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Tazara to transport heavy cargo for JNHPP



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PAC chases ministry officials



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Stakeholders donate items to CCBRT



'Individualised transport lifts opportunities'

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

ACCESS to social, economic and cultural opportunities in sub-Saharan cities are often achieved through shared mobility taking the form of para-transit, namely transportation services that supplement fixed-route mass transit, a research report indicates.

This observation was made in a presentation yesterday in Dar es Salaam of the findings of a research titled "Mapping unequal accessibility to socioeconomic and cultural opportunities in informal urban settlements across two sub-Saharan African cities," taking up the cities of Dar es Salaam and Kumasi in Ghana.

Para-transit provides individualised rides outside fixed routes or timetables, with motorised two-and three wheelers replacing or supplementing traditional taxi rides and are more affordable.

Dr Hanibal Bwire (pictured), a lecturer in transportation and geotechnical engineering

This strengthens economic growth and widens the chance of most of the community to get involved

at the University of Dar es Salaam said in the presentation that achieving sustainable development demands that the community is comprehensively included from the grassroots level.

The research exercise supported by the Volvo Research and Education Foundation (VREF), to figure out ways that residents in urban communities in unplanned areas are able to effectively conduct their daily activities, looking at informal settlements in the two cities.

The researcher underlined the need for the government to involve the community at every stage of development activities in order to harness and improve equity and accessibility to opportunities for socially differentiated groups towards better livelihood and community welfare.

He said various sections of the community play key roles in growth prospects, implementing development programs, which implies the need to pursue localised and community involving development policies.

This strengthens economic growth and widens the chance of most of the community to get involved, he stated.

Dr Gift Dumedah, a leader of the project and lecturer in geography and rural development,

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Africa, stakeholders can solve investment challenges - Samia



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks with financiers, development stakeholders and some African leaders at an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) session in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday. She laid emphasis on the need for enhanced cooperation in finding solutions to investment challenges so that various development sectors in African countries can realise stepped-up productivity. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has suggested the need to strengthen cooperation with development stakeholders to find solutions to investment challenges so that African countries can raise agro-industrial productivity.

Speaking with investors, development stakeholders and some African leaders at the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) convention at the Davos-Klosters resort venue in Switzerland yesterday, she said that African countries need to invest more in agriculture to feed themselves and help reduce food shortages globally.

Uplifting production was at the centre of stakeholder dialogue, where it was seen that despite Africa having enough raw materials, it has massive raw exports and little industrial activity.

Coming up with a collaborative approach between public agencies and the local private sector, plus foreign investors would scale up local production levels, they said.

Veteran economic observers at the meeting recommended that Africa create

Our wide range of partners and experience can help anticipate and mitigate potential disruptions in business and production dynamics

a vision with a near term completion horizon, anchored with a controller general of the continent to remove impediments to its being carried forward.

This would replace the situation where each country has its controller in trade and medical drugs, enabling African countries showing interest to produce Covid-19 vaccines to fulfill that goal, they said.

Other major issues discussed include the zeal to reduce the costs of doing business between African countries, the importance of using technology especially in providing services digitally, and speeding up development.

Stakeholders also advised that areas of energy and agriculture should be given priority by African governments, and set up sustainable strategies to create more job opportunities in these sectors, addressing the youth employment crisis.

In the air transport sector, the meeting discussed challenges facing African countries especially in visa issuance and insufficient aircrafts, plus high costs of travel in the continent.

In the event, African leaders and global CEOs unveiled a \$3.4trn plan for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), launched the first report on how public-private partnerships can support the implementation of AfCFTA.

They termed the pact a new era for global business and investment in Africa, outlining high-potential sectors, initiatives to support business and investment, operational tools to facilitate the AfCFTA rollout, and illustrative examples from successful businesses in Africa to guide businesses in entering and expanding in this area.

The report sets out a pathway for global businesses and investors to understand major trends, opportunities and strategies to successfully invest and achieve high returns in Africa. It similarly examines

VP: Arrest police officers abetting sabotage on SGR

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has directed security agencies to pin down and take serious measures against police officers said to be colluding with criminals to divert materials procured for the construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR).

He issued this instruction at Isaka station in Shinyanga Region when launching the fourth slot of the SGR project stretching from Tabora to Isaka, a distance of 165 kilometers.

The government is informed that the theft of materials from the project, in particular cement and steel bars, is done by

There are those who sell fuel from the project and those who sell the fuel to mining sites

collaborating with security agencies such as the police, he said.

"There are drivers, operators and people entitled with securing the premises of the project that are collaborating with others to steal these materials, thus sabotaging the project," he said.

There are those who sell fuel from the project and those who sell the fuel to mining sites, he said, insisting that such people ought to be arrested and brought before the courts.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been working hard to find funds for implementing various projects, and it was

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Usangu farmers, water agencies set high goals



FARMERS and pastoralists in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for resolving the 15-year-old land contention, thus enabling them to pursue their activities more freely.

They aired these feelings after Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa declared that the tug of war on right of occupancy of land where residents and livestock investors at Usangu Basin contended with the Ruaha National Park authorities was over. The government removed an official ruling that the land being claimed belongs to the park.

This had allowed people to work freely in the area, following the government to make substantial alterations to provisions of Government Notice No 28 of mid-2019 and promulgated a year later. The 74,000 hectares of land in contention was being elevated in legal occupancy as belonging to farmers and livestock keepers.

Ending the tug of war has brought huge relief to the residents who have been hustling for years to get areas for farming, livestock keeping and other activities in the Usangu basin.

Elibati Mwinuka, a local resident, said

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local, sub regional and continental value chains.

There is emphasis on accelerating industrialization, all of which go hand in hand with the success of the AfCFTA—the largest free trade area in the world, by area and number of participating countries, conference sources underlined.

Once fully implemented, it will be the fifth-largest cohesive economy in the world, with the potential to have a combined GDP of more than \$3.4trn. Conceived in 2018, it now has 54 national economies in Africa, likely to attract billions in foreign investment, boost overseas exports by a third, double intra-continental trade, raise incomes by eight per cent and lift 50m people out of poverty, background write-ups noted.

Børge Brende, president of the World Economic Forum, said that to ease the pain of transition to its new single market, Africa has the lessons of trade liberalisation in North America and Europe to pick from.

“Our wide range of partners and experience can help anticipate and mitigate potential disruptions in business and production dynamics,” he said.

“The forum’s initiatives will help to ease physical, capital and digital flows in Africa through stakeholder collaboration, private-public collaboration and information-sharing,” he stated.

The report highlights the sense of excitement as AfCFTA lowers or removes barriers to trade and competitiveness, given the continent’s historically low foreign direct investment relative to other regions, observers noted.

Chido Munyati, head of regional agenda for Africa at WEF, said the promising gains from an integrated African market should be a signal to investors around the world that the continent is ripe for business creation, integration and expansion.

The report focuses on four key sectors slated to hold \$130bn assets and high-potential opportunities for companies looking to invest

in Africa, namely automotive, agriculture and agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, plus transport and logistics.

Wamkele Mene, secretary-general for AfCFTA said that macro trends in the four key sectors and across Africa’s growth potential reveal tremendous opportunities for business expansion as population, income and connectivity are on the rise.

Landry Signé, executive director and professor at the Thunderbird School of Global Management and co-chairman at the WEF regional action group for Africa, said that these projections reveal an unprecedented opportunity for local and global businesses to invest in African countries play a vital role in the development of crucial local and regional value chains on the continent.

The forum is actively working towards implementing trade and investment tools through initiatives, such as Friends of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, to align with the negotiation process of AfCFTA. It identifies areas where public-private collaboration can help reduce barriers and facilitate investment from international firms, he added.



The forum’s initiatives will help to ease physical, capital and digital flows in Africa through stakeholder collaboration, private-public collaboration and information-sharing

‘Individualised transport lifts urban opportunities’

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at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, noted that the findings show that such communities constitute crucial components of urban economies despite their being underprivileged.

They are significant portions of people living in lower quality housing, low income levels, low car ownership and beset with poor

mobility infrastructure, he said.

Before starting development projects in such communities, policy implantation agencies need to consult people located at informal settlements to see how best they can be involved.

Local governments need to find better answers on how they can benefit those at the grassroots as true development is to give the community what they actually need, he added.

Usangu farmers, water agencies set high goals

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at a public rally in Kapunga village that people were thrilled by the decision. “We thank the president for her decision to amend the GN 28. We are now free to engage in economic activities,” he said, seeing an opportunity to increase production, after the perennial underlying fear and anxiety about the future was removed.

Anle Kifute, residing at Kipunga village, said the move sounds like a dream to farmers in the area as they have been living in fear for more than ten years due to the conflict.

Lokordu Siloma, chairman of pastoralists at the Matebele-Madunguru ranch, expressed his joy on what has been done by the government to resolve the conflict.

“The government has also trained us on modern livestock keeping practices to ensure that we are more productive in our work,” he said, expressing gratitude to the president for listening to people’s grievances and taking measures to address them.

After announcing the measures, the premier directed the district

commissioner, Reuben Mfune to supervise the proper utilization of the area, and raise awareness on the vital requirement of protecting water sources.

Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki and Usangu ranch leaders were similarly tasked with reorganising the pastoralists by showing the benefits of the ranch method, and establishing factories to process livestock products.

The government had initiated a series of reforms to enable farmers and pastoralists in the district to conduct their activities freely and increase income, he said.

The changes in the GN 28 will put some villages and hamlets out of the Ruaha National Park thus giving more area for people to engage in economic activities, he stated.

Jumaa Aweso, the Water minister, said that earlier the water authority failed to implement a project at Kapunga village priced at 3.5bn/- as they were not sure of the destiny of the settlements at the area. With the government’s decision, the residents are now going to get water, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, who is also Benjamin Mkapa Foundation patron, presents a trophy, a certificate and money to the foundation’s CEO, Dr Ellen Mkondya-Senkoro, at a BMF management and workers’ meeting held at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

VP: Arrest police officers abetting sabotage on SGR

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sad to see some people sabotaging it, he said.

While the construction of the railway proceeds, the government has reached an agreement with to purchase 89 freight wagons and 19 wagons, priced at 1.2trn/- in total, he said, highlighting upcoming accords with the private sector to guarantee a return on investment for the, to

put equipment for moving goods to neighbouring countries.

A huge chunk of the money for implementing the project is a loan to be repaid, thus the need for people responsible for administering the project to oversee the safety of materials, he said.

Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said the sector was important in national development as it stimulated the

growth of other sectors.

Laying the foundation station for the fourth section implies that all segments of the project are now in construction, for the whole length of 1,594 kilometers, involving the construction of main tunnels and feeder tunnels, he elaborated.

A few days ago, police in Mwanza arrested nine people on suspicion of diverting materials meant for the construction of the railway in

Kwimba and Misungwi districts.

Police seized 646 bags of cement, 28 pipes along with three motorcycles with plate numbers missing, to obfuscate the actual identity of the properties.

Police in the lakeside city said a manhunt was underway for those sabotaging the SGR project where the government is using trillions of shillings to be repaid from taxpayer funds.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (R) unveils plaque yesterday to launch the fourth phase of the implementation of the national Standard Gauge Railway. This involves the construction of the 165-km Tabora-Isaka stretch, expected to be completed in 2026 at a cost of 2.6trn/-. Left is Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa. Photo: Marco Maduhu

‘Digital transformation is a driver of the financial sector’

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigaha, has directed stakeholders in the finance and insurance sector to embark in the digital for sustainable investment in economy.

Kigaha made the directive yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the Institute of Finance Management (IFM)’s 50th anniversary conference on financial management in the digital economy and brought together representatives from the government, financial institutions, insurance and students from the IFM.

He made the speech on behalf of the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, saying attracting investment is not a challenge but must be sustainable.

Kigaha reminded the stakeholders in the sector to embrace digital technology to ensure the country’s economy grows and become

sustainable adding that without a digital economy it will not be easy to cope with global digital changes.

“The 50th anniversaries should resonate with the government digital economy and the experts in the insurance and finance sector should see the need to embark on global digitization,” he said.

“The ministry will be on forefront to emphasize investment in all economic sectors and inclusive economy, especially industry. Our big challenge is not to attract but to make sustainable investments. In the past investors thought that the investment was not growing,” he added.

New IFM rector Prof Joseph Lotta said that the institute had established new courses that provide training to cope with and use digital that manage, control, and transform the insurance and finance sector.

He said in the next academic year, the institute has improved and established a new curriculum aimed to provide skills to fight

against frauds and online criminals which seems to be a growing problem in no ways in the global and in the country.

“We are in the digital generation and therefore, there is a need to cope with changes adding that it will benefit and promote economic development. The conference has involved stakeholders and different presentations will be made in the two-day meeting,” he said.

Dr Sosthenes Kewe, the executive director, Africa College Insurance and Social Protection (ACISP) said that digital technology was very important to control, protect, promote and transform to benefit the majority in the sector.

“Digital technology helps to increase productivity, jobs, income and additional value to agriculture products and other to mention the few,” he said

He said the digital economy is vital to increase economies of scale, provide better matching of buyers and sellers in a computer marketplace as well as strengthen

people’s trust in firms.

He said for the future market, digital leadership, digital citizen, digital innovation, digital platform and digital entrepreneurship are highly needed.

In his speech last year at the IFM Golden Jubilee Inaugural (1972-2022) ceremony, Dr Mwegulu said the institute must also come up with strategies to improve its curriculum to produce graduates who are competent in the labour market.

Nchemba said the decision to publish its research in international journals was very important to promote the institute as well as its students.

He said that in the same vein, the institute must be innovative and embark on research that can bring positive changes to country developments.

The minister said the research findings will help to improve curriculum hence enable the institute to produce graduates who are competent in the labour market.



Brenda Msangi (L), CEO of Dar es Salaam's CCBRT hospitals, pictured in the city yesterday symbolically receiving laptops and water filters worth a combined 20m/- from Computer Connections Limited director Umi Punja. It was support meant to improve services at the specialised medical facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tazara acquires 200-tonne wagon for moving of 'abnormal' cargo for JNHPP

By Guardian Reporter

A 200-tonne wagon meant for use in transporting out-of-gauge or abnormal loads such as turbines and other components for the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Plant from Dar es Salaam to Fuga station, has been purchased by TAZARA at a cost of US\$1 million.

Since the project commenced in 2018, TAZARA has moved over 700,000 tonnes of cargo from the port and other sources to Fuga, including machinery, equipment, fuels, cement, and various other materials being utilized at the project site.

Speaking after a successful test run of the well-wagon, TAZARA's acting chief mechanical engineer, Greyson Moilo, said the wagon

had performed according to expectations and was confident that now TAZARA was able to deliver all the equipment required at the hydro-power project in Rufiji.

"We were compelled to buy this 200-tonnes well-wagon after realising that our current wagons could not exceed the capacity of 90-tonnes, but some of the expected components of the power plant being built would weigh up to 200 tonnes, which meant that moving them to Fuga would be a challenge.

We have since successfully tested the wagon with a load of about 190 tonnes, in the presence of all the relevant stakeholders, including the equipment supplier from China (CRRC QRRS), the project owners (TANESCO) and

the Land Transport Regulatory Authority, LATRA," he said.

And TANESCO thanked TAZARA for the effort in acquiring the Well-Wagon.

"As TANESCO, we are now fully assured that all the wide and heavy cargo will reach Fuga for onward delivery to the project site as planned," said Deogratius Hondi, the procurement specialist for the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project.

A Well-Wagon is a wagon with a depressed load-bed between the axles, also known as Extra Out of Gauge Load (EOGL) wagon, made specifically for carrying wide ranging heavy types of goods that would not ordinarily be moved on a normal 50 to 60-tonnes wagon.

This Well-Wagon which

TAZARA has added to its wagon fleet can carry cargo weighing up to 200 tonnes. Normal wagons may only carry cargo weighing up to 60 tons.

TAZARA has been playing a key role in transporting cargo from the Port of Dar es Salaam and other areas to Fuga station, which is about 220kms from Dar es Salaam, in the outskirts of the Selous Game Reserve, where the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project is located.

There is no paved road connecting Dar es Salaam to the project site and the most convenient way to get there is by rail up to TAZARA's Fuga station, from where there is another 20kms of gravel to the site on the Rufiji River where the dam is being built.

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

Zanzibar charts strategy to rescue coconut sector

ZANZIBAR government has embarked on a special strategy to rescue the coconut crop whose production continues to drop in recent years.

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday, Shamata Shaame Khamis, the Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Irrigation and Livestock said coconut is an important food ingredient for Zanzibaris.

"The situation has now made Zanzibar import coconut from neighbouring countries including Tanga and Mafia from the Mainland and Kenya.

He said statistics from the 2013 Zanzibar Woody Biomass Survey showed that the number of coconut trees in Zanzibar has dropped from 5.7 million trees in 1993 to 3.5 million in 2013.

The minister said apart from many efforts taken by the government, coconut production is not good.

"Statistics show us that land area for coconuts plantation has been

reduced from 22,000 hectares in 1997 to 16,000 hectares in 2013," he said.

He added that overall coconut production has also gone down from 119,747,200 coconuts in 1997 to 79,807,200 in 2013.

He cited the main reasons for the drop of production as including small planting pace and taking care thereof, rampant theft of coconut products from farms, flourishing of the uncontrolled coconut water business and wanton cutting down of coconut trees.

Shamata said small coconut production has contributed to the coconut prices rise and reports show that in 2012 an average price for a single coconut was 400/- but in 2022 the price was 1,500/-.

"The situation has contributed to coconuts imports from Tanzania Mainland and an average of 126,000 coconuts are imported to Unguja per month," he added.

"He explained that for a long time the crop

contributed to the Isles economy as Zanzibar used to be a big exporter of coconut products including copra, coconut oil and coconut fibre for making ropes and mats.

He said in the circumstances the government has vowed to come up with special measures to rescue and revive the coconut crop, to increase its production and processing.

He further said the government also plans to put in place procedures for storing, controlling and regulating the correct use of the coconut crop, and that it will not allow the wanton cutting down of coconut trees for timber or use for production of coconut water.

Speaking on the flourishing coconut water, he admitted that it is a huge challenge, saying it is estimated that up to 3,000 coconuts are sold per day in Zanzibar town.

"Despite having in place a decree preventing the sale of unripe coconut products, this trade seems to lack proper control.

KATIKA MAHAKAMA KUU YA TANZANIA MASJALA NDOGO YA TEMEKE (TEMEKE KITUO JUMUSHI HUDUMA ZA MAHAKAMA MIRATHI NA NDOAJIHIRATHI NA 225 YA PIWAKA 2022) MAOMBI YA BARUA ZA USHAKIMI WA MIRATHI YA MAREHEMU DAVID JOHN GATRELL JONATHAN BEDDOE TAYLOR.....MWOMBAJI TAARIFA YA KAWAIDA (kanuni ya 75) Watu wote wanadai kuwa na haki ya marehemu aliyetajwa hapo juu wanafahamishwa kufika na kuangalia shauri hili katika jilada kama wanaona inafaa kabla ya kutolewa kwa utibitisho wa barua za ushakiwa wa mirathi. Hapingamizi yoyote kuhusu maombi haya yawe yameandikishwa mnamo au kabla ya tarehe 20 mwezi wa Februari 2023 saa 3:00 asubuhi siku ambayo shauri hili limepangwa kusikilizwa mbele ya mh. Jaji Asina Omari. Imesainiwa dar es salaam. leo tarehe 16 mwezi wa novemba 2022.

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Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
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Tel: +255 2221176/180
LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. T1201800017216 STEPHEN MARWA MATHAYO
Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2022 (Section 334)
NANAWA MODERN CATERING LIMITED (COMPANY NO. 151753302)
MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the General Public that NANAWA MODERN CATERING LIMITED a Company with Registration Number 151753302 duly convened a meeting on 8th December, 2022 and passed a special resolution in accordance to section 333 (1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2002 that a Company be wound up voluntarily.
ALL PARTIES CONCERNED and who have claims are hereby notified to submit their claims in a closed envelope within 30 days to PHILEMON MSEGU (Esq) of Plot No. 346 Block 'A' CBD Area Kibaha P. O. Box 30298 Kibaha who is appointed liquidator of the Company. Any Claims lodged after 30 days from this publication will not be considered for admission.

WFP World Food Programme
SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

Expression of Interest

The United Nations World Food Programme seeks Milling Companies, that can provide milling services in Tanzania.

The United Nations World Food Programme is updating its Milling Services shortlists and is inviting applications from registered grain (maize and sorghum) milling facilities Millers who are interested and capable to provide these services:

1. Miller must own the milling facility registered in the company name and indicate the daily working hours capacity (MT/day).
2. Miller must have a good internal control measures in place to ensure the quality of the milled products along with the technical staff required to run and monitor the operations.
3. Miller must have the capacity to do fortification if required or requested.
4. Miller must have an adequate holding or storage capacity for grain stock before and after milling.
5. The ideal location for the milling facilities should be in Dodoma town (most preferred), Kahama town and Kigoma.

Any grain Milling Company which is interested and capable of providing these services is requested to complete a WFP Milling Questionnaire (see below for details). Only companies which meet above-mentioned WFP's criteria need reply to this Expression of Interest:

- Milling company must be fully registered with all relevant Tanzanian Governmental departments and has all required licenses.
- Milling company, as well as its employees must not be blacklisted by any UN or non-UN organization.

If your Milling company meets these criteria and wishes to be considered for provision of these Milling services in Tanzania, you must submit the below documentation via email by close of business day of the **30th of January 2023** to **Mohammed.KHALIFA@wfp.org** and **Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org**

- 1- A completed WFP Questionnaire (please contact **Mohammed.Khalifa@wfp.org** or **Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org** to obtain a copy).
- 2- A copy of the company Commercial registration, Certificate of Incorporation, a copy of the most recent audit report, a copy of Bank letter that shows your company's account information.

This announcement is not a tender and rates are not being requested at this stage. Accordingly, please note that neither this Expression of Interest nor the receipt of completed questionnaires binds the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to any such interested parties. **Following assessment of applications, WFP reserves the right to accept or reject your interest to be included in WFP's service provider's shortlist, without any further clarification.**

Please note that WFP does not charge fees from applicants at any stage of the Milling Services shortlisting process.

Queries, strictly related to this expression of interest should be directed to: **Mohammed.Khalifa@wfp.org** or **Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org**

WFP World Food Programme
SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

Expression of Interest

The United Nations World Food Programme in Tanzania Seeks a Warehouse Facilities in Dodoma and surrounding areas.

