



National Pg 3 Govt awards 47 researchers



National Pg 4 US supports women entrepreneurs



National Pg 6 ZAECA probes bribery incident



Page 13



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega (R) briefs President Samia Suluhu Hassan on modern fishing gear soon after she laid the foundation stone for a fishing bay at Kilwa Masoko in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, yesterday. Photo: State House

Minister extolls booming ties in Turkey-Tanzania business meeting

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A 30-member Turkish business delegation is in the country to explore opportunities for investments and trading outlets.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Industry and Trade minister, opened a bilateral business forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday where the delegation held discussions and business-to-business interactivity with top officials of more than 100 local companies.

Those attending were drawn from the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

The minister said Tanzania and Turkey share a historical connection that has evolved into a

dynamic trade partnership.

"Over the years, economic ties between our two nations have grown significantly, driven by a mutual desire to enhance cooperation and promote prosperity," she said.

Noticeably, Turkish Airlines have direct routes from Istanbul to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar that operate three times per week, with the routes opening up mutual tourism and trade opportunities.

During the past 26 years, exports from Turkey to Tanzania have increased at an annualised rate of 17.3 percent, from \$4.55m in 1995 to \$500m in 2022 while in 2021 Tanzania exported goods worth \$37.6, to Turkey, chiefly gold (\$14.9m and raw tobacco (\$11.2m), she stated.

The trade mission would further enhance trade by effectively utilising existing potentials with

TURN TO PAGE 2

RC launches Yara's boosted animal feed

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

ANOTHER innovation towards making the country's animal products capture export markets, Yara (T) Ltd has introduced quality animal feed applicable for livestock, poultry and aquaculture.

Halima Dendego, Iringa Regional Commissioner, described the products as likely to transform the country's livestock and fisheries sector, when launching the new animal nutrition products here yesterday.

This initiative opens a new chapter that empowers farmers by supplying a range of top-quality animal nutrition products revolutionising the animal feed sub sector.

"The range of animal feed products available through the Yara (T) distributors' network countrywide will help large numbers of livestock and poultry keepers, along with aquaculture farmers boost their profits in line with climate change," the RC said.

This shows how the public and private sectors work together to promote breeding productivity, saving considerable amounts of foreign currency used annually to import milk, meat and eggs, such imports deny jobs to local people and income loss for the government, she stated.

The company's innovative products opens the way to elevating the livestock sector by bringing to the market helpful animal nutrition

raising production levels for meat, milk and eggs, she stated

Winstone Odhiambo, the firm's managing director, said that the firm produces quality animal nutrition products now being introduced in the local market.

The management is excited and looks forward to working closely with the various groups involved to improve the quality of milk and beef production, he said.

He said that the animal nutrition products are manufactured at the highest standards at Yara's state of the art factory in South Africa where they will be sourced and distributed in Tanzania at competitive prices.

The initiative pursues objectives of the just ended Africa Food System Forum (AGRF) where commitments were made by participating countries to take action to ascertain food security, work to end poverty and ensure inclusive prosperity.

Tanzania is the third country in the region to introduce animal nutrition from Yara International after South Africa and Kenya, with these products being used in Europe for decades "where the livestock industry has grown to become a multibillion-dollar business," he declared.

Dr Peter Mukua, the firm's sales nutritionist said the firm offers a complete range of nutritional needs for animals, engaging with farmers, animal feed manufacturers and regulatory authorities to ensure the highest standards of service to significantly boost the livestock and fisheries sub sectors.

Dairy farmers are assured of an additional three litres per cow per day upon use of the recommended animal feed solutions, he said, on the background of affirmations by the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) that Tanzania has an annual milk production deficit of 9bn litres of milk, if projected optimal consumption per year is put at 12bn litres.

Samia flags off work on Kilwa fishing port, hands motorboats

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday laid the foundation stone for the 266bn/- fishing port in Kilwa Masoko, Lindi Region, as part of the country's blue economy drive.

The event was conducted alongside inaugurating 160 motorboats purchased by the government for distribution to fishermen and seaweed farmers working on the seashore and inland lakes.

President Samia said that the government seeks to transform the fisheries sector through investing in innovative projects, when addressing residents and stakeholders soon after laying the foundation stone.

The newly built boats will benefit small-scale fishers and seaweed farmers where 129 bigger



Leaders have to heighten efforts to control illegal fishing as this is going to kill the sector

boats will be used for deep fishing and 21 boats allocated for easing seaweed farming.

President Samia said that the launched project will take 24 months to be completed, positioning Tanzania as one among countries with a well-equipped harbour to facilitate deep fishing, along with fish processing and value addition.

The boats, equipped with advanced GPS and fish finder technology to guide fishermen to abundant fishing zones, while the five to 14 metres boats can move into deep sea, equipped with a deep freezer and a 1.5tonnes maximum storage capacity depending on the size.

She urged the beneficiaries being loaned the boats to utilize them well and repay the loans on time for others to be provided with similar

TURN TO PAGE 2

Tanzania wins praise for expanding tax collection

● Inflation expected to remain low compared to neighbouring countries, World Bank report says

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has praised efforts towards expanding tax collection, similarly noting improved efficiency and fiscal policy effectiveness.

Nathan Belete (pictured), the World Bank country director, expressed this view at the launch of the 19th Tanzania Economic Update, focused on efficiency and effectiveness of the country's fiscal policy.

Such improvement is vital to address rising income and wealth inequalities and to increase spending on priority sectors such as education and health for stronger human capital outcomes, he stated.

"Tanzania's economy has been steadily



expanding and fiscal policies have been successful in reducing income inequality, but there is still room for enhancing these policies to improve public spending in priority programs," the director noted.

"If the healthcare system was to operate at utmost efficiency, Tanzania could enhance critical health outcomes by 11 percent without necessitating additional resources," he asserted.

The report showed that Tanzania made some progress in expanding tax collection, with the tax-to-GDP ratio increasing from 10 percent in 2004/05 to 11.8 percent in 2022/2023.

Meanwhile, public spending increased from 12.6 percent of GDP to 18.2 percent of GDP during the period, which is still lower than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa, low-income countries, and lower-middle-income countries, the report indicates.

Jaffar Rikabi, a World Bank senior economist and co-author of the report, said: Tanzania should strive for greater expenditure predictability for increased physical and human capital investments. This will drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth over the long term, he stated.

The update comes at a time when the global and regional economic outlook remains

TURN TO PAGE 2





Fortunatus Magambo (R), the Public Sector Social Security Fund's Director of Investment and Planning, presents a seedling to prospective retiree Thadeo Daniel in Mbeya city on Tuesday. It was at a two-day counselling and sensitisation seminar for PSSF members approaching retirement age. Second-right is the fund's Director of Procurement and Supplies, Ernest Khisombi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Number of tourists visiting Saadani National Park up'

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

THE number of tourists visiting the country also visited Saadani National Park whose number had increased from 3,400 to 29,000, it was revealed. Apart from increasing the number of tourists, revenues from the national park have increased from 40m/- in 2005 to 1.6bn/- in 2023.

In an interview with this paper,

tourism officer within the park Athuman Mbae said the national park has special attractive features to attract tourists both locally and internationally.

"After the launch of the 'Royal Tour' there has been an influx of tourists from all corners of the world to Saadani National Park," this has been a positive outcome," he said.

One of the most attractive features

in the National Park was the fact that the park borders the Indian Ocean which can only be found in Tanzania.

Commenting on the same, District Commissioner Zainab Abdallah said they have started inviting investors to the park.

The investment needed is part of efforts to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan to market Tanzania's tourism destinations.

He said they have decided to invest heavily in the financial sector after seeing that it is the government's priority which is aimed at changing people's lives and ending poverty.

"Let me assure you that, we are committed to ensure that more tourists visit the national park together with other tourist destinations that are available in the country," she said.

Tanzania wins praise for expanding tax collection

FROM PAGE 1

gloomy owing to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and extensive drought in sub-Saharan Africa.

Global growth is projected to slow significantly in 2023 at 2.1 percent as continued monetary tightening constrains credit supply, the report affirms.

Against this background, emerging markets and developing economies like Tanzania have been caught up in global monetary tightening policies that were implemented to soften inflationary pressure, it said.

The update shows that countries such as Tanzania can strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of tax and expenditure policies to improve policy outcomes and support inclusive and sustainable growth.

While public spending is low across all expenditure categories, the gap is largest for social spending, with spending on education and healthcare respectively averaging 3.3 percent and 1.2 percent of GDP during fiscal 2021/2022. These figures fall below the average spending levels of 4.4 percent and 2.3 percent for lower-middle-income countries, it said.

Tanzania's headline inflation will continue to decline and remain significantly lower compared to neighbouring economies. The inflation rate is projected to decrease from around 4 percent in 2023 to approximately 3.9 percent in 2025.

The decline in inflation is linked with moderating global energy prices and a stable food supply, which is supported by increased public expenditure in the agriculture sector, the report added.

Samia flags off work on Kilwa fishing port, hands motorboats

FROM PAGE 1

loans, noting that a number of youth in Kilwa will be enrolled to engage in fishing and aquaculture through the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) initiative.

Once the project is completed, we will increase the number of cargo ships docking to upload fish and other products, she stated.

Residents must stop using explosives for fishing as this damages fish reproduction and ruins the environment for numerous species along the seashore, she said.

"Leaders have to heighten efforts to control illegal fishing as this is going to kill the sector," she said, cautioning leaders on tendencies of embezzlement of development funds.

The government has disbursed vast amounts of money to bring changes in many areas but some dishonest people pocket the cash, she said in displeasure.

She acknowledged having heard the vast outcry on invasions by wild animals, affirming that is working on a robust nationwide plan to fight such invasions that destroy property, farms

and occasion loss of life.

Abdallah Ulega, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, earlier said some of the boats will be handed to women seaweed farmers, citing five-metre boats as earmarked for the purpose.

He said that in the current financial year the ministry's outlays were boosted to 295bn/-, a massive increase from the previous year's 176bn/- estimates.

Building the fishing port will engage over 30,000 youths and introduce new technology, knowledge and expertise, he said, pointing out that the local fishing industry employs over five million people.

These include fishermen, boat repairs, net sewers and small-scale fish traders, he said, noting that the new port will have a ship making depot, fishing nets production and extensive yard for big ships to dock and a fish desalting area.

The port will have storage space for 300 tonnes of fish at a time, equipment for fish processing, as part of efforts to increase total fish production from the current 479,311 tonnes to one million tonnes by 2037, he added.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R) receives a souvenir from the chairman of the Turkish firm KFCGIDA, Birol Celep, during the B2B forum held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The talks involved Turkish and Tanzanian delegations. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

'Political commitment vital in achieving SDGs, says SOS'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

POLITICAL commitment and mobilisation of financial resources have been mentioned as critical in accelerating implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and children safeguarding.

Dr Dereje Wordofa, President of SOS Children's Village made the statement in Dar es Salaam during a familiarisation tour in Tanzania to see how the organisation is doing to safeguard children.

SOS Children's Village is a non-governmental organisation focused on supporting children without parental care and families at risk.

He said financial resources are among major challenges facing most of

the government to ensure the future of children who are at risk.

The president said that collaboration amongst stakeholders is important to ensure all children at risk are safeguarded.

"Our collaboration including political commitment and mobilisation of financial resources are vital to ensure children at risk get necessary services such as going to school and related services," he said.

He commended the government for its strong leadership and collaboration with non-governmental organisations towards ensuring the future of children at risk.

Dr Nandera Mhando, Commissioner for Social Welfare, from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender,

Women and Special Groups said that violation of children's rights is still a big challenge in the country.

She said the government prohibited parents to capture and post pictures of their children below 18 years old since it is a violation of children's rights.

Dr Mhando said that Section 9 of the Child Act of 2009 prohibits parents or anyone from posting a photo of a child on an online platform or television.

SOS Children's Village board chairman, Haruna Masebu said the organisation operates in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

He said since its inception, over 6,000 children at risk across the country have benefitted from programmes offered at the villages.

Masebu said that child abuse is

an emerging problem among the community adding that increased awareness is highly needed.

"We as SOS children's village, in Tanzania, remain steadfast to collaborating with the government in ensuring children in need and at risk are assured their future interns of safety," he said.

In Tanzania, there are four children villages under the SOS family care programme in Zanzibar (Unguja), Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza.

SOS children's villages is the world's largest organisation focused on ensuring that children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it grow up with the care, relationships and support they need to become their strongest selves.

Minister extolls booming ties in Turkey-Tanzania business meet

FROM PAGE 1

more Turkish companies seeking business opportunities here, she said.

She heaped praise on Turkish construction giant Yapı Merkezi, which took up a \$3.1bn railway construction project in 2017, the initial two phases of a greater five-phase project. The railway project will connect Tanzania with Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mehmet Gulluoglu, the resident Turkish ambassador, said the Turkish businessmen represent sectors like technology, construction and textiles.

They have come to meet businessmen from more than 100 Tanzanian companies to exchange ideas and how we can do business together, he said, affirming expectations of considerable success due to strong relations between the two countries.

"Tanzania and Turkey are not business competitors but partners who have been helping each other to strengthen various businesses for Tanzanians to send products to Turkey and vice versa," he said.

Vicent Minja, the TCCIA vice president, said the chamber expects that cooperation between the two countries would be strengthened.

"We have worked closely with the Turkish Embassy to foster an enabling environment for trade. TCCIA has also organized successful trade missions to Turkey, providing Tanzanian businesses with the platform to explore opportunities in the Turkish market," she said.

TCCIA takes pride in the establishment of the Diaspora Office in Istanbul, which serves as a vital link for Tanzanian businesses and the Turkish market, he added.

Government calls upon public institutions to collaborate on home electronic systems

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

GEORGE Simbachawene, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has pointed a finger at public institutions that purchase electronic systems from foreign and called on them to collaborate with e-Government Authority (eGA) on home electronic systems.

Speaking here yesterday after visiting eGA's Centre for Research, Innovation and Systems Development at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), Simbachawene said "it is shame to see some of public institutions continue purchasing the systems outside the country instead of using those invented by Tanzania's innovative youth."

He added: "Instead of spending a lot of money buying the systems from foreign, they should come to our institution, the eGA that invents and

creates various electronic systems.

"We have our own electronic systems we are proud of innovations and research by our youth at our centre involving high degree professionalism excellence." He also said his ministry, through eGA is supervising and boosting the centre that focuses to conduct research on new emerging technologies so as not to let Tanzania remain behind, as stated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

For his part, the Director General of e-Government Authority (eGA) Benedict Ndomba said the Authority, in collaboration with higher education institutions had prepared a special practical training programme in the ICT field in order to go in tandem with the job market.

He said the establishment of the centre is among government's efforts to create an environment for doing adequate research in ICT field.



Saidi Juma (L) of Mheza village in Kilindi District pictured yesterday airing his grievances to Kwekivu division officer Michael John (R), who held a meeting with herders chiefly meant to tackle the challenges they commonly face. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Government awards 47 Tanzanian researchers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has awarded some 47 Tanzanian researchers, whose works have been published in international high impact factors journals between July 2022 and May, 2023.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology announced the names of the researchers here, expressing the government's commitment to continue supporting such efforts.

The winners published in the high impact factors journals between July 2022 and May 31, 2023 will share 500m/- according to the criteria outlined by the panel of judges led by Professor Yunus Mgaya.

Prof Mkenda announced to start issuing the award when tabling the ministry's 2022/23 financial year budget and 1bn/- was allocated for publication in the international journals in health and allied sciences as well as natural science and mathematics.

Prof Mkenda said that 500m/- out of 1bn/- will be disbursed depending on whether the winner was the main author or co-author of the winning journals.

He used the platform to announce a new submission window for the journals in agriculture and animal science, engineering and technology published between July 2022 and May 31, 2023.

Earlier, the Award Publications Review Committee Chairman, Prof Yunus Mgaya said that 82 applications were received from researchers of public and private higher education institutions in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

He noted that out of 82 applications, 71 came from public higher education institutions and 11 from private institutions.

"The submission window of these publications were officially closed on May 31st, 2023 and followed by the evaluation and recommendation process of the publications that meet

the award criteria in accordance with the award guidelines," he said.

He said the committee used a number of criteria to get the winners including the Revised Harmonized Scheme of Service for Academic Staff in Public Universities and Constituent Colleges of 2022, Guidelines for Researchers Publishing in High Impact Factor Journals, Due Diligence and national research priorities

Prof Mgaya added that award winners are from University of Dodoma, Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology, Kampala International University, Ardhi University, Open University of Tanzania and University of Dar es Salaam.

Others are from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Arusha Technical College, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences and Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP).



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Tanzania happy with progress of wagons and locomotives for SGR

By Guardian Correspondent

AMINA Khamis Shaaban, deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance has expressed satisfaction on work in progress of wagons and locomotives for the Standard

Gauge Railway (SGR) undertaken by Hyundai Rotem and Sing Sung Rolling Stock Technology (SSRST) of South Korea.

She made the remarks after visiting the firms' manufacturing plants in Changwon, South Korea that had

entered into agreement with the government of Tanzania for making 59 wagons and 17 locomotives as well as 10 Electric Multiple Units.

"In both firms the work progress is satisfactory and officials have told us that they hope to complete the work

in time as per contract agreement," said Amina.

She also used the occasion telling the concerned sectors to make sure they provide training for those who will be involved in the trains' operations and empowered to ensure they serve the people well and both the locomotives and wagons last long.

Tanzania's delegation was in Busan, South Korea for the 7th Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAPEC) joining other African countries at the meeting.

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PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY SCANCEM INTERNATIONAL DA OF 68.33% OF THE ISSUED SHARES IN TANGA CEMENT PLC, A COMPANY ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, REGISTERED AT BRELA UNDER THE NUMBER 5068 ("TANGA CEMENT")

Shareholders of Tanga Cement are referred to the joint announcement made by Heidelberg Materials AG, formerly HeidelbergCement AG ("Heidelberg Materials") and AfriSam Mauritius Investment Holdings Limited ("AfriSam") on 26 October 2021 and the further joint announcements made on 1 July 2022, 1 September 2022, 4 October 2022 and 18 January 2023, respectively ("the Previous Announcements"), which announcements relate to the proposed acquisition by Scancem International DA ("Scancem"), a subsidiary of Heidelberg Materials, of 43,504,403 ordinary shares in Tanga, constituting AfriSam's 68.33% shareholding in Tanga ("the Acquisition"). The Acquisition is subject to the fulfilment or, if applicable, waiver of a number of conditions precedent ("the Conditions"). Details of the Conditions are set out in the Previous Announcements.

Terms written with a capital letter in this Announcement bear the meaning ascribed thereto in the Previous Announcements.

Scancem submitted a new merger application with the revised acquisition terms and updated market and economic data pertaining to the Acquisition to the Fair Competition Commission ("FCC") in December 2022 ("the Revised Acquisition Terms"). The FCC granted an unconditional approval for the Acquisition on the Revised Acquisition Terms on 28 February 2023 ("the FCC Approval").

There were various proceedings launched before the Fair Competition Tribunal and the Tanzania High Court to challenge the FCC Approval. Shareholders of Tanga are informed that all proceedings challenging the FCC Approval and/or the implementation of the Acquisition have now either been dismissed or withdrawn and, accordingly, this particular Condition to the Acquisition has now been fulfilled.

Shareholders of Tanga Cement are cautioned that there are still other Conditions to the Acquisition which must be fulfilled, or waived, and there is no certainty that this will occur timeously and, in the circumstances, there is no certainty that the Acquisition will be implemented. The remaining regulatory approvals are those required from the Capital Markets and Securities Authority, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange and the Tanzanian Revenue Authority.

Shareholders are advised to continue to exercise caution when dealing in their Tanga Cement shares until a further announcement regarding the completion of the Acquisition is made.

About Scancem

Scancem is a Norwegian partnership company founded in 1986 and is located in Oslo, Norway, with registration number 943 513 716 and registered address c/o HeidelbergMaterials Norway AS, Lilleakerveien 2A, 0283 Oslo, Norway. The partners are two Norwegian limited liability companies, both ultimately owned 100% by HeidelbergMaterials. Scancem is part of the lumber and other construction materials merchant wholesalers industry and produces and distributes cement.



US supports 30 Pemba women entrepreneurs

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

THIRTY women entrepreneurs from Pemba Island in Zanzibar have benefited from a three-month specialised training in business and entrepreneurship with support from the United States government.

The training has been provided through the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme for 13 weeks equipping women with essential skills and expertise to transform their projects.

Speaking to the graduates during the ceremony yesterday here, US ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle congratulated the women urging them to utilise well what they learned to continue building successful businesses.

Ambassador Battle described the impact of the training that AWE provides saying:

"The 13 weeks of training have provided you with the practical skills to create sustainable businesses, as well as a network of mentors and like-minded entrepreneurs in the United States."

AWE is a global initiative of the US government seeking to promote women's economic empowerment with the goal of helping 50 million women worldwide fulfill their economic potential which is committed to providing women the knowledge, networks, and access they need to turn their ideas into reality.

He further added that empowering women economically is the fastest way to change society.

"Women have a strong multiplier effect on the wider community because when women succeed, they are more likely to invest their earnings into their families and their communities, paying for things like

their children's education and health care. The economic benefits of your accomplishments support future generations. Your creativity is already having an impact on the society and the economy of Tanzania," he said.

The Pemba cohort is the tenth group of women to participate in AWE. Other groups of women have participated in Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Zanzibar, Mwanza, Dodoma, Mbeya, Bagamoyo in Coast Region, Kigoma, and Kagera.

Through a partnership with the US African Development Foundation (USADF), entrepreneurs participating in the AWE program are eligible for additional seed funds from USADF ranging up to \$20,000 to expand their businesses.

The US Embassy partners with Selfina to implement the AWE programme in Tanzania. Founded in 2002 by Dr. Victoria Kisyonbe, Selfina is a pioneer of micro-credit in Tanzania through micro-leasing with particular attention to widows and young girls. In the past 19 years SELFINA has economically empowered more than 31,000 women through an active revolving fund.

Over 300,000 lives have been impacted through the benefits accrued. Women are now owners of their own businesses and more than 150,000 jobs have been created.

