounds.

Naima also invited all jogging clubs and Tanga residents to participate in the walk and physical exercises to fight non-communicable diseases.

According to Naima, the organizers will moreover hold a camp for heart problems examination.

Physical exercise is the performance of some activity to either develop or maintain physical fitness and overall health and is important as a means of physical rehabilitation.

It is useful in either preventing or treating coronary heart disease, osteoporosis, weakness, diabetes, obesity, and depression.

Ummy, who also doubles as Tanga's Member of Parliament, recently pledged to ensure that Mkwakwani Stadium is undergoing a major renovation including laying artificial turf to turn it into a modern stadium that meets international standards.

She stated that since Azam Media Limited had, in collaboration with Mkwakwani Stadium management, installed floodlights at the venue, it is the region's responsibility to make sure important areas in the venue are being renovated.



Ummy Mwalimu

Premier League sides avoid Federation Cup upsets



Yanga's midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki (L), outfoxes Tanzania Prisons' midfielder, Dotto Shaaban, when the clubs locked horns in a 2022/23 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) Round of 16's duel which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Yanga cruised to a 4-1 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THERE was to be no giant-killing in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) Round of 16 as 2022/23 NBC Premier League sides Simba SC, Yanga, Singida Big Stars, Ihefu SC, Geita Gold FC, and Mtbwa Sugar marched on to the ASFC quarterfinals.

The top-flight clubs edged out their respective opponents in the ASFC's Round of 16 ties that took place last weekend.

Simba SC, Singida Big Stars, Ihefu SC, and Geita Gold FC beat lower-league opposition to ease into the quarterfinals.

On Thursday, Simba SC beat second-tier outfit, Tanga's African Sports, 4-0 after being set on its way by an early first-half goal netted by Congolese forward, Jean Baleke.

Center-back Kennedy Juma, forward Mohamed Mussa, and winger Jimmyson Mwinuke were the other goal-scorers for Simba SC. On Friday, Geita Gold FC easily saw off Championship League side, Dar es Salaam's Green Warriors, winning 3-1 in Geita.

Geoffrey Manyasi, Danny Lyanga, and Elias Maguri scored the goals for Geita Gold FC to have the side reaching the quarterfinals for the second time in a row.

Singida Big Stars had the toughest assignment against Championship League leader, JKT Tanzania, but came through with a hard-fought 1-0 home win. Congolese defender, Biemes Carno, scored for the NBC Premier League side in added-on time.

The ASFC reigning champion, Yanga, eased into the last eight after commanding a comfortable 4-1 home win over Tanzania Prisons at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Second-half goals netted by captain Bakari Mwamnyeto, and Clement Mzize, who scored a brace, and a penalty converted by Stephane Aziz Ki secured Yanga a tie in the next round scheduled for early next month.

At Manungu Stadium in Morogoro, hosts Mtbwa Sugar squeezed past fellow NBC Premier League side, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, with a 1-0 victory to also book a place in the last eight.

Right full-back David Kameta scored the all-important goal for Mtbwa Sugar through a first-half spot-kick.

Ihefu SC also cruised to a 2-0 home win at Highland Estates Stadium, Mbarali,

overcoming Championship League side Pan Africans to reach the quarterfinals for the first time in the former's history.

Andrew Simchimba scored on either side of halftime for the hosts to take his tally to seven goals in the ASFC.

He is only two goals shy of reaching last season's ASFC top goal scorer, Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu' now turning out for Azam FC.

Azam FC, Kagera Sugar, and Mbeya City FC were set to complete the quarterfinals lineup on Sunday.

Mwanza's Mapinduzi FC, the only non-league side in the competition, was scheduled to come up against

Azam FC at Azam Complex Stadium.

Kagera Sugar and Mbeya City FC were set to face each other in an all-NBC Premier League affair at Kaitaba Stadium. Other NBC Premier League sides, Dodoma Jiji FC, Tanzania Prisons, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, Ruvu Shooting, Polisi Tanzania, Namungo FC, and Coastal Union were eliminated in the Round of 32 games played in January.

In addition to a trophy, medals and 50m/- prize money, the winner of the ASFC earns a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Airtel, Ministry of Tourism to support local artists' content

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania has promised to continue supporting local artists' content to promote the country's culture and economy.

Airtel Tanzania's Director of Communications, Beatrice Singano, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources, Hassan Abbas, made the statement during their meeting in Dodoma over the weekend.

The Managing Director of the Tanzania Film Board, Kiagho Kilonzo, was also in attendance.

Beatrice disclosed: "Airtel is committed to continually bringing innovative products and services in Tanzania to suit Airtel customers' needs and lifestyle."

"For that reason, we understand that artists are part of our customers and that is why we launched the Airtel TV App which allows artists to upload their content to get viewers, both local and international," she stated.

She added: "We understand the government's efforts in promoting our natural resources and culture through tourism. It is for that reason Airtel has decided to introduce Airtel TV to provide a platform for our local artists."

The official noted: "We aim to continue supporting our local talents to grow and adopt digital as one way of promoting their content."

She said the modern platform will provide videos on demand with the number expected to increase, insisting to



Airtel Tanzania's Communications Director, Beatrice Singano.

work with the Tanzania Film Board and other institutions to ensure local content and artists get the expected return on investment.

Abbas commended Airtel for supporting local artists, saying it is a testimony that the entertainment industry in the country, and particularly the movie industry is growing.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate Airtel for their commitment to supporting our local talents and especially through Airtel TV, as now our artists will have a digitized platform to showcase their works and hence increase not only the reach of their works but also their income," Abbas revealed.

He called upon artists across the country to take advantage of the opportunity and provide more local content which has gained popularity among the viewers in Tanzania.

"The Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources will make it possible for our artists to use our tourism attractions when preparing content as a way of promoting tourism in Tanzania."

"We are all aware of the efforts put in by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in promoting our tourism sector through the royal tour," the Permanent Secretary stated.

"Now with Airtel coming to support our artists we are sure that our entertainment industry is going to the next level," Abbas disclosed.

He said the advancement in technology has brought about new ways of creating media content and platforms like mobile services are now able to broadcast TV.

He added: "The Tanzania Film Board commends Airtel and the value that it will bring to the entertainment industry. In this regard, we continue supporting this effort and will work diligently with Airtel to monitor the uploads and ensure that the contents safeguard our cultural values."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