WFP Tanzania seeks to identify warehouse facilities in **Dodoma and surrounding areas.** The warehouse Facility will mainly be used for the storage of food and commodities and some non-food items, which should ideally meet the following requirements:

- Very good condition without any major repairs required.
- A good accessible location, Near a main roadway and preferably accessible to railway.
- Fitted with Fire detectors; Ablution amenities; main Water and Electricity power from national supply.
- Secured by a surrounding fence, equipped with a gate and proper lightings.
- **Minimum size required, in terms of covered storage area, is no less than 5,000 SQM** and can at least hold up to **10,000 MT of food commodities** with an adequate open area for trucks to turn, manoeuvring and park.

Any interested party/ies in possession of a warehouse facility that fit the description in or around Dodoma City should respond to this expression of interest, as WFP may require such facilities soon.

WFP invites qualified landlords, who own such facilities, to submit their information (as detailed below) for consideration for short listing.

1. Proof of ownership/**Title deed** (certified)
2. Certificate of **incorporation or commercial registration.**
3. Land and structure **blueprint**, pictures of the facility and **Google coordinates** of the Warehouse location.

Please submit requested information to WFP no later than 4pm, **30th January 2023** at the address listed below:

Please note that this is **not an invitation to tender.** No rates/prices are required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies who expressed their interest. This expression of interest may be followed by a visit, inspection of facility and offices.

Please note that WFP does not charge any fee for registration forms.

WFP Tanzania Logistics Unit
113 Ada Estates, Kinondoni, Burundi Street, Mwindu Lane,
P.O. Box: 77778, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

By email to: **Mohammed.khalifa@wfp.org** and **Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org**

Queries strictly related to this expression of interest should be directed to **Mohammed.khalifa@wfp.org** and **Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org**

AKHST installs modern machines for improved cancer treatment services

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIANS will no longer have to travel abroad to seek for high quality cancer treatment services following the Aga Khan Health Service, Tanzania (AKHST) through the Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP) plans to install modern machines to strengthen care of the disease.

The sophisticated Radiation Therapy equipment which has capacity to detect and treat minor tumours without affecting other surrounding parts, will be installed at the Cancer Care Centre at the Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam (AKHD) and commence operation early next year.

Speaking during the media briefing in Dar es Salaam on Monday, Dr Harrison Chuwa, consultant oncologist at Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam and TCCP manager said: "The equipment that will be installed include two linear accelerators model: Versa HD from Elekta with HexaPOD systems and the latest technology of Multi leaf Collimator, that can allow all types of radiation therapy treatment techniques and including Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) for small size tumours which requires utmost precision radiation treatment."

He said the machines, which their market prices are estimated to be 5 million euros each, will help transform services in the country enhancing treatment effectiveness.

He said the Versa HD linear accelerators provide high definition, ultra-fast beam shaping, allowing specialists to safely and efficiently deliver conventional radiation therapies to treat a broad spectrum of tumors throughout the body, while also enabling sophisticated approaches to traditionally challenging cases that require extreme targeting precision.

Dr Chuwa added: "The centre will also house a state-of-the-art, the first in the country and East Africa region, CT simulator model:

MaxFOV technology to allow full view, edge-to-edge, of the CT bore image and micro voxel technology that resolve smaller structures, enabling accurate contours, and deliver DRRs with outstanding resolution and image clarity".

Dr Gijs Walvaren, director for health, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) said: "Our aim remain on promoting the quality of healthcare delivery and patient safety with increased access from primary care to tertiary care level through investment in various thematic areas including equipment, technology, well trained and competent staff. The centre will complement the government's efforts in expanding cancer care services to Tanzanians and reverse medical tourism across the region."

Feras Al Hasan, vice president of Service Intercontinental, Elekta said: "At Elekta we have a united purpose that motivates us as a company and as individuals. Hope for everyone dealing with cancer. It drives us towards our vision to be a world where everyone has access to the best cancer care."

He said Elekta is committed to ensuring that every patient has access to the best cancer care possible.

"Our offering allows clinicians to treat more patients with increased quality, both with value-creating innovations in solutions and AI-supported service based on a global network.

He said: "Elekta Care is an Aga Khan Hospital partner for success. Our people and technology keep you running reliably and efficiently while helping you to optimize outcomes and grow your practice. We are by your side to support you now and deliver a lifetime of high performance and progress."

Reports show that there is a 28 million projected increase of new cancer cases per year by 2040. Cancer is growing twice as fast as other diseases and likely to become the leading cause of death globally in a few decades.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima pictured in Dodoma city yesterday pressing a computer key to launch USAID-supported Kizazi Hodari. This is a project meant implemented in 12 regions in Tanzania and meant to benefit children living in hazardous conditions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Matata foundation unites school girls, encouraging them to focus on studies

By Guardian Reporter

SIXTY young girls who returned to school after dropping out due to various reasons came together in Dar es Salaam in a meeting aimed to discuss challenges and encourage the group to study hard and achieve their intended goals.

The meeting was organised recently by Flaviana Matata Foundation (FMF) and held at Turiani secondary school in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during the session, TMF director Flaviana Matata said that the meeting was aimed to see how the girls are going on and discuss various issues as well as encourage them to work on their dreams.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for lifting the ban to allow girls to return to school after dropping out due to various reasons.

Flaviana said the foundation recognises challenges which the girls are going through especially

after dropping out and coming back to school, that's why it was executing an initiative to support the girls and enable them to stay in school.

"Our aim is to ensure that all who agree to come to school, are supported and encouraged to focus on studies, they should go out of line but invest time and work to attain their educational dreams," she said.

She wanted the young girls to recognise the value of the government's decision to lift the ban and allow pregnant girls to return to

school after giving birth.

Halima Ngodu, one of the girls commended the foundation for bringing the girls together to discuss various issues and encouraged them to focus on studies.

"We have learnt a lot of things in this meeting as most of us stayed out of school for some years, there are a lot of challenges that we are facing when continuing with our studies but we have learned how to overcome them," she said.

Ngodu however called upon the government to help them with challenges in buses as most of them are sometimes forced to pay adult fare due to differences in their identity cards.

PAC chases ministry officials

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) has chased away from its meeting Works and Transport officials following nonattendance of the ministry's accounting officers who were supposed to respond to inspection queries from the panel.

The situation emerged on Tuesday this week at the PAC panel meeting to review the special auditing by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for FY 2020/21 in regards to Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA).

PAC Chairperson Naghenjwa

Kaboyoka, said the laws requires the ministry's accounting officers from the works and transport sectors, all to be present at the panel meeting, but only other officials led by the deputy Permanent Secretary (Works Division) did so, the situation that reflects great despise to the panel.

Kaboyoka said the ministry is faced with various audit queries of which PAC sought to get replies but now they have decided not to call them again and PAC recommendation on the issue will be tabled in Parliament.

"The issue will be tabled in Parliament which will decide on the matter as we cannot go on with such humiliation, as the

task of parliament is to advise the government, but if we advise it and it doesn't listen, we shall use the second option to hold it to account, and the parliament will now display its muscle," she said.

"Both officials ought to have attended the panel's sitting to review CAG audit queries for the two institutions of the ministry as they have been having problems for a long time," she added.

She said the panel will go through the funds that were badly used, poor contract agreements entered, poor procurement and dismal performance in the past five years.

"This was a special audit done by taking statistics for five years 2016 - 2021, we have clearly discovered that the ministry performs habitually, this panel has been submitting its recommendations to Parliament seeking what should be done, and during all these times the Parliament has been taking our recommendations as big parliamentary resolutions," she said.

Kaboyoka said a lot of development funds are taken as loans from sponsors at a big interest but still the money gets embezzled nonetheless.

"This country is going to pay interest for people who did not perform, the development expected had not attained, what is this...? TANROADS and TAA and the entire ministry should remember that the money they are paid is taxpayers' money," she added.



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEWARE OF TENDER AND FRAUD SCAMS

North Mara Gold Mine Limited ("NMGML") and Twiga Minerals Corporation, which are ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania would like to warn the general public of procurement fraudsters and scammers.

In the recent past, some individuals/agencies ("unscrupulous elements") have misled business entities in Tanzania and International by fictitiously claiming to be from the Supply Chain Department of North Mara Gold Mine Limited, Twiga Minerals Corporation and Barrick; posing as authorized procurement and supply chain personnel of the above entities.

It has further come to our attention that these unscrupulous elements send fake e-mails and conducted telephonic discussions with potential businesses with regards to **fake lease agreement, fake purchase orders and fake tenders.**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited and Twiga Minerals Corporation would therefore like to inform the general public the companies have not issued a **Waste Removal tender** nor a **Warehouse Lease agreement** in Dar es Salaam recently.

The public at large is hereby notified that NMGML follows a standardized formal registration and procurement process for companies seeking business with NMGML through duly authorized officers of the company whose identity can be verified through official credentials. All official emails use the domain @barrick.com unlike the domains that have been used in the scams making use of @outlook.com and @twigaminerals.com.

Please assist us in taking appropriate action to curb such mala fide activities by immediately reporting it to the nearest Police Station, the NMGML Security Department or by accessing the following Barrick Compliance Hotline link <http://www.barrickgold.ethicspoint.com/>.

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rikolto

INVITATION FOR QUOTE - FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT FOR 2022

Rikolto is an international network organization with over 40 years of experience in partnering with food chain stakeholders in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. We build bridges of trust and trade between the food industry, governments, research institutions, financial institutions, and farmers' organizations around one central question: 'What will we eat tomorrow?'

Rikolto in East Africa operates in three countries - Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo - with the possibility of extending to Rwanda in the coming years. We are currently looking for an Audit firm to conduct a financial statement audit for 2022 Rikolto Tanzania.

The full Terms of Reference (TOR) are available at INVITATION FOR QUOTE -FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT FOR UGANDA AND TANZANIA FOR THE YEAR 2022 | Rikolto in East Africa.

Please read the full TOR thoroughly before submitting your proposal indicating "Financial Statement Audit- Tanzania" in the subject line and send it via eastafrika.recruitment@rikolto.org by 31st January 2023.

Vice president calls for proper supervision of projects' funds

By Guardian Reporter

THE Vice President, Dr Philp Mpango has called upon officials in Shinyanga Region to make sure they supervise well projects funds sent to the region to be beneficial to the development of the people.

The Vice President made the remarks as he was addressing Shinyanga region officials on his arrival in the region on Tuesday for his three-day official visit.

He said every official should be responsible in making sure the funds are well utilised, taking care of medical devices in health centres as well as making sure drugs reach the people intended.

He added that it is the responsibility of every official to ensure the quality of equipment and materials used in government projects so that the money value is clearly discerned in the projects.

Dr Mpango also called upon Shinyanga regional officials, and those from other

regions in the Lake Zone to make sure children are not engaged in mining activities, instead they should attend school to get education as stressed by the government.

He also called upon the officials to oversee the nutrition issues in the region by educating the people on the subject in various areas including houses of worship, schools and at places with huge assemblies of people.

Dr Mpango also stressed the issue of planting trees in Shinyanga Region as well as in other Lake Zone regions, saying this should be accorded priority in order to restore the natural vegetation of the area.

In the visit, the Vice President is expected to lay the foundation stone for the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) for the 165 km Tabora-Isaka section, as well as the foundation stone for Tinde Water project as well as to speak to the people in general.

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a,

Kasulu

SHULE Bora programme, being implemented collaboratively by the government and stakeholders has improved education and reduced dropout rates in Kigoma region by 90-percent, it has been revealed.

Paulina Ndigeza, Assistant Administrative Secretary (Education) in Kigoma revealed this earlier this week during an awareness meeting for 'Shule Bora' organised by Cambridge Education Tanzania to owners of community radio stations and editors based in Kigoma region, which was held at Kasulu Town Council.

The programme is a national education programme funded by UK Aid to improve quality, inclusiveness, and safety of learning of pre-primary and primary schools in Tanzania with technical support from Cambridge Education Tanzania, ADD international, International Rescue Committee and Plan International.

Education programme reduces dropout rates in Kigoma 90 pct

"For the first time we have managed to reduce school dropout rates whereby at least over 45,000 pupils amongst those who started primary school in greater numbers were selected to join secondary schools this year, this is almost 90-percent of the level which has never reached before," he said.

According to her, the programme has enabled parents to take their children to school as well; it has come at the right time and started bringing changes.

However, Ndigeza hailed the government for the programme, saying it will at large improve the teaching and learning environments which were sub-standard before, as well as giving opportunity to members of the public to participate in activities which aim at bolstering education in their respective region.

Kigoma Regional Academic Officer

David Mwamalagi said the programme has involved parents and teachers so through the Parents Teachers Partnership - PTP programme they will ensure that parents realise their responsibility to raise children in matters of providing them with basic needs including education.

Programme communication manager from Cambridge Education Tanzania, Raymond Kanyambo said that Shule Bora programme is implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and President Office - Regional Administrative and Local Government (PO- RALG).

It works directly with regional government authorities and councils in nine regions with educational challenges including Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa, Dodoma, Mara, Singida, Simiyu, Tanga and Coast.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

IITA-TZ2023-R4D-002-NRS-DAR ES SALAAM

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <https://www.iita.org/> for more information about IITA.

IITA works with other CGIAR centres and national partners on the Seed Equal Initiative, which aims to strengthen seed delivery and improve farmer access to new improved varieties. Seed Equal is active across the global tropics, but has a diverse set of activities in Tanzania focusing on vegetatively-propagated crops. IITA also runs a project entitled BASICSII which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and which has a vision of developing and commercializing the cassava seed supply chain from pre-basic seed of officially released varieties to community-level production by farmers.

IITA is looking for a suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy of the Research Technician - BASICSII Project

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Core Responsibilities:

As a Research Technician, you will work as part of the Plant and Seed Health for Agriculture (PASHA) team of IITA-Tanzania. You will work with other members of the BASICSII project team to improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of pest and disease diagnostic tests being used to assure the health of cassava planting material. In doing so, you will work closely with project partner - the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute. Tasks will involve ordering lab reagents, running diagnostic tests (including standard PCR, real-time PCR and LAMP), conducting lab and screenhouse experiments to improve diagnostic tests, as well as analysing and reporting results. You will also conduct training activities to strengthen capacity in the application of improved pest/disease diagnostics.

Qualification, Experience and Key Skills

- BSc in biological sciences with some previous experience of working in a molecular biology laboratory.
- Previous experience of working on laboratory diagnostics for viruses affecting root, tuber and banana crops will be a great advantage.
- Excellent communication and writing skills. Strong English.

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Dar es Salaam. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge - Coca-Cola Road, Mikocheni Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. **Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.**

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

1723701



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

IITA-TZ2023-R4D-001-NRS-DAR ES SALAAM

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <https://www.iita.org/> for more information about IITA.

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IITA is looking for a suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy of the Research Associate - Seed Equal Initiative

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Core Responsibilities:

As a Research Associate, you will work as part of the Plant and Seed Health for Agriculture (PASHA) team of IITA-Tanzania, and will be responsible for supervising disease diagnostics activities in the molecular biology lab. This will involve ensuring the effective running of the lab, procuring lab consumables, conducting lab work including sample management, nucleic acid extraction, PCR-based diagnostics, LAMP assays and working with team members to expand the range of diagnostics being implemented. Additional tasks will include preparing and running virus diagnostics training activities, working with team members on seed health studies, collecting field data from locations in Tanzania and elsewhere if required, and running screenhouse experiments. You will be expected to analyse, report and present results and contribute to the publication of scientific journal articles.

Qualification, Experience and Key Skills

- MSc in biological sciences with a minimum of three years' experience in working in a molecular biology laboratory.
- Previous experience of working on laboratory diagnostics for viruses affecting root, tuber and banana crops will be a great advantage.
- Excellent communication and writing skills. Fluent English. For successful candidates who show strong research skills and high commitment levels, there will be an opportunity to study for a PhD.

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Dar es Salaam. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge - Coca-Cola Road, Mikocheni Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

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Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

1723701



RE - ADVERTISE.

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BRAND-NEW GENIE A TEREX BRAND SX-135XC SELF - PROPELLED TELESCOPIC BOOMS TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED, TANZANIA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Brand new genie a Terex brand SX-135XC self-propelled telescopic booms and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply and delivery of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01551	Supply and delivery Brand new genie a Terex brand SX-135XC self-propelled telescopic booms

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01551)	
60%	
Submission of Terex Mobile Crane's Dealership Authorization letter.	10%
Certificate of conformity for supplied equipment's.	10%
Warranty letters cover for equipment and components.	10%
Proof document of supplying Terex Brand Mobile Equipment to various companies	5%
Document Submission of technical and operational training modules.	15%
Submission of technical data sheet.	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01551) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 03rd February, 2023. (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Stakeholders donate 5 laptops, water filter to CCBRT hospital

By Guardian Reporter

COMPUTER Connections Ltd & Direct Solutions Ltd in collaboration with LifeStraw by Vestergaard Community have donated 5 laptops and 1 water filter to CCBRT hospital in Dar es Salaam worth 20m/-.

Speaking during the handover ceremony at CCBRT yesterday, Umi Punja, Director for Computer Connections Limited and Direct Solutions Limited, commended CCBRT hospital for its tremendous job in providing high-quality specialized health services to Tanzanians in need.

These include surgeries and rehabilitation services, sight-restoring cataract surgeries, repair of cleft lips and palate, correction of congenital clubfoot, provision of

prosthesis and orthosis, provision of wheelchairs, repairing of obstetric fistulas as well as provision of quality and safe maternal health services.

"Personally, and as a company, we have worked with CCBRT since its inception; they have done a great job in changing people's lives. Therefore, we saw the need to support their life-touching work. Our support will ease CCBRT's work and reach more people," says Umi Punja.

On the other hand, Direct Solutions Limited have teamed up with LifeStraw by Vestergaard to ensure they provide clean and safe water, which is essential for humans; "Living in developing countries, we understand the impact that basic necessities can have on our day-to-day existence. Clean and safe

drinking water is key to survival. Our holistic aim is to improve the quality of life, and the standard of people's health, ensuring that individuals can meet their potential capabilities by making our products readily available at cost-effective prices."

CCBRT's Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Msangi expressed her profound gratitude to Computer Connections Ltd & Direct Solutions Ltd for their generous support. "CCBRT is grateful to Computer Connections Ltd & Direct Solutions Ltd for their generous support. This support will contribute to CCBRT's effort to continue to provide subsidized life-changing treatment to patients. Together we will improve equitable access to affordable and high-quality care in Tanzania", said Brenda.



ROAD, NOT RIVER: Ingenuity, courage and some balancing act come in handy in crossing this section of a road in Mbalizi township on the outskirts of Mbeya city on Monday after raging floodwaters overwhelmed the drainage system. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Available investment opportunities to strengthen relations between Zanzibar, UAE - Zanzibar 1st VP

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman has said that there are many economic and investment opportunities that can further strengthen relations between Zanzibar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Othman made the observation yesterday in his office here when he met and held talks with the UAE Consul in Zanzibar, Ambassador Saleh Alhemeiri.

He said that Zanzibar has a lot of opportunities in the blue economy, fisheries, agriculture, trade and air transport where investors can direct efforts in the areas.

"We have a lot of opportunities, Zanzibar can also learn from

expertise and experience from the UAE to build capacity in various areas and thus bring productivity in development," he said.

The 1st VP said air transport is rapidly growing, this demand of the services increasing everyday where if robust strategies are put to invest in the area, will help Isles make a huge development step.

Consul Alhemeiri said the UAE will continue working closely with the Zanzibar, strengthen relations while supporting its development initiatives so as to achieve its development goals.

"We are also ready to support training for youth from Zanzibar so as to enable the country to become an important centre in air transport," he said.

Meanwhile, the 1st VP met and held talks with a team from the Monitoring, Management Institute in the President's Office calling them to work hard and fulfill their obligations so as to lift up hopes of Zanzibar through having strengthened social services.

"Zanzibar wants to see services improving and this cannot happen if you are not working hard to supervise well your duties," he said.

Josephine Kimaro, deputy chief executive officer of the institution said that they are working to supervise priority areas of the blue economy, power, water, infrastructures and social services as well as informing the public of various efforts implemented by the government to bring development to people.

By Beatrice Philemon

Researchers challenged on results for climate change health impact

THE Forum on Climate Change (FORUMCC) has challenged research institutions to conduct scientific research on climate change health impact to different communities in the country.

The Forum also calls on higher learning institutions such as universities to conduct research on the same for the government and its development partners to initiate recovery projects.

Msololo Onditi, FORUMCC's programme officer argued yesterday in Dar es Salaam that climate change has been highlighted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the threats to human health and therefore researchers should offer solutions of the real situation in the country.

"People have a right to know to what extent climate change is likely to affect their health. Scientific research results are needed so that right policies and strategic plans are set on the way forward," he said.

According to him, obtained results will set a roadmap for policy makers, decision makers, development partners and other stakeholders to understand which areas need more support, most affected economic

sectors and socio-groups at high risk.

"FORUMCC is aware that children, women, and elders with weak immune systems are at high health risks due to climate change implications," said Onditi.

Climate change has affected the delivery of health services to pregnant women, children and elders due to drought and floods that pose side effects on transport and access to clean water and sanitation.

"The National Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 should portray improvement of health services. It should also be aligned to global strategies to mitigate climate change effects," he said.

Gladness Lauwo, FORUMCC's project officer said climate change affects food supply resulting in children malnutrition, nutrition and stunting. "Children are most likely to suffer from stunting. Undernutrition is one of the largest negative health impacts of climate change and predominantly affects low-income countries therefore the government should be cautious" she said.

She called for abundant financial resources to address climate change

impacts such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promote adaptation measures and create resilience for affected areas. "Farmers should use organic fertiliser and pesticides to restore the earth's nature. People should protect water sources in their localities. In areas where large forests have already been cleared people should plant trees for ecological restoration," she said.

She said the government should allocate more funds for water supply infrastructure.

WHO current findings shows that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

Also the direct damage costs to health such as excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation is estimated to be between USD 2-4 billion per year by 2030.