The graduation ceremony was also attended by Minister of State President's Office Labour, Economy, and Investment - Zanzibar Honourable Mudrick Ramadhan Soraga, Southern Pemba Regional Commissioner, Salama Mbarouk Khatib, District Commissioner of Chake Chake District, Abdalla Rashid Ali, coordinator of Pemba public library Ahmed Amour and many other distinguished guests.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (2nd-R), Serengeti Breweries Ltd communications and sustainability manager Rispa Hatibu (2nd-L), Hanang district administrative secretary Athumani Likeyekei (L) and Hanang district commissioner Janeth Mayanja visibly impressed at the launch of 'Learning for Life' training in the district on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Singida RC tasks district officials to fire all lazy workers from building projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA regional commissioner Peter Serukamba has instructed district officials in the region to fire all lazy workers and technicians who were tasked in the construction of two building projects in the region, and hire others in their places to speed up construction pace for their completion before September 25 this year.

The RC issued the instructions

here yesterday during his visit to the teachers' quarters building and a new secondary school projects in the districts of Iramba, Mkalama and Singida as well as Singida Municipality being implemented from the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP).

"After losing technicians in one building, you hire technicians from other buildings, you cannot have technicians working at two structures at the same time and that is why

construction pace of the projects has been slow, make sure every technician remains at one building," RC Serukamba told building engineers.

He also instructed District Commissioners, District Executive Directors and district engineers to make sure they daily supervise contractors who were contracted to implement the two projects so that they are handed over in time.

He said they should not leave the supervisory work to teachers only

and that they should not accept any reasons for projects' delays especially if it is through laziness as all building materials had been purchased by the government.

"I want to see these structures completed by September 25 this year, to make sure the contractors increase the number of workers to speed up the work," said Serukamba.

For his part, Singida Municipal Mayor Jeshi Lupembe said all instructions given by the Regional Commissioner will be implemented and that the construction of Utemini secondary school which the government had provided 544m/- is being carried out after the students were moved due to cracks on the walls of the school.

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ZEEA vows to address challenges facing Zanzibari entrepreneurs

By Correspondent Zuena Shame

THE Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency (ZEEA) has said that in the implementation of economic empowerment activities to Zanzibar it has taken various efforts to make sure entrepreneurs are empowered by addressing challenges facing them in order to build up an inclusive economy.

The observation was made here by the agency's managing director, Juma Mohammed in a telephone interview with this paper.

Mohamed said ZEEA is a new institution established by the Zanzibar Government focusing on empowering the people economically by having in place a friendly environment to enable them raise their incomes and reduce poverty.

He cited among the efforts taken includes entering into agreements with various

institutions that provide opportunities to small entrepreneurs in accessing capital, training and accessing markets for their products within and outside the country.

He mentioned the institutions as TanTrade, Maisha Bora Foundation, USAID and Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS).

"Through these agreements, various institutions have started providing training to officials and agents in order to address challenges that emerge among the entrepreneurs," Mohamed said.

He said that ZEEA has received 18 crops



A total of 1,615 entrepreneurs have been provided with training to conduct their business activities whereas 750 beekeepers have been provided with equipment for the purpose in order to enhance their incomes

and fruits processing machines provided by FAO to assist entrepreneurs get training on how to produce quality products.

For his part, Head of ZEEA Communications Unit, Hakim Kimara said as for now ZEEA continues to provide loans to small entrepreneurs in all Zanzibar and Pemba districts aimed at enhancing capital to conduct their business activities, and added that up to now, a total of 20.23bn/- has been provided, Unguja 12.33bn/- and Pemba 7.89bn/-.

Kimara said the loans were given to 19,373

beneficiaries, 7,527 men and 11,846 women through the INUKA Fund in order to expand its loan providing activities.

He added that ZEEA has also been able to provide various training to entrepreneurs' startups including those engaged in beekeeping, fruits processing as well as training on online marketing in all districts of Unguja and Pemba.

"A total of 1,615 entrepreneurs have been provided with training to conduct their business activities whereas 750 beekeepers have been provided with equipment for the purpose in order to enhance their incomes," Kimara said. He added that in simplifying training activities, ZEEA has established and developed its training centres including the Zanzibar Technology and Business Incubator (ZTBI) at Mbweni and the barefoot College at kibokwa as well as the honey processing centre at Kizimbani and Pujini in Zanzibar and Pemba respectively.

Minister wants Ngahokora village in Songea to be linked to national grid

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs), has directed the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) through Rural Energy Agency (REA) to ensure villagers at Ngahokora village in Songea District are connected to the national grid by December this year.

Mhagama issued the directive shortly launching newly constructed classrooms at Ngahokora primary school in Kizuka ward. The minister is on a tour of Peramiho constituency in Ruvuma Region to inspect various development projects.

She said connecting the villagers to the national grid would improve their welfare as they would be able to establish small businesses, thus boosting their income. She said power services will also ensure provision of health services at dispensaries and health centres during night.

"We are implementing the ruling party's election manifesto; we have successfully connected electricity at Magagula ward and we are now working to ensure residents in Kizuka ward enjoy the service by the end of this year," said the minister.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing 2bn/-

directed on construction of a hospital at Mpitimbi for purpose of improving provision of health care services.

She said: "The hospital at Mpitimbi will also benefit villagers from Ngahokora who are currently forced to work long distances to Peramiho hospital. Efforts are ongoing to improve road networks between villages to facilitate transport services."

Songea District chairman, Menas Komba said villagers at Ngahokora face a number of challenges including lack of electricity services, water, poor road network and limited number of beds at maternity wards.

Kizuka ward councillor, Jacob Nditi said the government has been implementing various projects at the areas for economic empowerment purposes.

Ngahokora village executive officer, Tumaini Kaaya commended the government for improving the learning environment at public schools, saying the move will result in increased academic performance.

Kaaya said that the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) and TANESCO have both started implementing projects in the village. He said the state owned power firm has already brought to the village a total of 53 electricity poles while TARURA has started working to improve the roads.

MORUWASA and TIB team up to complete water supply service in three wards of Moro municipality

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA) in collaboration with Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) have put in place a joint strategy to connect water supply services to more than 40,000 households in three wards of Morogoro municipality.

MORUWASA Managing Director, Eng Tamim Katakweba disclosed this here yesterday as he addressed water stakeholders involving TIB officials during their visit at some of TIB water projects including the improvements to the Kilakala water tank in Bigwa area.

Katakweba stressed that the wards that will benefit by the supply of water by December this year through the 2-million litre Mkundi water tank include Kihonda, Lukobe and Mkundi.

He said MORUWASA has attained 86 per cent in the completion of the huge water project, and added: "Together we can make sure more than

80 per cent of residents in the area will be connected to clean and safe water supply service by December this year thereby making history for the three wards with long time water scarcity challenges."

For his part, the Chairman of TIB Board of Directors, Sosthenes Kewe said water is an important commodity for the development of every Tanzanian including enhancing achievements in industrial production and farming.

He said it appears that residents of the area have no piped water service at all hence the MORUWASA-TIB collaboration will provide a solution in alleviating the situation.

Theodora Chimola, resident of Mkundi Ward appealed to MORUWASA to complete water supply distribution network by December as pledged because, he added, water scarcity has been a great challenge to them, as they are being forced to buy the basic commodity at 500/- per 20 litre plastic container considering of their low incomes.



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The work is estimated to take not more than 30 days to be completed between October 2023 and June 18, 2024. All interested applicants should please visit the COUNSENUTH website: www.counsenuth.or.tz to access the full CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST and should submit their applications together with their proposed remuneration for the work, via e-mail provided at the address below:

Application closing date : 03 October 2023

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E-mail: info@counsenuth.or.tz



Iringa regional commissioner Halima Dendego (R) and Yara Tanzania Fertiliser Company managing director Winstone Odhiambo draw the curtain in Iringa municipality yesterday to launch seven livestock feed varieties. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ECN urges government to come up with robust plan to hire specialists

By Getrude Mbagu

EDUCATION Champions Network Tanzania (ECN) has urged the government to come up with a robust plan to hire specialists for the provision of psycho-social support and counselling to students who are reinstated back to school.

According to the stakeholders, the re-entry policy needs to be improved to incorporate more issues which facilitate smooth reinstatement of children to school as the majority of girls are still not going back to school due to several challenges.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a stakeholders' meeting, the activists wanted the government to invest in awareness and capacity building programmes which will involve training education officers, heads of schools, teachers and local government leaders on the re-entry guideline and how they are required to implement it for the benefit of the nation.

The network which works under Malala Fund, consists of five non-governmental organizations namely, Tanzania Education Network (TENMET), Msichana Initiative, Haki Elimu, Integrating Capacity and Community Advancement organization (ICCAO), Pastoral Women Council (PWC) and KINNAPA Development Programme.

According to the stakeholders, many girls are still not achieving their dreams to go back to school due to several challenges including stress and fear stimulated by the unfriendly environment in schools.

Rebecca Gyumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative said the government under the Ministry of Education should set aside the financial budget for the reinstated students to ensure a suitable environment for them to continue with education without any problem.

She said there is no clarity provided by the government on the commitment to set a budget to support

the implementation of the Re-entry Guideline and monitor its performance.

"There should be facilitation for the girls' spaces for instance building suitable centres for instance breastfeeding mothers centres near the school areas as well as capacitation of other actors on the re-entry guideline like community leaders and political leaders to mobilize girls to return and stay in school, establishment of economic empowerment opportunities for girls," she noted.

She also said there is also a need to establish sexual reproductive health educational programmes in primary and secondary schools for girls to tackle or address various related issues.

"Provision of emotional support, counselling programmes as well as mentorship programs for the girls who return to school to reduce stigmatization from fellow girl students," Gyumi said.

Benedicta Mrema, programme officer-media engagement and advocacy department at Haki Elimu said the government in collaboration with stakeholders need to address other root causes of school dropout including long distance to schools and others so as to offer relevant solutions.

She also said that a nationwide public awareness initiative is also needed as the majority of Tanzanian citizens are not aware of the re-entry policy nor the guidelines issued by the government since February 2022.

"Teen pregnancies impede girls from finishing schools which contributes to perpetuating cycles of generational poverty, so investing efforts in tackling the root causes will greatly keep many girls in school and thus stimulate the country's development while achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs)," she explained.

Paulina Ngurumwa, a social worker at KINNAPA Development Programme said that students in pastoral communities walk almost 30 kilometres to and from school everyday, something which cuts dreams of the majority of girls.

Flight forwarders boycott rise in Zanzibar excise duty

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FEW days after the government of Zanzibar handed over the management of operations of its Malindi port to a French company African Global Logistics (AGL), flight forwarders have boycotted a 100-per cent rise in excise duty.

The strike emerged yesterday on the first day of operations for the French company being handled by the Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC).

According to the new changes at the port, six tons of cargo is supposed to be charged 160,000/- from the 52,000/- which was being charged by ZPC.

Products that are set to be affected by the new changes include spices and cereals which are transported by small boats to the port of Malindi.

"These crops do not last longer and the more they stay here at the port the more they are damaged, we need to be told clearly whether we are needed here or not," said Omar Makame, one of the business people operating at the port.

He said they were not against investment, but were calling for a conducive environment for them to operate without tax hindrances.

He said the effects of the strike was facilitating a rise in inflation but also affecting their families economically.

Another operator Hassan Hamad said he had failed to release his cargo at the port because of the rise in excise duty which he said was heavy.

"We have not been given any information about the changes in excise duty, therefore there is nothing

that we can do today," he said.

Commenting on the matter, Public Relations Officer for ZPC Hassan Amour said the new excise duty charges were there only that they were not being implemented to favor the operators.

He said upon coming into operation, the new operator recalled all the documents related to the port which include re-introducing the charges.

Speaking yesterday during an event to officially hand over the operations of Malindi Port to the French company, the chairman of the board of directors for ZPC, Joseph Abdalla Meza, said the deal did not come as a surprise.

He exuded confidence that the decision would raise efficiency and revolutionize port operations.

He said currently, it is three times

more expensive to import a container via Zanzibar's Malindi Port than it is to do the same via competing sea gateways, including Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports in Tanzania Mainland and Kenya, respectively.

Zanzibar's security agencies will continue with their activities at the port area manned by the French firm, he said. He said the agreement will enable Zanzibar to have a modern infrastructure capable of ensuring imports and exports in conditions of quality, security, and safety that comply with international standards, thanks to AGL's experience in port terminal management.

Director for AGL Nicolas Escalin promised to transform the port by ensuring timely cargo handling to meet standards by ending delays including

PATHFINDER

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This Publication is made in accordance with regulation 13 (a) of the Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 which obliges Non-Governmental Originations receiving funds exceeding twenty million shillings to publish funds received and its expenditure in a widely circulated newspapers and other media channels which are easily accessible by the target beneficiaries.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE PERIOD OF JAN-JUNE 2023

Figure are in TZS in '000,000

Cost categories	MC-IMA/USAID-MOMENTUM 1	MC-Chemonics-FHM	MC(C/CD/KE/MZ/N G/TZ/UG)-FHC-FC2 Educ&Promot VII	TZ-JGI/JGI/USAID LCWT	TZ-EngenderHealth-DFID FP Scale Up	TZ-UNICEF-Provider Bias Expansion	TZ-Bergstrom-MYKY-III	TZ-OakFoundation-Kuwaza Phase 3
Personnel	405,734	156,107	32,562	292,163	340,459	150,864	96,597	87,783
Consultants	1,759	16,181	0	605	0	0	0	48,076
Professional Services	5,931	244	8	3,144	1,659	15,489	487	3,077
Travel and Transportation	117,540	4,845	6,822	30,728	65,081	37,428	34,017	10,012
Occupancy	41,347	5,546	3,309	18,406	20,308	7,973	11,897	10,882
Supplies and Equipment	132,688	0	0	2,241	4,348	148	8,222	16,073
Staff Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Participant Training	323,573	12,567	21,280	153,143	16,583	211,300	75,952	150,214
Other Office Costs	16,198	302	1,020	4,195	183	5,035	3,547	6,444
Subawards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	371,190
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1,110
Non-Operating	-4,081	-714	-234	-1,861	29,022	-1,749	-846	-2,218
Total Expense	1,040,688	195,079	64,767	502,764	477,642	426,488	229,873	700,422

Cost categories	TZ-JohnSwift-TZ Swift PHE	TZ-Cargill-Integration & Sustainability Tuungane	TZ-Anonymous-CGD Advancing Abortion Rights IX	TZ-LAD-Pamoja Year 3	TZ-Vodafone-MAMA 3	TZ-Anonymous-CGD Advancing Abortion Rights X	TZ-Bergstrom-CPAC Expansion	Pathfinder Globa
Personnel	10,914	115,198	0	0	1,157,596	100,558	89,542	64,068
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Services	0	0	0	-3,392	8,881	0	0	1,364
Travel and Transportation	1,204	13,184	407	3,596	334,032	11,220	17,761	35,898
Occupancy	501	21,064	0	0	160,342	24,504	7,719	3,983
Supplies and Equipment	0	37,447	0	1,253	786,396	8,063	4,497	35,496
Staff Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,605
Participant Training	0	158,977	0	1,138	2,046,668	24,736	146,779	2,442
Other Office Costs	0	13,713	0	0	84,228	3,797	6,028	20,198
Subawards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,678
Non-Operating	-44	-1,490	-2	-9	-17,613	-603	-1,139	-652
Total Expense	12,575	358,093	406	2,586	4,560,530	172,275	271,186	168,080

Dar hospital brings smiles to 40 women

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DESPERATE couples with infertility challenges have all the reason to smile as the Kairuki Hospital's Green IVF (KHGIVF) has so far made successful implantation to 40 mothers and all of them delivered in two years since its inception.

The KHGIVF which was launched this year by Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Mwinyi is under Kairuki Health Education Network (KHEN).

Director of the IVF Centre, Dr Clementina Kairuki made the revelation over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at the opening of special training on infertility and reproduction.

Dr Clementina said that women who underwent insemination at the centre have given birth in various hospitals within and outside the country.

"We are monitoring them and their babies; they are all doing well. Tanzanians have no reason to spend a lot of money in European countries because the service is now available locally," she said.

She said the centre has been receiving women from different regions whereas after undergoing the service for one day, they are allowed to return home to continue with their normal activities.

Dr Clementina said that when establishing the centre in 2021 they promised that it will also be used to provide training to medical professionals on best ways to implant

pregnancy.

"We are providing training on pregnancy implantation to our fellow doctors from various hospitals across the country. We want to give them the right information about this treatment, thus reducing misconceptions because they will also educate others at their specific hospitals," she said, noting that plans are to conduct similar training twice a year.

Dr George Tryphone who is the Embryologist at KHGIVF said they have achieved successes as many women have already given birth and others are pregnant. He said there are some women who have given birth to twins.

Dr Tryphone said that some people are still unaware of the IVF service, hence the need to conduct training to both, the public and service doctors.

He said the issue of infertility has become a big problem in the country with some people traveling abroad in search of IVF services. He said establishment of KHGIVF is a relief to many Tanzanians who will now get the service at affordable costs.

Director of Kairuki Hospital, Dr Asser Mchomvu said introduction of IVF services will help to restore smiles to couples who have been struggling to have children.

Dr Mchomvu said that in the past people used to believe that reproductive issues were only for women, but nowadays men accompany their wives to hospitals to find solutions to infertility problems.

Grab opportunities in farming, youth urged

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE the government is more focused than ever before on addressing the issue of unemployment in the country, youth have been challenged not to pass over available opportunities offered by agriculture to gain immediate access to employment.

The deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (responsible for fisheries), Dr Daniel Mushi said over the weekend that in Tanzania agriculture is the main contributor to employment for the nation as it accounts for 66.6 percent of employment, contributes 26.1 per cent to the national GDP, and about 85 percent of the country's exports.

"Agriculture is the fastest-growing and most stable industry in Africa contributing 30 per cent to the GDP of many countries and engaging 70 per cent of the population. The sector opens great potential for accelerating growth and providing job opportunities for a large youth population since the need for food security, and domestic and global food demand keeps increasing," he said.

Dr Mushi was speaking during AYuTE Africa Challenge grand finale held in Dar es Salaam where three agrotech startups emerged winners during the demo day and walked away with a total of US\$20,000.

AYuTE, an acronym for Agriculture, Youth, and Technology, is an initiative by Heifer Project International which is being implemented by Sahara Ventures that seeks to award cash grants to support promising young agrotech innovators in the country who use technology to reimagine farming and food production.

Dr Mushi thus commended Heifer International for the initiative, noting that access to opportunities that drive innovation such as AYuTE Competition challenge is key in motivating youths' involvement in agrotech.

"The future of Tanzania's agriculture lies in our collective ability to harness the talents of the youth, provide unwavering support to these talents, leverage innovation and technology, and work towards a brighter, self-sufficient tomorrow," he added.

For his part, Heifer Project International Country Program Director, Mark Tsoxo, the organization has been working to support youth in agriculture in Africa with the aim of ending hunger.

"A new report on the role of youth in agriculture from Heifer International identifies additional challenges preventing youth from fully engaging

in farming, most notably lack of financing, land, markets, and training," said Tsoxo.

He added that the problem of unemployment would have been greatly reduced if the youth had engaged in agricultural activities, noting that 31 percent of the country's population are young people between 15 and 35 years of age and they need to be motivated to take up farming.

The Program Manager, Emmanuel Senzighe, said that the initiative focused on finding solutions in value addition in four main areas in the agriculture sector which are crop production, fisheries, livestock and forestry, and natural resources management.

"The was officially launched at the end of June this year and there were calls for participation and we were able to receive 269 requests from all corners of the country," he said.

During the demo day grand finale, FeshPack emerged as the winner whereas EcoMilk was the runner-up and Avo Oil was the second runner-up whereas the top three winners bagged US\$10,000, US\$6,500 and US\$3,500 respectively.

Avo Oil Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdul Zongo, said that they have come up with ways to add value to avocado farmers by processing fruits that will not make in the market to produce avocado oil.

"We are just trying to make sure that nothing goes to waste and everyone stands to gain in the value chain and that's why we came up with the idea to produce oil from avocado seeds," he said.



The future of Tanzania's agriculture lies in our collective ability to harness the talents of the youth, provide unwavering support to these talents, leverage innovation and technology, and work towards a brighter, self-sufficient tomorrow



Nzega district commissioner Naitapwaki Tukai (2nd-R) receives the Uhuru Torch from his Uyui counterpart, Zacharia Mwansasu, at Ndala yesterday. This year's edition of the cross-country Uhuru Torch Race was launched in Mtwara in early April. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Pastoralists pass by-law against child marriage

By Guardian Correspondent, Siha

RESIDENTS of Loiwang' Village in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region have passed a by-law against pastoralist families which accept 'sugar' to marry off their under aged girls, female circumcision, gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse.

The by-law has set a 100,000/- fine or three months' imprisonment or both for whoever will receive 'sugar' to let their underage girl to be married.

Speaking on Monday in the village after the village general meeting to

pass the by-law, the chairman of the Loiwang' village in Donyomorua, Joseph Kivuyo said they reached the decision following the village's being threatened by rampant acts of gender based violence and child abuse.

"In regard to underage marriages we say whoever will drink sugar or receive bride price, as a village we shall fine him 100,000/0 or three months' imprisonment or both penalties," he said.

For his part, Luka Mollel, Secretary for traditional elders (Malaigwanani) in the Maasai pastoralist communities said they have decided to educate

their families to abandon these vile acts that are against human rights.

"We the Malaigwanani have resolved that our villages should come up with such a law as we have seen the importance of education," he said and added that they want to do away with the traditions of marrying off underage girls, and instead they should attend school.

At the meeting, Siha District Advocate, Alfred Joshua said four villages with a huge Maasai pastoralist population which endorsed the by-law include Embukoi, Donyomorua, Munge and Loiwang'.

For his part, Head of Community Development Division, Marko Masue said: "As government we do not have any obstacle on the issue, because it is the requirement of the members of the community themselves, they have decided to lash out at female genital mutilation (FGM), underage marriages, gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse."

"We convey our appreciation to development partners who have assisted us to attain these achievements including KWIECO and their sponsors Friedrich Naumann Foundation Tanzania (FNF)."



Nkanyiso Zulu (in black shirt and coat), a manager with Geita Gold Mining Limited, briefs Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (L) recently on the company's operations. The latter was leading a high-powered TRA delegation on a tour of the firm. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ZAECA launches investigation on alleged bribery incident involving Zanzibar official

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) has launched investigation on two Turkish nationals who wanted to bribe a senior Zanzibar government official on August 28 this year.