Apart from that, areas with weak health infrastructure mostly in developing countries will not be able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond on time.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OIL ANALYSIS LAB EQUIPMENT END OF LIFE REPLACEMENT TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED, TANZANIA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Oil Analysis Lab Equipment End of Life Replacement and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply and delivery of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01560	Supply And Delivery of Oil Analysis Lab Equipment End of Life Replacement to GGML

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01560)	60%
Ability to provide basic user training on the instruments to end users	10%
Evidence on Total fluid management Knowledge with laboratory track records.	10%
Provide tool warrant of not less than one year after installation/setup.	10%
Past experience on supply, install and commissioning of laboratory tools and equipment evidenced by 3 clients	2%
Evidence on Providing after sale services installation, commission, and testing including periodic Calibration of the Tools/Equipments	14%
Must be authorized dealer or OEM with all tools to be delivered with calibration certificate	14%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01560) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 03RD February 2023. (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION FOR SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AT GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring a service of Supervisory development training and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01513	PROVISION FOR SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING TO GGML

I. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.20%
Company Code of Conduct	1.20%
Company Code of Ethics	1.20%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.20%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.20%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.20%
Current NSSF Compliance Clearance Certificate (Mandatory Requirement)	5.00%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.20%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.20%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.20%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.20%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.20%
List of Directors	1.20%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.20%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01513)	60%
Must be an accredited service provider	20%
Capable of providing training materials for both online and traditional classroom-based training	10%
Must be able to provide recognized certification by relevant authorities	10%
Must display proof/evidence of the company profile showing company /companies that have been given the service	5%
Must be capable and ready to conduct Training of Trainers who will be running the program under their supervision and be ready to monitor quality through final assessment and moderation before certification.	15%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01513) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 03RD February 2023 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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There are important lessons to learn from rows between farmers, herders

THE latest news involving government stand-off with farmers and ranchers (in this case) is a peaceful resolution of a 15-year long conflict over land use in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region between residents of Usangu Basin and Ruaha National Park authorities. The way the conflict was resolved was for the government to cede some of land rights it had even put on official gazette that it is part of the Ruaha National Park as late as July 2022. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa declared that the government values the various investors at Usangu Basin.

The rice farmers, rice millers and livestock keepers whom the premier said they will now be able to conduct sustainable farming activities and livestock keeping. The core aspect is a decision by the government to allocate 74,000 hectares for farming and livestock keeping activities that were earlier supposed to be within national park boundaries. The solution was based on virtually abrogating the relevant government notice, giving ceding land to residents.

This measure wasn't altogether novel as the government has been reexamining prerogatives in relation to various conservation areas, including altering the status of game protected areas to village land with an element of conservation. It enables villagers to form semi-commercial entities and contract with hunting firms, etc. under the aegis of district authorities. Otherwise the common practice is parceling out game reserves as hunting blocks to earn some revenue.

For one thing, the solution that the government adopted can be used as a model in similar situations, now that the inter-sectoral cabinet

committee tasked with resolving long standing land issues has on a series of instances adopted the same formula. Government cedes the control of land (some say ownership) where the relevant conservation activity isn't primary to the land use and is only auxiliary to adjacent conservation activities. While the use of that formula is likely to spread out further, each case is intently examined for optimal results, not ceding too little land to make an impact, or creating an impression of negating conservation.

While each ceded will have its laurels or premises of consideration, we need to take note of the fact that with a third of our land under conservation, this situation is unlikely to be as sustainable in the long run. At independence we had upwards of nine million people, rising to 12m inhabitants in the 1967 census, rising by leaps and bounds since then. One feature is that we need more mechanization to create intensive agriculture rather than expansive farming practices but as they say, Rome was not built in a day. It is a work in progress, daily.

Debate over conservation and investment in Usangu Valley and Mbarali area as a whole may have not ceased with the new measure, as its problems are complex. While the government measure referred to farmers and livestock herders (breeders actually), the Livestock and Fisheries minister said the Usangu Ranch is reserved for livestock keeping, that is, without auxiliary farming activities. Other sources identified in the Hansard, official journal of parliamentary discussions, cited a cabinet circular number 2 of 2002 saying the blocks were leased to commercial breeding, a total of 16 blocks. There are water issues to sort out, etc.

Land formalisation process likely to have more than regional resonance

WELL placed World Bank officials see Tanzania's current land occupancy formalisation programme as on the mark to set pace for other African countries on improvement of land tenure, with the Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) supported by the World Bank. The programme itself targets social development concerns especially regarding social inclusion and sustainability, that is, where targeted beneficiaries durably access land and remain key stakeholders. This ought to cover economic operations based on land title, occupancy, use.

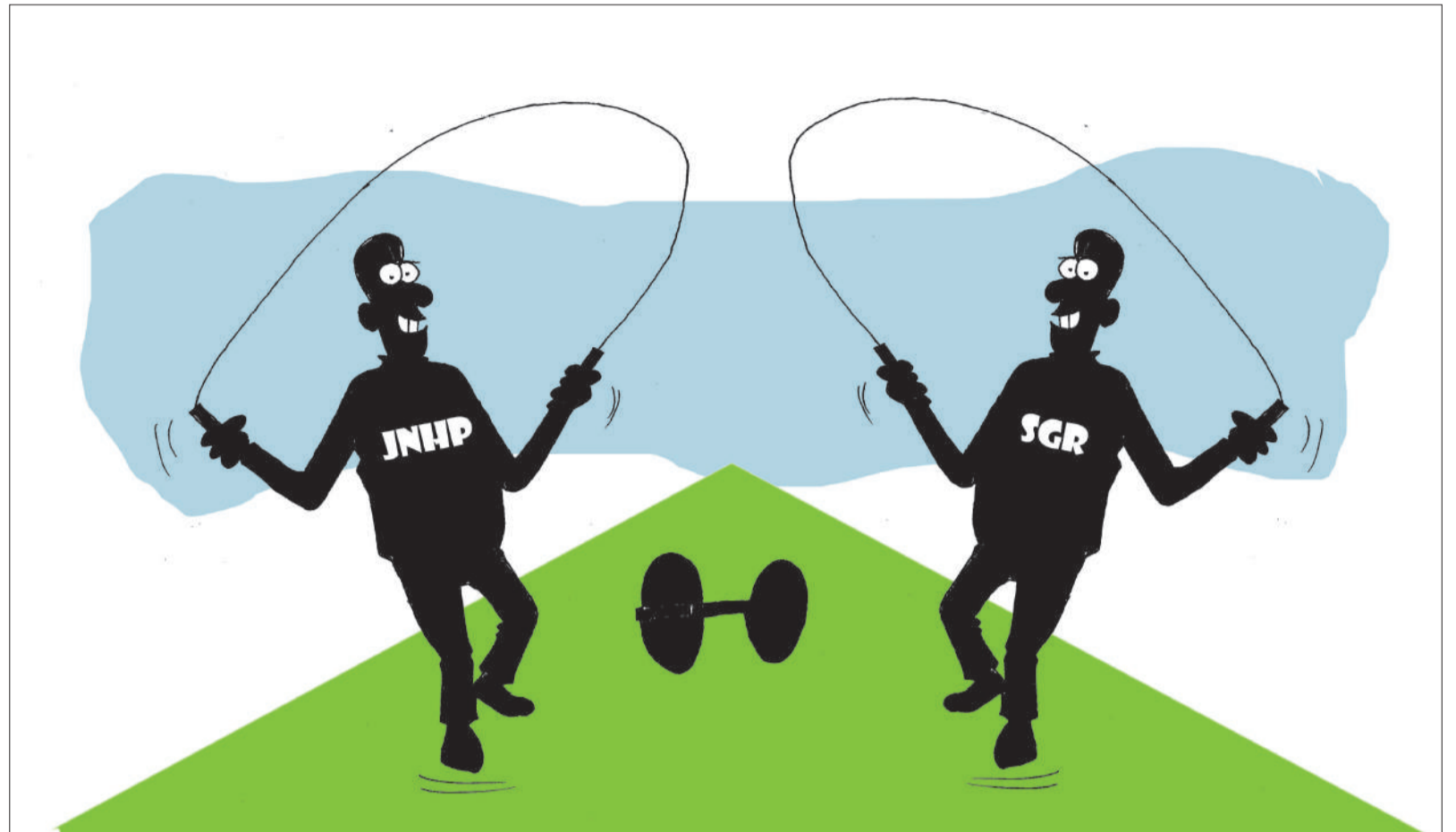
It will take a while for sociologists and economists to an extent to map out results of the \$150m project targeting 14 regions with 40 administrative districts, for the issuance of one million certificates of right of occupancy (CROs). Also envisaged is issuing 500,000 titles within the customary right of occupancy context (CCROs) along with one million residential licenses (RLs). This latter certification is usually applicable for informal settlements, where one has a minimal right to compensation for structures erected in the area, not for the land.

The five-year project that is now one year old is a mixture of land occupancy regimes all of which claim the right to be recognised, while there is a hiatus on how one jumps from one occupancy model to another. Plenty in the project depends on how far Land ministry officials will show acceptable levels of competence for appropriate implementation of the project. It is a point that a World Bank regional office supervising expert deliberately sought to underline, aware that in many areas the programme runs counter to tradition, intuition, habit,

That the programme may run into some local controversy is clear from the World Bank's analysis, identifying gender constraints in agriculture as including weaker access to land by women. It says that "men are frequently the sole owners of land or property assets," projecting dual asset ownership which is ordinarily reserved for immovable assets that a couple accumulate in the course of marriage. The principle is inapplicable on clan lands.

The World Bank expert noted that to contribute to closing the gender gap on women's land rights, LTIP will promote gender equity in the mass certification activities by ensuring that women can register land either individually or jointly with their husbands with the full range of rights. The project is designed to measure progress on women's access and rights to land by, among other things, monitoring how many CROs, CCROs and RLs are issued, registered in which name. A preliminary safeguard would be first to distinguish inherited clan land and purchased assets between couples, and in this case the inclusion of the woman is a formality.

Whether or not, or really to what extent the project is a pilot exercise for the wider Sub-Saharan Africa region is thus an open-ended question. What the expert did not say, for clear reasons of activist reasoning rather than studying the Far East model especially South Korea and China, where land occupancy rationalization was done after independence (or during reform), is that it would facilitate large scale land trading as investors seek it out. During the project's preliminary phase in Dodoma Region, customary land occupancy titles were largely sidelined for individual titles, where gender considerations are easier to take into account.



The year of inflation exposes dogma and class bias

By Anis Chowdhury

INFLATION worries topped Ipsos's What Worries the World survey in 2022 overtaking COVID concerns. The return of inflation caught major central banks, e.g., the US Federal Reserve (Fed), Bank of England, European Central Bank "off guard". The persistence of inflation also surprised the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The return of inflation and its persistence exposed the poverty of the economics profession, unable to agree on its causes and required policy responses. It also exposed the profession's anti-working class biases.

Almost all major central banks as well as the IMF failed to see the coming of inflation. In December 2020, the US Fed forecast that prices would rise by less than 2 per cent in 2021 and 2022. It failed spectacularly when in December 2021, it estimated that inflation in 2022 would be just 2.6 per cent even though prices were already rising by more than 5 per cent a year.

The US Fed was not alone in failing to see inflation coming. The Governor of Australia's central bank - the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) - was so confident of low inflation that he declared in March 2021 that the interest rate would remain at a historic low until at least 2024. Inflation in advanced economies during 2021 exceeded the average of forecasters' expectations by around 5-8 percentage points. The IMF's forecasts have badly and repeatedly undershot inflation.

There was a widespread view among most central bankers and leading economists that the price increases (or inflation) that began in mid-2021 were temporary, and price increases would slow or inflation would drift downwards in 2022. Some, of course, insisted otherwise, and wanted immediate anti-inflationary measures. Thus, policy confusion ruled.

Soon inflation phobia overtook and central banks were advised to act decisively with interest rate hikes even if it meant slowing the economy or a rise in unemployment. Exaggerated claims were made without evidence that not acting now would be more costly later.

References to rare episodes of hyperinflation were made to justify tough policy stances.

The dogmatic inflation hawks ignored the fact that, in most cases, inflation does not accelerate to become harmful hyperinflation, but remains moderate. They also ignored their own neo-classical



macroeconomic model, which suggests small welfare loss from moderate inflation.

Notwithstanding the IMF's Article IV preamble which provides that economic policies should aim to foster "orderly economic growth with reasonable price stability, with due regard to [country specific] circumstances", a one-size-fits-all policy of steep interest rate hikes became the only medicine to be applied to achieve a universal inflation target of 2%, a figure plucked from thin air. Yet, central bankers and mainstream economists boast their credibility!

Inflation is primarily an expression and outcome of conflicting claims over the distribution of national output and income, e.g., firms' profit mark-ups vis-à-vis workers' wages. Thus, no sooner inflation spiked early in the year due to slow adjustment of COVID-induced supply shortages to pent-up demand, exacerbated by war and sanctions, leading central bankers and mainstream economists found an excuse to weaponise economic policies against the working class.

Stoking the fear of wage-price spirals, they advocate the use of an interest rate sledgehammer to create unemployment and, in turn, discipline labour. This is despite research within the IMF and the Reserve Bank of Australia which found no evidence of wage-price spirals since the 1980s due to declines in labour's bargaining power. Thus, Bloomberg headlined, "Fattest Profits Since 1950 Debunk Wage-Inflation Story of CEOs".

Research conducted by the IMF also found increases in firms'

or corporations' market power, resulting in higher prices and profit margins. Yet, the IMF does not think such factors "are contributing in any sizeable way to the current inflationary environment". Instead, it justifies such fattening of profits on the ground that "they provide flexible buffers between general wage and general price increases" and that it is only a catching-up "after taking a hit in 2020".

But no such compassion is extended to the working people who have lost their lives and livelihoods. The calls for "front-loaded interest rate hikes simply got louder. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) warned, "With the prospect of higher wages as workers look to make up for the purchasing power they lost, inflation could be high for a long".

Labour is a clear loser. Labour's income share in the GDP has been in decline since the early 1970s. Casualisation, off-shoring, anti-union legislation and technological progress have greatly reduced labour's bargaining power, while privatisation and dilution of anti-monopoly legislation hugely strengthened corporate power and their collusive anti-competitive behaviour. Meanwhile, CEO compensation packages swelled to obnoxious levels, rising 940 per cent since 1978 in the US as opposed to a 12 per cent rise for workers during that period. Profiting from the pandemic, CEO pay increased by 16 per cent in 2020 when workers suffered, and to a record level in 2021.

Leading central bankers and mainstream economists conveniently created a dogma

around a 2 per cent inflation target to justify their anti-labour stance. The 2 per cent inflation target has become a global norm akin to the law of gravity, even though it has no theoretical or empirical basis. The law of gravity differs depending on altitude, but the 2 per cent target is said to be universal regardless of circumstances!

Meanwhile, the advanced countries' inflation fight is causing adverse spillover into developing countries. Higher interest rates have slowed the world economy, and triggered capital outflows from developing countries, thereby depreciating their currencies and lowering their export earnings.

Together, these are causing devastating debt crises in many developing countries, similar to what happened in the 1980s. The rating agency S&P estimates that central bank rate rises could land global borrowers with US\$8.6t in extra debt servicing costs in the coming years.

Instead of providing genuine debt-relief, the G20 kicked the can down the road. As wealthy nations failed the poor countries during the pandemic, the IMF is moving to debt-distressed countries with conditionality-laden one-size-fits-all austerity packages. Thus, a Foreign Policy op-ed asked, "The International Monetary Fund: Holy Grail or Poisoned Chalice?"

Meanwhile, the chiefs of the World Bank and the BIS urged "supply-side" policies professed to increase labour force participation and investment. These are code words for further labour market deregulation, privatisation and liberalisation.

Samia's presence in global summits good for the country in the long run

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is currently rubbing shoulders with other heads of states and government in Davos, Switzerland, where the World Economic Forum (WEF) is taking place. The meeting in the Swiss resort city also brings together retired national leaders, business leaders, policy and decision-makers and philanthropists.

Given our recent history, there has been a debate of sort on whether or not such trips are good for the country. The debate emanated from the fact that these events usually last for days and can rack up substantial amount of money in travel costs, accommodation and per diems for delegates.

The question is: is it worth it? Well, some argue that as a developing economy, these meetings should be avoided unless it is necessary. On the other hand, some argue that these meetings are rare opportunities for meeting who-is-who that should not be missed unless it is absolutely impossible.

"When executed well, these meetings are certainly worth the time and expense. They can serve as a powerful catalyst to align leaders, develop solutions to problems, introduce new strategies, and fuel collaboration across the organization. But many companies squander this rare opportunity to harness the collective knowledge of their frontline leaders," reads Leadership Summits That Work by Harvard Business Review.

President Samia's attendance is an opportunity for Tanzania to effectively utilize the gathering to find global responses to issues affecting the country and world at large. The biggest challenge in trade and international relations is logistics of bringing together the world's most powerful men and women who make key decisions. WEC solves this problem and that why Samia's attendance matters.

Summits such as WEF put a leader



President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday for the 2023 World Economic Forum meeting.

on a global stage. For instance, President Samia is to lead the African contingent at this year's edition in Davos which comes with a limelight and free publicity that would have otherwise cost a fortune.

The continent settled on Samia after South African President Cyril Ramaphosa who was earlier scheduled to lead the continent did not make it to the forum to attend to the ongoing energy crisis in the African continent's perennial economic powerhouse. This pick itself tell a lot about the confidence other African leaders have in her.

As for Tanzania's agenda at the forum, President Samia was reported to have four main issues to present at the meeting. Apart from attending a workshop on Food Action Alliance:

Investing on Greater Resilience, she is present Tanzania's views on how to restart global cooperation, the country's strategy on dialogue as well as attend a plenary session on powering the world.

The five-day event, which ends tomorrow, takes place against a backdrop of a volatile global economy with the Chief Economists Outlook launched at the meeting showing that almost two-thirds of chief economists believe that a global recession is likely in 2023; of which 18 per cent consider it extremely likely - more than twice as many in the previous survey conducted in September 2022. A third of respondents consider a global recession to be unlikely this year.

Apart from economic and development issues, the forum also dwells

on current global affairs the war in Ukraine and its massive economic fallout which disrupted global supply of fuel and grain leading skyrocketing prices of the same.

Apart from such hard talks, WEF is a platform for meeting important people since it is a gathering of global political and business leaders, celebrities and prominent social activists. It is taking place at a time when the world economy is under extreme stress, reeling from high inflation, an energy crisis and other supply disruptions caused by the war, and a resurgence of COVID-19 in China.

WEF founder Klaus Schwab said that economic, environmental, social and geopolitical crises are converging and conflating, creating an extremely versatile and uncertain future, at a

media briefing.

"The annual meeting at Davos shall try to make sure that leaders do not remain trapped in this crisis mindset," the prominent business strategist and former academic affirmed.

The five-day meeting, which convenes under the banner of "Cooperation in a Fragmented World," will see over 50 heads of state and government take part. Among the expected guests are German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Some recently elected leaders, including South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Colombian President Gustavo Petro and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines are also expected.

Sometimes it is success of those you help that makes you feel successful

By Thomas Lyimo

ANY professional teacher irrespective of level of education must have come across this common statement in teaching circles that 'Teaching is not a gainful employment but a vocation.'

This statement means that a teacher needs to sacrifice his or her time for the success of pupils above financial gains. They should not reject monthly payment but understand that there are other factors other than a salary which motivate them to work hard. It is when someone has a wider definition of success that entails the success of others that they can devote time to doing something and in our case, it is teaching.

For someone to devote most of their time doing something, they must have a lot of love for it. We are always advised to do what we love or love what we do. Teachers who believe that teaching is a vocation are expected to suffer less when it comes to accomplishing their objectives in the teaching profession as they can easily devote their time.

On the other hand, those who were attracted to the profession due to incentives are likely to suffer the most because loving what you do is not as easy as doing what you love. However, where there is a will there's a way. Professional advice and mentorship should be prioritized in the teaching profession.

Sometimes there are repetitions of work which occur as a result of corrections or need to improve



and they normally cause some stress to teachers especially those who are good time managers who put each and everything in a time perspective while forgetting that teaching is a vocation and success of pupils regardless of sweat it demands is what makes them teachers.

Teachers are not prohibited

from initiating their own income-generating projects but they should make sure that their personal development initiatives do not consume time for teaching as it is rightly said that chewing two pieces of meat at once is not possible.

If a teacher can devote time in some activities rather than teach-

ing, then they must be very good at teaching. For, it is teaching that a teacher is rated for and gives signs of success and not any other economic activities.

One of the teaching activities is syllabus analysis. This enables a teacher to break down the content of the syllabus into simple terms that can be put in a teach-

ing manner. It appears sometimes that the number of periods in the syllabus exceeds the actual number of periods per year in a given year. This kind of reality calls for syllabus analysis. It is making contents fit in the academic calendar that consumes time.

For, the number of periods per week is well established but as

the length of learning activities vary, it becomes a challenge to exactly fix content on a weekly basis as writing schemes of work demands. This situation requires more creativity and time because if someone cannot think creatively, they can get into nervous stress as skull muscles contract beyond normal.

Another activity is writing good notes. This takes time as a teacher should read many books before writing good notes which must be a summary but a profound and precise one. Without good notes pupils can suffer as very few of them can read long notes. Therefore, a teacher should devote time in preparing good notes for effective teaching and learning.

Helping struggling learners makes it a must for a teacher to devote time in the teaching and learning process. Most of the struggling learners are capable of understanding and exhibiting a high level of competence but the challenge is discovering how they learn. This takes time and if a teacher cannot devote time they cannot succeed in assisting struggling learners master basic skills and reach their full potential.

Both public and private schools should encourage and empower teachers so that they devote time in the teaching and learning processes. If teachers do this, the output of schools will be better and vice versa. Let us help teachers so that they can help our children.

To register success in anything, you must have the right people in the right places. Let's have the right teachers in our schools who devote their time to teaching and hence deserve to be rewarded with good pay. Effectiveness comes with devotion to time as opposed to rushing.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

The WHO recommends 'the use of masks by the public in specific situations' in latest guidelines



By Estelle Ellis

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has reiterated in its latest set of guidelines on the Covid-19 pandemic that it still "recommend[s] the use of masks by the public in specific situations, and this update recommends their use irrespective of the local epidemiological situation, given the current spread of the Covid-19 globally."

"Masks are recommended following recent exposure to Covid-19, when someone has or suspects they have

Health workers outside a Covid-19 testing station in Alexandra, Johannesburg, on 31 March 2020. (Photo: Gallo Images / Dino Lloyd)

Covid-19, when someone is at high risk of severe Covid-19, and for anyone in a crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated space. Previously, WHO recommendations were based on the epidemiological situation," the new guidelines read.

According to the WHO, other instances where masks may be beneficial include: where a local outbreak has been confirmed, where there are rising hospital admission levels, and where levels of vaccination coverage and immunity in the community, and the setting people find

themselves in, suggest increased risk.

There are currently large outbreaks of Covid-19 in several countries. In South Africa, the situation remains stable.

WHO's new guidelines for isolation

According to the latest advice from the WHO, a patient with Covid-19 testing negative on a rapid antigen test can safely leave isolation; but without testing, new guidelines suggest 10 days of isolation from

the date of the onset of symptoms. Previously, the WHO advised that patients isolate for another three days after they become symptom-free.

For those who test positive for Covid-19 but do not have any signs or symptoms, the WHO now suggests five days of isolation in the absence of testing, compared to 10 days previously.

The WHO said it had considered evidence that people without symptoms were less likely to transmit the virus than those with symptoms.

Covid-19 treatments

Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir-ritonavir) is strongly recommended by the WHO in patients with mild or moderate Covid-19 who are at high risk of hospital admission.

Two other drugs, sotrovimab and casirivimab-imdevimab, are also recommended by the WHO for the treatment of Covid-19. These are monoclonal antibodies but they are not very effective against current variants, a statement by the WHO reads. Monoclonal antibodies are manufactured proteins that act like human antibodies in the immune system.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) has received an application for the registration of Paxlovid, but the outcome is not known yet.

South African situation

Earlier in January, scientists identified a subvariant of Omicron, known as XBB.1.5, in a sample taken in late December 2022. XBB.1.5 has been identified as highly transmissible, but the latest risk assessment by the WHO stated that it appeared to be missing the factor seen in variants causing severe Covid-19. The organisation, however, called for more study and data.

Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla said no new regulations, mask mandates or lockdown orders were forthcoming in the near future. He said the provincial health departments had been instructed to step up testing. The testing of wastewater for viral particles would be increased and the wastewater of planes arriving from areas with high levels of infection would also be tested.

A formal announcement on the availability of booster shots for everyone over the age of 18 is expected at the end of the month. DM/MC

Flora smuggling in Succulent Karoo threatens the world's most biodiverse, rich arid region

By Carina Bruwer

ILLEGAL harvesting to supply the international horticultural market threatens some of South Africa's endemic succulent species. The plants – sought for their beauty, rarity and often whimsical shapes – face near extinction in the wild.

South Africa is home to three of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. One is the Succulent Karoo, covering 116,000 km² in the Western and Northern Cape provinces and across the border into Namibia. The Succulent Karoo is the world's most biodiverse arid region, with many of its species occurring nowhere else on Earth. It houses the planet's largest concentration of succulents, all of which are uniquely adapted to thrive in aridity.

Despite its astonishing resilience to the harsh, arid climate, the Succulent Karoo faces several human-related threats. These include climate change, habitat destruction through farming and mining, and the rise in illegal harvesting and trade of wild plants to supply international horticultural markets. While cultivated succulents may be legally traded, wild plants may not be harvested or sold without a permit.

Although Red Listed in South Africa, several illegally harvested and traded species were recently added to the global International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species. Many Succulent Karoo plant species are now classified as endangered and critically endangered – only one step away from extinction in the wild, like the last two remaining northern white rhinos. There are fears that Namibia's succulents may face a similar fate.

Media outlets increasingly report on suspected illegal harvesters being arrested and thousands of plants seized. Incidents of unlawful harvesting began to increase in 2019. Until then, it was mostly foreign nationals, including from Asia and Europe, who illegally harvested plants during field excursions to South Africa. More recently, Saudi Arabians have also been convicted of related crimes.



A typical semi-arid Klein Karoo landscape, undulating rocky hills covered in fynbos and succulent plants. (Photo: Andrea Nixon)



Media outlets increasingly report on suspected illegal harvesters being arrested and thousands of plants seized. Incidents of unlawful harvesting began to increase in 2019

A Cape Nature staff member told the Enact project that many of the arrested foreigners had travelled to South Africa before, and had probably plundered plants in other countries. One South Korean man was arrested in South Africa for being in possession of over 2,018 plants. After his conviction, he was extradited to the United States (US) and convicted of similar offences related to illegally harvested cacti species.

But, as a South African National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi) official told Enact, "then Covid hit and it just sort of exploded." Locals became the primary harvesters. This is possibly due to Covid-19 restrictions that limited foreign

travel, but almost certainly due to poverty and limited employment opportunities in the Succulent Karoo region. This change also transferred the risk of arrest to the local harvesters.

Countries in Asia, Europe and the US are the main consumer markets for the plants. While more research is needed to fully understand what drives demand for specific species, global demand seems to exceed legal supply, which prompts illicit harvesting of wild plants. Scientists suspect that the emerging market in Southeast Asia has driven the recent spike in illegal harvesting.

Worryingly, illegal harvesting is also driven by demand from se-

rious plant collectors for bigger and by default older, plants. These would take too long to grow under cultivation and can therefore often only be sourced from the wild. This is evidenced by seized plants estimated to be hundreds of years old.

What is the result of gaping holes in the ground where little wonders used to be? Apart from the immediate loss of endemic species and biodiversity, and the habitat destruction caused at harvesting sites, the truth is that we don't know. The role of individual species in the ecosystem needs to be examined, and now there are fewer specimens left to study.

It is likely that the impact of los-

ing these plants will only become apparent over time and that the fragile arid ecosystem will change as it is degraded by succulent fortune seekers. When harvesters destroy the soil, they contribute to erosion and break rocks where some species grow. These rocks are home to other species of plants, insects and reptiles.

Considering current seizure data, it appears that market trends shift rapidly. According to Sanbi, this discovery could show that demand for certain species may have been met by poached stock, and that plant smuggling networks are now seeking new, interesting plants that aren't widely available on the international market.

Multiple seizures in South Africa also show that law enforcement agencies recognise the seriousness of the crime. But, as is true of organised crime in general, law enforcement is still on the back foot in reacting to continually evolving trends.

Because illegal harvesting and trade increased exponentially in a short period, South African policies and regulations do not yet effectively protect most of the targeted species. This is also why a timely response is required before more wild populations disappear.

It is encouraging that the seeds have been sown for a holistic, multistakeholder intervention. A group of public and private stakeholders, led by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Sanbi and the World Wide Fund for Nature, developed the National Response Strategy and Action Plan to address the Illegal Trade in South African Succulent Flora – launched in February 2022.

If the strategy succeeds, it could safeguard threatened species and provide income potential through legal trade. It may also serve as a blueprint for preventive, holistic responses to transnational organised crimes that target natural resources – as seen in the multistakeholder strategy being planned to tackle abalone poaching. DM

Dr Carina Bruwer, Senior Researcher, Southern Africa, ENACT, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Pretoria.

'Indian Speaker's visit crucial for robust Indo-Tanzanian relations'

LOK SABHA speaker of Indian Parliament, Om Birla is in Tanzania for three days visit (18th -20th) for parliament cooperation between the two countries explain how Tanzania will benefit from his tour. Our Correspondent Beatrice Philemon interviewed him on a number of development issues and what Tanzania can learn from India as well.

QUESTION: Can you tell us about the agenda of your visit to Tanzania and what should Tanzanians expect from your visit?

ANSWER: We believe that the current visit of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Tanzania is very significant in the backdrop of the deepening Indo-Tanzanian relationship which has evolved, in recent years, into a modern and pragmatic partnership with greater emphasis on diversified trade, investment and economic engagement, development partnership covering capacity building, training, concessional credits and grants, and mutual understanding at political level.

India-Tanzania relations are marked by longstanding friendship and closeness, vibrant economic ties, wide ranging and substantive development partnership and historical people-level linkages built over centuries-old commercial exchanges.

The periodic high-level visits between our two countries have been an important feature of sound political ties, understanding and appreciation over the last fifty years.

Our current visit assumes special significance which comes fifty years after the visit of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Dr. G.S. Dhillon, Speaker, Lok Sabha from 10 to 13 October 1972.

India believes in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is like one family). As Parliamentary institutions are nodal pillars of our democratic governance; it will be well for both our nations to encourage regular interaction between our Parliaments and parliamentarians. I am sure that this visit by our Parliamentary Delegation will further enhance and deepen our bilateral relationship.

Q: How does Indian parliament cooperate with the government to expedite the legal framework required to reform key economic sectors like agriculture, education and others?

A: The Parliament of India as the apex democratic institution in the country has always remained at the forefront of translating constitutional values and ideals into action by enacting appropriate laws towards building a better future for the society.

With the mandate from the Constitution and the directives given in the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Parliament of India has been enacting suitable laws over the years to keep pace with the time and needs.

By enacting several progressive legislations, our Parliament has provided a direction and helped people realise their dreams - socially, educationally and economically.

There are many landmark legislations enacted by our Parliament including: The Companies Act, 1956; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986; The Right to Information Act, 2005; The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005; The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009; The National Food Security Act, 2013; The Central GST Act, 2017; and The Integrated GST Act, 2017; among others.

All these legislations are crucial for social transformation and the Parliament has led by example and showed its maturity and wisdom over the years by bringing about consensus on various landmark legislations.

Our political parties have also played a major role in this respect by setting aside their political differences and joining hands together when it comes to important Legislations concerning national issues.

Q: Under your leadership, what have been the major achievements and milestones for Indian parliament? Any such experience/achievement that Tanzania could learn from



Speaker of Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha

India?

A: It has been close to four years now that I have had the privilege of presiding over the Lok Sabha—the Lower House of the largest democracy in the world.

I am glad to have enjoyed the unstinted co-operation and support of the Honorable Members which has been the constant source of inspiration for me.

The Seventeenth Lok Sabha, in its journey so far, has many landmark achievements.

There were path-breaking legislations, insightful discussion, constructive debates, landmark committee recommendations, outreach initiatives, among others, all of which upheld people's aspiration and the dream of the New India.

It has been our constant endeavour to create an enabling environment for Hon'ble Members, with all relevant work amenities, smart research cum information support, advanced infrastructure, and up-to-date digital cum IT tools.

Besides, sessions for awareness generation on issues of topical concern, capacity building programmes, welfare facilities, health camps, easily accessible e-resources, and expeditious medical assistance, were ensured to facilitate productive participation of Hon'ble Members in the House.

Another challenge we faced was coping with the catastrophic impact of the COVID pandemic. By initiating appropriate measures like speeding up the vaccination drive, insistence upon observing COVID appropriate behaviour, regular testing camps, shift-wise sitting of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and staggered cum rotational working modes, we were able to seamlessly sail through those harsh and challenging times.

The Seventeenth Lok Sabha has, in fact, set a new paradigm and tall benchmarks in terms of overall work excellence and productivity that will continue to inspire the future journey of the Parliament of India.

The Parliament of India is constantly promoting the strengthening of the democratic traditions and institutions of India. Sharing the idea of 'One Nation, One Legislative Platform' as propounded by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, we are taking steps for the realization of the same on a priority basis.

Through this initiative, the proceedings of all legislatures—both Houses of Parliament and State Assemblies and Legislative Councils will be available on one platform.

The New Parliament Building which is on the verge of completion will also be a landmark in India's parliamentary history and a milestone moment in the celebration of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating the glorious 75 years of our Independence.

The New Building is designed to be equipped with latest state-of-the-art facilities to meet all the requirements of modern Parliament and also the expected demands of future times.

The Parliament of Tanzania, like its counterparts, in other countries is the Supreme Legislature of the country. I have no doubt that the Parliament of Tanzania, like in India would continually evolve with the needs and requirements of the changing times.

Q: We would like to know on various Indian laws on investments and how the parliament through those promote the country's economic prosperity?

A: Today, India is one of the most preferred destinations for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) owing to its liberal FDI policy, strong macroeconomics fundamentals, its democratic governance system, and improvement in its ranking in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report.

The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in the country increased from USD 81,973 million in FY21 to USD 84,835 million in FY22, reflecting increased foreign investment opportunities in the country. To promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), reforms in the FDI Policy have been undertaken in sectors such as Defence, Insurance, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Telecom.

Further in the trading sector, 100% FDI is permitted in Single Brand Product Retail Trading (SBRT) and 51% FDI is permitted in Multi Brand Retail Trading (MBRT).

The Government has launched 'Make in India' initiative to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure and make India a hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.

Further, investment outreach activities are done through Min-

istries, State Governments and Indian Missions abroad for enhancing international cooperation and promoting foreign investment in the country.

The key laws that govern foreign investment in India are the FDI Policy, issued by the DPIIT and the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA) and the rules and regulations issued there under.

Furthermore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Mode of Payment and Reporting of Non-Debt Instruments) Regulations 2019, for investment in India by a person resident outside India.

In recent times, the Parliament of India has passed many legislations including: The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2021, The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021; etc.

To make, India an attractive and investor friendly nation and to stimulate growth. The intent is to remove policy bottlenecks that may be hindering investment inflows into the country.

Changes are made in the policy after having intensive consultations with stakeholders including apex industry chambers, Associations, representatives of industries/groups and other organizations taking into consideration their views/comments.

Q: India is now the world's 5th largest economy. India is an important trade partner of Tanzania. How can India help Tanzania in promoting its exports and industrial development?

A: India offers 98 per cent Duty Free Tariff scheme to Tanzania. This has helped to promote Tanzania's exports to India.

Last year we had a balanced bilateral trade of USD 4.58 billion with USD 2.2 billion of exports from Tanzania. India has remained number one export destination for Tanzania.

As per Tanzania Investment Centre our investment since 1990 has reached USD 3.68 billion. In the last one year there has been a positive trend in investments in agro-processing, animal vaccines, pharmaceuticals, hospital and ports, among others. India is also working with Tanzania on capacity building.

As you know Tanzania is India's biggest development partner in Africa with USD 1.1 billion line of credit, annual about 700 scholarships and capacity building training.

Recently, a 29 member delegation from Tanzania Chamber of Commerce & Industries (TCCIA) attended a customised multi-sectoral training programme in India.

India is a leading country in organizing exhibitions and trade fairs in Tanzania. In 2022, 8 big exhibitions in different sector took place with more than 700 Indian businesses participating in it. These events help in promotion of Tanzanian exports and investment in Tanzania.

Q: How does India want to engage with Tanzania in parliamentary matters? What should be the ideal way forward?

A: We have had several exchanges of parliamentary delegations in the past. A parliamentary delegation from India had attended 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Tanzania in 2009.

A delegation of Indian origin MPs had attended the first PIO Parliamentarian Conference in New Delhi in January 2018.

These visits have added value to our political relations and we should strive to have frequent exchanges of parliamentary delegations aimed at renewing Parliamentary contacts and strengthening bilateral Parliamentary cooperation and dialogue.

Our Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) organizes capacity building programmes catering to parliamentarians/government officials of Parliament of friendly foreign countries under the ITEC programme.

We are happy to see regular participation from Tanzania. Tanzania is a major beneficiary of training courses allocated under India's ITEC & ICCR scholarships. India has offered 450 ITEC seats and 70 ICCR scholarships for 2022. Since 1972, about 4600 Tanzanians have benefited from the ITEC scholarships programme.

We are also ready to organize workshops specifically catered for Tanzanian parliamentarians on the areas of their interest on request from Tanzania.

If Tanzania has any specific proposal in mind relating to parliamentary cooperation, we are ready to consider it positively.

Q: India is the new Chair of G20. What can other developing countries of global South including Tanzania expect from India's presidency?

A: India has assumed the G20 Presidency for one year from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. Under India's G20 Presidency, the G20 Agenda is pertaining to the main theme of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth * One Family * One Future.

The theme of the 9th P20 Summit will be focusing on India's Presidency's theme from the Parliamentary perspective. India would draw attention of participating Delegates towards the ancient and rich democratic traditions of our country, showcasing the history of Indian civilization as "mother of democracy".

India plans to utilise this opportunity to address pressing issues of developing countries/global South and it would be impossible to do so without considering the African continent. Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow partners in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard and for this we seek support of our friends in Africa including Tanzania.

India's G20 priority will be to continue pressing for reformed multilateralism that creates more accountable, inclusive just, equitable and representative multipolar international system that is fit for addressing the challenges in the 21st century.



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Africa's vast arable land underutilised for much-needed cash and food crops

By Joyce Chimbi

CONCERNS are rife that while Africa is growing more crops, these are not for food and that on the current trajectory, present food import costs into Africa, now estimated at 55 billion US dollars a year, could double by 2030.

Three crop species—maize, wheat and rice meet an estimated 50 percent of the global requirements for proteins and calories, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Yet despite Africa's expensive agricultural sector, the continent's maize, rice, and wheat account for 7, 5, and 4 percent of the world's production, respectively. But experts say pitting food crops against cash crops is not the right conversation to have.

"The most productive conversation should be firmly centered on how to support farmers to produce more food for everyone and to export even more as this will improve the farmer's quality of life and get themselves out of poverty," says Hafez Ghanem, former regional Vice President of the World Bank Group and a current nonresident senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution.

He tells IPS the mistake many countries made after independence was to try to ensure cheap food for people in the cities by keeping farm-gate prices low and by trying to coerce farmers into producing certain food crops. The result was that the farmer became poor. If the farmer is poor, they cannot produce, and in the long run, everybody becomes poor and hungry.

"No country can produce all



A new conversation is needed about food production in Africa. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

the foods that it needs. We will have to export some and produce some. If we start increasing yields for cereals, for instance, through increased use of quality seeds, fertilizer, and irrigation, farmers can produce more food crops without interfering with cash crops production, and the farmer will be richer."

According to the Africa Agriculture Status Report 2022, "for Africa, accelerating the transformation of our food systems is more vital than ever. Africa has a few other incentives for transforming its food system; with one of the most degraded agricultural soils in the world and increasing droughts, Africa will face significant exposure to water-related climate risks in the future.

At least 90 percent of sub-Saharan

Africa's rural population depends on agriculture as its primary source of income. More than 95 percent of agriculture is reliant on rainfall, according to the report.

The report finds that the consequences of unpredictable rainfall, rising temperatures, extreme drought, and low soil carbon will further lower crop yields exposing Africa's poorest communities to increasingly intense climate- and water-related hazards with disastrous results.

Ghanem does not believe that the issue of food security in Africa is a consequence of producing too many cash crops. The real issue, he says, is twofold.

"The first part of the issue is that, in general, the productivity of land un-

der cultivation for both cash and food crops is low. We need to increase land yields for both cash and food crops. The solution, I do not believe, is to stop exporting cash crops to produce more food," he explains.

He says that part of the issue, he says, is the challenge presented by climate change, and "we need to do much more to make agriculture more resilient to climate change."

He says that concerns that there is the prioritization of cash crops over food crops are misplaced, "think about the profile of farmers in Africa. We are talking about very smallholder farmers. In countries such as Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, farmers are making much more profits producing cocoa or coffee than producing rice, for example." We can-

not ask our farmers to produce crops that are lower yielding and therefore less profitable."

Any solution that we propose for food security, he cautions, has to bear in mind that the most food insecure and poorest people in Africa are in the rural areas.

Against this backdrop, experts such as Ghanem see no conflict between the production of food and cash crops, saying that Africa has vast lands to produce both. Outside of countries such as Egypt and other countries in North Africa, he says the rest of the continent has vast and available arable land.

Data by FAO shows Africa is home to an estimated 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land. Ghanem, therefore, says the solution is to facilitate farmers to irrigate their lands and access high-quality seeds and fertilizer. Africa needs about \$40 to \$70 billion in investment from the public sector and another \$80 billion from the private sector annually to sustain food production on the continent, according to Africa Agriculture Status Report.

Ghanem says investing in technology that can produce critical inputs such as fertilizer and climate-resilient high-quality seeds will prove highly productive in the future.

Take, for instance, fertilizer which is expensive because it is imported. He lauds the establishment of some of the world's largest fertilizer-producing companies in Nigeria and Morocco, calling for such investments in other parts of the continent.

Ghanem says subsidies for farm inputs such as fertilizer are not the solution and that producing inputs that farmers need in-country or at least on the continent will set the agricultural sector on a resilience path to greater productivity, enough food for all, and profitability.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Ramaphosa routed the RET faction – but rolling blackouts could floor him

By Ferial Haffajee

SINCE December last year, and after Eskom CEO André de Ruyter resigned, power cuts have ramped up, with generating units at power stations dropping like flies.

This has created a political crisis for President Cyril Ramaphosa, who routed the Radical Economic Transformation (RET) faction of his party at the party's Nasrec convention but could be taken out by the electricity crisis. It is kneecapping the economy and pushing millions of people and businesses into more severe hardship.

"We are entering a dangerous place. People are playing Russian roulette with infrastructure," said a senior government official who could not speak on the record. The official said there had been jubilation at power stations when De Ruyter resigned in December, "when he tried to expose shenanigans at power stations. Politics can trump the national interest."

Multiple sources in government and the Presidency have told Daily Maverick since December that there is sabotage of the national grid to push back against the transition from a coal-based energy system to a multi-sourced power grid with a focus on renewables.

South Africa has won kudos for the \$8.5-billion Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP) signed at COP27 in Egypt in 2022, one of two big energy transition plans in the developing world funded by rich countries. The transition has accelerated, but so has opposition from political and business interests invested in a coal economy where mining, trucking, maintenance and procurement fortunes have been made in one generation, all reliant on Eskom's monopoly.

"If you can create an emergency situation, it allows Eskom power stations to follow emergency procurement," explained a business leader.

De Ruyter had to go because he tried to dismantle his own coal monopoly, the first Eskom CEO to do so.

"PG should be next, they believe,"



President Cyril Ramaphosa (R) and Gwede Mantashe at the opening of the ANC's 55th national conference at Nasrec in Johannesburg, South Africa on 16 December 2022. Photo: Leila Dougan



The EFF immediately issued a media release slamming plans to take co-responsibility for blackouts and co-create a solution – Ramaphosa's go-to position in a crisis.

said the government source. "PG" is the acronym for Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan. A different source in the Presidency read the moment as a "plan to bring down the economy and show up the Ramaphosa administration".

Crisis talks fail

Ramaphosa failed to win the support of a multiparty front to tackle the problem after meetings on Monday, January 16.

The EFF immediately issued a media release slamming plans to take co-responsibility for blackouts and co-create a solution – Ramaphosa's go-to position in a crisis.