Reports say investigations on the matter follows the government official who did not want his name revealed, submitting his complaints to the office of the Zanzibar Attorney General as well as to ZAECA.

It is also reported that the event happened at the Rainbow Restaurant at Paje tourist town, Unguja South Region.

"It is true that I have been

interrogated two times by ZAECA but I had already submitted my complaints to concerned authorities, hence I do not see any reason to speak again," said the senior government official.

Reports from the place where the incident is alleged to have taken place say that the two Turkish nationals are Ibrahim Ertan and Deniz Ubety who came to Zanzibar and awarded tender for the construction roads through Aser, a construction firm.

It is alleged that the two foreigners who had earlier wanted to meet with the senior government official, but were required to have an appointment to meet him in his office if the matter was official.

However, when the two were

required to abide by this procedure, they decided to look for another Turkish national residing in Zanzibar for many years engaged in various investment activities and owner of Rainbow restaurant Berikhat Aksu and requested him to arrange the meeting with the government official who is mentioned to have a long time close relations with him.

When the government official was called by phone by Berikhat Aksu for the meeting with him, he agreed to meet the latter at the Restaurant.

However, upon his arrival at the Restaurant he found the two foreigners who had earlier requested to meet him in his office to tell him about their problems, the issue that

had infuriated him and the discussions broke up.

It is claimed that the cause of the event stems from business competition after one firm sought to be awarded all road building projects which were being implemented by two firms including IRIS and ASER both from Turkey.

However, the two Turkish nationals Ibrahim Ertan and Deniz Ubety could not be found for comment as their cellphones were not accessible.

When asked about the allegations, the Director of ZAECA, Ali Abdallah said he was not ready to talk about the issue, but internal sources say all the suspects have undergone interrogation by the Authority.

The two Turkish nationals entered Tanzania using passports Number U24868884 and U14353134 before being given a tender for road construction.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C) shares a light moment with Alliance Insurance Corporation board chairman Shaffin Jamal (to his right) and Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpagolo at a recent event held in Dar es Salaam to mark the 25th anniversary of the firm's presence in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Zowena Shame

CBE to sharpen skills on AI, cyber security

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE College of Business Education (CBE) and JR Institute of Information and Technology have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will enable the Arusha-based college to provide training in artificial intelligence and cyber security to teachers at CBE.

The agreement was signed yesterday at CBE represented by Rector, Prof. Tandi Lwoga and Isack Marandu, JR institute manager.

Prof. Lwoga said that the collaboration will be of great benefit to the college as the JR Institute of Technology, which is sponsored by the Punjani Charitable Trust, is specialised to a large extent in technology.

"They train our 12 teachers from the Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the training that will help us start teaching those subjects in the academic year from next year," said Prof. Lwoga.

She said teachers of the college are studying different subjects online including artificial intelligence which has become a great demand in different parts of the world.

"Our teachers are doing a post graduate diploma in social intelligence, three are studying cyber security, two are studying a post graduate diploma in data science and analysis and one is doing a post graduate diploma in business intelligence," she said.

She also said that CBE teachers will study for 12 months and that upon completion they will introduce the programs at the college in order to start teaching the students.

He said that after the training, she expects CBE to start providing training that is very compatible with science and technology.

"We are very grateful for this cooperation that will build our teachers' ability to start providing short trainings, conduct various researches and provide professional advice and when they finish we will

start providing similar training," said Prof Lwoga.

CBE's Head of Department of Mathematics and Information, Communication Technology (ICT), Dr Ahmed Kijazi, commended the college management for their efforts to see the importance of the department going forward and adopting modern technology such as artificial intelligence and cyber security.

He said there are few experts in those fields and that the relationship between CBE and JR Institute will improve teaching to get more graduates in the field.

"If these teachers graduate, they will not only be useful here at CBE but in the country as a whole because there are very few professionals in this country, they will teach many people and eventually many people will have this kind of knowledge," he said.

Center Manager for JR Institute, Isack Marandu said that CBE teachers continue to receive training at JR Institute adding that they are preparing them to be helpful in modern technology such as artificial intelligence.

Our teachers are doing a post graduate diploma in social intelligence, three are studying cyber security, two are studying a post graduate diploma in data science and analysis and one is doing a post graduate diploma in business intelligence

Mwanza RC challenges DCs to address people's problems

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE Mwanza Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla has directed district commissioners and government executives to listen to people's problems seriously and timely to enable them get rid of challenges thwarting development activities.

RC Makalla gave the remarks on Monday at the launch of a campaign for district commissioners and executives in Mwanza region to listen

to people's problems transparently to do away with challenges facing them.

He also noted that leaders are required to advise the people accordingly so that their challenges cannot end up in courts as low-income earners are likely to lose their rights.

He said that the government should be ready to give answers to people timely from district to bottom levels when they have challenges as it is their right and not keep on telling them to wait for unknown time.

"Solving people's problems is the main aim of the government therefore after listening to the problems people

want answers to a thing that is important to quench their thirst", he said.

He said that he will be passing in all districts across the region to see how people's problems are being addressed by district commissioners and government executives, noting that where he will find people flocking it will imply that problems are not adequately solved.

He said that leaders should advise people to avoid going to court in a bid to solve their challenges as low income earners will find it hard to hire lawyers or frequent court and

therefore lose cases even if they have the right.

Citing an example, the RC said someone has a dispute of land and then goes to court that matter cannot be solved by the government because that is another pillar that cannot be intervened.

He said that people with land disputes can easily be given advice and finish the problems without going to court if they are listened to properly. "I insist, let us work hard to ensure that people's disputes do not go to court. Listen to them word for word", he said.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA KILIMO
BODI YA SUKARI TANZANIA



TANGAZO KWA UMMA

VIBALI BATILI VYA KUAGIZA SUKARI NCHINI

Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania inaafhamisha Umma kuwa hivi karibuni kumekuwa na **Matapeli** wanaodanganya Umma kuwa wanauwezo wa kupata vibali vya kuagiza sukari nchini kutoka Bodi na kudai fedha kwa nia ya kuvuiza.

Kupitia tangazo hili, Serikali inautangazia Umma kuwa Mamlaka inayotoa Vibali vya Kuagiza Sukari Nchini kwa mujibu wa Sheria ya Sukari Sura 251 ya Mwaka 2001 na Kanuni zake za Mwaka 2010 (zikisomwa pamoja na marekebisho yake) ni Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania, na kwamba kwa mujibu wa Sheria hiyo **vibali hivyo haviuzwi, havihamishiki (Non - Transferable) na vina muda maalum wa matumizi yake (Expiry date).**

Hivyo basi, Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania unautaarifu Umma kuwa Nakala ya Vibali vinavyosambazwa mitaani ni **batili** na kwamba haviwezi kutumika kuruhusu kuagiza/ kuingiza sukari nchini.

Serikali inatoa **Onyo Kali** kwa yeyote atakayebainika kuendelea kudanganya Umma kuwa anauwezo wa kupata vibali vya uagizaji sukari nchini kutoka Bodi na/ au kuendelea kusambaza Nakala ya Vibali batili kuwa **Hatua Kali za Kisheria zitachukuliwa dhidi yake.**

IMETOLEWA NA:
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BODI YA SUKARI TANZANIA
S. L. P. 4355,
DAR ES SALAAM

217609501

WE EFFECT
TANZANIA COUNTRY OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Note	31 December 2022 TZS	31 December 2021 TZS
Income	2	2,372,755,604	2,367,385,173
Expenditure			
Activity costs	3	2,108,131,222	2,205,474,227
Marketing & Fundraising	4	-	1,451,400
Operational costs	5	136,883,146	46,045,423
Staff costs	6	127,741,236	114,413,123
Total Expenditure		2,372,755,604	2,367,385,173
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-

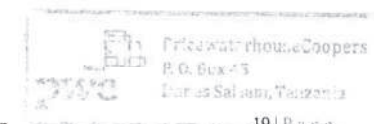
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	31 December 2022 TZS	31 December 2021 TZS
Assets			
Current Assets			
Current receivables from Partner Organizations	7	45,612,592	50,046,246
Cash and Cash Equivalents	8	180,189,545	122,394,893
Total Assets		225,802,137	172,441,139
Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities	9	22,438	856,660
Accrued Expenses & Deferred Income		-	2,605,031
IC ROEA - Liability due to HQ	10	225,779,699	168,979,448
Total Liabilities		225,802,137	172,441,139

The financial statements on pages 18 to 26 were authorised for issue by the We Effect Tanzania Country Office management on 27 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Frank Adema
Country Manager

Proscovia Mlawa
Country Finance Officer



217609701

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The UN Food Systems summits: We need voices from around globe

TWO years ago and this year, the UN convened Food Systems Summit. A historic moment for centering food in many critical issues facing people all over our planet today: from hunger and malnutrition; to environment and nature; to livelihoods and human rights; to resilience to shocks and stresses like COVID 19 and the climate emergency.

Many African countries have seen good progress against some malnutrition indicators.

Like other middle-income countries, Tanzania also faces a complex battle against malnutrition in all its forms, with a growing obesity and diet-related non-communicable disease burden together with continuing high levels of undernutrition.

At the same time, large parts of the country are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with hazards like heat waves, droughts, and disrupted weather patterns threatening rainfed agriculture and linked livelihoods.

Tanzania also faces a complex battle against malnutrition in all its forms, with a growing obesity and diet-related non-communicable disease burden together with continuing high levels of undernutrition.

At the national level, Tanzania joins over 125 countries that have embarked on coordinating efforts for inclusive, multistakeholder Food Systems Summit Dialogues to engage around the vision of the 'people's summit'. All over the world, countries have been holding - and in some cases continue to hold - national and sub-national dialogues to surface and prioritise needs and actions. These convenings bring stakeholders from different areas of public sector, national and subnational, representing ministries like agriculture, food, health, and environment together with private sector players like food industry bodies or small and medium-sized enterprises; together with UN agency

representatives from the likes of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); together with academics and representatives from international and national Non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations (NGOs and CSOs); and finally and very crucially, together with representatives of stakeholders from groups with voices that too often go unheard - women's groups, consumer groups, young people, indigenous people, and farmer organisations.

In countries where women are most marginalised, discriminated under the law and where gendered norms prevent women from owning property and resources, people are also the hungriest. This is because gender equality and food systems are intertwined.

However, too often, we only focus on the roles that women play in production, processing, trading of food and in making decisions about consumption and purchase of food at household level.

A just and equitable food system will require the recognition of women as farmers, with rights to the land they cultivate, technologies that reduce the drudgery of agriculture and policies that ensure women can make a living wage from agriculture.

And while this is important, we must also focus on whether the food system as organized is just and equitable and whether it promotes the empowerment and livelihoods and health of women and girls.

The UN food systems summit, to be convened by the UN Secretary General 2021, provides the world with a unique opportunity to reframe the global conversation on gender and food and ask the hard questions of how the food system can be structured in a just and equitable way.

Indeed, fertiliser subsidies won't have to be for keeps

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has twice or thrice now spoke publicly that the fertiliser subsidy scheme has an end, and in due course farmers will have to buy the farm-input at the real market price. That may not down well with a portion of opinion but the president realises that productivity can't be imposed on individuals, and ability to purchase fertiliser and use it to raise productivity is essential to proper farming as such. To make subsidised fertiliser permanent implies that farmers will never stick to using fertiliser unless it is subsidized.

There are indeed many people who will say that this is true, because fertiliser prices are too high, and have been going up in tandem with rising petroleum prices. In public meetings when going on working tours of the regions, the president raises such issues from time to time as they form part of policy contentions which not everyone appreciates. Government subsidises fertiliser but can't push up the price of crops, even its demand; that can pose problems.

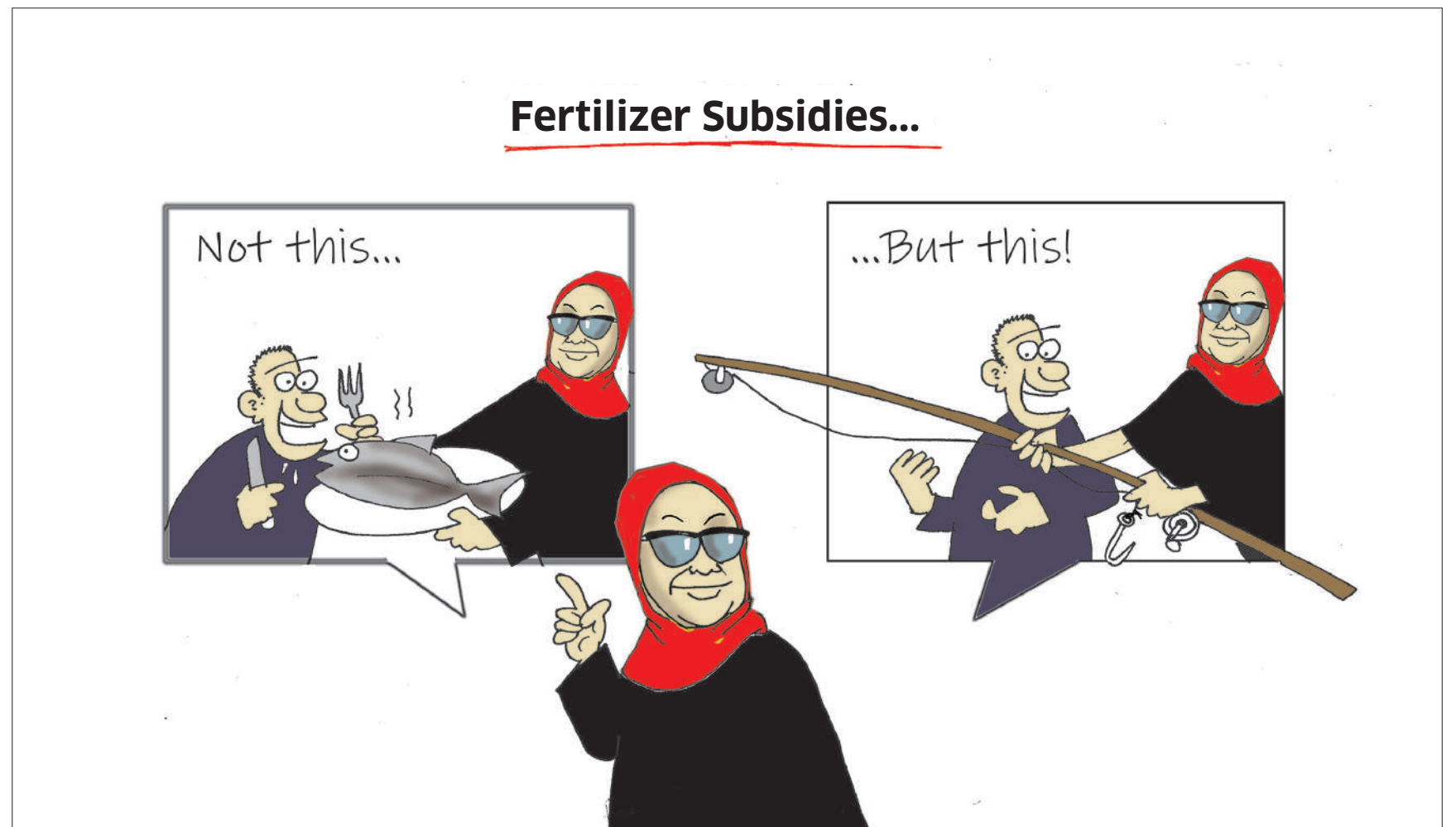
There was a time in Malawi under former President Joyce Banda that the government made an effort to attain the African Union resolution of using upwards of 10 percent of all budget funds for agriculture. The government of the day did so, and for a while it appeared that the sector was successful, and then the blowback started. The government could not maintain the tempo of success by permanent use of 10 per cent of the budget, and the president fell in the political fallout that followed. Subsidy, in fertiliser or fuel, isn't permanent.

What was uncertain was whether the farmers would actually follow

up on the president's message of cultivating ability to purchase fertiliser by savings, and whether eventually the removal of subsidies would not harm the farming sector. The other problem is that removal of fertiliser, when it is programmed, will not affect large planters as they can place proper targets for fertiliser use, but they would not be able to sell harvests outside unless the local market is satisfied with fairly cheap grain. The reason is peasant smallholders' production will fall.

That is why the principle of eventual removal of fertiliser subsidies can't skip the fact that a measure of such subsidy will still be needed to ensure that local supply of grain doesn't diminish. If the production level falls and grain prices shoot up too strongly there will be political pressure to ease it, until such a time that big planters will dominate the production scene, rather than village-based crop producers. They will then flood urban grain markets and have plenty to export at low prices, but that presumes a big change in land use maps, not now.

Evidently, government targets on fertiliser use would sharply be compromised would the fertiliser subsidy rolled back too soon. The president said that during the farming season for 2021/22, upwards of 360,000 tonnes of fertiliser was used, with the government pushing to take fertiliser uptake to 800,000 tonnes by 2025. Since little will have changed in patterns of land occupancy and maps of productivity, fertiliser subsidy needs to remain in place for peasant production to remain viable and prices low enough for the urban market, as it is at present.



By Ali Regah

AFRICA'S dependence on foreign food supply has been exposed by the escalating Russia-Ukraine conflict, raising a pivotal question: Why is Africa unable to produce its own food? Such a question directs our attention to ground-level resources such as rainfall and river water availability, alongside determinants such as arable land and the state of irrigation across the continent. A key consideration is Ethiopia, commonly referred to as Africa's 'water tower', owing to its extensive network of rivers funneling water to neighboring nations.

Successful food production necessitates a number of elements: arable land, a robust workforce, commitment from communities for cultivation, and energy to pump water from existing rivers. For instance, the Somali Region has two primary rivers, the Genale and Shabelle. Over the past few years, there has been an upswing in investment in irrigation, with crops like onions from Kalafo beginning to find markets beyond regional boundaries. However, it seems that the scale of production remains limited.

The Gode and Shebelle basins, in particular, hold enormous potential to fulfill much of the food production requirements of the country and boost animal productivity. Yet, there are still sights of animals perishing near roads paralleling fertile land and running rivers. One major driver for this is the climbing fuel prices and challenging energy availability. Though Ethiopian hydropower electricity has played a pivotal role in propping up the town of Gode, its use is largely restricted to lighting, which, while essential, is certainly not adequate.

Foremost, a significant shift is required to modernize our irrigation systems. In fact, moving beyond

Unearthing Somali region's food security: The buried treasure in the Shabelle basin

individual farming towards large-scale, expert-led agriculture could prove transformative. This change, paired with efforts to involve communities and ensure market opportunities, could dramatically elevate earnings and boost exports. Historical precedents like Somalia's banana exports using Shabelle river water way back in the 1970s demonstrate the real potential of the Somali region in Ethiopia for agricultural outputs such as banana and sesame.

The chance to evolve and prosper lies within Shabelle and Gode, as they can become nourishing powerhouses for Ethiopia and potentially for the whole of Africa. Another facet to explore is the electrification of large tracts of arable land. With the installation of electric surface pumps operating alongside solar energy, these lands could significantly contribute to not just the local, but also national and regional food security. Realizing this vision, however, necessitates government commitment, community mobilization, and extensive investment. Creative strategies like profit sharing and public-private partnerships could prove beneficial in areas where salaried work is not culturally preferred.

The transformation could be profound - envision Gode growing into a major metropolitan hub, complete with direct exports of horticulture and livestock products from its airport. The employment opportunities generated through agricultural development in the Shabelle basin could also be substantial. Indeed, the Asian conflict serves as an impetus for Africa to take strides towards bolstering its own food security.

While climate change continues to pose challenges for the horn of Africa, threatening traditional modes of sustained livelihoods like pastoralism, alternatives like large-scale animal fattening using regional resources also open up. Purchasing weak livestock from pastoralists at fair prices, reconditioning them with locally-produced fodder, and setting up slaughtering centers under veterinary supervision could lead to massive improvements in the quality of meat exports.

Shabelle basin has fertile land and a perennial river, but its community still depends on food aid and imported food for their survival. Irrigation development in this basin will not only increase food availability in the zone but also generate foreign currency from exporting surplus production. It only needs being serious to invest and avail easily accessible loans and technical support for the communities. The recent restriction of food aid after the aid diversion report had a very difficult impact on most vulnerable communities in Ethiopia. GERD electricity is flowing like the water in Shabelle, the soil is waiting to produce and the workforce is sitting idle.

In conclusion, the potential for change and growth is vast, awaiting initiative and action. The chance to evolve and prosper lies within Shabelle and Gode, as they can become nourishing powerhouses for Ethiopia and potentially for the whole of Africa. The call to action is significant: Don't wait, let's mobilize to create paradigm shifts in agriculture and unlock a self-sufficient future.

The government's commitment, strategic investment, and concerted efforts from various sectors are

paramount." The lion's share of this transformation can be traced back to the otherwise dusty agricultural lands of the Shabelle basin. Transforming these lands into flourishing farms entails meticulous energy management and strategic investment in agricultural development. At the helm of this transformation is the Ethiopian government, entrusted with the crucial task of coordinating resources and implementing policies that encourage financial institutions to support this endeavor.

One of the potential solutions to this challenge is establishing a semi-autonomous agricultural enterprise that could steer the development in the Shabelle basin. Large-scale mechanized agriculture should be prioritized over small-scale farming. While individual farming can generate income, it cannot match the productivity and income potential of large-scale operations.

The path towards this agricultural revolution is challenging but not unattainable. The government's commitment, strategic investment, and concerted efforts from various sectors are paramount. Indeed, the resources and the will exist, and the transformation of the Shabelle basin into a food-basket powerhouse is waiting for the silver bullet - strategic action.

In a nutshell, the key to Ethiopia's food security is likely buried just beneath the surface of the Shabelle basin, waiting to be unlocked by efficient energy use, robust policy implementation, and scaled-up agricultural practices. The efforts are present, and the potential is significant - a miracle just waiting to happen in the very heart of Ethiopia.

Nigeria and cessation of tensions with UAE

By Special Correspondent

FRESH from his mission to honour the invitation to the G20 Summit in New Delhi India, President Bola Tinubu continued his economic charm offensive to the United Arab Emirates, UAE, where he met with the country's President, Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, early last week.

There was a flurry of controversy surrounding the issue of whether the Middle Eastern country indeed lifted the indefinite travel ban it imposed on Nigeria in October 2022 over some diplomatic disputes.