The Democratic Alliance is seeking a court interdict of an 18.6% power price increase and also of Eskom's rolling blackouts schedule.

The UDM's Bantu Holomisa is fronting a bid with an influential grouping for a similar interdict (See

Estelle Ellis's report here); and Sake- liga, the Afrikaans business organisation told Rapport at the weekend that it would also go to court; in December it announced court action against load reduction. (Load reduction is Eskom's reduced supply to municipalities which owe it R49.7-billion. See this report by Victoria O'Regan).

Organised agriculture has warned that South Africa's food production is in peril; emergency services are struggling with phone lines going down and water taps are running dry as pump stations and treatment plants can't operate without electricity. Not all are exempt as essential services.

The political crisis has built quickly for Ramaphosa, whose methods of persuasion and politics by committee are not working. This report showed that the interministerial Cabinet committee he set up as an

emergency response has not been able to make a dent in power production and reform.

The Holomisa case has been brought by attorney Eric Mabuza, who is well-practised in cases against Ramaphosa, while the marquee advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi will argue the rolling blackouts interdict, which is also being brought by small black-owned businesses. (See this report by Nonkululeko Njilo on how the business of an ice cream vendor touted by Ramaphosa as an example of positive Covid-19 relief is melting away.)

Cabinet at odds and in denial

Ramaphosa's Cabinet is at odds over the crisis, with dollops of denial. Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe has said he can fix the problem in six months once Eskom is tucked into his portfolio. Gordhan said in 2022 that all public shares in state-owned companies, including Eskom's, would be housed in a State-Owned Enterprise Council to be set up in the Presidency – like Singapore's Temasek model.

In a terse response to Mabuza's letter, Gordhan said the government was taking advice:

"We want to assure the public that everything possible is being done to end or minimise load shedding. Those who are part of corruption, intimidation and abuse of procurement practices or obstruct government's efforts to clean up each power station of such corruption, will face the might of the law."

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, who is leading South Africa's team to the World Economic Forum meeting at Davos, told Reuters on Monday that Eskom had a management problem, not a diesel problem. He has refused to stump up the cash Eskom needs to keep the open-cycle gas turbines for emergency power running at full tilt. He said the fix on Eskom would take 12 to 18 months, but Ramaphosa may not have that long. He can't gainsay Mantashe on Eskom because he has the bullish minister to thank for his second term as ANC president.

A business leader explained the power play to Daily Maverick

last December. "The only route to [Ramaphosa] maintaining power is a quid pro quo between him and Mantashe where [the President] gives him [Mantashe] licence to follow [his version of] a balanced [energy] transition."

Mantashe stands firm – like an oil rig in opposition to a clean energy-led transition. To survive, Ramaphosa may need to sacrifice Gordhan and dial back on the transition plans. But this comes with its own headaches as a new economy is being built on new energy.

"There's a whole lot of anxiety on the part of donors," said the Presidency source. They are asking: 'Are we back-tracking on the just transition plans?'

Eskom's death spiral

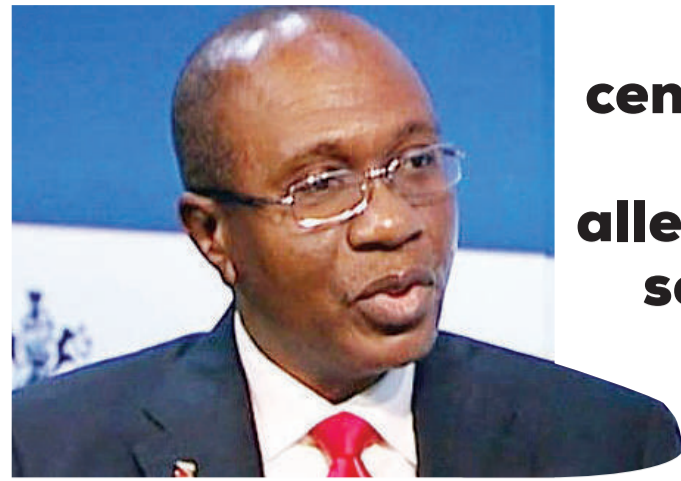
One of the reasons the dilemma is so difficult to parse for Ramaphosa is that without the 18.65% increase granted by the regulator to Eskom, the utility can't survive. The first chart, below, shows that without the reallocation of the regulatory clearing account from the fiscus to Eskom, without diesel bailouts (which fall under "PPPs" in the chart), it can't continue as a going concern.

Godongwana is holding back on taking a portion of Eskom's R390-billion debt on to the national balance sheet. The second chart, below, shows that Eskom is budgeting for lower sales, which means the exodus from the grid is gathering pace.

"You can have a bully-boy huffing and puffing but the change is happening under our feet," said the Presidency official.

Mantashe says he can fix Eskom in six months because there is "idle" capacity of 20,000MW. News24's Kyle Cowan has shown, in this fact-check, why this is not so; there are units out on maintenance and regular outages, often attributed to sabotage.

The third chart, above, shows that Eskom's maintenance plan is scheduled until 2027, and without maintaining the cranky old fleet of coal-fired power stations, the grid can collapse. Any quick-fix solution will reduce the maintenance schedule and quicken the death spiral. DM



Thursday 19 January 2023

Egypt Fund joins Etisalat to launch new microfinance

NEW YORK

Crypto bank Silvergate's latest financials indicate the firm has been hit hard by the ongoing crypto crisis.

The firm's Q4 report indicated a \$1 billion net loss attributable to shareholders, citing a "transformational shift" in the crypto industry which led to a "crisis of confidence across the ecosystem."

Despite the dreary results, Silvergate CEO Alan Lane insisted that the firm's "mission has not changed," adding that the company remains focused on providing value-added services for [its] core institutional customers."

The California-based bank specializes in cryptocurrency transactions, having also worked with the now-bankrupt crypto exchange FTX and its sister trading firm Alameda Research. Silvergate was hit with a class action suit last December over these dealings.

Earlier in January, Silvergate also announced that it would be cutting its headcount by roughly 40%, or 200 people, in order to stymie the downturn and allow the firm to navigate what it calls "a more challenging macro environment."

Elsewhere, the crypto-friendly Signature Bank (SBNY) defied all estimates and netted profits of close to \$301 million in Q4 2022 despite a \$14 billion drop in deposits last year as the company phased down its exposure to crypto, according to a press release posted today.

Initial projections for the quarter by business analysts at FactSet predicted Signature Bank would rake in profits of \$299 million after netting \$272 million the preceding quarter, so today's report indicates strong growth, despite a \$14 billion drop in deposits over the fiscal last quarter of 2022.

However, the bank fell short of FactSet's earnings-per-share prediction, which said the institution would net \$4.82 a share, up from \$4.34. According to Signature Bank, the actual figure turned out to be \$4.65.

Copper and Signet team up to streamline institutional crypto trading

The major drop in deposits took the total value of Signature Bank's Q4 deposits to \$88.6 billion, with crypto deposits down \$7.35 billion in the quarter and nearly \$12.39 billion for the year.

In the press statement, CEO Joseph DePaulo attributed the decline in deposits to "a challenging cryptocurrency environment and our planned reduction in Digital Asset Banking deposits, which were down \$12.39 billion."

He elaborated: "The arduous rate environment [a reference to the Fed's decision to hike interest rates seven times last year to counter inflation], along with challenges in the digital asset space, led to deposit declines, which we overcame with little difficulty, given our robust liquidity position."

Foreign currency deposits growth more than double

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign currency deposits annual growth more than doubled during the year ending November, 2022 compared with the year ended in November 2021.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and banks computations show foreign exchange deposits grew by 17.2 percent annually in November last year from 7.1 percent in November 2021.

According to the computations, the outstanding stock of foreign currency deposits reached 8.4trn/- during the year ending November 2022 from 7.1trn/- in 2021. This is being recorded amid the decreasing foreign currency deposit rates, except 2 and 3-months deposit rates, which recorded an upward trend.

The reports show foreign currency overall savings deposits rate slowed to 0.31 percent during the year ending November 2022 from 0.34 percent during the year ended in November 2021, while overall time deposits rate went down to 3.14 percent from 3.21 percent respectively.

According to BoT report, one month deposit rate declined to 2.45 percent from 3.12 percent respectively while the rate for six months and 12 months slowed to 3.25 and 3.73 percent from 3.44 and 3.79 percent respectively.

However deposit rate for two months slightly went up to 2.34 percent from 2.33 percent respectively while the rate for three months deposit increased to 3.91 percent from 3.40 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, outstanding stock of net foreign assets of banking system slowed to 7.8trn/- during the year ending November last year from 12.7trn/- recorded during the year ended in November 2021.

According to BoT report, an annual growth of net foreign assets contracted by 38.6 percent from a growth of 22.4 percent respectively.

Banks still investing heavily in fossil fuels, according to study



Activists from Extinction Rebellion occupy an oil tanker during a protest calling for an end to fossil fuels in London.

LONDON

BANKS and finance institutions that have signed up to net zero pledges are still investing heavily in fossil fuels, research has shown, leading to accusations they are acting as "climate arsonists".

The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) initiative was launched by the former Bank of England governor Mark Carney, as one of the main UK achievements in hosting the Cop26 UN climate summit at Glasgow in 2021.

The UK boasted at Cop26 that 450 organisations in 45 countries with assets of more than \$130tn had signed up to GFANZ, to align their investments with the goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

But its members have poured hundreds of billions into fossil fuels since then, according to data compiled by the pressure group Reclaim Finance.

GFANZ is made up of numerous smaller groupings that require members to reduce their exposure to fossil fuels. But at least 56 of the biggest banks in the net-zero banking alliance grouping (NZBA) have provided \$270bn to 102 fossil fuel companies for their expansion, through 134 loans

and 215 underwriting arrangements, according to Reclaim Finance.

Paddy McCully, senior analyst at Reclaim Finance, said: "GFANZ members are acting as climate arsonists. They've pledged to achieve net zero but are continuing to pour hundreds of billions of dollars into fossil fuel developers. GFANZ and its member alliances will only be credible once they up their game and insist that their members help bring a rapid end to the era of coal, oil and fossil gas expansion."

GFANZ companies are also failing to divest from fossil fuels. In the net zero asset managers grouping (NZAM), another part of GFANZ, at least \$847bn in assets in more than 200 fossil fuel companies were held by the 58 largest members, as of last September, according to the report published on Tuesday.

The report also found that few of the GFANZ members had put in place watertight investment policies that would stop them financing new fossil fuel projects, even though all are supposed to be in line with the 1.5C goal, confirmed at Cop26.

Lucie Pinson, executive director and founder of Reclaim Finance, accused the alliance of greenwashing. "It is business as usual for most banks

and investors [involved in GFANZ], who continue to support fossil fuel developers without any restrictions, despite their high-profile commitments to carbon neutrality," she said. "Their greenwashing is all the more damaging as it casts doubt on the sincerity of all net zero commitments, and undermines the efforts of those who are truly acting for the climate."

One of the biggest banks involved in GFANZ is HSBC, which announced restrictions on oil and gas financing last month. But it has approved 58 transactions worth \$12bn in capital to fossil fuel developers, since joining a GFANZ grouping in April 2021, according to the Reclaim Finance report.

A spokesperson for HSBC told the Guardian: "HSBC's aim is to reduce emissions in line with a 1.5C pathway, promote energy security, and ensure energy affordability and access, as part of our commitment to a net zero future. In line with our 1.5C-aligned 2030 financed emissions targets and updated energy policy we will no longer provide new finance or advisory for the specific purposes of new oil and gas fields or related infrastructure, or for the most carbon-intensive oil assets. To accelerate an orderly transition to net zero, we continue to support clients who are playing an ac-

tive role in the energy transition, including through regular engagement on their transition plans."

The spokesperson added that fossil fuels were still likely to be necessary for a transition period. "The International Energy Agency's seminal Net Zero 2050 report outlines that an orderly transition requires continued financing and investment in existing oil and gas fields to maintain the necessary output and security of supply - with 2020 financing levels maintained through 2030 and declining to half thereafter," they said.

However, Reclaim Finance pointed out that the IEA has also made clear that no new fossil fuel development can take place if the world is to remain within the limit of 1.5C of heating, above pre-industrial levels. It has identified the fossil fuel developers in the report as those engaged in expansion of their assets, such as new drilling and new mining.

LGIM is the biggest UK company in the NZAM initiative, yet in September it held at least \$13bn of assets in fossil fuel developers, the report found.

A spokesperson for LGIM told the Guardian: "LGIM is one of the founder members of the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative established as part of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) and as part of our commitment to the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative and in partnership with and on behalf of our clients, LGIM has set its own interim net zero AUM [assets under management] target of 70% by 2030, and continues to make progress towards this climate transition. Financing the transition is vitally important and certain fossil fuels will need to be part of the transition to renewable alternatives. By divesting from entire sectors like oil and gas, we won't achieve any real world outcome and investors lose their ability to exert a positive influence via active engagement."

A spokeswoman for GFANZ said: "This report focuses on an important aspect of the energy transition. It's clear a lot of work needs to be done to ensure the world is deploying capital consistent with a 1.5C pathway, which is exactly why GFANZ was created. Based on research GFANZ commissioned last year, we know that investment in renewables needs to be four times the levels going into fossil fuels by 2030 to restrict climate change consistent with the aims of the Paris agreement."

NEW YORK

CRYPTO bank Silvergate's latest financials indicate the firm has been hit hard by the ongoing crypto crisis.

The firm's Q4 report indicated a \$1 billion net loss attributable to shareholders, citing a "transformational shift" in the crypto industry which led to a "crisis of confidence across the ecosystem."

Despite the dreary results, Silvergate CEO Alan Lane insisted that the firm's "mission has not changed," adding that the company remains focused on providing value-added services for [its] core institutional customers."

The California-based bank specializes in cryptocurrency transactions, having also worked with the now-bankrupt crypto exchange FTX and its sister trading firm Alameda Research. Silvergate was hit with a class action suit last December over these dealings.

Earlier in January, Silvergate also announced that it would be cutting its headcount by roughly 40%, or 200 people, in order to stymie the downturn and allow the firm to navigate what it calls "a more challenging macro environment."

Elsewhere, the crypto-friendly Signature Bank (SBNY) defied all estimates and netted profits of close to \$301 million in Q4 2022 despite a \$14 billion drop in deposits last year as the company phased down its exposure to crypto, according to a press release posted to-



Cryptocurrency Bank Silvergate reports US\$1 billion in net loss

day.

Initial projections for the quarter by business analysts at FactSet predicted Signature Bank would rake in profits of \$299 million after netting \$272 million the preceding quarter, so today's report indicates strong growth, despite a \$14 billion drop in deposits over the fiscal last quarter of 2022.

However, the bank fell short of FactSet's earnings-per-share prediction, which said the institution would

net \$4.82 a share, up from \$4.34. According to Signature Bank, the actual figure turned out to be \$4.65.

Copper and Signet team up to streamline institutional crypto trading

The major drop in deposits took the total value of Signature Bank's Q4 deposits to \$88.6 billion, with crypto deposits down \$7.35 billion in the quarter and nearly \$12.39 billion for the year.

In the press statement, CEO Joseph DePaulo attributed the decline in de-

posits to "a challenging cryptocurrency environment and our planned reduction in Digital Asset Banking deposits, which were down \$12.39 billion."

He elaborated: "The arduous rate environment [a reference to the Fed's decision to hike interest rates seven times last year to counter inflation], along with challenges in the digital asset space, led to deposit declines, which we overcame with little difficulty, given our robust liquidity position."

FACTORS TO REFLECT ON WHEN CHOOSING A BANK

THE importance of choosing a bank should not be underestimated. Picking the right bank can help your financial life run smoothly while choosing the wrong one can be very frustrating. At some point in your life, you will need a bank, and to consider which type of bank is best for you, you should first consider your needs. We can all agree that there is no one right bank for everyone so whether you are new to banking or not, there are main factors that you will need to consider when choosing the bank. Banks play a major role in our life by helping us to handle our finances. Most of us may not understand the importance of having a bank that you can trust and rely on. I want to remind you that the bank not only provides you with the security of your money but offers you assistance through loans when you are in desperate need of quick cash. Hence, it is important to select a bank that aligns with your lifestyle and meets all of your financial needs and goals. This week, I will share some factors that you should consider when choosing the bank:

Security of your money - Banks are



Kelvin Mkwawa

supposed to be a safe place for your money so you want to choose a bank that won't endanger your money. Hence it is vital to make sure that any bank that you choose is insured by Deposit Insurance Board (DIB). The monetary value of your money is the physical representation of your hard work so do not use any bank that doesn't have that kind of protection; but, it is worth mentioning that the maximum amount that is 100% covered is Tanzania Shillings One Million and Five Hundred Thousand only (i.e.

TZS 1.5M).

Fees and Charges - Always make sure you read and understand the fees and charges of the bank you are considering very carefully before you sign up. As the banks understand the power the consumers now have, some of them are offering free accounts to use as long you keep your account balance at a certain amount. Some of the fees that you should consider are ATM fees, monthly maintenance fees of the accounts, over-the-limit fee, payment transfer fees, over-the-counter withdrawal fees, and late payment fees. For example, it is important to know how much will you earn on your savings, how much will you pay on loans, and how much do you pay for transactions and account maintenance fees.

Customer service - Customer service can make or break your relationship with a bank. When you have a problem or issue, the last thing you would want is to have a bank representative who is rude, unfriendly, and unhelpful. Find the bank that really sees the World from your point of view and understands your journey. So it is important to choose a bank that takes its time to understand your

needs and expectations and is more proactive in addressing the issues and solving customers' problems.

Convenience - When choosing a bank, you will need to assess your needs as a customer so it will be convenient for you. You should ask yourself this, do you need human interactions when doing transactions, or are you comfortable using electronic/alternative channels? If you need that human interaction, then the location of a physical bank is important to you while if you are comfortable with electronic channels (Internet and mobile banking, agency banking, etc) then the location of your bank is not important but electronic channels are; so you need to make sure those channels are reliable and easy to use.

In summary, we have seen that it is very important to choose a bank that aligns with your lifestyle and meets your financial needs and goals. Furthermore, since most banks offer similar products but they differ in services, policies, and charges that can have a huge impact on your financials hence it is imperative to consider the above four factors that I have mentioned when choosing your bank. Lastly, please remember to choose a bank that aligns with your values and lifestyle.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is a Seasoned Banker. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

BANKS VS FINTECH DEBATE GETS WRONG

THE boom in real-time payments is reverberating across the world, and by 2026 they will make up 25% of all electronic payments. Market forces and the global pandemic accelerated adoption to new levels, providing consumers and businesses cheaper, faster and more efficient ways to pay – and there's no looking back.

And as more and more countries launch schemes often mandated by governments and regulators, transactions are set to rise further. But the success of real-time rails ultimately depends on the overlay services that these countries and their stakeholders develop.

While instant payments are increasingly embedded into non-financial digital apps and services to provide a more hyper-connected experience, modernising these payment processes depends on the decisions of individual financial institutions. To win in this expanding competitive landscape, many are now reinventing operating systems for a new real-time, cloud-first and data-centric business environment.

The fintech effect

As open banking matures and related innovations allow for direct connections to the payment rails, countries that allow and push an open banking system and take advantage of new market services are coming out on top when it comes to real-time-transaction volumes.

The 2022 report by ACI World-

wide and the Cebr, which looks at the growth and impact of real-time payments (RTP), reveals they can generate a tangible economic multiplier effect. The world's five top RTP markets – India, China, Thailand, Brazil and South Korea – made 92.9bn real-time payments in 2021 which helped facilitate US\$54.6bn of additional economic output; a figure forecast to climb to US\$131.1bn in 2026.

Asia continues to be the region of innovation for instant payments as fintechs simultaneously gain real-time market share. India's wildly successful UPI service (Unified Payments Interface) processes more than 7.5 billion transactions per month. This is now extending to cardless cash withdrawals and support for the country's digital currency, the e-RUP. Singapore also has two well-developed real-time payment systems, FAST and PayNow, while Thailand's PromptPay service enables citizens to easily receive and transfer funds using their ID or

mobile phone number.

Brazil is another RTP success story. Its payment transfer system PIX had over 100 million users by July 2021 and was processing 1 bn transactions per month by October that same year. Incoming new features such as PIX Withdraw and Change, which enable customers to withdraw cash at any participating retailer, and Request to Pay, using QR codes, will further accelerate growth and increase the average transaction value.

A combined solution

The surge in real-time payments to meet evolving consumer and business needs has put increasing pressure on financial institutions to look for digitally-focused solutions. This need has led to the emergence of a completely new ecosystem, one that is more diverse and where fintechs and smaller banks take an increasing share of the real-time market.

By flipping traditional infrastructure procurement on its head and

standardising related operational and security capabilities, the cloud is inescapably reshaping the payments market. To cut through, financial institutions should work with fintechs to deploy cloud-ready infrastructure to provide admin-busting insights or automations around stock and inventory, sales performance, reconciliations and reporting.

A modernized system will also, as we have seen, deliver an enhanced experience for customers looking for a hyper-connected, frictionless experience. Harnessing RTP networks has further enabled banks to launch new services such as real-time notifications on app spending to customers, making managing personal finances easier. Banks can also use this data to upsell products to existing customers, such as giving those with a good credit score an extended overdraft or credit card.

Other benefits include augmented in-store and online payment options and peer to peer lending, as well as monitoring and tracking potentially fraudulent account activity via AI software (rather than taking a reactive approach). All of which can only contribute to banks building better trust and increasing confidence levels with their customers.

Existing infrastructure doesn't automatically need replacing, then, but it must be kept relevant and combined with hosted solutions and managed services. The result will be a hybrid architecture of best-in-class services and infrastructures that will enable financial institutions to design a real-time payments strategy around outcomes and experiences.

Craig Ramsey is the head of Real-Time Payment ACI Worldwide

BY
CRAIG RAMSEY



Overnight interbank borrowing share fall dramatically

By Guardian Correspondent

THE share of commercial banks overnight borrowing fell dramatically during November last year, compared with October, which reflecting adequate levels of liquidity among banks.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for December reports that the share of overnight transactions continued to decline to only 1.8 percent in November last year from 10.8 percent in October 2022.

The interbank cash market (IBCM) continued to facilitate exchange of shilling liquidity across banks.

Total value of transactions amounted to 1,308.3bn/- in November 2022, slightly lower than 1,461.1bn/- traded in the preceding month

Transactions of 2-7 days remained dominant, accounting for 72.3 percent of total IBCM transactions.

However, the overall interbank and overnight cash market interest rates increased to 4.99 percent and 4.32 percent in November 2022, from 4.79 percent and 3.74 percent in the preceding month, respectively.

Likewise, the 2-7 days IBCM rate averaged 4.85 percent, higher than 4.74 percent in October 2022.

The historical data show since November 2021 to November 2022, the highest overnight transactions recorded in March, May, June and July last year, with June recorded the highest transaction value.

Meanwhile, the interbank foreign exchange market (IFEM) remained active and continued to operate, with total transactions amounting US\$49.07 million in November 2022 compared with US\$45.35 million traded in the preceding month.

The Bank of Tanzania participated in the market by selling US \$22 million to support imports demand amidst high commodity prices in the world market.

The shilling remained stable against the US dollar consistent with moderate inflation rate, trading at an average rate of 2,319.87/- per US dollar compared with 2,319.69/- per US dollar in the preceding month.



BANKING&FINANCE

Dozens of foreign banks remain trapped in Russia

MOSCOW

DOZENS of banks from "unfriendly" countries remain unable to exit the Russian market due to the special decree of Vladimir Putin prohibiting any such deals without a special approval by authorities. The Bell wrote citing a Financial Times list of 45 such banks.

The largest such "trapped" banks in terms of assets are Raiffeisen, Italy's UniCredit and Citi.

Reportedly, negotiations on pulling out of Russia are stilled and the exiting banks fear that their subsidiaries would be taken over at bargain prices by "powerful Russians with close ties to the Kremlin".

The only bank that managed to quickly pull out of Russia was French Societe Generale, which sold its fully-owned Rosbank to oligarch Vladimir Potanin.

Potanin remained unsanctioned for four months following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and was quick to use the cash available to buy cheap discounted assets at home, and to rebuild his banking business empire.

The Rosbank deal pushed Potanin to the top of the Forbes list of Russian oligarchs that banked the most on dumped Western assets.

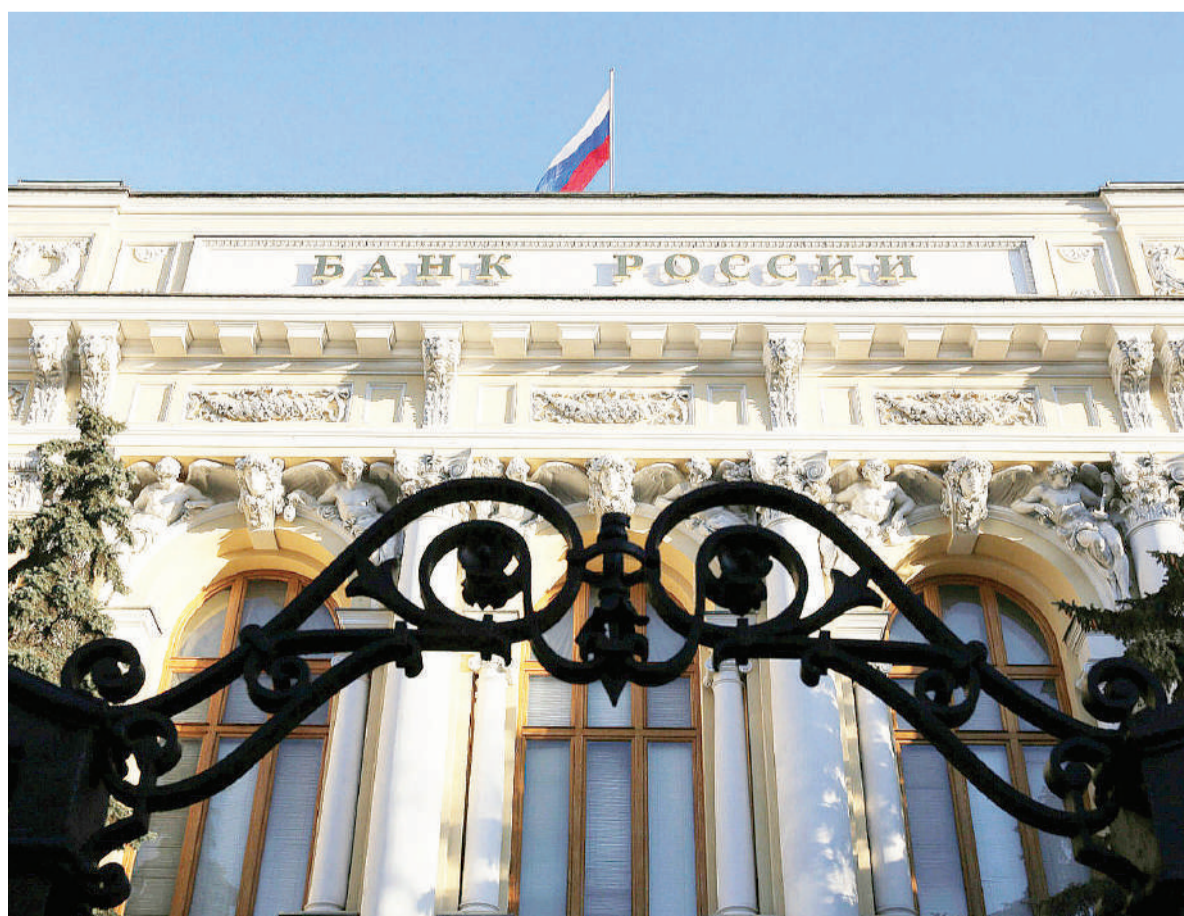
Even though Societe Generale had to write off €3.3bn on the exit, "with a quick and orderly disposal, even our competitors congratulated us," a SocGen manager told the Financial Times.

HSBC, which rushed to close the sale of its Russian subsidiary to Igor Kim's Expobank just before Putin's decree was signed, delegated the negotiations with the authorities to the buyer, according to FT.

Citi is winding down the business of its UniCredit Bank and reportedly is exploring options but does not want to "simply give the asset away". The bank so far managed to offload its loan book to local UralSib bank. Raiffeisen's real plans are still unknown.

People involved in the preparation of the exit deals surveyed by the Financial Times expect a direct ban by the Kremlin on some of them, and on some, a demand for at least a 50% discount. A minimum 50% discount demand for exiting Russia is consistent with previous financial and real sector deals, as well as official statements on the issue.

"There are very influential Russians with connections in the Kremlin who are trying to use their influence to intercept the assets of fleeing foreigners," unnamed sources told the Financial Times.



Central Bank of Russia

India central bank to raise banks capital requirements

MUMBAI

The Indian central bank's discussion paper suggesting banks make provisions on bad loans using an expected credit loss (ECL) method could raise capital requirements for lenders, analysts said.

On Monday evening, the Reserve Bank of India released the paper proposing a shift away from the current method - where loan loss provisions are made after a default - to one where banks will need to assess the probability of default upfront and provision accordingly.

The potential impact of a shift to the ECL mechanism on bank capital could be significant, said the RBI, which is yet to give a timeline for implementing the new rules. If implemented, banks will be given at least a year to transition, it said.

The new mechanism will recognise problems ahead of time and make the banking system more resilient in the long run but could raise capital requirements significantly particularly for government owned banks, analysts at Macquarie Research said.

"The problem here is that over the last 5-10 years, the probability of default would have been very high for the banking sector and that's why eventual ECL provisions could be higher," Macquarie said.

While the impact on individual banks is difficult to assess at this stage, it could be felt in 2025/26 and banks would have to start preparing in 2024/25 to raise capital, the research house added. The model to calculate the expected credit loss is to be decided by individual banks but is subject to independent evaluation and a floor on provisions set by the regulator, the discussion paper said.

While ECL-based norms could release provisioning for some large banks like ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank with strong specific and contingent buffers, small private sector banks like City Union Bank, DCB Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank may have to accelerate provision buffers and even replenish capital levels faster than planned, Emkay Global Research said.

Analysts at the brokerage also said this was an "opportune time to introduce ECL norms for banks and strengthen their provision buffers," before the next asset-quality shock, given the economy has largely absorbed all Covid related impact, and most banks were sitting on healthy provision buffers.



The Reserve Bank of India seal is pictured on a gate outside the RBI headquarters in Mumbai

Nigeria's central bank governor alleged to be self-exiled abroad

By Faustine Ngila, LAGOS

NIGERIA'S central bank governor Godwin Emeifele (pictured) had been away from his home country for several weeks, reportedly self-exiling in an unknown country outside Africa.

Though the apex bank announced that he has resumed his duties (pdf) on Jan.16, without confirming whether he is back in the country, Emeifele has been alleged to be hiding to evade arrest by the country's secret police over claims that he has been involved in corrupt activities and terrorism financing.

His absence raised eyebrows after he failed to turn up to explain the reason behind the redesign of Naira banknotes and cash withdrawal limits without consulting the finance ministry on Dec. 22, delegating that to deputy governor Aisha Ahmad. The redesign has been weakening the currency.

The case against Emeifele

At the time, he said he was hospitalized abroad, before it was reported that he was on the run to avoid being detained for economic crimes and threatening national security. Secret police want to hold him in a 60-day detention, which could be renewed for another 60 days pending investigations.

Emeifele went on leave before Christmas with the knowledge of President Muhammadu Buhari but on Jan. 15, he said he could not come back to Nigeria because he was sick and undergoing treatment.

"First of all, he was accused of financing terrorism worth billions of dollars through some secret accounts



Emeifele has allegedly been on the run, hiding away abroad for fear of being arrested for allegations of corruption and terrorism financing in Nigeria

allegedly supervised by him," Janet Faden, an independent journalist based in Jos City, Plateau State and who runs Plateau News Online tells Quartz. She believes that his devaluation of the Naira right before the upcoming elections is not a coincidence.

In 2014, former central bank governor, Alhaji Sanusi Lamido was also accused of financing terrorism. "They made a show out of it but nothing tangible came out of the investigations. He sued them instead," Faden says. Armed bandit attacks in Nigeria led to the loss of 2,600 lives in 2021, an increase of over 250% from 2020.

The Department of State Services (DSS) remains alert to arrest Emeifele on sight, despite a Dec. 29 ruling by Justice Maryam Hassan of the Federal Capital Territory High Court in Abuja quashing the move by the DSS because it provided no concrete evidence to back up its allegations.

The court acted in response to a suit filed by a Nigerian civil society group, the Forum for Accountability and Good Leadership. Pressure has been piling from the country's law society for the federal government to stop plans to arrest the governor.

"Has the government considered the enormous implication of the effect of a wanted governor of the central bank on the economy? I am completely flabbergasted that the president of the country has not intervened; either to call the state security to order or to call Emeifele to return to the country or be fired," human rights lawyer Femi Falana said.

This has drawn attention from the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Roundtable, with founder Warmate Jones Idikio telling Quartz that the absence of the governor of the central bank of Africa's biggest economy "leaves room for a lot of

speculation."

Nigeria is at risk

While fiscal policy, anti-inflationary measures, the strength of the Naira, and the general economic outlook for Nigeria may not be affected by the absence of the governor according to Idikio, Nigeria risks being blacklisted by global financial bodies, according to the Center for Financial Surveillance and Illicit Transaction Tracking Group (CSITT).

"We received with disappointment the reports of discovery of a suit secretly filed by the state security service wherein it accused Godwin Emeifele of terrorism financing as well as other crimes it described as economic crimes of national security dimension," reads a statement by CSITT.

It claims that the plan to arrest the governor is motivated by "political and pecuniary reasons" and is "against the ethics of the Egmont group" which blacklisted the country in 2017 for "lack of a legal framework and autonomy."

Emeifele wanted to be Nigeria's president Last May, Emeifele was forced to drop his presidential ambitions after a high court in Abuja dismissed his request to not be prevented from contesting in the upcoming Feb. 25 elections.

He has been labeled Nigeria's worst performing central bank governor in history for spearheading the implementation of unfavorable monetary policies that Nigerians feel have been hurting them.

In 2019, Emeifele could not explain how Nigeria's treasury lost over \$2.5 billion meant for the procurement of arms under his watch but was still re-appointed as governor by president Buhari.

Nomura cuts 18 Asia banking jobs

SYDNEY

Nomura Holdings Inc has cut 18 Asian banking jobs, most of them China-focused investment roles, after a sharp slowdown in dealmaking activity, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

Japan's top brokerage and investment bank last week laid off bankers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan, said the sources, declining to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to media.

A separate source with knowledge of the matter said the cuts were not limited to Asia, but would also affect Nomura's international investment banking operations across the United States, Europe, the Middle East and

Africa. The source gave no further details.

Nomura in a statement acknowledged headcount reductions but did not comment on locations or the number of individuals affected.

"2022 saw a material deterioration in global investment banking fee pools and, as a result, we have had to reduce headcount in certain areas," the statement said.

The layoffs involve staff across multiple divisions within Nomura's investment banking function, after a year of muted dealmaking activity in the region, one of the two sources said.

The bank, which has long struggled to expand its business outside Japan, advised on \$3.42 billion in equity capi-

tal market deals last year across Asia Pacific, including its home base in Japan, a sharp drop from \$9.4 billion in 2021, according to Refinitiv data.

In each of the bank's business divisions for equities capital markets, debt capital markets, corporate finance and Southeast Asia coverage, two to three workers were made redundant, according to the two sources.

The cuts are "very China-focused" and affect close to one-fourth of its China headcount, the second source said. Those include some bankers covering Greater China equities capital markets, the sources said, and are likely to impact the bank's ability to operate in that area of investment banking.

A number of global banks are trimming their Asia headcount due to volatile global markets and sluggish China dealmaking, after regulatory crackdowns and three years of COVID 19-related lockdowns and restrictions that were finally ended last month.

Goldman Sachs last week sacked more than 3,000 people in its global workforce, with the investment banking and global markets division the hardest hit.

Nomura in November said it was unhappy with its latest profit performance. Pretax income for its wholesale division, which houses its trading and investment banking businesses, slid 19% year-on-year in the three months ending in September.

ABUJA

Access Holdings Plc expects to expand its operations to France and Hong Kong by 2027, Nigeria's biggest lender by assets said in a five-year strategy document launched this week.

As part of a broader plan to be Africa's gateway to the world, the lender said the expansion move also involves the group branching out into markets including Malta, Dubai (UAE), Lebanon, China and Mumbai (India).

Access Holdings is expecting its clientele to reach 125 million by 2027, with retail clients expected to make up 100 million of its customer base by then.

Currently, the lender has over 52 million retail customers in the 17 countries in which it operates.

The financial services group has unveiled several grand aspirations it wants to accomplish in the next half a decade and wants its retail banking business to have evolved into a digital sales and service provider by 2027.

It expanded the value of its digital lending from N2 billion in 2017 to N146 billion in 2021.

Access Holdings disclosed in the document posted on the Nigerian Exchange's website that it is setting sights on becoming one of the top two pensions players across the markets where it operates.

Last year, the holdco acquired a controlling stake in First Guarantee



Hong Kong

Access Holdings plans entry into France, Hong Kong and five other Asian countries

Pension Limited and an indirect equity stake in Sigma Pensions Limited. It is anticipated that Access Bank Nigeria, the local unit of the group's commercial banking division, will account for 52 per cent of gross revenue and one-third of pre-tax profit.

Access Holdings wholesale business is seen contributing 63 per cent to gross revenue and half of profit before tax while retail business is expected to account for a quarter of gross revenue and 31 per cent of pre-tax profit.

The banking subsidiary, the document said, will act as the nexus to drive transformation for the group and will help drive financial inclusion and digital customer solutions.

"By the end of 2027, we expect to be in at least 26 countries and in at

least 3 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries supporting trade (United Kingdom, France & United States of America)," the corporation said.

WORLD

Trains, flights in France to be halted in strike over pension reform

PARIS

MOST trains is expected to be cancelled in France today, with flights also affected and Paris' subway heavily disrupted, as part of a nationwide strike against the government's plan to make people work longer before they can retire.

Opinion polls show a vast majority of French oppose the planned reform, which would see the retirement age pushed from 62 to 64, and Thursday will be a test of whether this can transform into a major headache for the government.

Unions have called workers to massively walk out of their job on Jan 19 and take to the streets across France. The government has said it will stand

its ground and called on workers not to paralyze the country.

Only one in three to one in five high-speed TGV lines will be operating, and only one in ten local TER trains, the SNCF train operator said.

International traffic on the Eurostar and Thalys lines is set to be nearly normal, while the Lyria connection with Switzerland will be heavily disrupted and other international train connections will be entirely cancelled.

In Paris, the vast majority of RER commuter trains will be cancelled, while three metro lines will be entirely shut down and many others will be disrupted, the RATP metro operator said.

Meanwhile, one in five flights to and from Paris' Orly airport are set to be cancelled.



In this file photo taken on Nov 10, 2022 passengers wait in front of a closed gate of the Gare Montparnasse subway station during a strike in Paris. AFP

The airport south of Paris, the city's second-largest, at this stage is the only one in the country where the strikes could lead to disruptions, a spokesperson for the DGAC aviation regulator said.

The airport south of Paris, the city's second-largest, at this stage is the only one in the country where the strikes could lead to disruptions, a spokesperson for the DGAC aviation regulator said.

Seven out of 10 teachers will be on strike in primary schools, the leading union SNUipp-FSU said on Tuesday, while other sectors, from refineries to banks, are also set to be on strike.

France has a decades-long history of attempts to reform its pension system - one of the most generous and costly in Europe - and of protests to

try to stop them.

That worked in 1995, when millions took to the street in what were the country's most disruptive social protests since May 1968. But several other pension reforms have gone through since despite protests.

The legal retirement age will gradually increase to 64 from 62, while the number of years of contributions needed for a full pension will rise faster than previously planned and will be set at 43 years from 2027, according to the government's plans.

The reform is yet to be adopted in parliament, where President Emmanuel Macron does not have an absolute majority but is hoping to get the votes of the conservative Les Républicains.

Agencies

China's growth outlook, support for multilateralism underpin hope for global economy in Davos

CHINESE Vice Premier Liu He on Tuesday offered a comprehensive view on China's economy and its development strategies during a speech at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, expressing confidence in an overall improvement of China's economy in 2023 and reiterating China's determination in promoting an all-round opening-up and multilateral cooperation.

As the WEF's annual meeting entered its second day with major speeches by and panel discussions among political and business leaders, one resounding theme emerged: many global business leaders and economists are increasingly pinning their hopes on China to drive global growth and help the world economy avoid a broader recession in 2023.

Beyond China's contribution to global economic growth this year, many are also expecting China to play a greater role in promoting multilateral cooperation to tackle challenges. In contrast, some Western officials continued to promote economic protectionism and instigate geopolitical tension by smearing other countries' domestic policies.

Global hope

During the speech, Liu said that China achieved a GDP growth of 3 percent in 2022 and maintained stability in prices and employment despite challenges. With various efforts, China is confident that the economy will see an overall improvement in 2023 with GDP growth returning to normal trend, Liu said.

That confidence in China's growth prospect in 2023 is also shared by many global business leaders and economists at the WEF meeting. At a panel discussion on Tuesday, several prominent business leaders pinned their hope on China to drive global growth this year and help the world avoid a broader economic recession, while other major economies are facing recession risks themselves.

"The reopening of China has to be the major event and it will be a key driver for growth," Laura M Cha, chairman of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, said at the panel on Tuesday, according to Reuters.

"There's pent-up savings, there's pent-up demand, so we think that China will see very strong growth, especially as you get later in the year," Douglas L. Peterson, president and CEO of S&P Global, said at the same panel discussion. Reuters reported. Meanwhile, Credit Suisse Chairman Axel Lehmann said that "the growth forecasts now for China is 4.5%. I would not personally be surprised when that would be topped."

Such comments are also in line with the WEF's latest Chief Economists Outlook released on Monday. While warning that global "growth prospects remain anemic and the risk of a global recession is high," the report painted a brighter outlook for China's economy in 2023.

The report showed that 48 percent of the chief economists surveyed expect weak economic growth in China and only 5 percent expect high inflation. In stark contrast, 100 percent expect weak growth in Europe and 57 percent expect high in-



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He speaks during a session of the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos on Tuesday. Liu said the Chinese economy will see a significant improvement this year and its growth will most likely return to its normal trend. Photo: AFP

flation, while 91 percent expect weak growth in the US and 24 percent expect high inflation.

"In terms of trade, China is facing growing challenges from global recession to geopolitical concerns and we believe this trend will continue in 2023. However, we still maintain an optimistic attitude towards China's economic growth this year despite of all the challenges and uncertainties and the GDP growth would rise to about 5 percent under our neutral estimate," Darius Tang, associate director of Corporates at Fitch Bohua, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

During his speech at the WEF on Tuesday, Liu also elaborated on China's policies in various areas that has drawn widespread attention, including efforts to tackle financial risks, stabilize the property sector and boost domestic demand. Liu stressed China's support for a sound real estate market and a robust private sector. He noted that China would not go back to a planned economy as some have suggested and that China will not close its doors.

"China will always promote all-round opening up, and im-

prove the level and quality of opening up," Liu said. "Foreign investments are welcome in China, and the door to China will only open up further."

China's growth prospects in 2023 and its continued opening-up will offer greater momentum for regional as well as global economic growth, especially as other major economies are facing risks of falling into recession, analysts said.

"With recession risks still haunting the US and Europe, China's economic reopening cannot come at a better time for the region," Hoe Ee Khor, chief economist at the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, said in a note sent to the Global Times on Tuesday, referring to China's recently downgraded COVID-19 management. "China's stronger economy will provide support for regional activity, while the border reopening will boost intraregional tourism."

During his speech, Liu also said that China's shift in its anti-COVID policy has been overall stable and smooth and after a period of high infection, the majority of the public has returned to normalcy and

the time to reach the peak and return to normalcy has "in a sense, exceeded our expectations."

Greater contribution

The expectation for China's contribution to global economic development goes beyond short-term growth boost, but more efforts to support and spearhead multilateral cooperation to tackle various global challenges, analysts noted.

That is also palpable at the WEF on Tuesday. In introducing Liu to the forum, Klaus Schwab, founder of the WEF, said that China has made "great contribution to the development of the global economy" since its reform and opening-up policies, and amid "tremendous challenges" facing the world, the world is keen to learn about opportunities in China and its efforts to promote global cooperation.