The country's famous national carrier, the Emirates Airlines, also shut down its services to Nigeria over the estimated \$85 million the Central Bank

of Nigeria, CBN, failed to remit to it.

The Nigerian president's spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale, had claimed that UAE had lifted the travel ban in addition to other investment pledges.

However, the UAE's embassy in Nigeria in its statement about the meeting between the leaders of the two countries, failed to mention any lifting of the ban.

It only spoke in generalities about the determination to strengthen ties "in areas that serve both countries' sustainable economic growth, including economic, development, energy and climate actions fields".

Ngelale's faux pas should serve as a lesson to him to tone down the rush to hype every little action of his principal to avoid bigger future embarrassments.

President Tinubu's highly commendable effort to restore the dignity and esteem of the presidential office by keeping out attack dogs must be sustained henceforth. Nigerians do not need the hype. We want substance and truth delivered with maturity.

The sad aspect of this episode was the rejoicing it elicited among some sections of our society. Though Dubai, the famous UAE business hub, is a prime destination for a lot of Nigerian businesses, especially traders and job seekers, it has also come to symbolise a place where the overfed Nigerian ruling class go to enjoy themselves at the expense of the masses.

We hope the eventual restoration of full relationships will create a level playing ground for genuine mutual benefits.

One of the grounds for disagreement was that UAE's Emirates enjoyed the lion's share of flight slots while Nigeria's Air Peace was offered a pittance and made to land at Sharjah Airport to the great inconvenience of its customers.

It is high time we let countries like the UAE know that Nigeria has a whole lot more to offer than it had showcased before now.

Unlike UAE which is a dry desert country though super-fantastically developed, Nigeria has a broad sweep of weather delights, from equatorial to Sahelian, desert to temperate.

We must learn from the lessons that UAE uses Dubai and Abu Dhabi to teach the rest of the developing world.

If we do the right thing, the world will come here and lick oil off our fingers.

New workplace skills and competences amidst technological breakthrough

By Telesphor Magobe

THE fourth industrial revolution (4IR) has an unprecedented impact on various sectors of the economy and in the way people think, interact, work and live, according to new studies. One of them is Georgina Barrick's article entitled "The power of human creativity and imagination in the 4IR environment".

"The way we live, the way we work and the way we think are all changing as the new technologies set up base into our homes and places of work. It is an exciting time, through a scientific lens, but there is also fear - fear of the unknown, of jobs being lost, and of being misplaced in the new digital economy," says Barrick in her article published recently.

Expounding on this she says although research shows that more than 30 per cent of jobs that are important today will change in the next few years, it also shows that more than 60 per cent of the new jobs will be created that do not even exist today. "Instead of fearing the changes that come with 4IR, we should take control of new opportunities and complement this development with the skills needed," she advises.

Thus, the 4IR has ushered in a new age - the digital era - which is quite exciting and confounding. It is exciting because it offers new opportunities and possibilities and it is confounding because there are emerging challenges as new jobs that need new skills (up-skilling and reskilling) are created, while others are replaced with technological automation. At the centre of the 4IR lies the improvement of the quality of life, which will come at a price.

Both developed and developing economies have started experiencing this new socioeconomic phenomenon. A survey conducted by World Economic Forum (WEF, 2020) in the United States between 2007 and 2018 shows that nearly 2.6 million jobs were lost in 10 years.

"Given the potential for productivity gains resulting from adopting these new technologies, it's crucial to acknowledge the likelihood of job displacement. As such, policies and programmes that support workers in their efforts to up-skill and reskill are essential in ensuring that the benefits of technological innovation are widely shared and that workers are equipped with the skills needed to thrive in the changing job market," says WEF in its "Top 10 Emerging Technologies of 2023: Flagship Report".

The most vulnerable employees to this new phenomenon, according to this WEF (2020), are computer operators, administrative assistants and executive secretaries, filing clerks, data entry keyers, accounting and bookkeeping officers, payroll clerks, accountants and auditors, assembly and factory workers, as well as business services and administrative managers.

Others are those working in sections which depend on technologies and work processes that are fast becoming obsolete. This means that developing economies have started bearing the brunt of technological automation and developing economies won't be spared in this pre-



dicament.

"Developing and enhancing human skills and capabilities through education, learning and meaningful work are key drivers of economic success, of individual well-being and societal cohesion," reads part of the WEF report.

Despite job replacement due to technological automation there is at the same time growing demand for data analysts and scientists, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning specialists, robotics engineers, software and application developers as well as digital transformation specialists.

According to the report, process automation specialists, information security analysts and internet of things (IoT) specialists are newly emerging jobs and employers look for people skilled in these jobs. Others in high demand are materials engineers in the automotive sector, e-commerce and social media specialists in the consumer sector, renewable energy engineers in the energy sector, FinTech engineers in financial services, biologists and geneticists in the health sector as well as remote sensing scientists and technicians in the mining sector.

So, upskilling and reskilling is meant to gain skills and competencies to utilise 4IR opportunities and address emerging challenges.

The WEF's Jobs of Tomorrow report identified 99 new (emerging) jobs that are consistently growing in demand across 20 economies. Top skills associated with emerging jobs include critical thinking and analysis as well as problem-solving, counselling, self-management such as active learning, resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility. Others are jobs that need specialised skills in product marketing, digital marketing and human computer interaction.

Therefore, people who keep abreast of technological advances and align themselves with the momentum of the rapidly changing world will likely benefit from it, while those who lag behind are at risk of job replacement, which will aggravate the unemployment challenge in developed and developing economies.

"By 2025, the capabilities of machines and algorithms will be more broadly employed than in previous years, and work hours performed by machines will match the time spent working by human beings," the WEF report

says.

A paradigm shift in education from the instructional pedagogy (teacher-centred learning) to the learning pedagogy (student-centred learning also known as competency-based learning) is oriented towards equipping learners with 21st century skills (also called knowledge society skills) needed in the 4IR era.

Autor et al. (2020) in their report "The Work of the Future: Building Better Jobs in An Age of Intelligent Machines" suggest that enabling employees to remain productive in the continuously evolving workplace requires empowering them with excellent skills programmes at all stages of life: in primary and secondary schools, in vocational and college programmes, and in ongoing lifelong training programmes. "New goods and services, new industries and occupations demand new skills and offer new earnings opportunities," the report says.

Telesphor Magobe comments on law, technology and education. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

By A.H. Monjurul Kabir

Deepening democracy in an AI-enabled world

IN 2002, the Human Development Report (UNDP) focused on 'Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World'. It was an important discourse then [and still is] that evoked lot of insightful cross-regional exchanges of ideas. It reiterates that politics matter for human development because people everywhere want to be free to determine their destinies, express their views and participate in the decisions that shape their lives.

The year 2022 brought AI into the mainstream through widespread familiarity with applications of Generative Pre-Training Transformer (a type of large language model and a prominent framework for generative artificial intelligence).

The most popular application is OpenAI's ChatGPT. The widespread fascination with ChatGPT made it synonymous with AI in the minds of most consumers. However, it represents only a small portion of the ways that AI technology is being used today. The large language models may disrupt far more than just the economy. They also appear to challenge democracy including the traditional forms of democratic engagement.

Today in 2023, on #democracyday and beyond these newer innovation and capabilities are just as important for human development—for expanding people's choices—as being able to read or enjoy good health.

Public debate may be overwhelmed by industrial quantities of autogenerated argument. Deepfakes and misinformation generated by AI could undermine elections and democracy. Let us also lose sight of empowering citizens, fighting corruption, reforming public administration an addressing climate change.

Increasing international monitoring and scrutiny

We all know that AI brings targeted benefits to both development and political agenda in the digital era. It is already the main driver of emerging technologies like big data, robotics and IoT – not to mention generative AI, with tools like ChatGPT and AI art generators garnering mainstream attention. It can, nevertheless, instill bias, and significantly compromise the safety

and agency of users worldwide.

Increasingly, these inter-dependent and inter-connected AI elements are getting more international scrutiny. The UN Security Council for the first time held a session on 18th July 2023 on the threat that artificial intelligence poses to international peace and stability, and UN Secretary General called for a global watchdog to oversee a new technology that has raised at least as many fears as hopes.

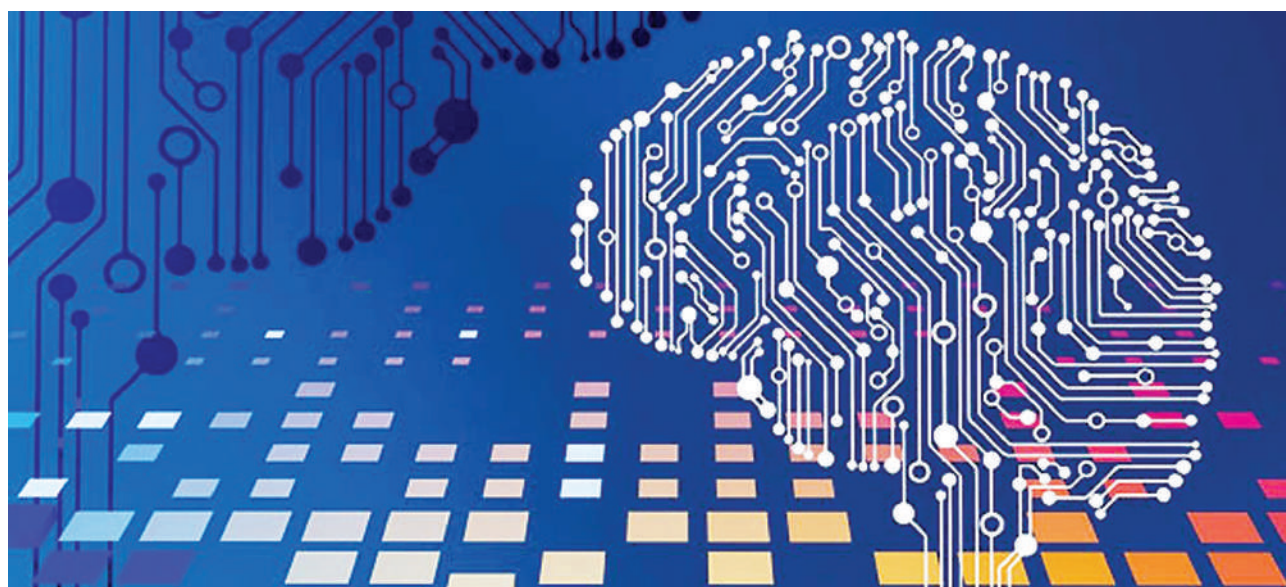
The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities presented a report (March 2022) to the Human Rights Council on artificial intelligence (AI) and the rights of persons with disabilities. Enhanced multi-stakeholder efforts on global AI cooperation are needed to help build global capacity for the development and use of AI in a manner that is trustworthy, human rights-based, safe, and sustainable, and promotes peace.

In fact, the multi-stakeholder High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, initially proposed in 2020 as part of the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (A/74/821), is now being formed to undertake analysis and advance recommendations for the international governance of artificial intelligence (AI).

AI and democracy: Improving democratic process

The debate on AI's impact on the public sphere is currently the one most prominent and familiar to a general audience. It is also directly connected to long-running debates on the structural transformation of the digital public sphere. AI is contributing to both sides of democratic aspirations: Majority rule and protection of minorities.

While the discourse on AI and the democratic public sphere focuses mostly on the societal requirements for a healthy democracy, an additional discourse looks at how we "practice" democracy, namely at elections and how they are conducted. Recent election cycles in different countries have made it clear that malicious actors are both willing and able to leverage digital applications to subvert democracy and democratic processes.



An ILO global analysis suggests that most jobs and industries are more likely to be complemented rather than substituted by the latest artificial intelligence wave. Credit: Unsplash/Steve Johnson

With the advent of powerful new language models, those actors now have a potent new weapon in their arsenal. Here is good reason to fear that A.I. systems like ChatGPT and GPT4 will harm democracy.

The call for the digitalization of politics often implies a surge in automating decision-making procedures in public administration. Examples reach from welfare administration to tax systems and border control. The hope is that in an ever more complex world a shift towards highly automated systems will result in a more efficient political system.

Automation should eradicate failures and frustration, allow for more fine-grained and faster adjudication, and free up resources for other problems. However, it is important to

ensure that automation values contextual realities.

Improving democratic process: AI potentials and challenges

Any system that reduces personal involvement will require years of testing before it is implemented on a large scale. However, there are a few ways it could greatly improve our processes:

Since AI can understand individual preferences, it can help voters make decisions and, by extension, increase participation.

AI will have the targeted ability to identify fraud and corruption in the system.

With better ways of identifying corruption, AI will open up room for electronic voting (e-voting), create more convenience, and enable a wider cross-section of society to participate.

AI has the potential to give voters expanded authority, allowing more issues to come up for community input and public decisions.

AI will allow voters to make informed choice and corresponding decision ("drill down" and get the facts straight on any decision before they make it).

AI will have the ability to deal with negative campaigning, biased reporting, and unnecessary arguments. AI has the potential to reduce the cost of campaigning, reduce the reliance on contributors, and reduce political corruption.

AI has the potential to reach out to those who are traditionally excluded or marginalized in public processes. Needless, to say, all these potentials, if not fulfilled properly, might end of harming democratic

process.

Quest for pluralism in democracy: Can diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) help?

AI can play a crucial role in progressing diversity and inclusion agenda by addressing biases, promoting fairness, and enabling equitable opportunities. By harnessing the capabilities of AI, organizations can identify and mitigate biases, improve hiring practices, enhance accessibility, promote inclusion, and cultivate an inclusive environment. A tall order that needs far more work and genuine commitments through contextual innovation.

While there is a growing awareness of the broad human rights challenges that these new technologies can pose, a more focused

debate on the specific challenges of such technology to different groups including the rights of persons with disabilities is urgently needed.

Participation rights apply intersectionally, covering Indigenous people, migrants, minorities, women, children, and older persons with disabilities, among others. For example, the right of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations including organisations led by women with disabilities to participate in electoral process and public policy including artificial intelligence policymaking and in decisions on its development, deployment and use is key to achieving the best from artificial intelligence and avoiding the worst.

The question still remains - Can AI be the real window to the world for the disadvantaged groups and marginalized communities?

The future

The discourse on AI and democracy is still in its infancy. Academic treatments and policy adaptation started around the same time and are by now still mostly driven by broader debates on digitalization and democracy and exemplary cases of misuse.

Governments need to build up expertise in artificial intelligence so they can make informed laws and regulations that respond to this new technology. They will need to deal with misinformation and deepfakes, security threats, changes to the job market, and the impact on education. **IPS**

Treated wastewater a growing source of irrigation in Chile's arid north

By Orlando Milesi

THE reuse of treated wastewater in vulnerable rural areas of Chile's arid north is emerging as a new resource for the inhabitants of this long, narrow South American country.

The Coquimbo region, just south of the Atacama Desert, one of the driest in the world, is suffering from a severe drought that has lasted 15 years.

According to data from the Meteorological Directorate, a regional station located in the Andes Mountains measured 30.3 millimeters (mm) of rain per square meter this year as of Sept. 10, compared to 213 mm in all of 2022.

At another station, in the coastal area, during the same period in 2023, rainfall stood at 10.5 mm compared to the usual level of 83.2 mm.

Faced with this persistent level of drought, vulnerable rural localities in Coquimbo, mostly dedicated to small-scale agriculture, are emerging as a new example of solutions that can be replicated in the country to alleviate water shortages.

The aim is to not waste the water that runs down the drains but to accumulate it in tanks, treat it and then use it to irrigate everything from alfalfa fields to native plants and trees in parks and streets in the localities involved. It is a response to drought and the expansion of the desert.

"We were able to implement five wastewater treatment projects and reuse 9.5 liters per second, which is, according to a comparative value, the consumption of 2,700 people for a year or the water used to irrigate 60 hectares of olive trees," said Gerardo Díaz, sustainability manager of the non-governmental Fundación Chile.

These five projects, promoted by the Fundación Chile as part of its Water Scenarios 2030 initiative, are financed by the regional government of Coquimbo, which contributed the equivalent of 312,000 dollars. Of this total, 73 percent is dedicated to enabling reuse systems, for which plants in need of upgrading but not reconstruction have been selected.

The common objective of these projects, which together benefit some 6,500 people, is the reuse of wastewater for productive purposes, the replacement of drinking water or the recharge of aquifers.

Díaz told IPS that the amount of reuse obtained is significant because previously this water was discharged into a stream, canal or river where it was perhaps captured downstream.

A successful pilot experience

In Coquimbo, which has a regional population of some 780,000 people, there are 71 water treatment plants, most of which use activated sludge and almost all of which are linked to the Rural Drinking Water Program (APR) of the state Hydraulic Works Directorate.

Activated sludge systems are biological wastewater treatment processes using microorganisms, which are very sensitive in their operation and maintenance and rural sectors do not have the capacity to maintain them.

"Most of these treatment plants are not operating or are operating inefficiently," Díaz acknowledged.

But one of the plants, once reconditioned, has served as a model for others since 2018. Its creation allowed Dionisio Antiquera, a 52-year-old agricultural technician, to save his alfalfa crop.

"We have had a water deficit for years. This recycled water really helps us grow our crops on our eight hectares of land," he said in the middle of his alfalfa field in Cerrillos de Tamaya, one of the Coquimbo municipalities that IPS toured for several days to observe five wastewater reuse projects.

He explained that using just reused water he was able to produce six normal alfalfa harvests per year with a yield per hectare of 100 25-kg bales.

"That's 4500 to 4800 bales in the annual production season," he said proudly.

These bales are easily sold in the region because they are cheaper than those of other farmers.

The water he uses comes from an APR plant that has 1065 users, 650 of whom provide water, including Antiquera.

On one side of his alfalfa field is a plant that accumulates the sludge that is dehydrated in pools and drying courts, and on the other side, the water is chlorinated and runs into another pond in its natural state.

"This water works well for alfalfa. It is hard water that has about 1400 parts per million of salt. Then it goes through a reverse osmosis process that removes



Alfalfa farmer Dionisio Antiquera stands in front of one of the wastewater treatment ponds at the modernized plant in Cerrillos de Tamaya, a rural community in the Coquimbo region of northern Chile. The thousands of liters captured from the sewers are converted into clear liquid ready for reuse in local small-scale agriculture. CREDIT: Orlando Milesi / IPS

the salt and the water is suitable for human consumption," the farmer explained.

In Chile, treated wastewater is not considered fresh water or water that can be used directly by people, and its reuse is only indirect.

Antiquera sold half a hectare to the government to install the plant and in exchange uses the water obtained and contributes 20 percent to the local APR.

He recently extended his alfalfa field to another seven hectares, thanks to his success with treated water.

Flowers and trees also benefit

In Villa Puclaro, in the Coquimbo municipality of Vicuña, Raúl Ángel Flores, 55, has an ornamental plant nursery.

"I've done really well. My nursery has grown with just reuse water.... I have more than 40,000 ornamental, fruit, native and cactus plants. I deliver to retailers in Vicuña and Coquimbo," a port city in the region, he told IPS.



Raúl Ángel Flores stands in his nursery, where the plants and trees are irrigated with recycled water from the Punta Azul project in the town of Villa Puclaro, in Chile's Coquimbo region. All profits from the town's wastewater treatment are reinvested in its maintenance. CREDIT: Orlando Milesi / IPS

The nursery is 850 square meters in size, and has an accumulation pond and pumps to pump the water. He has now rented a 2,500-meter plot of land to expand it.

Flores explained to IPS that he manages the nursery together with his wife, Carolina Cáceres, and despite the fact that they have two daughters and a senior citizen in their care, "we make a living just selling the plants...I even hired an assistant," he added.

In the southern hemisphere summer he uses between 4,000 and 5,000 liters of water a day for irrigation.

"I have water to spare. Here it could be reused for anything," he said.

Joining the project made it possible for Flores to make efficient use of water with a business model that in this case incorporates a fee for the water to the plant management, which is equivalent to 62 cents per cubic meter used.

Eliminating odors, and creating new gardens

In the community of Huatulame, in the municipality of Monte Patria, Fundación Chile built an artificial surface wetland to put an end to the bad odors caused by effluents from a deficient waste-eater earthworm vermifilter treatment plant.

"This wetland has brought us peace because the odors have been eliminated. For the past year people have been able to walk along the banks of the old riverbed," Deysy Cortés, 72, president of the APR, told IPS.

The municipality of Monte Patria is financing the repair of the plant with the equivalent of 100,000 dollars.

"The sprinklers will be changed, the filtering system will be replaced, and sawdust and worms will be added. It will be up and running in a couple of months," explained agronomist Jorge Núñez, a consultant for Fundación Chile.

As in other renovated plants, safe in-

filtration of wastewater is ensured while the project simultaneously promotes the protection of nearby wells to provide water to the villagers.

Cortés warned of serious difficulties if no more rain falls in the rest of 2023, despite the relief provided by the plant for irrigation.

"I foresee a very difficult future if it doesn't rain. We will go back to what we experienced in 2019 when in every house there were bottles filled with water and a little jug to bathe once a week," she said.

During a recent crisis, the local APR paid 2500 dollars to bring in water from four 20,000-liter tanker trucks.

In Plan de Hornos, a town in the municipality of Illapel, irrigation technology was installed using reused water instead of drinking water to create a green space for the community to enjoy.

The project included water taps in people's homes for residents to water trees and flowers.

Arnoldo Olivares, 59, is in charge of the plant, which has 160 members.

"I run both systems," he told IPS. "I pour drinking water into the pond. After passing through the houses, the water goes into the drainage system, where there is a procedure to reclaim and treat it."

"This water was lost before, and now we reuse it to irrigate the saplings. We used to work manually, now it is automated. It's a tremendous change, we're really happy," he said.

Antiquera the alfalfa farmer is happy with his success in Cerrillos de Tamaya, but warns that in his area 150 to 160 mm of rainfall per year is normal and so far only 25 mm have fallen in 2023.

"The water crisis forces us to find alternatives and to be 100 percent efficient. Not a drop of water can be wasted. They have forecast very high temperatures for the upcoming (southern hemisphere) summer, which means that plants will require more water in order to thrive," he said.

Díaz, the sustainability manager of Fundación Chile, said the Coquimbo projects are fully replicable in other water-stressed areas of Chile if a collaborative model is used. He noted that "in Chile there is no law for the reuse of treated wastewater. There is only a gray water law that was passed years ago, but there are no regulations to implement it."

He explained, however, that due to the drought, "rural localities today are already reusing wastewater or gray water. This is going to happen, with or without us, with or without a law. The need for water is so great that the communities are accepting the use of treated wastewater." The governor of Coquimbo, Krist Naranjo, argued that "a broader vision is needed to value water resources that are essential for life, especially in the context of global climate change."

"We're working on different initiatives with different executors, but the essential thing is to value the reuse of graywater recycling," she told IPS from La Serena, the regional capital.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Rhinos at world-largest farm to be released in protected areas

By Special Correspondent, Johannesburg

THE world's largest rhino farm, established in South Africa with the aim of saving the species from poaching, has been acquired by the NGO African Parks. The 7,800-hectare Platinum Rhino farm, housing 2,000 white rhinos, now belongs to the organization associated with Prince Harry. African Parks stated, "African Parks has become the new owner of Platinum Rhino, the world's largest private captive breeding operation for rhinos," the NGO said in a statement.

The farm's founder, wealthy businessman John Hume, had put it up for auction due to the high costs involved in his conservation efforts. Despite his efforts, no buyers emerged, putting the rhinos at risk of poaching.

African Parks, with support from the South African government and conservation groups, stepped in to secure the future of these animals.

Wealthy businessman John Hume, 81, opened the farm in 2009. Faced with the exorbitant costs of his vast project, he put his property up for auction in April, saying he was looking for another "millionaire" to take over.

"Breeding rhinos is an expensive hobby", the breeder admitted in an interview with AFP before the sale, adding that he had "run out of money".

Hume, who did not respond to a request for comment on Monday, said he had spent a total of 150 million dollars to save the large mammal.

"No offers have been received, putting these rhinos in great danger of poaching", African Parks pointed out.

The organisation's CEO, Peter Fearnhead, quoted in the press release, explained that he was "morally obliged to find a solution for these declining wild animals".

Even though he had "never originally intended to become the owner of a business breeding rhinos in captivity and 2,000 rhinos".

The NGO, which did not say how much it had paid, received support from the South African government and conservation organisations, as well as financial assistance for the purchase.

South Africa is home to nearly 80% of the world's white rhino population, now estimated at less than 13,000 specimens.

The country has become a hotbed of poaching, driven by demand from Asia, where keratin horns - the same substance as human fingernails or hair - are used in traditional medicine for their alleged therapeutic or aphrodisiac effects.

In 2022, 448 rhinos were killed in the country, according to the government, despite reinforced anti-poaching measures in national parks.

The thieves of horns, whose price per kilo on the black market rivals the



price of gold and has reached 60,000 dollars, have adapted their strategy and are now attacking the more vulnerable private parks.

South Africa's Minister for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, hailed in the press release an "important agreement". The International Union for Conservation

of Nature (IUCN) applauded a "lifeline to a near-threatened species".

African Parks plans to reintroduce farmed rhinos into the wild over the next ten years, in particular by transferring them to protected areas in Africa.

This is one of the biggest species "rewilding" projects on the continent",

the NGO points out, adding that the aim is to "reduce the risks for the species in the future and gradually put an end to the breeding project".

One strategy to combat the slaughter of rhinos is to preventively cut off the coveted horns, which can then grow back. In South Africa, trade in rhino horns within the country is au-

thorised, albeit controversially, but export is illegal.

In 2017, John Hume organised an online sale of horns to raise money to fund conservation, provoking outrage from In 2017, John Hume organised an

online sale of horns to raise funds for conservation, provoking outrage from the public and the private sector.

UNESCO adds Djerba island in Tunisia to world heritage list

DJERBA

ANCIENT ruins, whitewashed villages, mosques, churches and synagogues: the heritage of the tourist island of Djerba in southern Tunisia was included on UNESCO's world list on Monday, the organisation announced.

"The committee of UNESCO member states meeting in Riyadh has just approved the inclusion of the heritage of the island of Djerba on the world heritage list," rejoiced Eric Falt,

regional director of UNESCO at Maghreb.

Djerba, which covers 514 km², is the largest island in North Africa. Its landscape is a combination of desert areas bordering the sea and fields cultivated with palm and olive trees.

Considered the mythological island where in Homer's Odyssey, Ulysses and his navigators encounter the Lotophages (lotus eaters), Djerba also served as the backdrop for certain scenes on the planet Tatooine

in the Star Wars saga.

The Tunisian Ministry of Cultural Affairs welcomed Djerba's "definitive acceptance", saying it "does justice to the joint efforts" of the authorities and civil society.

Referring to the "long and tortuous road" that led to this inscription, the Unesco regional director specified that it concerns "seven areas of the island and 24 monuments".

Djerba is home to Carthaginian and Roman ruins, as well as tra-

ditional houses ("houch") organized around an inner courtyard and equipped with ingenious rainwater harvesting systems.

The island, renowned for its religious mix, boasts churches, synagogues including the Ghriba - the oldest in Africa - and fortified Ibadite mosques (a separate branch of Islam), some of which are underground.

Djerba is also home to typical markets (souks) and a pretty medina (old Arab town) at Houm Soukt.

Former Tunisian Tourism Minister René Trabelsi, a Djerbian by birth, told AFP he was delighted that his island had been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. "It's the result of extraordinary work, carried out with love, and it rewards the work of many people," he said.

Djerba is "an exceptional testimony to a unique settlement pattern and remarkable human adaptation over the centuries to the constraints of an environment marked by water scarcity

and numerous threats from the sea", said Falt of Unesco Maghreb.

He recalled that the last time a Tunisian site was inscribed on the World Heritage List was in 1997, with the archaeological site of Dougga.

Djerba "is not a desert island, it's a living heritage: it's the island of living together, of tolerance and peace, it's an island apart, an example for the whole world," added Trabelsi.

Tunisia now has 9 UNESCO World Heritage sites including

the medinas (old towns) of Tunis and Sousse, the town of Kairouan, the Punic-Roman site of Carthage and the amphitheater of ElJem.

This summer, Djerba received thousands of tourists despite an attack during the Ghriba Jewish pilgrimage that left five people dead in May.

"The synagogue is visited by 1,500 to 2,000 tourists every day," said Mr. Trabelsi, adding that he had "a thought of course for the people who died" during the shooting.

Thousands of villagers near national parks benefit from REGROW project

By Felister Peter

THE welfare of residents at Tungamalenga village in Idodi ward, Iringa District has improved tremendously, thanks to the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project for empowering them economically.

The project which is implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism aims to empower villagers surrounding protected areas around Ruaha, Mikumi, Udzungwa and Nyerere National Park. The purpose is to see them benefiting from the various opportunities that arise from conservation and tourism.

The villagers who are also involved in protecting the Ruaha National Park ecosystem, have formed groups whereas they save money and access loans.

However, through the groups, REGROW supports them to establish projects that help them to generate a good income. REGROW supports the group through provision of seed money which is channelled through Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA).

Some of the economic activities (projects) the groups conduct includes catering services (traditional food), agriculture, tie and dye, cattle fattening and traditional dances. With the generated income, most of the villagers at Tungamalenga have improved their livelihood with some being able to build better houses and start small businesses.

Secretary of the "Tembo Pilipili" group, Batista Kihombo said the REGROW project has turned them into conservationists and boosted their livelihood. He said the group cultivates chili peppers that are used to scare elephants from invading their farms.

"We started cultivating chili peppers as a pilot project this year. Our plans are to cultivate five acres in the coming farming season since we have already received 4m/- as start-up funds from REGROW," said Kihombo, adding the use of chili peppers in keeping away elephants has contributed to reducing wildlife invasion into villagers' farms.

"Plans are to cultivate enough chilli peppers to also sell them at various markets countrywide," added Kihombo.

Gerald Mbunde, Secretary of the Vision Group said with the 20m/- seed money from REGROW the group plans to procure a milling machine to add value to rice and maize.

"We are benefiting from conservation and tourism activities by selling our products to tourists. Adding value to our agricultural products will enable us to get a good profit, thus improving our welfare," stated Mbunde.

Marketing Officer of the Jijenge Unity group, Shani Richard said the 15 members group received 20m/- as seed money from REGROW which was directed to various projects including sunflower cultivation.

"We also do catering services; we prepare traditional foods for local and foreign visitors and have so far generated more than 16m/-," she stated, noting the group also practices traditional dancing.

Zuberi Ngingo, Chairman of the Jijenge Unity group said: "We commended the government for coming up with this supportive arrangement. I have successfully finished construction of my house as well as paying school fees for my children."



Members of the 'Tembo Pilipili' group.

Ngingo added that apart from cultivating sunflowers as a group; he has separately invested in cultivation of rice and maize.

Chairman of the BAKUKI group, Paschal Victor said they started engaging with the REGROW project in 2022 whereas they have so far benefitted with 10.6m/- seed money through COCOBA.

Victor said the welfare of group members have improved as most of them are now living a standard life and can afford to pay school fees for their children. The group deals with traditional handicraft art of textile printing (Batik), pig farming and agriculture.

Community Facilitator (REGROW) Aneth Elia said the project resolved to engage the community in con-

servation activities whereas apart from assisting them financially they provide them with financial literacy training to ensure proper expenditure of funds.

"We train them on financial literacy before giving them money; this helps to ensure that provided funds are spent properly on intended projects," said Elia.

She noted that villagers are also assisted to secure markets for their locally made goods and agricultural products through the Village Livelihood Committee (VLC).

Deputy Project Coordinator (REGROW) from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Blanka Tengia said that so far they have provided 1.4bn/- as seed money to 159 groups from 15 villages.

She added that a total of 150 projects owned by different groups have been provided with seed capital worth 3.1bn/- to facilitate its implementation.

The REGROW project that aims to improve tourism in the southern circuit covers Nyerere, Udzungwa, Ruaha and Mikumi National Parks. It works with 61 villages whereas in the first phase it covered 15 villages. So far a total 761 groups have benefited with the empowerment plan.

"REGROW empowers villagers surrounding the four national parks economically to enable them to establish alternative income generating activities. This helps to reduce and ultimately control illegal activities within our parks," stated Tengia.

Rule of law? What rule of law? Julius Malema's never-ending soaring above SA law continues

By Stephen Grootes

JULIUS Malema has been in court several times and acquitted of various criminal charges. Those who support the independence of the judiciary can hardly complain when judges find, according to the law, that he is not guilty. But, in an age when there is a video camera in every pocket, the examples of him and other EFF leaders committing acts of violence and being acquitted have important consequences.

Later this week, Malema and his co-accused Adriaan Snyman are due to ask the East London magistrate in his firearm discharge case to drop the charges against them. They will argue that the prosecution has not brought a case they need to answer.

The charge in question is the illegal discharge of a firearm. It relates to a video which emerged of Malema appearing to fire a gun into the air during an EFF rally in East London five years ago.

Despite this apparent video evidence, it is entirely possible that Malema's lawyers will succeed in their application.

First, there appear to be problems with the chain of evidence, as the prosecution has not been able to trace the person who filmed the original video.

Second, Malema's own VIP protection officers (who were presumably on the scene at the time) say they have no memory of him firing this gun.

And it appears the security company which provided the firearm in question has records indicating that it was not in East London on that day, but in fact in Johannesburg.

This means that despite the apparent video evidence, viewed by many people, Malema may well be found not guilty.

This follows a familiar theme.

At the funeral of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Malema and former EFF spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi were filmed slapping a white police officer.

They were found not guilty of assault.

Long before that, EFF deputy leader Floyd Shivambu was filmed pushing a journalist up against a wall using physical force in what many people believe was an assault.

He was cleared of legal wrongdoing.

While there have been other incidents in which EFF leaders have been accused of violence, the striking point in these particular cases is that there is video evidence. And yet they have been acquitted (or could be in the East London case).

This apparent trend raises interesting points.

First, it suggests that despite Malema's repeated claims that the judiciary is biased against him, or is the tool of Cyril Ramaphosa or "White Monopoly Capital", this is clearly not the case.

It should make it harder for him to continue to attack judges in this way.

It also provides a test for those who oppose Malema and support the rule of law. If they believe that judges are independent and that politicians should not attack the judiciary, they must accept the findings in these cases, no matter how puzzling they may appear, and would be well-advised not to complain about them publicly.

At the same time though, there are other consequences.

It is hard to imagine an ordinary citizen being filmed slapping a police officer, pushing a journalist into a wall or firing a gun into the air, and getting away with it.

Malema's opponents can understandably view the findings of these court cases as revealing that he is above the law – no matter what he does, he gets away with it.

Special treatment

The fact that he is the only political leader who is not a current or former member of the executive to have VIP protection provided by the state reinforces the perception that he is getting special treatment.

Malema and fellow EFF leaders may want to continue down this path – if they can get away with all of the above, why stop now? But there is another, more damaging consequence.

In a country in which the rule of law has never been fully accepted by everyone (the rule of apartheid law was of course used as an instrument of oppression, as the fire at the former Johannesburg pass office reminds us), these findings will provoke even less trust in the law and less interest in adhering to it.

After all, if Malema can get away with it, why can't I?

And what would have happened if some of these cases had been reversed? If a white police officer had physically handled Malema or Ndlozi, how would they have responded?

If a member of AfriForum was filmed shooting a firearm into the air, would the EFF have demanded they be held legally accountable?

This feeds into another disturbing trend, where the extremes of our society seek to dominate the political conversation.

Normally, the rule of law would be used to provide some level



EFF leader Julius Malema. (Photo: Gallo Images / OJ Koloti)

of control over this. But if that rule is no longer accepted, unrestrained behaviour follows, with the weakening of the political centre, which is where the ANC and the DA find themselves.

There will be more cases to come.

The NSPCA has lodged another case

against Malema, alleging he is guilty of animal cruelty for stabbing a cow several times in an attempt to slaughter it. This too was caught on video. He would have known that he was being filmed and that it could lead the NSPCA into this action.

This will allow him to claim that he is being prosecuted simply for follow-

ing the traditions of most people of this country, and that the NSPCA is controlled by white people.

And again, he may be able to use the courts for political grandstanding, as he has done since at least 2011, during his first hate-speech trial.

So far, for more than a decade, this deliberate strategy has worked for

him.

He is likely to repeat it and/or escalate it, no matter what the cost to the perception of the rule of law, South Africa's democracy and its people. The main domain Julius Malema will continue to serve is himself and himself alone.

DM



Malema's co-accused Adriaan Snyman at the East London Regional Court on 11 September 2023. (Photo: Gallo Images / Die Burger / Lulama Zenzile)

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:15 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMU YAMU 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 14:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS SPOTI LEO 16:00 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 18:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Tanzania prepared for EAC's digital economy

By Carlos Banda

TANZANIA is ready to take part in the East Africa Community digital economy as the country already prepared the necessary infrastructure needed to ensure internet usage and connectivity is assured.

This affirmation was given yesterday by ICT Commission Director General, Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga (pictured), during an interview with The Guardian following the call by the Permanent Secretary from the Rwandan ICT and Innovation Ministry, Yves Iradukunda, during the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF).

Dr Nkundwe said that deliberate meas-

ures have been taken by the commission to prepare youth across the country to take on the opportunity by establishing capacity building zonal centers that will help cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship young Tanzanians build the culture of entrepreneurship.

"The role of the ICT Commission is to spearhead the development of technology in the country by supporting startups, youth entrepreneurship in technology and innovation, with the main goal of catalyzing the culture of entrepreneurship among the youth. These centers will help identify, build capacity, and enable our youth to create startups based on various



fields and become competitive in the East African community." The zonal centers are located in Dodoma, Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Lindi, Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Zanzibar, he said.

He also noted that the key areas of focus for cementing the reason for establishing the zonal centers to mobilize young innovators from the strategic socio-economic sectors.

"The key areas of our focus include Agri-tech, Fin-tech, Tourism, Environmental Tech, Insurance-tech, and safety technology. The objective is to draw out in-

novators from all zones. The task of the commission is to promote these individuals to compete outside Tanzania through enabling them to take part in summits beyond our borders. For example, we are currently preparing the ICT summit in the same way, hence we are creating a platform where they can engage with other fellow innovators," he said.

He also said that the prowess of the digital finance system thanks to the progressive advancements to make the system was more inclusiveness through digital payment platforms like mobile payments and

its contribution towards achieving a financial inclusive economy.

"The financial sector grew at an average of 13 percent during the past three years in terms of assets. Supportive legal and regulatory framework, a conducive macro-economic environment and innovation in digital finance platforms contributed to this growth," he said.

The sector is dominated by the banking sub sector, which contributes about 70 percent of the total assets while insurance, pension and securities account for the remaining 30 percent.

He further emphasized that the increasing number of users opting to use mobile money services has forced banks to adapt the paradigm shift caused by the changing consumers which has resulted into the rollout of digital services products like Simbanking which is created and owned by CRDB Bank.

The commission director affirmed Tanzania's readiness to take on the East Africa Community's Digital Economy of which he however insisted that despite Tanzania being ready it is important for the member countries to ensure there is proper harmonization of policies. Only then will the endeavor of the EAC digital economy become profitable.

By Guardian Reporter

Absa Bank Tanzania launches agency banking

IN a bid to enhance banking services delivery closer to its customers across the country, recruit more customers and promote financial inclusion in the country, Absa Bank Tanzania has launched agency banking services (Absa Wakala).

Speaking during the official launch of the services, which will start with the first 100 agents, the bank's managing director Obedi Laiser said this is the continuation of enhancing services delivery to enable customers to access banking at a door step.

"We have rolled out digital banking services, but we found that reaching out more of our customers, specifically those who have no smartphones remained a challenge," he said.

"This is part of our mission as a financial institution to embark on 'Empowering Africa's tomorrow, together - one story at a time,' to help the continent overcome its socio-economic challenges."

He said access to banking services in Tanzania has re-

mained a major challenge among Tanzanians as the recent finscope report 2023 shows only two out of ten persons (22 percent) are accessing formal banking services from 17 percent recent recorded during in 2017.

Lack of access to formal banking services has caused many Tanzanians to opt for informal financial services, he said, noting that Absa Tanzania will continue to collaborate with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and other stakeholders to ensure the increasing formal banking services.

"Low incomes, high banking costs, lengthy procedures, and the obvious lack of extensive banking networks have deprived many Tanzanians of the valuable financial services provided by banks, thereby hindering our country's development," Mr. Laiser added. "As a bank, we are committed to ensuring that reliable banking services are easily accessible, and the agency banking model offers the right solution that the



Absa Bank Tanzania managing director, Obedi Laiser (2nd L), addresses journalists at the launch of the bank's agency banking service in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on from left are head for marketing and corporate relations Aron Luhanga, head of retail banking Ndabu Lilian Swere and head of products segment and business strategy, Heristraton Genesis. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

financial services industry

conducted to find out what they need.

The comprehensive Absa banking services offered through Agency Banking include Card-based Withdrawal

Transactions, Cardless Deposits, Card-based Deposits, Card-based Mini Statements, Card-based Balance Enquiries, and Card-based Funds Transfers (Absa to Absa).

Laiser said he expect the bank's agents to continue recruiting more customers, specifically in areas where banking services are not accessible.

He promised that Absa Tanzania will continue to offer best services delivery, while recruiting more agents across the country.

Currently, he said, Absa Tanzania has a network of 15 branches in ten regions of

"Agency banking is the best solution because most of the banks' branches are concentrated in major cities and towns and many closes early, which causes customers to miss 24 hours banking services" said. "Therefore, agency banking is supplementing our existing digital, app, mobile and internet banking services delivery."

He said, currently many banks are opting for digital and agency banking than traditionally physical branches, which sometime create unnecessary costs to customers.

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He promised that Absa Tanzania will continue to offer best services delivery, while recruiting more agents across the country.

Currently, he said, Absa Tanzania has a network of 15 branches in ten regions of

Tanzania with 63 Automated Teller Machines (ATM).

Laiser further emphasized that while the bank is actively expanding its physical presence in major towns across the country, it will continue to invest heavily in technological innovations to bring more innovative and world-class services that ensure affordability, reliability and convenience to the bank's customers and help the bank to continue hold its position as the leading digital bank in Tanzania.

Ndabu Lilian Swere, the head of retail banking, alluded that Absa Bank Tanzania has demonstrated significant growth in its customer base and profitability overtime, and this has necessitated the deployment of agency banking solution to better serve its customers.

She highlighted that Absa Wakala solution is one of the bank's testimonials that cement the bank's promise of taking banking services closer to its customers through various cost-effective channels with enhanced convenience.

Insurers' consortium sets \$6m for oil and gas sector

By Correspondent Peter Nyanje

A consortium of 25 insurance companies has raised a US\$6 million for meeting insurance demands in the oil and gas sector.

This was revealed recently by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) Commissioner General, Dr Baghayo Saqware when briefing journalists on the performance of the authority.

"This means that as a country, in the insurance sector, we are ready and able to meet basic insurance demands that will arise as we embark on the exploitation of oil gas in the country,"

said Dr Saqware.

"Establishment of the oil and gas consortium was one of achievements which TIRA is proud of."

Dr Saqware was speaking at a meeting organised by the Treasury Registrar (TR) Odice in its mission to publicise activities of public entities.

He said the consortium which was launched last year was one of important tool as the country embarks on the journey to implement the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Lindi.

The LNG project, which has been on the cards for years now, is expected to cost \$40 billionhe

said the establishment of the consortium sends a message to prospective investors in the oil and gas sector that Tanzania a favourable investment destination. "This money raised by the consortium assures investors that all threats associated with LNG and related projects will be insured thoroughly," he said.

Dr Saqware also noted that having local insurers will ensure that not less than 45 percent of fees emanating from oil and gas projects will remain in the country.

"In the past 100 percent of threats in the energy sector were insured by foreign firms. This is



not so good for our country economy," he stressed.

He said the consortium will benefit a lot provided that Tanzania now eyes oil and gas as a driver of the economy.

"The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is a testimony that oils and gas are set to be among major economic players in the region.

He said through the consortium local insurance companies will get opportunity to participate in high profile economic projects in the oil and gas sector.

The consortium will be coordinated by Tanzania Reinsurance Company Limited (Tan Re) with Phoenix Tanzania being the lead agent. It is made up of ten companies: Phoenix, NIC Insurance, Jubilee, Britam, Heritage, Reliance, UAP, Alliance Insurance Corporation and Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC).