In his speech, Liu reiterated that China opposes unilateralism and protectionism and actively promotes multilateral cooperation. Denouncing Cold War mentality and zero-sum game, Liu said that the world should jointly maintain an "equitable economic order."

"China's contribution to the world economy is mainly reflected in ideas, confidence and concrete actions," Gao Lingyun, an expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, told the Global Times on Tuesday, noting that while some countries have expressed doubt about economic globalization, China has always supported economic globalization and multilateralism.

Global Times

Europeans dial down the heating, heed calls to save energy

BERLIN

EUROPEANS have dialled down their heating this winter, apparently heeding government calls to conserve energy amid the Ukraine crisis, with some delaying switching it on by almost a month and setting the temperature lower, data shows.

The data, from hundreds of thousands of smart thermometers installed in households across the continent by Munich-based company Tado, shows that as temperatures dropped, households responded to dire warnings about higher heating costs.

People and businesses across Europe are increasing their use of such smart thermometers to keep an eye on how much gas they are using. These are sometimes linked to an energy provider's tariff structure to smooth demand and reduce peak costs. Germany has made them obligatory in new builds.

In the winter of 2021-22, the proportion of homes with heating switched on across Europe passed 90 percent on November 28. In the previous three years, that threshold was passed weeks earlier, on November 7, 12, and 5 respectively, according to data from Tado, which is one of many companies active in the fast growing smart thermometer market.

German public authorities reduced temperatures in their offices to a chilly 19 degrees. At the university in Frankfurt an der Oder on the Polish border, staff were issued with blankets to wrap themselves in.

Tado's data shows how households also cut back. Home heating settings averaged almost a degree lower this winter than in previous years, based on the data.

After a hectic time, energy regulators are more relaxed about Europe's gas supply prospects.

"With savings, gas inflows, good storage levels, we are very, very optimistic that we will no longer have to worry about a gas shortage this winter," German network regulator Klaus Mueller said on Tuesday, after previously having told consumers to make deep cuts to prevent serious disruption.

The European Union imports 80 percent of its gas and gas represents 22 percent of Europe's energy consumption and meets 32 percent of households' energy needs, according to the EU.

But there have been huge efforts to reduce reliance on Russian gas and increase imports from European gas producers like Norway and the Netherlands, while Germany has quickly built LNG terminals.

Gas prices in Europe have fallen sharply from a peak in August, as a rush to fill storage pushed the market higher.

People across China celebrate upcoming Chinese New Year of the Rabbit

AS the Chinese lunar New Year of the Rabbit draws near, festive vibes are sensed everywhere in China, such as splendid rabbit-shaped lanterns, delightful rabbit-themed paper cuttings, cute stuffed toy rabbits, and beautiful and tasty bunny-shaped pastries.

Rabbit-themed cultural activities are attracting huge numbers of tourists and products in shapes of rabbits sought-after on the market.

Amid China's recently optimized COVID-19 management policy, nearly 2.1 billion people are expected to join the Spring Festival travel rush, up 99.5 percent from a year ago and equivalent to 70.3 percent of the 2019 level. A China "on the go" will further thicken the festive atmosphere and stimulate consumption demand.

People's Daily



A lantern fair is held at the Yu Garden, a well-known classical Chinese garden in downtown Shanghai, to celebrate the approaching Year of the Rabbit. The lanterns displayed at the fair are inspired by figures in the Classic of Mountains and Seas, a Chinese classic text and a compilation of mythic geography and beasts. Lantern fair is a tradition of China that enjoys a long history. It is often held around the Chinese New Year and before the Lantern Festival, which falls on the 15th day of the Chinese New Year. The colorful lanterns carry people's wishes for a better life and a splendid future. (Photo by Wang Gang/People's Daily Online)

BEIJING

WITH the Chinese Lunar New Year around the corner, the hustle and bustle of crowds has returned to restaurants, hotels and shopping malls across China. People are nabbing tickets to join the Spring Festival travel rush. For many, a family reunion is high on the agenda.

These vibrant scenes follow China optimizing its COVID response measures. After an arduous fight against the pandemic over the past three years, COVID-19 is now managed as a Class B instead of the more serious Class A infectious disease. Many countries have since extended a warm welcome to Chinese visitors to their shores.

A core and consistent vision in China's fight against the virus brought about such a change: an emphasis on

Putting people first: The guiding light in China's COVID fight

putting people and their lives first.

As a Chinese saying goes, "with the skin gone, to what can the hair attach itself?" In the same vein, life is the prerequisite for anything and everything. China prioritizes the right to life as a fundamental human right. Since the onset of COVID-19, the country has constantly adjusted its COVID response policies in light of the evolving situation to protect people's lives and health to the greatest extent possible.

People's lives are paramount. When COVID-19 and its Delta variant began wreaking havoc, most people, particularly the elderly and other vulnerable groups, were ill-equipped to guard against infection. With the people in mind, China carried out an all-out fight, mobilizing human,

financial, material and technological resources to stop the spread of the virus in the hardest-hit regions within the shortest time.

From newborns to senior citizens, every life matters. China took rapid prevention and control measures to tackle more than 30 Delta outbreaks and essentially brought the situation under control within 14 days. All these efforts bought China valuable time for developing vaccines and drugs, among other medical resources.

A report by the WHO-China Joint Mission issued in February 2020 hailed China's COVID response as the most "ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history" and "deep commitment of the Chinese people to collective action

in the face of this common threat." Playing a key mobilizing role, the Chinese government helped the people through the most challenging time of the pandemic by keeping the virus at bay and the death toll at an astonishingly low level.

COVID containment protects life, and development ensures livelihoods. According to scientists, despite its weaker pathogenicity, when the Omicron variant first struck China in early 2022, it was 40 percent more lethal than the flu. During that stage, China turned to swifter and more targeted COVID response measures, which embodied the philosophy of the Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon, an ancient Chinese medical classic: "Instead of curing illnesses, the best

doctors prevent them from happening in the first place."

Constant tests and contact tracing helped identify the sources of infection and close contacts. Targeted treatment and quarantine measures controlled the virus and prevented additional harm to people's lives. Timely containment of the spread of the epidemic allowed business operations and people's daily activities to return to normal in the shortest time possible. Policies to ease financial burdens were quickly implemented for enterprises affected by the epidemic. All these endeavors reflect coordination between protecting people's lives and ensuring economic well-being.

Optimization does not mean "ly-

ing flat." In the past few weeks, with Omicron much less pathogenic and deadly and China's treatment, testing and vaccination capacity steadily on the rise, China decided to optimize its COVID response policies, which was evidenced by several adjusted and new measures and the latest decision to downgrade the management of COVID-19 to Class B, shifting the focus from stemming infection to managing health and preventing severe cases.

Such changes took time to happen. Three years of fighting variants from Delta to Omicron laid a solid foundation for China to adjust its COVID policies.

The variety of drugs and rich therapeutics available significantly reduced the risk of death from COVID-19.

Lavrov lambasts Zelensky's 'absurd' ideas of how to settle conflict

MOSCOW

UKRAINIAN President Vladimir Zelensky is putting forward absurd ideas of how to handle the conflict, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference devoted to Russian diplomacy in 2022 yesterday.

"Zelensky puts forward completely absurd initiatives, like a ten-point plan, where everything is piled up - food security, energy security, biological security, withdrawal of Russian troops from everywhere, Russia's repentance, tribunal and condemnation," Lavrov said.

Lavrov (pictured) stressed that negotiations with Zelensky were out of the question.

"At least because he legally forbade negotiations with the Russian government," he recalled.

While addressing the G20 summit in mid-November by video link, Zelensky said that Kiev had its own ten-point "peace plan." He mentioned nuclear, food and energy security, the exchange of "held persons" according to the "all-for-all" formula, and the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity. Once again Zelensky recalled that Kiev was insisting on international security guarantees and had developed a draft of the corresponding document. The Ukrainian leader added that Kiev wished to see the establishment of an international mechanism to compensate for Ukraine's losses from hostilities at the expense of Russian assets.



Cooperation, globalization under spotlight at World Economic Forum

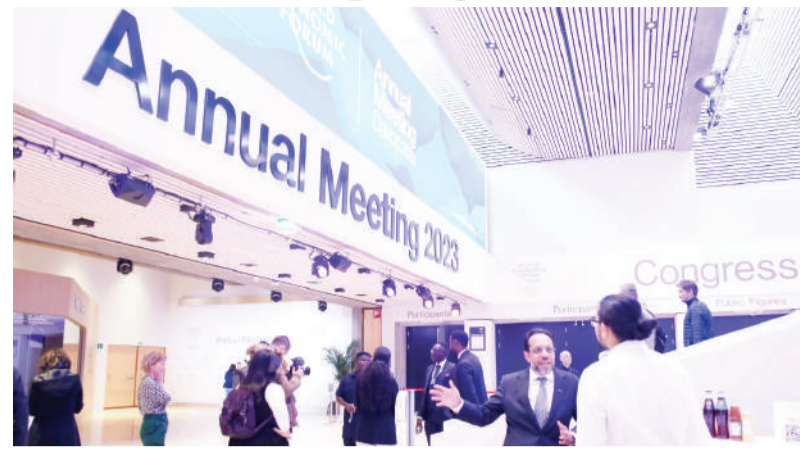
DAVOS, Switzerland,

AS this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting commenced here on Monday, a series of issues that perplex humanity have come under global spotlight, including the energy crisis, high inflation and geopolitical conflicts.

Under the theme of "Cooperation in a Fragmented World," the annual meeting focuses on solutions and public-private cooperation to tackle the world's most pressing challenges. Many expect to get more insights from the five-day event on how countries could join hands to strive for a brighter future for globalization and the world economy. Two-thirds of chief economists from private and public sectors expect a global recession in 2023, according to a survey released on Monday at the annual meeting. According to a WEF statement on the survey, there was a strong consensus that the prospects for growth in 2023 are bleak, especially in Europe and the United States.

The surveyed economists anticipate further monetary tightening in the United States and Europe this year, and they see geopolitical tensions continuing to shape the global economy. Some 18 percent of the respondents, more than twice the number in the previous survey in September 2022, considered a world recession "extremely likely." Only a third of them viewed it as unlikely this year.

"The current high inflation, low growth, high debt and high fragmentation environment reduces incentives for the investments needed to get back to growth and raise living standards for the world's most vulnerable," WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said in the statement. "Leaders must look beyond today's crises to invest in food and en-



People talk during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2023 in Davos, Switzerland, on Monday. Xinhua

ergy innovation, education and skills development, and in job-creating, high-potential markets of tomorrow. There is no time to lose," she added.

However, there are still positive signs. China's optimized COVID-19 strategy and further opening will have "a very positive impact" on the world economy, said Leslie Maasdorp, vice president and chief financial officer of the New Development Bank. "There will be a much faster pace of recovery in the Chinese economy," Maasdorp said, adding that many institutions predicted that China's economic growth in 2023 will be much higher than originally projected. Besides, a number of modestly encouraging data released in the final quarter of 2022 provided some room for optimism about the medium-term inflation outlook in 2023, according to the survey.

According to an IMF forecast in October 2022, global inflation is projected to decline to 6.5 percent in 2023 from 8.8 percent in 2022 due to rapid, synchronized monetary tightening, stabilizing supply conditions and commodity prices, as well as easing demand pressures, said the survey.

The manifold political, economic and social forces are creating increased fragmentation on a global and national level, said Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, ahead of the annual meeting. Schwab stressed the need to reinforce cooperation between the government and business sectors. "At the same time there must be the recognition that economic development needs to be made more resilient, more sustainable and nobody should be left behind." Protectionism and geopolitical conflicts are slowing global growth, WEF President Borge Brende told Xinhua prior to the annual meeting's opening, stressing that "what we hope for our annual meeting in Davos is that nations should again try to find areas to cooperate and not only work against each other."

China's optimization of COVID-19 response will contribute to global growth and "will lead to stronger and more prosperous growth, even if this immediate situation is a bit challenging," said Brende ahead of the WEF. Brende also expressed his recognition of China's viewpoint that the only way

to deal with global problems is through multilateral cooperation among countries. "The one positive lesson we can learn from COVID-19 is the interconnection of the world and the need for us to come up with multilateral solutions," Maasdorp said, adding global challenges cannot be solved by one country alone. Maasdorp also noted that China has played a critical role in multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the New Development Bank, stressing the country's commitment to globalization and profound integration into the global supply chains.

Bob Moritz, global chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers, emphasized the importance of globalization, as more trade and business cooperation between China and the rest of the world will be needed. "Globalization has been thought about sometimes ... (as having) no meaning anymore. I would disagree with that," he said. "The world needs global trade." "The world is dealing with problems that are not country specific and bounded by geographic borders ... We have to rewire the world thinking about how to solve our problems. We have to get all the players at the table," he said.

Xinhua

EU to 'protect competitiveness' from US inflation act

BRUSSELS

THE leaders of the European Union (EU) on Tuesday vowed to take measures to protect the competitiveness of the bloc's member states from the United States' Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) while trying to avoid falling into a subsidy war with Washington.

The EU member states' economy and finance ministers discussed the matter on the margins of the year's first Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin).

European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni underlined the need to address the effects of the IRA on the EU's already strained economy but warned against a subsidy war.

"We have to strengthen our competitiveness ... It's not about a subsidy war with other countries or US, it's about strengthening Europe's competitiveness," he said ahead of the meeting.

The EU has to work on streamlining its state aid rules, according to Gentiloni, especially for sectors that are crucial for clean technologies and innovation. In parallel, the bloc should be funding common projects, he said, as these will strengthen its competitiveness without undermining its internal market.

EU leaders and industries have voiced their concerns over the IRA, which contains provisions that could have significant repercussions on the competitiveness and investment decisions of the EU industry, in particular as regards sectors crucial for its transition to a green economy.

Signed in mid-August last year, the IRA targets a record \$369 billion of spending on climate and energy provisions. The landmark package comprises tax credits for electric cars made in North America and supports US battery supply chains.

Since then, a joint high-level task force has been established to address the EU's request to be treated "fairly," like other US trade partners, such as Canada or Mexico.

Sweden's Finance Minister Elisabeth Svantesson said on Tuesday after a meeting with fellow ministers from the EU that the member states will continue to discuss their response to measures the United States has taken to stimulate green technology investments, which are seen to disadvantage European companies.

Later the same day, European Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis was meeting US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to discuss the matter.

"We're working through the task force, but we're also doing outreach at other levels to address those concerns. We know that on the US side there are some delays in the sense of implementing guidelines. This gives us a bit more time for discussion on some elements," Dombrovskis said. However, the task force is not likely to solve all the problems.

French President Emmanuel Macron has been pushing for a "Made in Europe" strategy, in which critical sectors would be subsidized to counter the US subsidies.



EU leaders and industries have voiced their concerns over the IRA, which contains provisions that could have significant repercussions on the competitiveness and investment decisions of the EU industry, in particular as regards sectors crucial for its transition to a green economy

Interest to Russian language still high in Germany – Russian ambassador

MOSCOW

THE number of those who want to learn the Russian language in Germany is still high, Russian Ambassador to Germany Sergey Nechayev said in an interview with the Rossiyskaya Gazeta on Tuesday.

"The number of those who want to learn the Russian language is still high. Although, their number has probably somewhat decreased as compared with the period when we held cross Years of the Russia and German Languages," he said. "However, practically all federal states have schools and universities offering Russian classes. Language classes are available at the Russian House. The interest to the Russian language in Germany is high."

He also noted that the number of cases of the discrimination of Russians has decreased considerably. According to Nechayev, the embassy is making all possible efforts to protect their rights. "We set up an electronic hotline - a feedback channel, which received hundreds of messages about insults, dismissals, discrimination, threats and so on. We informed German law enforcement agencies, politicians, the mass media about cases of harassment, demanded such attacks be stopped," he said.

According to the Russian diplomat, civil initiatives on countering Russophobia have emerged in Germany. "The Russian embassy and consular missions are keeping a close eye on this topic," he added.



Foreign investors confident in China's economic resilience, potential

THE Chinese government recently issued a series of policies to better attract and utilize foreign capital, which further boosted the confidence of foreign enterprises in their future development in China.

According to these policies, China will advance high-level opening up, expand market access, ensure national treatment for all foreign-invested enterprises, continue to advance its accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), and provide convenient conditions for foreign enterprises and individuals that visit China for investment and trade negotiations.

Enterprises would "vote with their feet" if the business environment of a country is poor, said Matthew Ye from Michelin, a multinational tire manufacturing company.

"Over the past more than three decades, Michelin has witnessed China's reform and opening up and the constant optimization of the business environment in the country," Ye told People's Daily, adding that foreign enterprises are gaining more and more confidence in the Chinese market as China works to ensure national treatment for all foreign-invested enterprises, and joins hands with relevant parties to build an open market and promote trade and investment facilitation.

Ruan Linjuan, vice president of IKEA China, told People's Daily that the enactment and implementation of the Foreign Investment Law in China has made the business environment more stable, equal, transparent and predictable, and enhanced IKEA's confidence in investing in China.

"In the past years, we saw the efforts of the Chinese government at all levels to help foreign enterprises integrate into the new development paradigm of China, which was very beneficial to our business development in the country," she noted.

Gong Anming, executive vice president of Elekta, a leader in precision radiation therapy,



Leon Wang, executive vice-president, international and China president at AstraZeneca says he is confident about the development prospects of China's economy and its open investment environment. – AP

said China's Foreign Investment Law has boosted the confidence of multinational corporations, including Elekta, in their long-term development in China.

According to him, Elekta has built a factory in China that adopts completely the same techniques and standards as its factories in Europe.

"Thanks to the strategic deployment of the factory and a more reliable supply chain, the Chinese factory of Elekta has provided its global clients with more than 1,000 sets of linear accelerators, growing into the company's largest production base in the past three years," Gong said.

Many multinational corporations consider China a promising driving force for global innovation. BMW board member Frank Weber noted that China has made remarkable achievements in digitalization thanks to its accelerated innovation. The German automaker's Chinese R&D team has developed into the largest one globally outside its headquarters in Munich.

"The Chinese market drives BMW to continue innovating, and many local suppliers in China have also improved their capability, becoming benchmarks in the industry," Weber said.

Jim Misener, senior director of product management of Qualcomm Technologies, told People's Daily that China is currently spearheading the development in the intelligent connected vehicle sector.

He said the Chinese government

has rolled out a series of plans and policies to promote the development of the sector and accelerate standard-making and technological upgrading. The country's innovation capability, huge market and strong government support are leading the global development of electric vehicles and relevant applications, he added.

Liu Tao, managing director of Accenture Greater China, said with the Foreign Investment Law and a series of policies, China is actively fulfilling its promises of opening up. Accenture sees that Chinese enterprises are following the trend of the digital economy and continuously investing in digitalization, he added.

"Open and orderly market and business environment will play an important role in exploring new opportunities for development," Liu said.

Irina Ananyeva, spokesperson at Bosch said the Fortune Global 500 company is expanding its investment in the Chinese market and introducing globally advanced production technologies to China.

She noted that China is the world's largest auto market, which is vital and resilient, and the company is confident about the Chinese market's prospects.

China is a market of strategic importance for Merck in terms of both its size and growth potential, said Timo Breiner, spokesperson for the pharmaceutical company.

According to him, Merck plans to invest around 100 million euro (\$108 million) in the next six years in ex-

panding its production base in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu province, and put it into operation before 2024. Many departments of the company have investment projects in China that are worth hundreds of millions of euros, he added.

Zeng Xiwen, vice president for Unilever, noted that China has become one of the fastest-growing markets of the consumer goods company, and currently the company is expanding its industrial landscape in China.

"In 2022, we built an ice cream factory with an investment of nearly a billion yuan (\$149 million) in Taicang, east China's Jiangsu province. We also unveiled in Guangzhou our first full-line production and marketing base in China with a total investment of nearly 2 billion yuan. The base, upon completion, will not only serve the Chinese market, but also supply overseas consumers relying on the regional advantages of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," Zeng said.

People's Daily

Taifa Stars performance: Why formulas cannot arise from pain

By Correspondent John Kimbute

JUST what can be done for the national soccer side, Taifa Stars, to become another well-performing side in continental and even global soccer is a question that perennially comes up, and it is hardly surprising it is heard at present, with the finals of African Nations Championship (CHAN), a championship of home-based players, taking place.

Someone in the media had an opportunity to interview the country's best-known soccer player, Mbwana Samatta, who it is apparent was visiting for end-of-year holidays, as some league runs resumed after the end-of-year breaks.

It occupied some prime time for daily soccer reviews and sentiments on what is going on, like registration, etc.

What the veteran Taifa Stars captain was saying would be hard to classify as solid advice or just a stream of worries for that side, which in part includes the CHAN aspect as we hardly have an advantage in that tournament despite that usually most national team players are locally based.

But as if in anticipation, the number of those who are based outside is on the rise, as a younger generation of migrants makes their mark, mostly raised in foreign schools after being noticed at a tender age in local academies. They may alter the picture, much later.

The remarks and in part the discussion around those remarks bespoke of what can be termed an error of lack of realism, namely the idea that for Taifa Stars or Kilimanjaro Stars to shine at the continental and world level, a specific program is needed, enabling such team(s) to attain higher performance.

Cases were cited of countries that initiated such programs, including Morocco and had succeeded.

That was true but if we



Tanzania's senior national soccer side's skipper, Mbwana Samatta.

lack such initiatives, how is it that the young women's side, Serengeti Girls, reached the U-17 Women's World Cup finals lately?

Were it that the U-17 women's national soccer team's legendary performance was isolated, it would be one thing, but admittedly we have put up fairly consistent results in youth soccer competitions generally, winning regional titles and some continental impression.

That too cannot occur in a state of lack of vision, planning, or worse, lack of patriotism as some of the discussants of Samatta's remarks were more or less affirming.

There is an expression that 'to err is human', which means that there may be some systematic errors in what we do, but it is pointless to say nothing is being done, or we could have had massive success if something was done.

In other words, what explains the fairly astonishing success of the young women's side and significant breakthroughs in regional tournaments for

Serengeti Boys is equally applicable to the state of Taifa Stars.

The success is hardly out of exceptional action which targets young women, and youths to an extent, and exceptional inaction about the formal national side, as that would require a long-term conspiracy altered at some points to suit specific designs.

Such a strategy is non-existent out of hand, so the varied results all arise from what we have been doing, the energy we have put in, compared with others, just an issue of talent.