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Research institute seeks to develop new pulse seeds

TANZANIA is set to become a food basket for pulses in Africa as Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)-Ilonga in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region, has begun to conduct research on 74 seeds to enable farmers and exporters obtain high performing crop.

Meshack Makenge TARI-Ilonga, national coordinator for grain legume research program said that "We want them cultivate sesame, chick peas, soya beans and pigeon peas and other legumes that have huge market in China, India and other countries across the

world to raise their income and benefit from what they grow," he said.

Apart from that so far TARI has been discovered 41 new varieties of beans including Jesca beans that can help them to meet their needs in terms of business and resilient to the climate change.

"It's a time for youth and other people to make agriculture a business and TARI will help them to access high performing seeds for pulses production," he said

TARI has new technologies to produce new seed varieties, good agronomics

practices, technology on resilience for climate change, resilient technologies for farming activities and right now "We are just encouraging farmers to use seed that can increase yield.

He lauded Tanzania Pulses Network (TPN) to organize Afro World Afri Food 2023 International conference, exhibition in Tanzania that in turn has helped TARI to identify what is required in both domestic and international market for pulses products.

TARI will conduct more research and later on come up with new seed varieties that will meet both domestic and

international markets.

TARI-Ilonga has been able to have a face-to-face discussion with buyers from Asia who are keen to purchase pulses from Tanzania and TARI will help farmers to access high performing seed varieties for cultivation to meet the market requirement.

According to the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) report that was made available to The Guardian indicates the overview of Pulses Trade in Tanzania.

It indicates that, pulses represent 12 percent of crop production in Tanzania.

Producers range from subsistence to medium-sized commercial farmers with approximately 95 percent of farms being less than five hectares.

Common Beans are the third most important staple crop in Tanzania after maize and cassava and are considered important for food and nutrition security and sources of revenue for households.

Other significant pulses grown include dry beans, cowpeas, chickpeas, mung beans and pigeon peas. Pulses production has grown steadily in recent

years reaching 1.6 million tonnes in 2014.

It is estimated that 40 percent of pulses production is consumed, 48 percent is sold in domestic market while the remaining 12 percent is exported.

As a result exports have been growing although there is an absence of reliable data to show the trends. Pulses supply chains in Tanzania generally have small, locally based traders and agents supplying the export companies.

Markets for Tanzania pulses are found in the entire East, Southern and Central

African, Europe and India.

Tanzania is a strategic supplier to India with about 20% of the country's imports of pulses. Contrary to popular belief, higher prices can often be found in India and Pakistan compared to Europe.

However, market demand for pulses in Europe is on the rise, where demand for pulses is growing as an alternative to meat based products.

This is mainly explained by the growing awareness of consumers on dietary related diseases, boosting demand for more plant-based proteins, meat alternative products and a more diversified diet in general.

Family planning growing popular in Simiyu Region

By Francis Kajubi, Bariadi

ADHERENCE to family planning methods in Simiyu region have grown to 45 percent between January and June this year as male and female voluntarily goes for sterilisation among other methods.

The uptake of family planning methods was rated at 36 percent during the corresponding periods of 2022.

Briefing journalists on Monday in Bariadi district, Mary Makunja, Simiyu region Reproductive and Child Health Coordinator said that the adherence to family planning methods is steadily rising following the intervention of the USAID Afya Yangu-Reproductive, Material, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) project.

The USAID Afya Yangu-

RMNCAH is a five-year project implemented between January 2022 and January 2027 in collaboration with the government at the tune of \$66,835,592 (167.153bn/-).

"The project has really contributed a lot to changing the mindset of the majority of Sukuma tribe men who are sensitive to having many children," said Makunja.

She asserted that the adoption of family planning methods is of a promising trend that things will completely change in the few years to come.

"The majority of the men from the Sukuma tribe do believe that having many children contributes to having a guaranteed manpower for farming activities hence food security.

In that case, she said, the majority of the men don't care about observation of



family planning methods.

On the other hand, women from the Sukuma tribe are even confident with their marriages when they have many children for their husbands.

"Women feel like they will lose their husbands to other women if they don't bare many children. In Simiyu region a married woman is likely to have an average of seven children," she said.

She revealed that for a Sukuma tribe man to have many children is more than a blessing that earns him pride and respect from the respective community.

Makunja said that the number of women who gives birth

at the district hospital and health centers have reached 90 percent of the pregnant women attended during the period.

However, clinic attendance by pregnant women has reached 80 percent.

She said with the support from USAID her office has been able to sensitize 14 health care givers in the district on the importance of educating the public on family planning issues.

She said plans are to sensitize another 40 health care workers before the end of the year.

Makunja mentioned other family planning methods that

male and female in Simiyu region have been following as oral contraceptive pills, implants and injectables.

The other methods are patches, vaginal rings, intra uterine devices, condoms, lactational amenorrhea, withdrawal and fertility awareness based methods.

John Sayi (47) a resident of Maswa district in Simiyu region and father of six voluntarily underwent sterilization in March this year and is happily enjoying his marriage.

"I had consulted my wife before I took this decision. She was okay with it. We needed to have a limited number of children so that we can comfortably raise them," said Sayi.

According to him, he had learned the beauty of having a limited number of children from his father. His father passed away several years ago had only six children including himself.

Sayi said that he was once told by his father that he needed to have few children as him.

"My father had one time told me that he used to make local medicine for his four wives to take so that they don't conceive. He had four wives from whom he got only six children," said Sayi.

Sayi is a father of six children. He was blessed two children from his ex-wife and four from his current wife.

South African bonds extend slump to longest since Covid

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African bonds are headed for an eighth consecutive day of declines, a losing streak last seen at the height of the Covid pandemic.

Concerns that the mid-term budget in early November will reveal a wider-than-expected deficit are weighing on sentiment, given worries about missed tax-collection targets, state-owned company bailouts and relentless power cuts that have hobbled economic growth. Any additional government bond sales in the local market to close funding gaps would come at a time of already high issuance.

Yields on rand debt due in 2035 have climbed to 12.12 percent in the longest selloff for the bonds since the nine days ended June 17, 2020, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"The overriding concern is of a wider deficit, failure to consolidate, more debt overall over the medium to long term and, by implication, further erosion of debt sustainability," said Mamokete Lijane, global markets strategist at Standard Bank Corporate and Investment Banking.

A failure in the November budget to present a fiscal stance that showed "credible" consolidation in the medium term would be negative for the bond curve, even if issuance wasn't increased, Lijane said in an emailed response to questions. "However, increased issuance would have a bigger impact than if you just have a wider deficit."

The South African Treasury had

other options for funding, including offshore bond sales, sukuk, cash and domestic floating-rate notes, she said.

Tapping the local bond market instead would be "the most negative signal that could be sent," implying that whatever fiscal slippage had occurred was deemed more permanent than not, she said. Still, the market is already discounting quite a negative outcome, which may limit any selloff.

Meanwhile, demand at South Africa's regular bond auction fell to the weakest in three weeks on Tuesday.

Primary dealers placed 8.7 billion rand (\$460 million) of orders at a sale of 2032, 2037 and 2044 bonds. That's about 2.2 times the 3.9 billion rand of securities on offer, according to data from the central bank.



Retail investors splash Sh130b in State bonds

NAIROBI

RETAIL investors grew their lending to the government by Sh130.4 billion to a new high of Sh418 billion in the first eight months of this year, chasing the higher yields on offer amid a drought of returns in other asset classes in the economy.

This incremental amount by retail bond buyers is equivalent to 39 percent of the Sh337 billion growth in the government's do-

mestic debt since January.

It means that these investors are now lending to the government at a faster pace than banks, pension funds, insurance companies and parastatals—although from a smaller base—and that they have now overtaken the latter pair to become the third largest holders of State debt.

In the government debt classification, retail lenders are classified as 'other investors' and include saccos, listed and private compa-

nies, self-help groups, educational institutions, religious institutions, and individuals.

The shift in the debt holders' matrix is indicative of the state of the economy and is also a result of rising awareness among retail investors of bond investments.

The stock market has been caught in a prolonged bear run that has seen investor wealth shrink by Sh445.4 billion since the beginning of January.

Fixed bank accounts have paid

between 7.4 percent and 8.1 percent this year, compared to the returns of up to 18 percent available on bonds, and 14 percent of T-bills.

"The 'others' might be shifting money from badly performing stocks. With hard economic times, coupons are very attractive too," said Prof XN Iraki, an economist at the University of Nairobi.

"Banks could be diversifying by putting less money into bonds, they understand better the fall in value as interest rates rise...oth-

ers might not have the intimate knowledge of bonds that banks have."

By September 8, the government's domestic debt stood at Sh4.81 trillion, up from Sh4.473 trillion at the beginning of the year.

Banks, which are the biggest domestic lenders to the government in absolute terms, grew their debt holding by Sh74.7 billion between January and September to Sh2.17 trillion.

China to leave benchmark loan rates unchanged

SHANGHAI

CHINA is widely expected to leave lending benchmark rates unchanged at a monthly fixing on Wednesday, a Reuters survey showed, as fresh signs of economic stabilisation and a weakening yuan constrained further monetary easing efforts.

The loan prime rate (LPR) normally charged to banks' best clients is calculated each month after 18 designated commercial banks submit proposed rates to the central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

In a poll of 29 market analysts and traders, all participants predicted the one-year LPR would stay unchanged at 3.45 percent, after the central bank kept the medium-term policy rate steady last week.

For the five-year tenor, 26, or about 90 percent of all respondents, expected it to remain unchanged at 4.20 percent, while the other three participants

forecast a marginal reduction of 5 to 10 basis points.

Most new and outstanding loans in the world's second largest economy are based on the one-year LPR, while the five-year rate influences the pricing of mortgages.

The medium-term lending facility (MLF) rate serves as a guide to the LPR and markets mostly use the MLF rate as a precursor to any changes to the lending benchmarks.

China cut the one-year benchmark lending rate in August but surprised markets by keeping the five-year rate unchanged amid broader concerns about a rapidly weakening currency.

Lin Li, head of global markets research for Asia at MUFG Bank, said both one-year and five-year LPRs are likely to remain steady as a weakening yuan in light of widening yield differentials with other major economies could still restrain



the room for monetary policy maneuvers.

"The already large negative yield spreads over the US

limit the room for rate cuts this month," Li said in a note.

"While the August data helped to boost yuan sentiment,

we think a turnaround will still depend on more data supporting a stronger economic recovery and improving yield differentials."

The yield gap between China's 10-year government bonds and their US counterparts stood at 163 basis points on Tuesday, not far from the widest level in 16 years hit in late August, of 171 basis points.

The widening yield differentials have dragged the Chinese yuan down by more than 5 percent this year to become one of the Asia's worst performing currencies.

A string of economic data including August credit lending growth, factory output and retail sales showed the world's second-largest economy was picking up steam.

China's central bank last week lowered the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves for a second time this year to boost liquidity and support economic recovery.



A photograph of late temple president Hardeep Singh Nijjar is seen on a banner outside the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara Sahib in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, Sept 18, 2023, where the Canadian Sikh leader was gunned down in his vehicle while leaving the temple parking lot in June. AP

India expels Canadian diplomat in reciprocal move

NEW DELHI

INDIA yesterday expelled a senior Canadian diplomat to India in a reciprocal move to Canada expelling a senior Indian diplomat.

The move comes after India rejected as "absurd and motivated" Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's charge that India played a role in the June killing of a Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canadian High Commissioner to India, Cameron MacKay was summoned today to the South Block, the headquarters of Ministry of External Affairs.

"The High Commissioner of Canada to India was summoned today and informed about the decision of the Government of India to expel a senior Canadian diplomat based in India," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said today.

"The concerned diplomat has been asked to leave India within the next five days. The decision reflects the Government of India's growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," it said.

Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly on Monday said an Indian diplomat in Canada had been expelled, Joly said the Canadian government had expelled the Indian diplomat over allegations of the country's involvement in the killing of the Khalistani leader.

"We see this possible breach of sovereignty as completely unacceptable, and so, that is also why we're coming (out) with this information (of the expulsion of the Indian diplomat) today," Joly said at a news conference.

Meanwhile, India rejected allegations made by Trudeau in the Canadian Parliament.

"We have seen and reject the statement of the Canadian Prime Minister in their Parliament, as also the statement by their Foreign Minister" said the MEA in an official statement.

"Allegations of the Indian government's 'involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated' a statement said.

"Similar allegations were made by the Canadian Prime Minister to our Prime Minister and were completely rejected," said the official release.

The statement said India is a democratic polity with a strong commitment to the rule of law.

"Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty

and territorial integrity. The inaction of the Canadian Government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern," the MEA statement said.

The release states that Canadian political figures have openly expressed sympathy for such elements and that remain a matter of deep concern.

"The space given in Canada to a range of illegal activities including murders, human trafficking and organised crime is not new" read the release.

India has strongly rejected any attempts to connect the government to such developments.

"We urge the Government of Canada to take prompt and effective legal action against all anti-India elements operating from their soil," the MEA said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday accused the Indian government of being behind the fatal shooting of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, CBC News reported.

Najjar, who was wanted in India, was gunned down outside a Gurdwara, in a parking area in Canada's Surrey, British Columbia on June 18.

Hailing from Bharsinghpur village in Punjab's Jalandhar, Nijjar was based in Surrey and had been declared "absconder" by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Earlier on Monday, speaking in a debate in the Canadian Parliament, Canadian PM Trudeau claimed his country's national security officials had reasons to believe that "agents of the Indian government" carried out the killing of the Canadian citizen, who also served as the president of Surrey's Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara.

"Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar," Trudeau said.

He stated that the involvement of a foreign hand or government in the killing of a Canadian citizen in Canada was unacceptable.

"Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty. It is contrary to the fundamental rules by which free, open, and democratic societies conduct themselves," Trudeau added.

He informed further that he was coordinating with Canadian allies on this issue.

"As you would expect, we have been working closely and coordinating with our allies on this very serious matter," he said. **ANI**

Lavrov to address UN General Assembly on September 23

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will address the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing.

"The key event of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's stay in New York will be his speech at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly. His speech is scheduled for September 23," the diplomat said.

She revealed that Lavrov "will present in detail Russia's principled approaches to the most important global issues, including the further development of the system of international relations with a view to creat-



ing a truly just multipolar world order based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in its entirety and other fundamental international legal

norms."

The High-level Week of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly opens on September 19 in New York. It traditionally brings together heads of state, prime ministers, foreign ministers and representatives of international organizations from around the world.

For the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the High-level Week will be held without sanitary restrictions. Participants will have to participate in person at all events, and video messages will not be allowed.

The Russian delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Agencies

World leaders reaffirm commitment to SDGs

UNITED NATIONS

WORLD leaders on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the SDG summit, which is being held on the sidelines of this year's general debate of the General Assembly.

In a political declaration adopted at the summit, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to "effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and uphold all principles enshrined in it."

"The 2030 Agenda remains our overarching roadmap for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. We will act with urgency to realize its vision as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, leaving no one behind," reads the declaration.

The leaders emphasized that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

"We also remain resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, and equal pay for work of equal value, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities."

They also promised to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; to fight racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech; to provide inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage, social protection, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, sustainable industrialization and quality, resilient, reliable and sustainable infrastructure for all.

They promised to achieve a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, to conserve and sustainably use the planet's resources, and to reverse the trends of environmental degradation.

The leaders stressed that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.

"We reaffirm the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions," reads the declaration.

The leaders committed themselves to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustain-



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses the United Nations Sustainable Development Forum, on Monday. AP

able development, engaging all relevant stakeholders.

They recognized that the integrated nature of the SDGs requires a global response and renewed their commitment to multilateralism to find new ways of working together and to ensure that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place.

They further committed themselves to finding peaceful and just solutions to disputes and to respecting international law and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The political declaration will be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for a global rescue plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Halfway into the implementation of the SDGs, only 15 percent of the targets are on track and many are going in reverse, Guterres told the opening of the SDG Summit. "Instead of leaving no one behind, we risk leaving the SDGs behind." Therefore, the SDGs need a global rescue plan, he said.

Guterres called for action to reduce hunger, quicker transition to renewable energy, wider spread of the benefits and opportunities of digitalization, better education for children and youth, decent work and social protection, and climate action.

Eight years ago, UN member states adopted the SDGs, which were not a promise made to one another as diplomats but rather a promise to people -- people crushed under the grinding wheels of poverty, people starving in a world of plenty, children denied a seat in a classroom, families fleeing conflicts, parents watching helplessly as their children die of preventable disease, people losing hope because they cannot find a job or a safety net, entire communities literally on devastation's doorstep because of changing climate, noted Guterres.

Xinhua

AT the recent East Asia Summit (EAS), the United States once again stirred up trouble over the South China Sea issue, attempting to sow discord between relevant countries and China.

The United States has repeatedly disregarded the will of regional countries and tried to incite conflicts in the South China Sea, which further exposes the true intention of its so-called "Indo-Pacific strategy" to create divisions and confrontations in the region.

At the EAS, the United States once again pulled its old tricks, emphasizing the need to uphold "freedom of navigation and overflight"

US attempts to sow discord in South China Sea destined to be futile

in the South China Sea and bringing up the so-called South China Sea arbitration.

The notion of "freedom of navigation and overflight" in the South China Sea is fundamentally a false proposition. The U.S. side has never provided any evidence to demonstrate which ship or aircraft from which country has encountered problems while navigating or flying over the South China Sea. It is the United States that, under the pretext of safeguarding "freedom of navigation and overflight," flexes its military muscles and militarizes

the South China Sea, posing a real threat to peace and stability in the region. The so-called South China Sea arbitration seriously violates international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and is illegal and invalid. China does not accept or recognize this ruling and rejects any claims or actions based on it, which is a legitimate measure to uphold the authority and integrity of UNCLOS.

The fact that the United States repeatedly brings up UNCLOS while refusing to join it itself re-

veals the country's hypocrisy. The United States is the instigator and behind-the-scenes manipulator of the so-called South China Sea arbitration, and its repeated speculation and exploitation of this illegal ruling fully demonstrate its intention to politicize, instrumentalize, and weaponize international law.

Over the years, with the joint efforts of China and ASEAN countries, the situation in the South China Sea has achieved overall stability, providing a favorable environment for respective development of regional countries.

China adheres to the path of peaceful development and, as a signatory to the UNCLOS, has always worked together with ASEAN countries to handle the South China Sea issue properly based on mutual respect, in accordance with international law, including the UNCLOS, and in light of the actual situations in the region. Currently, China and ASEAN countries are actively implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and promoting consultations on the DOC.

The United States, as a non-region-

ally, has been deliberately stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, seeking to sow discord between regional countries and China, and disrupting China's and ASEAN countries' efforts to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea, in order to serve its strategic attempt to contain and suppress China.

The U.S. actions violate the basic norms of international relations, go against the will of the people in the region, and run counter to the trend of cooperation. They are doomed to fail.

At the EAS, the United States de-

UAE, Egyptian Presidents discuss bilateral cooperation, regional developments

ABU DHABI

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop cooperation to realise the aspirations of their peoples for sustainable development and prosperity.

During the meeting at Qasr Al Shati in Abu Dhabi, UAE president welcomed President El-Sisi, who congratulated him on the UAE's achievement in the space field with the return of astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi following the longest Arab space mission in history. In this regard, El-Sisi expressed his wish for the UAE to achieve further progress in various fields.

The two presidents also discussed UAE-Egypt ties, particularly in the economic, investment, and development areas, as well as promising opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation to further serve the interests of the two countries and peoples.

The two leaders addressed various issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on regional and international developments. Both sides underscored the importance of working towards peaceful solutions to regional crises through dialogue and diplomacy while bolstering regional peace and stability.

The meeting also reviewed the UAE's upcoming hosting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). The leaders discussed its importance in advancing collective climate action, especially in the areas of sustainability and resource conservation, and delivering mutual benefits to all in efforts to achieve a better future for humanity.

UAE President and the Egyptian President reiterated their keenness to continue engaging in consultation and strengthen joint Arab action to address regional and international challenges as the UAE and Egypt work to enhance security and stability and foster lasting prosperity for the region's peoples.

El-Sisi (pictured) arrived earlier today in Abu Dhabi and was received by the President at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Zayed Al Nahyan accompanied the Egyptian President to greet Emirati astronauts on the airport grounds, where an official reception was held to celebrate the return of astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi to the UAE. El-Sisi congratulated the team for contributing to the achievement of Sultan Al Neyadi and described it as a source of pride for every Arab, wishing the UAE further progress in all fields.

ANI



liberately deviated from the theme of the meeting, disrupted the atmosphere of cooperation, and of course received no support. Earlier, the United States claimed in a high-profile manner that the U.S. and Indonesian defense ministers issued a joint statement criticizing China's claims in the South China Sea, but Indonesia soon exposed the U.S. lies, stating that the U.S. announcement was inconsistent with the facts. Similar situations have occurred before. It fully demonstrated that the diplomatic lies and instigation of the United States will only bring disgrace upon the country itself. **People's Daily**

UK looks to limit strike impact as doctors take coordinated action

LONDON

THE British government said yesterday it was looking to force some healthcare staff to work during industrial action, as senior and junior doctors in England prepared to take coordinated strike action for the first time.

Senior doctors, known as consultants, began a 48-hour walkout on Tuesday and will be joined by junior doctors on Wednesday. They are due to hold three further days of joint strike action next month.

Doctors have said they will operate Christmas Day levels of service, providing emergency care.

"What we're announcing today is how we protect time-critical hospital services, so things like chemotherapy, things like dialysis, because we recognize the right to strike is important, but we've got to balance that with also the right of patients to key treatments," health minister Steve Barclay told Sky News.

He said France and Italy already had such measures in place.

The government passed legislation in July which requires striking workers in key sectors such as rail and fire services to provide minimum levels of service during industrial action, but this did not include hospital staff.

The government says around 900,000 appointments in the state-

run National Health Service (NHS) have already been cancelled as a result of doctor strikes this year.

'Fairness'

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made cutting NHS patient waiting lists one of his five top priorities ahead of a national election expected next year. More than 7.6 million people in England are on a waiting list for hospital treatment.

In July, junior doctors were awarded a 6 percent pay rise and 1,250 pounds (\$1,547) for 2023/24, but the British Medical Association trade union says they are still facing a pay cut in real terms.

Consultants also received a 6 percent rise but the BMA, which represents nearly 200,000 doctors in Britain, said they are seeking a rise above the level of RPI inflation for the 12 months to April - 11.4 percent.

"We are simply asking for fairness and are demanding an end to real terms pay cuts and a fair mechanism for this pay loss to be corrected," Vishal Sharma, chair of the BMA's consultants committee, said in an open letter to Sunak and Barclay.

But the government does not plan to reopen negotiations.

"In terms of pay for this year, we've set a fair and final position," Barclay told Times Radio.



Demonstrators hold banners during a junior doctors rally outside Downing Street in London on Aug 11, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

Putin plans to hold talks with Xi Jinping in Beijing in October – top security official

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping may hold talks in Beijing this October, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev said.



"We expect that substantive bilateral talks between President Vladimir Putin and President Xi Jinping of China will take place in Beijing in October as part of the Russian head of state's participation in the One Belt, One Road International Forum's events," he said at Russian-Chinese strategic security consultations.

Patrushev (pictured) pointed out that relations between Moscow and Beijing, based on the principles of respect, non-interference in each other's domestic affairs and mutual support on the international stage, "are inherently strong and don't depend on the changing situation."

"This approach has been repeatedly confirmed at the highest level, particularly in the joint statement that

our countries adopted during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia on March 20-22, 2023," the Russian Security Council secretary noted.

The Belt and Road Initiative, a concept proposed by Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to symbolically recreate the ancient Silk Road.

The goal is for China to access markets in Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa and other regions, as well as to intensify international trade and investment projects involving a large number of nations along with the use of Chinese and foreign capital.

Over 150 countries and international organizations have already joined the initiative. **Agencies**

FAB announces strategic pathway partnership with COP28

ABU DHABI

FIRST Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) announced its participation as a strategic pathway partner of the 28th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28), which is being held in the UAE from 30th November to 12th December 2023.

FAB's COP28 partnership is an integral part of the UAE's vision to support a sustainable future, the bank's broader growth strategy and its sustainability priorities. As part of its COP28 sponsorship, FAB will take part in a series of engagements and thought leadership initiatives throughout the summit.

FAB also announced its 6-point COP28 agenda, which includes: Accelerating sustainable finance and advancing the UAE's development as a green finance hub; Supporting its clients and partners with the transition to net zero; Growing ESG awareness and adoption among SMEs; Advancing effective carbon markets through production innovation and knowledge transfer; Advocating for the restoration of natural ecosystems and biodiversity; and Empowering individuals from classroom to boardroom to be change agents for positive environmental action.

With climate finance as a critical factor in climate progress, FAB is making strides on multiple fronts including providing transition finance and green financing, in addition to minimising its own footprint and spearheading change across the region.

FAB was the first bank to commit to the UAE's net-zero target, and the first GCC bank to join the industry-led UN-convened Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), where it collaborates with global peer banks to drive forward the global transition to net zero.

As a leading voice in the regional financial sector relating to sustainability, FAB seeks to shape positive outcomes from COP28.

Hana Al Rostamani, Group Chief Executive Officer of FAB, said, "COP28 represents an important moment in the ongoing global effort to address climate change, presenting both the United Arab Emirates and the world with a unique opportunity to make enduring progress towards a sustainable future. **ANI**

India's place in the new world order

THE devastation inflicted by the Covid-19 pandemic on humanity and continuing geopolitical tensions have thrown the world into disarray. The belligerent rise of China in these uncertain times and its attempt to create alternative institutions aimed at crafting a new China-led world order is causing serious concern. Ambassador Sujan Chinnoy's book *World Upside Down*, brings to the forefront these contemporary global developments and the challenges they pose for India.

The book is a compilation of the author's recent articles providing interesting perspectives on global events that impact us all. Russia's attack on Ukraine, now into its second year, has severely dented the Westphalian principle of "sovereign nation state".

Failing to condemn Russian aggression, even as it projected the invasion as an act of self defence against the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO's) eastward expansion, exposed the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC's) infirmities. The United States' preoccupation with European security is said to be weakening its resolve to tackle growing tensions in the South China Sea. These developments are limiting India's options, especially its sui generis relations with Russia that are underpinned by dependency and compulsions.

The inevitability of Pax China threatening Pax Americana in the

new Cold War is prefaced on China deploying wolf-warrior diplomatic tactics. The unabashed imposition of sanctions on exports from Australia, Korea and Japan is the tip of the iceberg. China's misplaced confidence is attributed to the sudden withdrawal of the US from various geostrategic hotspots such as West Asia, Afghanistan, as well as its receding aggressive posturing in the Taiwan Straits. China scoffs at the US leadership's expectations that a liberalised China would adopt an American lifestyle and values, undergoing an elliptical political change in the process, as monumental naivety. Likewise, the facilitation of China's entry into the World Trade Organisation in 2001 continues to devastate manufacturing capabilities even in advanced economies.

India's successful pursuit of a nonreciprocal "Neighbourhood First" policy through infrastructure projects and capacity-building has paid significant dividends. New Delhi's failure to seek deeper economic integration in the neighbourhood, Ambassador Chinnoy reasons, is unwittingly conceding economic space to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects. Security cooperation in any region is like a chain that is as strong as its weakest

link; in that context, terrorism used as an instrument of state policy against neighbours is the weakest point. Similarly, developments in Afghanistan under the Taliban have serious implications for regional stability. The author believes that reactivating South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation not only strengthens India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, but is also imperative for the credibility of its global leadership.

The chapters on India-China relations are particularly useful for drawing valuable lessons from historical references.

The author exposes Chinese duplicity on border talks; its interpretation of the Line of Actual Control in the 1959 border settlement with India is as unilateral as it is vague, while Beijing's rejection of the McMahon Line with India, having amicably settled its boundary with Myanmar in 1960 on the same basis, is perfidious.

It has been reasoned that it is natural for India to expect China to reciprocate on its "One India" Policy in Jammu & Kashmir given that it had respected the "One China" policy on Tibet.

The stand-off at the border in June 2020 could not have come at a worse time when the world was still grappling with the fallout of

the pandemic. This Chinese misadventure is said to have stalled progress in trade and economic areas. Ambassador Chinnoy opines that in dealing with China, India should follow the Chinese cliché - i.e. "he who tied the knot should untie it".

The world is willing to bet on India's rise but this process should be carefully managed with trust and confidence with a focus on deftly building India-driven resilient supply chains in order to avoid future shocks and disruption as well as reduce dependence on Chinese active pharmaceutical ingredients, auto components, electronics, chips and so on.

One gets to understand from the book how India's absence from the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has given China greater leeway to dominate the region.

In retrospect, this understanding should encourage greater infusion of economic content in the Indo-Pacific region, of which the QUAD is a subset, in order to bring the Association of South Eastern Nations into its fold. Ambassador Chinnoy affirms that to reinforce QUAD solidarity, Japan

and Australia too should depict the Line of Control on their maps terminating at point NJ 9842, as the US and UN have done.

While the book captures changing the global dynamics that have resulted in great power contestation as a consequence of China's push for hegemony, it suggests strengthening the existing multilateral rules-based order for containing not only China but also minimising exceptionalism that superpowers invariably seek.

The benign rise of India on the global stage will also strengthen multi-polarity. Notwithstanding India's rightful place as a permanent member of the UNSC, Ambassador Chinnoy admits the process is an uphill task.

The 21st century is largely believed to belong to India and China in which competition and cooperation between them is likely to continue. However, they should not let their differences escalate to disputes in the larger interest of global peace and stability.

This understanding is premised on the fact that India and China co-existed for thousands of years and their destiny is tied by the compulsions of geography.

This is a book review by Damnu Ravi, serving as Indian Foreign Service Officer, currently holding the position of Secretary, Africa and Economic Relations, Govt. of India.

Xinjiang makes strides in high-quality economic, social development

CHINA'S Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region is working to build itself into a beautiful Xinjiang that is united, harmonious, prosperous, and culturally advanced, with healthy ecosystems and people living and working in contentment.

Today, China-Europe freight trains are running across this important node along the Silk Road, constantly releasing development potential; the autonomous region's economic structure is continuously optimized with upgrading traditional industries and new emerging sectors; the prospering green industries are taking the economic development onto a new level.

In Sangong township, Huocheng county, Ili Kazakh autonomous prefecture of Xinjiang, stevia plants were thriving along a national highway. These plants have seen a remarkable price increase, soaring from just over 10 yuan (\$1.37) per kilogram to nearly 300 yuan.

In a workshop of a Xinjiang-based biotech firm, a production line of stevia leaf purification was running at full capacity. Zhou Meng, chairman of the company, told *People's Daily* that stevia leaf is a natural and high-quality sweetener, which is 300 to 400 times sweeter than sucrose, but its calorie is only 1/300 of white sugar.

Stevioside extracted from stevia leaves is widely used in the pharmaceutical and food industries.

The biotech firm is a key technological innovation company in Xinjiang. So far, the company has built two production lines for stevioside and has a complete set of supporting equipment.

Flower-related industries covering lavender, rose and peony are continuously expanding in Xinjiang, increasing the income for local residents.

In Ma Zhongliang's shop in Sigong village, Lucaogou township, Huocheng county, various lavender processed products were neatly displayed on shelves, including essential oils, dried flowers, and pillows.

In 2010, Sigong village started developing the lavender industry, established a specialized cooperative, and introduced essential oil processing enterprises. Gradually, a distinctive industry chain was formed, covering lavender cultivation, development, sales, and the recycling of lavender straws. Over 300 local farmers transformed from "farmers" to "merchants."

With the continuous increase in the added value of lavender, in 2022, the per capita income of villagers in 718 households reached 22,000 yuan, approximately 2,000 yuan higher than the per capita income of the entire township.

In a vegetable packaging workshop of a trading company in Xinjiang's Tacheng, fresh vegetables such as bell peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes



An employee works in a workshop of an intelligent cable industrial park in Changji Hui autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. (People's Daily Online/He Long)

were being loaded onto trucks. The freshly picked vegetables could make their way to the dining tables of Kazakh families the next day.

According to Yu Xinli, manager of the company who has been engaged in fruit and vegetable foreign trade for over 20 years, the company exports an average of about 80,000 tons of fruits and vegetables from the Baketu Port in Tacheng every year. About 40 percent of goods are local sources, bringing benefits to local farmers.

"We have two harvests in a year, and the earnings from each mu of greenhouse can reach 50,000 yuan," he said.

The increased income comes from opening up. In December 2013, the Baketu Port, which is just 12 kilometers away from downtown Tacheng, opened the country's first "green channel" specifically for the quick customs clearance

of agricultural and sideline products. Since then, the clearance process has become much faster.

"There is almost no need to wait," Yu said.

On May 18, the number of inbound and outbound freight vehicles at the Horgos highway port, Ili Kazakh autonomous prefecture, exceeded 1,000 for the first time, reaching 1,099. The figure was less than 300 in 2019.

Ports in Xinjiang are always kept busy by China-Europe freight trains and cargo trucks fully loaded with containers, which is a miniature of the autonomous region's ongoing efforts to expand its opening up.

According to statistics, the total value of foreign trade in Xinjiang reached a staggering 183.16 billion yuan in the first seven months of this year, an increase of 59.3 percent over the same period last year.

Along a road on the outskirts of the Taklamakan Desert, rows of solar panels were glistening, bringing new hopes to the autonomous region.

In a photovoltaic power station run by State Power Investment Corporation in Luopu county, Hotan, a leader of an installation team was busy inspecting solar panels. This year, he led some 20 villagers to install solar panels for the power station, and each one of them could earn an average of approximately 10,000 yuan a month.

As the largest new energy power

generation project in Hotan, it is expected that the annual average power generation of this photovoltaic power station can reach 360 million kilowatt-hours. During the construction period, the power station employed about 1,500 workers, of which 1,000 were local people in Lopu county.

Xinjiang's arid and sunny climate with strong winds and sandstorms has become a driving force for the green transformation in the autonomous region. By improving the energy structure and introducing green and low-carbon industries, Xinjiang's new energy industry has taken new steps towards high-quality development.

In 2010, Xinjiang had no photovoltaic power generation and the installed capacity of wind power was only 1 million kilowatts. Through continuous development, as of mid-July this year, Xinjiang's installed capacity of new energy had exceeded 50 million kilowatts, accounting for over 40 percent of the total installed capacity.

According to estimation, by 2025, Xinjiang's total installed capacity of grid-connected new energy is expected to exceed 116 million kilowatts, with wind and solar power projects becoming the main source of new installed capacity. This will inject new momentum into economic growth and the achievement of the "dual carbon" goal.

People's Daily

SPORT



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national women's squad, Twiga Stars, engage in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) Qualifiers.

Twiga Stars jet off for WAFCON qualifiers' match against Ivory Coast

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national women's football squad, Twiga Stars, has departed for Yamoussoukro for the first-round fixture of the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) Qualifiers against Ivory Coast slated to take place at Stade de Yamoussoukro on Friday.

The 2024 WAFCON finals will comprise a total of 12 teams, which include the automatically qualified hosts Morocco, that will qualify for the group stage.

The teams were seeded according to the FIFA Women's World Ranking released in June and their performance in the previous edition that was played in 2022.

Twiga Stars camped for 10 days in Dar es Salaam before jetting off to Yamoussoukro as the squad's head coach Bakari Shime revealed he has been pleased with his charges ahead of the first leg encounter.

The squad features a blend of in-form Tanzania-based players and experienced foreign-based players, including Oppa Clement who plies her trade in Turkey with Besiktas Women's FC.

Speaking of the match, Shime disclosed preparations were above normal standards and he is pleased with his players' efforts in training and picking tactical orders.

"We had a 10-day training session before departing for Ivory Coast. All players are ready and determined to achieve something in the first leg against Côte d'Ivoire," the gaffer noted.

Shime said: "We are aware of what happened last time we were in this stage and went on to be eliminated by Namibia, something that we don't want to repeat this year."

"We have a disadvantage of not knowing how our opponents are because they haven't had a competitive match this year, something that has provided a challenge to my technical bench, but

we are prepared to grow into the game so that we can pick up positive results," Shime revealed.

The 2024 Paris Olympics qualifying showdown's first leg pitting Ivory Coast against Sierra Leone was canceled, a match that would have provided a glimpse of how the former's head coach Clémentine Touré organizes her team led by captain Cynthia Djohoré.

Should Twiga Stars emerge as the aggregate winners of the two-leg qualifiers, they will face either Djibouti or Togo in the second round of the qualifiers, scheduled for November 27 and December 5.

The victor of the second round will secure automatic qualification for the 2024 WAFCON, to be played in Morocco, where the 2022 WAFCON showdown as well took place.

Twiga Stars' traveling squad:

Goalkeepers: Najath Abbas (JKT Queens), Zulfa Makau (JKT Queens), Husna Mtunda (Yanga Princess).

Defenders: Julitha Singano (FC Juarez Femenil- Mexico), Anastasia Katunzi (JKT Queens), Happy Zablon (JKT Queens), Christer Bahera (JKT Queens), Vailith Nicholas (JKT Queens), Fatuma Issa (Simba Queens).

Midfielders: Joyce Lema (JKT Queens), Diana Lucas (Amed S.F.K-Uturuiki), Noela Luhala (Yanga Princess), Aisha Juma (Simba Queens), Zainabu Mohammed (JKT Queens), Janeth Pangamwene (JKT Queens), Koku Kipanga (Simba Queens), Amina Ally (JKT Queens), Donisia Minja (JKT Queens).

Attackers: Eneka Kasonga (Kryvbas-Ukraine), Diana Mnali (JKT Queens), Stumai Abdallah (JKT Queens), Sarah Joel (JKT Queens), Esther Mabanza (Fountain Gate Princess), Aisha Masaka (BK Hacken- Sweden), Oppa Clement (Be ikta Women's FC- Turkey), Jamila Rajabu (JKT Queens), Winfrida Gerald (JKT Queens).

Fountain Gate Princess clears air on Kenyan player's saga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MAINLAND Tanzania Women's Premier League club Fountain Gate Princess FC has released a statement explaining its decision to mutually terminate its contract with former Kenya U-20 women's team skipper Peris Oside.

As per the club, Peris's contract, which was signed in May this year, had been terminated earlier on mutual agreement and she received all her dues before her exit.

It has, however, been reported that her time at the club was cut short after it was discovered that she allegedly had a relationship with one of the leaders at the club, and she, as a result, got pregnant.

The letter, written by Fountain Gate Princess FC Acting CEO Japhet Makau, also mentioned that as per the club's internal investigation policy, the hierarchy wrote a letter to the unnamed accused person questioning the incident, in which a counter response was offered to deny the said claims and allegations.

"The club has immediately suspended the accused person from his role, paving the way for investigations to take place," the communication read.

It revealed: "We are resuming our negotiations with the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and the affected family to figure out the necessary steps needed to solve this matter."

"We will continue to offer our support until the truth is identified, and action taken against the party involved," it said.

Peris, a former Kenya's Nakuru City Queens player, had in June 2022 signed a two-year deal with Fountain Gate Princess FC, a team famed for its football academy that has branches in four regions- Dodoma, Morogoro, Geita, and Dar es Salaam.

"We want it to be understood that our club is against any form of this behaviour, and has been working alongside several human rights agencies in offering seminars to both players and the team's leadership while establishing free communication between the two should matters concerning either abuse or blackmailing occur," the statement added.

The statement said: "Our players are also offered good security and are manned by female team matrons whether in or outside team camp."

Even while admitting that some isolated cases between individual players and club leaders might be hard to track, Fountain Gate Princess' leadership believes that the truth regarding Peris's case will be brought to light, with action being taken against the guilty party.

Peris, who was also captain of Kenya's U-20 and U-17 teams, made her debut for Fountain Gate Princess in a friendly encounter against Simba Queens last year.

She guided her team to defeating Simba Queens 1-0 in the friendly match played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

She was also the second Kenyan to play in the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League after Harambee Starlets midfielder, Corazone Aquino, who plays for Simba Queens.

SPORTS

With 'bulldozers' rife in urban centers, traditional culture hanging by a thread

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

ONE recognizable aspect of classical African literature after independence is the love affair it had with traditional culture, until the late 1960s with a succession of military coups and civil war.

That is when the tide began to change and questions were being posed at two different ends, those who were writing fiction started questioning society as a whole, how old society had given birth to the new, for instance, Elechi Amadi in 'Eating Chiefs'.

In Tanzania, the number plate prefix for parastatal agencies was given a salutary translation of what they are, 'Soma Ule'.

This substantial disenchantment with all pretension that those in office are there to serve the people was particularly high during the dark days of police rule all over Africa, as was the case for other police-ruled spheres like the pre-1989 Eastern Europe.

Numerous jokes either from those countries or cooked up in the pre-digital Western media had things like the low cost of calling Hell from Moscow as it is a local call, etc.

Most such jokes would have evaporated and others would enter after the 'thaw'.

This cynicism has never pretended that the West is a paradise but there is a strict range, for instance, one reaches heaven and seeks to marry, and thus asks an angel for a lawyer for him to tie the knot.

The angel shakes his head in disbelief and tells the young man that in heaven they scarcely have bishops reaching there, and the fellow is looking for lawyers!

This reflects the sort of suffering that the West went through during the wars of the Reformation, where criticism of the ancient church was a virtual sentence of death, the French Revolution slayed hundreds of priests. By and large, African culture has been shielded from this sort of doubt and criticism as much of the anger or questioning took the form of politics.

Here there was an alibi, bad rulers were 'puppets of colonialists' instead of their being bad as persons, and even worse, as Africans.

We had all sorts of explanations for what was not going right in Africa until when it was time to confront personal misfortune from a realistic point of view, that is, if a prophetic figure can see through, as in x-rays.

This is precisely what is happening when deliverance takes a new turn, seeing what



Friends of Jesus group's singers make an entrance at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam, recently during the launch of the group's three albums titled 'Ni Mwema', 'Shangwe', and 'Jina la Yesu'. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

has happened in one's life, and rectifying the problem on the spot. Elements of this were already present in the past year with Joshua Makondeko, alias 'Konky', who once said to a little girl in church his father would go to ICU. And surely die there. Piercing what happens in individual life, especially in numerous cases of economic misfortune, deaths of children in strange circumstances, huge illnesses of middle-aged men unbeknownst to them that someone wishes to inherit their businesses, etc. is what is now being brought out.

The range and frequency of those cases are such that a cultural impact is unavoidable, not because anyone will admit it in public, but in the sense of a secular environment outside houses of prayer for deliverance.

It will affect attitudes, and people will be more careful in what they do, and whom to avoid.

When for instance two or three persons have faced the same fate of being poisoned by their wives so that the wife and the mother-in-law inherit the businesses or skim away the money and the person slowly dies, it is likely to affect attitudes. People start knowing that marriage, even when it is held in church, is not sacrosanct, that it is naïve to think that so long as knots were tied in church one shall be assured of being in good hands.

In some instances, a wife unknowingly takes a husband to death, after her mother tells her to add fine flour to porridge, she is told that it is meant to prevent him from seeking another woman (after success), but, in reality, it is poison.

In a different scenario, such women do not just come from one part of the country though a string of cases has been linked with a specific 'money addicted' locality or zone, there was a deliberate skimming of the man's wealth.

The woman built rental homes and other businesses as the man slowly died until he luckily got Pastor Dominic on the phone and the matter was sorted out.

Indeed, the fact that women are now being successful on their own and this is normal makes the whole idea of placing oneself in the hands of a woman dangerous.

He does not have to find another woman for decisions to be made, it is enough if the money is too tempting. Revelations of evil-doing at the family level, which got currency with Kuhani Mussa, or the 'Bulldozer', at Kawe in Dar es Salaam as primarily about external enemies to a household, have taken a whole new turn at Buza in the city, with Pastor Dominic.

Here the more important part is within a family, what many knew from childhood that grandmother and aunts are dangerous people to a family, is being brought out in clear. When people start worrying about such dangers, and take measures to be relatively free of such threats, fears of not being buried properly when one dies shall recede.

Informal prayer assemblies take over, as traditional religion recedes. It is the one prize the family institution above all else, now becoming a danger zone because of women's emancipation and underlying evil in what is traditional.

Strikers B cricketers cruise to 2023 DC T20 Cup tournament semis

By Guardian Reporter

STRIKERS B cricketers have expressed an intention to embark on a successful pursuit of the top honour in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup tournament, making it to the showdown's semi-finals recently.