Beyond the strict matter of talents, there would be a need for a microscopic examination of what happens to Tanzanian youths as they grow up, being brilliant footballers when they are still quite young, compared to comparable sides elsewhere.

Then they fade off more rapidly in comparison to opportunities open to other players, though this problem has affected other countries as well.

Zambia once defeated Italy to win the Olympic gold medal

in soccer, a U-23 or U-21 in later years, but never collected a team to reach the World Cup finals.

That situation is also reflected in the national and regional soccer scene, where Uganda and then Kenya fare better in the national team ability for continental competitions, but their premier leagues are way below Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League in either value or esteem.

The result is that Tanzania has arguably more foreign players in its premier league sides than others, but its national team is underperforming, not because of the foreign players as conservatives tend to believe, but despite their presence.

Professionals raise the level of competition and give coaches greater difficulty coping with the skills of professional forwards, or defenders.

Looking at the national side from the perspective of the league, it becomes clear that the more professional the local premier league becomes, the higher the chances of an improved national side.

But two factors stand in opposition to tangible gains from this dimension, namely young Tanzanians playing outside or going outside by recruitment from academies, and other countries similarly uplifting their youth abilities and league standards.

At the moment, Madagascar is in the CHAN finals, and last year it was in the African Nations Cup finals,

A decade ago Madagascar was nowhere near that level, other countries have good plans too, in which case no revolution is in the offing where Tanzania climbs high in Africa.

It is hardly a matter of planning but results arising from a welter of factors, including talent and investment, which is arguably quite higher in Tanzania than elsewhere.

Luck will do the rest.

Young people must adapt to multicultural environments - call

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM-based Kidz Kollege (KK) Pre-School has said that there is a need for children to be introduced to multicultural environments at a young age as the approach makes it easy for them to accept others.

Nasra Hashim, Head of the School, said so at the school's International Day celebration, noting it is an opportunity for the institution to teach children about the various cultures around the world.

The children, Nasra said, moreover learn family histories while being exposed to other cultures and traditions.

She said on the day, Kidz Kollege celebrated the diversity of 14 nationalities that make up the institution's community.

The School's Head revealed: "We are optimistic that this will bring about greater respect for different cultures. When children are introduced into a multicultural environment at a young age, it becomes easier for them to accept others' perspectives."

"They learn to respect the different ways things are done that are as valuable as theirs and help them understand people around them better in the future," the school's boss noted.

"We instill the spirit of embracing multicultural values in our children so that they grow up with good values and appreciate each other while bringing about a feeling of oneness and communal harmony from the very beginning."

"These celebrations give us a reason to enjoy, mingle, live peaceful moments, and nurture bonds between families and friends that we share the earth with," she said.

There were many activities performed by both Kidz Kollege pupils and their parents in the International Day celebration.

The highlight of the day was the Super Fashion show and the international stalls set up by the parent volunteers.

Some represented Zanzibar whilst others came on stage with flags of Tanzania, Libya, the United Kingdom, India, Cuba, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, Canada, Portugal, Hawaii, China, and many more.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to showcase and share information about the unique aspects of their respective countries, cultural souvenirs, memorabilia, flag colours, clothes, interesting artifacts, and other fascinating traditional items.

This created immense curiosity in children as the celebration of internationalism went on for the entire week.

Children visited and scrutinized each stall before the event day, there were passports to the international stalls which children were issued at the entrance, with the documents having personal photographs. They

had to visit each stall to get a stamp of confirmation.

The question asked to all the children was, "Did you get your Kidz Kollege passport stamped at the stall?"

Children were taught what a passport meant, and how important the document it is.

The inspirational skit by parents stole the show as tears rolled down many of the spectators' cheeks because of the message relayed.

The lesson taught was that many of today's children drop their parents at the Old People's homes and take their own lives as a priority. It was a very touching skit and a great eye-opener.

"A big thank you to all parents who volunteered their time to enrich the lives of our school, we appreciate it," Nasra stated.

Sensei Justine Limwagu, a karate instructor, said the Super Fashion show by the parents added another feather to the cap.

He thanked all parents who took part in the show, revealing he has been delighted by the kids' response.

Deputy Head of the school Shaheen Chaudhry also disclosed that the school puts much emphasis on extracurricular activities like skating, swimming, karate, and robotics describing them as vital for the development of any child.

Shaheen revealed: "Sports inculcate self-confidence and discipline, our school's motto is 'Building a bridge for a better tomorrow', you have seen the confidence our kids have demonstrated today."

Bindu Sangani, Kidz Kollege Director, explains the importance of instilling values and good thoughts into children at a tender age, maintaining the approach is important.

Speaking on behalf of the school's management, Sheila Badiani thanked every parent and individual staff for their immense efforts to bring the program to fruition.

Sheila advised parents and guardians that the kindergarten transition to primary school is the institution's utmost priority.

She pointed out: "We do our best to bridge the gap so that children can have a smooth transition and continue with their elementary school education in our sister school The Apton Primary School."

Sheila revealed: "There is a strong relationship between the two educational settings of The Apton School and Kidz Kollege Pre-school."

"Choosing a primary school is one of the most important decisions parents make. Rest assured that The Apton School is grounded in its desire to provide children with quality international education in a diverse environment that will help them succeed in an ever-changing world," Sheila stated.

"The Apton School strives to nurture a joyful pursuit of learning through creativity, consciousness, and critical thinking, empowering a new generation with the confidence to positively thrive in today's global environment," she added.



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mussa Azzan Zungu (8th L), in a group picture with participants of a recent charity race seeking to raise funds for the provision of eye treatment services to Tanzanians with eye problems. The race took place at the Green ground, Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Zungu now lauds institution for backing eye treatment initiative

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mussa Azzan Zungu, has congratulated the Lions Club International District 411C Tanzania and the Rotary E-Club for hosting a charity run to raise funds for running treatment camps for eye patients.

The Deputy Speaker issued

his congratulatory message after the completion of the race, termed 'Run for Sight', at the Green ground at Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam recently.

Zungu noted: "This race is a very important event to help the community, the money that will be raised will be used to run eye camps for free to help people who cannot meet treat-

ment costs."

"I call on other private companies to continue to support President Samia Suhulu Hassan's efforts to touch the lives of Tanzanians," he said.

Lions Club International District 411C Tanzania's Governor, Mustansir Gulamhussein thanked the stakeholders who turned out to make the event a

success, noting the race sought to raise funds for eye treatment.

"I must thank those who came to support the efforts of 'Run for Sight', the donations will help Tanzanians who need eye care," Gulamhussein said.

Lalji Foundation's Chairman, Imtiaz Lalji, said that the event seeks to reach more than 1,000 people with eye problems.

"Our goals are to make contributions to the health sector, and education as well as to empower entrepreneurs from different parts of Tanzania," Lalji disclosed.



Parents and guardians of pupils studying at Dar es Salaam's Kidz Kollege Pre-School participate in the school's International Day celebration that took place early this week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Saudi businessman bids \$2.6m for Ronaldo-Messi ticket

RIYADH

A SAUDI real estate mogul won a ticket to see Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi face off in a friendly after bidding \$2.6 million at auction, an official said Tuesday.

The match on Thursday in Riyadh is set to pit Messi's Paris Saint-Germain against a select side made up of players from Ronaldo's new club Al Nassr and their Saudi rivals Al Hilal.

It will mark the first time Ronaldo has played any football in the kingdom since signing a contract with Al Nassr that runs until 2025 and is worth more than 200 million euros (\$214 million), according to sources close to the club.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is scheduled to make his Saudi Pro League debut for Al Nassr on Sunday.

To promote Thursday's friendly, Turki al-Sheikh, an advisor at the Royal Court and head of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority, announced a charity auction for a special ticket that would come with perks like photo opportunities with players and access to the locker rooms.

Bidding started at 1 million Saudi riyals (\$266,000) and the auction closed at 11:30 p.m. local time on Tuesday.

Sheikh then announced on Twitter the winning bid of 10 million riyals (\$2.6 million) had come from Mushref al-Ghamdi.

"Congratulations, you deserve it, and may God reward you with good," Sheikh said.

The proceeds from the auction are due to go to the national charity campaign known as Ehsan. Besides Messi, PSG stars expected to play on Thursday include France striker Kylian Mbappe and Achraf Hakimi, who last year in Qatar helped make Morocco the first Arab and African team to reach the World Cup semi-finals.

The Saudi select team includes Salem Al-Dawsari, who scored the winning goal in the Green Falcons' shock defeat of Argentina in the World Cup's group stage.

Oil-rich monarchy Saudi Arabia, which has been snapping up sports assets as part of a drive to soften its austere image, is often accused of "sportswashing", or using sport to distract attention from human rights controversies.

Ronaldo is expected to receive a combined 400 million euros in the kingdom, including a separate payment for his work as an ambassador for an anticipated World Cup bid for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Greece, according to sources close to Al Nassr.

AFP

French football president Le Graet under investigation for sexual harassment

PARIS

THE president of the French Football Federation, Noel Le Graet, has been placed under investigation for sexual and psychological harassment, prosecutors told AFP on Tuesday.

The probe was opened on Monday after football agent Sonia Souid made accusations against Le Graet in an affair that has shaken French football just weeks after France were beaten by Argentina in the World Cup final.

"He very clearly said to me in his apartment that if I wanted him to help me, I had to let him have his way with me," said Souid, who gave interviews to sports daily L'Equipe and radio station RMC.

Le Graet, who has been president of the FFF since 2011 but was forced to step down last week pending the outcome of an audit of the federation performed by France's Sports Ministry, has denied any wrongdoing.

In a statement sent to AFP by his lawyers, Le Graet said he "denies all accusations of psychological or sexual harassment or any other criminal offence".

Despite stepping aside last week, the 81-year-old is still officially recognised as president by world governing body FIFA.

He had faced calls to resign, including from Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera, after what he admitted were "clumsy remarks" about Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the French national team.

Le Graet said in an interview with RMC that he "wouldn't even have taken his call" when asked whether Zidane, a World Cup winner as a player and an all-time France great, had rung him to express an interest in taking over as coach from Didier Deschamps. Deschamps, who led France to World Cup glory in 2018 and oversaw their run to last month's final, recently signed a new contract to stay as coach until 2026.

- 'defend himself' -

Le Graet, whose mandate runs until 2024, has been replaced on an interim basis by Philippe Diallo, a vice-president of the organisation.

AFP

Small stadiums, high temperatures: What Ronaldo can expect in Saudi

RIYADH

AFTER lighting up football's biggest stages, Cristiano Ronaldo faces a very different reality in Saudi Arabia with smaller stadiums and less exalted teams -- and some very high temperatures.

Ronaldo, 37, says he's embracing the "challenge" of the Saudi Pro League, a step into the unknown for a player who is more used to Real Madrid's heaving Santiago Bernabeu stadium or the "Theatre of Dreams", Manchester United's Old Trafford.

The transition has been eased by the combined 400 million euros he'll receive in wages from his new team, Al Nassr, and a separate payment to act as an ambassador for an expected Saudi World Cup bid, according to sources close to the club.

But it will be a big adjustment for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, who will soon be running out at modest venues including the 6,000-seat Al Batin Stadium.

After an exhibition appearance against his great rival Lionel Messi's Paris Saint-Germain in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Thursday, Ronaldo will make his Saudi Pro League debut for Al Nassr on Sunday.

The 16-team league will take Ronaldo from Dammam on the Gulf



Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo receives a jersey from President Musalli Al-Muammar of the Al Nassr soccer club. (Agencies)

coast to Jeddah on the Red Sea, as well as desert-bound provincial cities such as Majma'ah and Hofuf, a hub for Saudi Arabia's date industry.

- Chartered planes -

While Al Hilal and Al Ittihad, the giants of Saudi football, play in 62,000-capacity home grounds, a handful of Pro League teams have small venues for less than 10,000 fans, and some pitches are surrounded by running tracks.

"Sometimes the stadium

is not in the best condition," Moqbel al-Zabni, editor-in-chief of the Al Riyadh newspaper, told AFP, cautioning that empty seats are a common sight.

"The attendances that Ronaldo is used to will not exist. We are not used to seeing stadiums full to capacity," he said.

Ronaldo's home ground will be Al Nassr's 25,000-capacity Mrsool Park, which lies on a university campus in Riyadh and was packed for his gala unveiling earlier

this month. Chartered planes will ferry the superstar and his team-mates to away games, club sources said, sparing him long coach trips through the desert landscape.

The Pro League season runs from August to May, avoiding the worst of the fierce summer heat when temperatures routinely top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Even the evenings, when many games are played, can remain above

30C (86 Fahrenheit) in August and September, and from March until the end of the season.

"The weather will pose a challenge to Ronaldo... but I think he will adapt and excel," said Saleh al-Khalif, Al-Riyadiah's deputy editor-in-chief.

"No walk in the park" - Saudi Arabia is a leading force in Asian football with six World Cup appearances, including a famous victory over Messi's Argentina at the recent edition in Qatar.

Al Hilal and Al Ittihad

have won six AFC Champions League titles between them. With Ronaldo, Al Nassr will have hopes of qualifying for this year's competition and joining their great rivals as Asian champions.

Although the Pro League's standards cannot match the heights of England, Spain and Italy, where Ronaldo has spent his career so far, it is a competitive division.

The Saudi league was launched in 1976 but in the 14 years since the Pro League became the top tier, there have been six different winners.

Khalif said the league's "strength and diversity" were comparable to English football, insisting it would be no "walk in the park" for Ronaldo.

The Pro League is packed with 128 foreign players from 48 countries, with each team allowed to sign eight.

At Al Nassr, coached by Frenchman Rudi Garcia, Ronaldo's team-mates include Colombia and ex-Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina and Brazilian midfielder Luis Gustavo, formerly of Bayern Munich.

Ronaldo's first task will be to keep Al Nassr on top of the league and secure their first title in four years. But the other teams will be highly motivated to stop him.

"Ronaldo is a legend... and all teams will play to beat Ronaldo," said Khalif.

AFP

New Man Utd striker Wout Weghorst has point to prove

LONDON

NEW Manchester United forward Wout Weghorst says he has unfinished business in the Premier League and is hungry to prove himself after his shock loan move to Old Trafford.

Erik ten Hag's side are fourth in the table after five straight league wins but have been short of forward power this season, especially after last month's dramatic exit of Cristiano Ronaldo.

United's January move for Weghorst surprised the Netherlands international, with the 30-year-old saying it was a "special moment" when he found out about the interest from his agent.

The towering frontman had been on loan at Turkish club Besiktas from Burnley but a deal was struck last week that led to a switch from the English Championship leaders to United for the rest of the season.

Weghorst joined Burnley from Wolfsburg last year but was unable to prevent the side dropping into the second tier of the English game.

"For me, it was not done, it was not finished," he told United club media. "It didn't work out the first time as I hoped and I'm really hungry to show myself, to help the team.

"Of course, we are on a really good track now.

"The last couple of weeks, months actually, it's going really positive here and I just want to contribute and give my best and give my all for the club and I try to be

a part of the successful (direction) we are going."

Weghorst watched United's impressive 2-1 comeback victory against rivals Manchester City from the stands at the weekend and could make his United debut at Crystal Palace on Wednesday.

Ten Hag's side are looking for a 10th straight win in all competitions.

Weghorst, who scored two goals at the World Cup in Qatar, said his game would suit the pressing style favoured by Ten Hag.

"That's something I am capable of and that's also something in the way the trainer wants to play," he said.

"He wants to play aggressive, he wants to go high on the pitch, try to recover the ball there as quickly as possible and I think I can help the team with that."

Meanwhile, Manchester United great Peter Schmeichel on Tuesday defended the club's decision to set up a luxury lounge at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week which has sparked speculation that it is being used to market the team to potential buyers.

Positioned near global software companies, consultancies and banks, the club has created a lounge on the main high street of Davos, a luxury Swiss ski resort teeming with billionaires and CEOs this week during the annual Forum.

"If you look at what we say about ourselves -- we say that we are one of the biggest sporting brands

in the world -- then I think you have to back it up by having a presence in places like this," Schmeichel, who is acting as an ambassador, told AFP.

"Of course, our football club is not just about the commercial side, making money," added the Danish legend, who won five Premier League titles and the Champions League with United.

Ellie Norman, a club spokeswoman, said the lounge -- with a bar, multiple seating areas and screens showing club heroes -- served as a place to meet with existing and future corporate partners and sponsors.

"We are in a strategic review. That's a process that's ongoing," she told AFP, referring to the club-owning Glazer family's announcement in November that they were considering "all strategic alternatives" for the club including a sale.

"We don't know the outcome of that, but that is not connected to why we're back in Davos," she adding, stating that Manchester



chester United had been a partner of the World Economic Forum since 2019.

Schmeichel said his personal preference would be for fans to buy the club if the US-based Glazers put it up for sale, but he conceded that this was an unlikely outcome.

"I know there's a lot of fans who are wanting a change in ownership," he said.

"For me... would it

make a difference to change the ownership? I think the only difference would be if it was owned by the fans, but I think that's probably impossible. It's too big."

The Glazers have been unpopular with supporters ever since a £790 million (\$934 million) leveraged takeover in 2005 burdened the club with huge debts.

Schmeichel said he was focusing on events

on the pitch and was delighted in the club's turnaround in fortunes under manager Erik ten Hag.

"We've had to change managers far too many times since Alex (Ferguson) left and it's been very unstable," said the 59-year-old Dane.

Ten Hag "looks to be a very, very, very capable person and able to do what needs to be done."

AFP



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Mollet opens up on national tennis side's performance in East Africa tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national junior tennis team's head coach Goodluck Mollet has attributed the country's poor showing in the just concluded 2023 East African Junior tournament staged in Bujumbura, Burundi to the low number of players on his side.

Nine tennis players represented Tanzania, finishing fourth in the showdown that had five teams participating. In the girls' U-14 category, Tanzania was represented by Faith Njamakuya, Alice Kazoba, and Happy John.

The boys' U-14 category had Fred Ongige, Elias Baltazar, and David Tarimo making the national team. In girls' U-16, Eunice Kimato, Nasha Singo, and Racheal Swai were the flag carriers for the country but there was no boys' team in the U-16 category.

"If you look at teams which have done well, the squads had many players, Tanzania had only nine players but I must salute my charges for playing well, they did their best," he said.

The ITF/CAT-sponsored competition ended with the national squad losing two games, conceding a 3-0 loss to Kenya and a 2-1 loss to Burundi. The national squad beat Uganda 2-1 and had a similar victory over Burundi 2-1.

Kenya led the showdown's medal standing followed by Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Rwanda which ended last.



Yanga's Tunisian head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Nabi reacts with delight to new Yanga SC signing Mudathir

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA'S head coach Nasreddine Nabi has declared his delight over the completion of the club's move for Mudathir Yahya, outlining the benefits he believes the 'wonderful' midfielder will bring to the Jangwani Street side.

Yahya sealed his transfer to the Green and Yellow outfit as a free agent early this month, signing a two-year contract with the club following seven years with Azam FC.

The 26-year-old's contract with Azam FC expired at the end of last season. Azam FC reportedly offered Yahya a new deal, but the midfielder was unhappy with the way and terms of the fresh offer.

Having sat out the first part of the season in Zanzibar, Yahya was always going to join one of the big teams in Tanzania in this transfer window.

What was not clear was his destination and Simba SC was leading the charge to sign him. However, Yanga caught everyone off guard by announcing his signing.

The midfielder, hailing from Zanzibar, was one of the four signings made by Yanga during the December-January transfer window.

Nabi said he is a long-time admirer of Yanga's new No.6 and expects Yahya to make a seamless transition to the squad aiming to follow up on their successes of last season.

The tactician revealed: "We frankly knew that we had a very good deal by bringing in Mudathir, I've wanted to bring him over since last season. And now I am delighted



Yanga's newly signed midfielder, Mudathir Yahya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

that he is here with us now."

Nabi pointed out: "He is a great player and I think that a well-defined, clear structure and playing alongside players that he has played with at Azam FC, Farid Musa and Salum Abubakar has helped him."

Yahya was part of the Yanga squad in the 2023

Mapinduzi Cup tournament where he made his debut against Zanzibar's KMKM.

His debut in the NBC Premier League came in the hard-fought 1-0 victory against Ifeju SC on Monday and Nabi insists there is 'much more to come' from him.

The gaffer revealed: "He

was calm, not nervous and all that and I am sure he gave just 50% compared to what he will bring us in the future. There is more to come from him, we are very happy with this recruitment."

Fans will have further glimpses of Yahya as the 2022/23 NBC Premier

League table leaders take on Ruvu Shooting in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Yanga will, after the top-flight duel, turn their attention to the Azam Sports Federation Cup with a fourth-round tie against Championship League side, Rhino Rangers, slated for January 28.

'Discipline top criteria to make Yanga's PL squad'

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NASREDDINE Mohamed Nabi, Yanga's head coach, is adamant that discipline is the key to his players having game time and making it into the matchday's bench following the recent indiscipline acts shown by some footballers at the club.

Nabi issued the statement that targets players like midfielder Feisal Salum, who has yet to return to Yanga since demanding to leave the

club, and Benard Morisson, who has failed to make his way back to training within the time given to him by the team's leadership since December 29.

The Tunisian gaffer said that he is not interested in unruly behaviour, adding normally a player with that behaviour cannot make his squad, which continues notching good results.

The gaffer pointed out: "There is no player that is bigger than the team, I don't need players who don't have

discipline in the team and I have told the leaders not to interfere in my decisions."

"Fiston Mayele is a dedicated and disciplined player, Mayele goes to practice every day, and even when he was given a break, he still came back early and joined his colleagues," the gaffer disclosed.

"Now I need such players who will be disciplined, I don't care if the player is loved by the fans, even if he is talented, I will not be able to use him in the team if he is not disciplined, I will use dis-

ciplined players for the benefit of the team," Nabi noted.

The embattled Salum has been left out of Yanga despite having asked to return to the camp, following his publicized saga of seeking to terminate his contract with the club.

As for Morrison, he is still in his home country of Ghana, where he went to deal with his foundation known as the Bernard Morisson Foundation.

The winger left after his outfit's 19th round match of

Mainland Tanzania NBC Premier League against Mtibwa Sugar played at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro on December 29.

Yanga's next game will have the side come up against Coast Region's Ruvu Shooting, a side lately languishing at the bottom of the league, at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The Jangwani Street side is leading the Premier League with 53 points after taking part in 20 games, losing one and settling for a draw in two.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