The side has progressed to the semi-finals alongside Malabar Cricket Club (MCC), Zanzibar Cricket Club, and Specialised K&P B which also had an impressive campaign in their respective round-robin fixtures.

In Strikers B's last round-robin clash that had the club making certain of its qualification for the last four, the squad garnered a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over the debutant, Zanzibar Cricket Club.

Zanzibar Cricket Club went in to bat first in the duel played at the Annadi

Burhani ground and was skittled for 122 runs in the allotted 20 overs.

Jitendra Chauhan, Mohammad Kaif, and Rohan Gaussian were the cricketers with meaningful contributions when the club took the crease.

Chauhan was the batsman with the most runs given the middle-order player ended with 31 runs, Kaif notched 22 runs, consisting of four fours, whereas Gaussian made his way back with 22 runs whilst nailing three fours.

Farhan Ishaq, slotted in at middle order, ended three runs short of a two-digit figure, and fellow cricketer, Rehan Ali Rizvi, ended with the bat in hand whilst notching seven runs.

Thirteen extras given away by Strikers B's bowlers, including six byes and seven wides, somewhat boosted Zanzibar Cricket Club's score.

Skipper Krishna Amarshi, Arif Khatri, and Raymond Francis played pivotal roles in efforts by Strikers B to frustrate the plan by Zanzibar Cricket Club to end with an imposing total.

Amarshi had an impressive figure of 3-24 in four overs and a 6.00 economy rate, whereas Khatri garnered three

wickets and conceded 19 runs in four overs whilst registering a 4.75 economy rate.

Francis made matters worse for Zanzibar Cricket Club's batting unit, having taken two wickets whilst leading 30 runs in three overs.

The youthful cricketer had five dot balls during his turn and made his way back with a 10.00 economy rate.

Needing 123 runs to come out victorious, Strikers B did not drain a sweat given they mounted a successful chase without losing a wicket in just 13 overs.

Abdulrazak Mohamed and the youthful Jonathan Nyambo confidently catapulted Strikers B to victory, setting up a solid opening wicket standing. Nyambo was the cricketer with the most runs, making his way back with 57 runs not out consisting of 10 fours out of 36 knocks.

Mohamed was equally ruthless at the crease having posted 51 runs, which included six boundaries and two sixes.

Fifteen extras given away by Zanzibar Cricket Club made it easier for Strikers B's batting unit to get down to the successful chase.

Nyambo was deservedly voted as the Player of the Match for his batting exploits that were instrumental in Strikers B's acquisition of the victory.



Cricketers making Strikers Cricket Club pose for a photo before battling it out in a past Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) tournament tie played at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) ground. PHOTO: COURTESY OF STRIKERS CRICKET CLUB

Premier League goes 'Fergie time' on hyperdrive with most late goals ever

By Chris Bascombe

AT his peak, Sir Alex Ferguson famously made his rivals believe the main function of the hands on a referee's watch was to applaud his side after facilitating a stoppage-time winner.

Given the increase in last-gasp goals during the current Premier League season, the legendary Manchester United manager may be inclined to think he retired too soon.

English football is currently experiencing 'Fergie time' on hyperdrive, with 18 goals coming after the 90-minute mark across the first five Premier League match days. At the same point of last season only two stoppage-time goals were registered, while before this campaign the most at this stage since records began was 11.

The timing of the radical shift is no coincidence, of course. This season's clampdown on time-wasting means the concept of a 90-minute Premier League match is officially dead, added time regularly extending play beyond 100 minutes, giving those teams with a strong bench of substitutes a particular advantage. Fans who prefer to leave the stadium early to avoid travel congestion once thought they were skipping dessert. Now they are increasingly liable to miss the main course.

Tottenham Hotspur's triumph against Sheffield United on Saturday was the latest late Premier League turnaround, the equalising and winning goals registered at 98 and 100 minutes, respectively.

'Playing the clock' has never been more perilous, especially as there is no objective or truly accurate measure of how much time is left beyond what was once the formulaic two or three minutes.

James Maddison gleefully imitating Sheffield United players receiving treatment for cramp in the immediate aftermath of Spurs' winner was lovingly received on social media by all supporters who have felt frustrated by incessant gamesmanship; players feigning injury, extended team meetings before every set-play, and goalkeepers forming a deep and meaningful relationship with the turf each time they catch a cross.

If football's governing bodies

Spain players face punishment if they refuse to play - government

MADRID

STRIKING Spain players would be punished if they do not attend their national team camp after being called up, the Spanish government said early Tuesday.

Victor Francos, the president of Spain's High Council for Sports (CSD), said he would have to apply the country's sports law in the absence of the selected players.

New Spain coach Montse Tome called up 15 of the World Cup winners for upcoming Nations League games on Monday, but the majority of them are striking from the national team to seek major changes in the Spanish football federation.

Disgraced president Luis Rubiales resigned after kissing midfielder Jenni Hermoso, who was not called up by Tome, a month ago in Sydney after Spain's World Cup triumph.

Controversial coach Jorge Vilda was also sacked, but for 39 striking players the changes did not go far enough.

"If they don't turn up, the government would have to apply the law, which is a pity for me, but the law is the law," Francos told radio station Cadena Ser.

Spain's sports law from 2022 states that athletes must attend the call-ups of the national teams when summoned, and not doing so would be a "very serious" infraction.

The potential fines range between 3,000 and 30,000 euros (\$3,200 to \$32,100), while they could also lose their licenses to play altogether, for up to five years.

The decision on a potential punishment would be made by Spain's top sports court at the request of the CSD.

Spain play Sweden on September

persist with the new edict, matches will last longer while José Mourinho's and Diego Simeone's pre-match meetings will be cut in half, blunting the weapons which have long been their forte.

Attacking coaches may also take perverse pleasure from negative opponents being kept in the dark as to how much time is left to waste. Equally, it could work in a defensive coach's favour if an away side can hold on in a daunting venue for 90 minutes before taking advantage of a prolonged period of angst-ridden desperation as the scoreboard and time pressure cranks up.

"I'm 100 per cent sure if I stand out there and if we are 1-0 up and somebody tells me 12 minutes, I will not be over the moon," suggested Liverpool's Jürgen Klopp earlier this season. "In the other way, I think, 'OK, that's nearly a half-time, let's go.'"

The early data makes for a persuasive argument that the Premier League will be more entertaining for the policy shift; late goal feasts potentially becoming the norm. The concept of the centre-back sprinting into the opposition penalty area to hunt an equaliser used to be restricted for the added two or three minutes. The more and longer this happens the likelier the success during prolonged spells of 'injury' time, while making the more adventurous teams vulnerable to a counter attack.

More stoppage time also intensifies the prospect of emotional and physical factors overriding tactics and organisation.

When you consider the most dramatic finales ever, the nervousness of the side trying to resist pressure was as influential as the attacking quality of that throwing on another attacker.

Think of Bayern Munich's players surrendering to anxiety against Manchester United in the 1999 Champions League final; the shock of conceding an equaliser so late undoubtedly leading to schoolboy errors as they gave away another decisive corner seconds after their own kick-off.

Like Ferguson's United, late goals tend to be a recurring habit of the best, most relentless teams. It speaks to the spirit and mentality of a side as much as their abil-

22 and Switzerland on September 26 in the Nations League.

The eventual finalists of the Nations League will qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games. Francos said he was planning on calling a series of players on Tuesday morning in an attempt to resolve the issue.

"We will do what we can to solve it, but we ask them to go to the games," said Francos. "We want them to be Olympic champions. I will try and speak with the captains, if they tell me no, I will respect it. What we don't want (to have to do) is to sanction them."

Tome did not select Hermoso, 33, in the squad, saying it was to protect her.

"Protect me from what? And from whom?" Hermoso posted on X, formerly Twitter, early Tuesday.

She accused the Spanish federation of seeking to "intimidate and threaten" the World Cup champion players by calling them up against their will for the upcoming matches.

The players selected by Tome who were in the 39 all published a statement on social media on Monday, including two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas.

"(We made) clear ... our firm will not be summoned for justified reasons. These statements are still fully valid," said the Spain players in their statement.

Spanish reports said the team's training camp, due to start Tuesday, would take place in Valencia instead of Madrid in an attempt to diminish media presence.

It is unclear how many players will attend the camp - 20 of the 23-woman squad are among the 39 on strike.

AFP

Kylian Mbappe's Champions League obsession gives Erling Haaland rivalry a new edge

By Miguel Delaney

AS Lionel Messi lifted the World Cup in Doha, Kylian Mbappe was "livid". It of course wasn't because of his former team-mate's success. It was that Mbappe had missed his only chance to emulate Pele and win two World Cup finals by the age of 23. The Paris Saint-Germain star is said to be more aware of his legacy than perhaps any previous major player in history - certainly much more than Erling Haaland.

It is why he is now so singularly focused on the Champions League. That's why he ultimately wants to go to Real Madrid. Watching Haaland lift it in June will have only added to that, all the more so because the Manchester City forward clearly doesn't care quite as much. That isn't to say he didn't greatly want it, of course, but it's one growing difference with Mbappe.

The Norwegian said only last week he didn't care for that projected rivalry, either, and that might well be true. Those differences between Haaland and Mbappe will still define the next decade of football in the same way those between Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo did the last decade.

That all might seem rather neat since this is the first Champions League season without either of its greatest players, but then the fact the Haaland-Mbappe doesn't fit so neatly only makes it more alluring.

While the French star is perhaps considered closer to Messi as an all-round playmaker, it is Haaland who is closer to the Argentine in terms of mindset. Those who know both say their approach to it all is more rudimentary. Both Messi and Haaland basically think that they are gifted so they will win. Everything becomes just an expression of their talent, meaning it's not like they think about the game all the time.

Haaland drew laughter at the recent



Haaland and Mbappe are the new stars of the Champions League. Agencies

PFA awards when he spoke about the series he watches, only revealing the Tyson Fury documentary At Home With the Furys. He is said to be more invested in Fortnite, in the way Messi was with football games.

Mbappe is by contrast more like Ronaldo in how "obsessive" he is. He doesn't allow it to flow as easily, because he thinks about it so much more. Mbappe turns inward when things don't go his way. The outward expressions then become much more emotional, and angry.

This has been evident in the last few years at PSG. Mbappe hasn't come close to the Champions League so he has made it clear what he wants the team to look like. That has often been difficult for those around him, just as it of-

ten was with Ronaldo. Now at the peak of his physical powers, Mbappe wants a much faster and intense style of play.

There may well be another twist in that Mbappe finally gets the team he wants in Luis Enrique's youth-driven game, in what is set to be his last season at PSG. It removes some of glamour and soap opera from the Qatari project, but that might well make them a more serious proposition.

That is perhaps essential to give City something resembling proper opposition this season, and to give this campaign some competitive life.

In part because of the way Pep Guardiola has adapted around Haaland, the Abu Dhabi project has become such a supremely functioning machine. The Norwegian is allowed to do all he re-

ally cares about in football, which is just scoring and scoring. Even Guardiola reshaped his ideals around him, such is that finishing talent.

This is what Mbappe has so far lacked in his career outside the French national team. It might be what he gets with Luis Enrique. On that, there was simply never any prospect of the French star going to the Saudi Pro League, or PSG benching him. He has too much power, he is too concerned with his legacy.

It mercifully means Mbappe is still in the Champions League this season, just as Messi and Ronaldo step out.

Haaland won't have the stage to himself.

Really, though, this season is only a sub-plot in a greater play.

THE INDEPENDENT

Champions League group stage changes: What will the tournament look like next season?

By Jamie Braidwood

IT'S the end of an era for the Champions League, as the tournament plays out the last season of its current format before major changes are introduced in 2024.

The most significant reforms to the Champions League in a generation were announced by Uefa in 2021, days before the failed European Super League plot was launched back in 2021, and they received unanimous backing from the European Club Association and Uefa Club Competitions Committee.

It confirmed plans to change the format of European football's top club competition from 2024, giving the tournament its first new look in 20 years. The proposals were not met with the same level of backlash that greeted the Super League plans but were still criticised by leading fans' groups, including the Football Supporters' Association [FSA].

"We are united in opposition to proposals to reform the Champions League that are a back door attempt at a return to the discredited idea of a European Super League," read a statement from the FSA's Premier League Network.

But what are the changes, and how will the Champions League look from 2024 now the plans have been voted through? Here's everything you need to know.

*What will the new Champions League look like?

Since 2003, the Champions League has been a 32-team competition with a single group-stage phase followed by a knockout phase. The 32 teams, seeded according to league position and Uefa coefficient, have been split into eight groups of four, with the top two teams progressing to the last-16 after six rounds of matches in a round-robin format with both home and away matches. That has then been followed by three two-legged rounds, the last-16, quarter-finals and semi-finals, with matches played home and away, before the final at a neutral venue.

From 2024, the group stage will



look completely different.

There are two main changes: four additional teams will be added to take the number of clubs up to 36, and a single league format will be used. The league phase will determine an overall ranking - from 1st to 36th, with three points for a win and one for a draw as usual. The top eight teams will advance to the last 16, with the 16 teams finishing between ninth and 24th entering the play-off round over two legs, with a victory securing passage to the last 16. Teams who finish 25th or below will be eliminated and will not drop down to the Europa League.

*How will the league format work? Uefa and the European Club Association reached agreement on this last year. The number of fixtures is

set to increase from the current six to eight, after Uefa compromised on its original plan of ten.

Fixtures would be determined using a 'Swiss-style' seeding system. All eight matches will be played against different teams, with four at home and four away, and organised by seeding. All the results would contribute to the overall league ranking.

*Will it change the knockout phase?

Apart from the play-off round, the knockout phase is set to be the same from the last 16 stage. There have been reports, however, that Uefa will discuss the idea of scrapping two-legged semi-finals in favour of a 'final four' format played across a week in one European city.

*Will some clubs be able to qualify based on past performance?

No, this has been scrapped by Uefa, after the plans were met with criticism and would have opened the door to there being a safety net for the biggest clubs and widening the inequalities in European football to an even greater extent.

Instead, Uefa will award two extra places to the countries who collectively performed best in Europe in the previous season. If applied to this season, that would mean England gaining an extra spot, along with the Netherlands.

This would mean the Premier League would have five Champions League teams for that season. Unlike the coefficient plans, it would mean there would be no barrier to certain clubs receiving an additional spot.

*How will the other two extra Champions League spots be allocated?

According to Uefa, the other two spots will be allocated according to this criteria:

- Slot one: One of the additional places will go to the club ranked third in the championship of the association in fifth position in the Uefa national association ranking.

- Slot two: Another will be awarded to a domestic champion by extending from four to five the number of clubs qualifying via the so-called 'Champions Path'.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mbappe's Champions League obsession gives Erling Haaland rivalry a new edge

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Safari Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, is pictured kicking the ball to launch a football tournament, known as Safari Lager Cup, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Standing (L-R) are coaches Jamhuri Kihwelo and Sekilojo Chambua. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Safari Lager Cup officially launched in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

SAFARI Lager has officially launched a massive soccer tournament, known as the Safari Cup, aimed at promoting raw talent in the country.

The campaign will run across various regions scouting for talented players that will participate in knock-out games to select a total of 22 players that will form a team, known as Safari Champions, under the slogan 'The New Order of Champions'.

The team will then be groomed to play a friendly match against a prominent club battling it out in the NBC Premier League.

The tournament was launched at the Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a colourful event that was attended by various football stakeholders as the showdown was officially unveiled to the media.

Speaking during the launch, Safari Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, said Safari Lager, widely acclaimed as the beer of champions, came up with the campaign to promote football talent that has yet to be discovered as the firm believes there is a lot of talent in the regions that is unexploited.

She said the tournament will take place in four regions - Mbeya (FFU Polisi ground) on October 7, Arusha (Ngarenaro grounds) on October 21, Mwanza (Nyamagana Stadium) on November 4, and Dar es Salaam (Kinesi Stadium) on November 18.

The Brand Manager pointed out talented players aged 18 years and above are called to attend the auditions events which will be done via participating in the knock-out football matches through which 22 players will be selected to join the regional teams.

Pamela stated: "The regional teams will participate in one national tournament which will filter and select 22 top players to form the Safari Lager Cup Champions team. This team will eventually be put on a national stage and take on a Premier League team in a friendly match."

"The campaign will further include scouts from the English Premier League who will select a top player to join a Premier League team, ensuring the talent is further nurtured," she said.

She further explained that the final 22 players making Safari Lager Cup Champions will get a prize money of 44m/-.

She appealed to NBC Premier League scouts and agents to use the competition to explore talent and see if they could pick players for their teams.

During the launch, renowned coaches, Jamhuri Kihwelo 'Julio', who is one of the best coaches in the country who played for Simba SC and the senior national team 'Taifa Stars' during his heyday, and Sekilojo Chambua, former Tukuyu Stars, Young Africans SC (Yanga), and Taifa Stars midfielder, took part in an exciting dialogue that was moderated by one of top sports pundits and football influencer, Mbwiga Mbwiguke.

The two coaches will be involved in the entire process of scouting the talent as lead coaches that will travel in the four regions to select the players to form the regional teams and finally the Safari Lager Cup Champions.

"We congratulate Safari Lager for the keen interest in promoting football talent in the regions as there is a lot of talent out there that is completely unexplored," Kihwelo disclosed.

Chambua said: "It is a great honour for us to lead this exercise as we explore untapped football talent in the regions to form the Safari Lager Cup Champions team."

The former Yanga midfielder added: "We hope that the talented players will turn up for auditions so they can participate and form the Safari Lager Cup Champions team."

Safari Lager previously sponsored the Taifa Cup tournament which attracted teams from various regions to explore football talent in the country.

Gamondi vouches for improved displays against Namungo FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's NBC Premier League defending champion, Yanga, is set to face a tough task in maintaining the outfit's winning record against Namungo FC in the league's duel set to be held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The two outfits will take on each other in the only league action set to attract the attention of many people with both sides keen on grabbing maximum points.

Yanga takes on Namungo FC after showcasing a stellar performance in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round clash against Sudan's Al Merrikh in Kigali, Rwanda, climaxing with Yanga defeating Al Merrikh 2-0.

Namungo FC, under the tutelage of the former Yanga assistant coach Cedric Kaze, is yet to stamp a league victory this season as the side is sitting 15th, hence, this is an opportunity for the Lindi-based club to upset the defending champion.

Speaking on the situation and development of his squad Gamondi (pictured) disclosed some of his players are tired and injured but, due to squad depth, he is sure to use the remaining ones.

The coach noted: "We started preparations for our game against Namungo On Monday, we have some players who are tired and others who have injuries but I have faith in the players on the bench because I know they can give us positive results."

Gamondi stated: "I have heard many talking about the quality of some players, but for me, my vision is not individual players but the whole team. That's why you will notice our team plays a good game, and any player can score."

The Argentine coach also emphasized that he has built a team based on all players and not individuals after several players make it into the starting XI every week.

The gaffer pointed out: "I have created an environment to have a team with a good balance in every department, we have scored many goals but we have also allowed only one goal in seven games, again a penalty goal which was our fault."

"Now, to be balanced and like that, you must build a team that depends on each other and not a team that depends on a certain person in a certain department," the tactician stated.

He also lauded his players and technical bench on collective respect and togetherness after winning six games from seven games and losing one on penalties against Simba for the community shield.

The Argentine added: "The first thing I have focused on is that the players respect each other, secondly the players respect my philosophies, you cannot be a good coach if the players don't respect them." "The current positive results are due to the efforts of the players and the technical bench," the tactician noted.

Yanga is currently the leading goal-scoring team in the league with 10 goals from two games while keeping a clean sheet in both games, opponents Namungo FC lost the squad's first match against JKT Tanzania 1-0 and drew 1-1 with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

Yanga's perfect start to Premier League season faces Namungo FC's test



Yanga's winger, Jesus Moloko (L), negotiates his way past Namungo FC's winger, Shiza Kichuya, as the clubs locked horns in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa, Lindi. Yanga defeated Namungo FC 2-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YANGA will be looking to maintain their perfect start to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season when they take on Namungo FC at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the evening.

The Jangwani Street outfit remains the only side with a completely faultless record in both goals and results.

The defending champions come into this match on the back of back-to-back 5-0 thrashings of Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and JKT Tanzania in the opening two rounds of the season.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi's men have now gone unbeaten in each of their seven competitive matches this season, claiming six wins and one draw.

They will go into this encounter with a record of three straight wins over Namungo FC.

In team news, Gamondi was not

afraid to hand another start to the up-and-coming striker Clement Mzize against Al Merrikh in Rwanda on Saturday but could afford to give the forward a rest and give room to the striking duo of Kennedy Musonda and Hafiz Konkoni.

Joyce Lomalisa and Kouasi Yao will come into the back four to operate as the two fullbacks, while Ibrahim Abdallah is to partner with Dickson Job in central defense. Ugandan Khalid Aucho will provide the midfield screen ahead of a well-drilled defense.

Max Nzegeli and Mahlatse Makudubela might provide support from out wide, though Farid Mussa, Dennis Nkane, and Jesus Moloko offer alternatives on either flank.

As for Namungo FC, the match against the reigning Premier League champion comes at a very difficult moment for the visitors who could be forced to wait longer to get their first win of the season.

The Ruangwa-based outfit struggled to hit their strides as they kicked off the campaign with a 1-0 home defeat to promoted JKT Tanzania on August 15.

Martin Kigi struck in the 43rd minute to condemn coach Cedric Kaze to an opening loss after joining the club from Young Africans.

Namungo FC failed to get their season up and running as they were held to a 1-1 draw against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC when the sides squared off at the Majaliwa Stadium in the second round last month.

Congolese striker Fabrice Ngoy converted a spot kick in the 80th minute for Namungo FC to cancel out Rashid Chambo's opener for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

The bulk of the XI that took to the field for the first whistle against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC last time out are again expected to feature from the start today.

Having opened his goal-scoring account, Congolese import Ngoy will likely spearhead Namungo's attack.

In head-to-head stats, Young Africans and Namungo FC have met in eight league matches since the 2020/21 season.

Namungo FC is yet to register a victory in this rivalry while the five first meetings ended in stalemates.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MATHEMATICS IS ALL ABOUT PROBLEM SOLVING!

BUT WHO CREATED THE PROBLEM AT THE FIRST PLACE?

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MADALA (I)
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Mpera Mpera
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zite Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kazi Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid week Movie
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM