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Teachers' union wants minister, ignoring PSSSF meet on formula

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

A MEETING organized here to sensitize members of the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) on the new formula for computing retirement benefits was postponed after the key participants boycotted it.

TTU leaders are demanding to first meet minister responsible for social security funds and thus ditched a planned meeting with officials of the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) coming for a weekend seminar arrived in the issue.

The fund officials did not make their presentations as expected participants had left, one of whose spokesmen was Costa Kwamugila, the TTU chairman for Kagera Region.

He said the union wants the new formula stopped in computing retirement benefits now pegged at a 33 per cent lumpsum as this would impact on retirement plans for teachers.

"We want this issue to be brought afresh on the table for discussion for

review and amendments of the law and regulations, to restore the old formula of 50 percent lumpsum of their savings instead of the current 33 per cent," he said.

He described PSSSF officials seeking to provide education in the meeting as victims of the new formula as well.

“This is where the problem started and members started to yell things which led us to postpone the meeting”

preferring that TTU speaks with top national leaders.

When reached for clarification, TTU acting president Dinnah Mathamani admitted confusion enveloping the meeting with PSSSF officials. She opened

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The on-going critical shortage of clean and safe water in parts of Dar es Salaam city and Bagamoyo District has forced this resident of the city's Tegeta suburb to reassess his priorities, deciding to drop motorbike taxi business in preference for the "slightly better paying" supplying of potable water to whoever needs the service. The Guardian caught up with him yesterday, and he said he draws the precious liquid from the few sources still 'working' at 200/- per 20-litre container and sells it at anything between 700/- and 1,000/-, largely depending on the distance covered. Photo: Correspondent Elizabeth Zaya

Bus-truck crash sees six dead, 22 injured

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

SIX PEOPLE died on the spot and 22 were injured yesterday after an 'Arusha Express' collided head-on with a Sinohydro Co. sand truck at Mzakwe area in Makutupora ward, Dodoma Urban District.

Sources said the bus, T 530 AGG, was heading to Mbeya from Arusha, while the truck, T 939 DZE was on a false side of the road.

Martin Otieno, the regional police commander, said the police were still examining the cause of the accident, while confirming that six people died on the spot and the injured were rushed to the regional referral hospital.

Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said four of the deceased have been identified and two bodies are yet to be identified, the truck driver and one bus passenger.

Of the 22 injured, 10 are women and 12 men, all sent to the regional referral hospital except one, admitted at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, she said.

Appealing to drivers to adhere to traffic regulations, the RC said the truck driver used the wrong part of the road, thus causing the accident. Dodoma residents need to voluntarily donate blood for the accident victims, she further appealed.

Regional referral hospital in charge, Dr Ibenzi Ernest said the hospital 21 accident victims on Sunday afternoon, with the deceased preserved at the hospital mortuary.

Noting that those admitted are progressing well, he urged drivers to avoid road recklessness as treatments of accident victims is costly.

Identified bodies include the bus driver, Amani Athumani, and bus agents Yohana Paulo and Humphrey Mdoe.

Salma Juma, an injured passenger, said that those in the front seats suffered injuries, while a Machame Co. passenger bus assisted in transporting the injured.

TAHA: China visit to boost avocado exports

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

HORTICULTURE farmers here are a happy lot after a recent visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to China as it has eased efforts to enhance horticultural exports to \$2bn per annum from \$800m at present.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, CEO for the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) said at the weekend that the maiden state visit to China by President Samia had cleared the way for Tanzania to seek out a piece of the avocado market in China. She said that data indications are that last year China imported 59.6m tonnes priced at \$149m, while a global statistical report dated August 1, 2022 said the export of horticultural products from Tanzania increased to \$274m in 2020, up from \$202m.

“China's avocado import value is projected to grow to \$174m per annum by 2026, while exports come from a handful of countries”

An updated report citing TAHA sources said that exports have grown from \$64m in 2004 to \$779m in 2019.

The president's visit facilitated a protocol on sanitary and phytosanitary standards for avocado from Tanzania to access the Chi-

nese market, with local growers hoping to catch a significant portion of the total market for the 1.4bn population. Four years of TAHA efforts had the matter being included in the president's visit and results obtained, the TAHA CEO noted.

The first attempt to open the Chinese market was in 2018 when TAHA started seeking assistance from the diplomatic mission to unlock the large market for local avocados.

China's avocado import value is projected to grow to \$174m per annum by 2026, while exports come from a handful of countries with the right soil and climatic conditions, analysts say.

Were TAHA to get substantial orders for the product in the Chinese market it would spur avocado production by small farmers and support large scale avocado production

efforts.

Local avocado exports stand at around 12,000 metric tonnes priced at \$30m, with TAHA targeting 20,000 tonnes fetching up to \$50m per year by 2026.

She said avocado markets in the EU and Gulf countries are already flooded with supply from major producing countries, while the price to the consumer is \$8 per kilo in China compared to \$6 per kilo offered in Europe.

Tanzania is the third-largest producer in Africa after South Africa and Kenya and is placed 19th globally, while TAHA sees the local avocado industry as the fastest-growing subsector in the horticultural industry.

Production is projected to double in the next three years due to suitable land, she added.

As Samia acts, HESLB reopens loans window

By Guardian Reporter

THE Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) has reopened the window to allow students who missed loans or wish to appeal over the amounts they were allocated to submit their applications.

The move follows a statement by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

“The appeal window is an opportunity for them to do so”

when winding up the latest session of the legislature that President

Samia Suluhu Hassan had directed that those who missed loans proceed to universities which granted them admission, while the government looks for funds.

HESLB executive director Abdulrazaq Badru said in a statement yesterday that the appeal window will be open for seven days from yesterday and that all the

applications should be submitted online.

Until yesterday the board had arranged loans for 68,422 first-year students and was considering cases of students "who, for various reasons, did not complete the

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Teachers' union wants minister, ignoring PSSSF meet on formula

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the meeting, highlighting the agenda on the computing formula.

"This is where the problem started and members started to yell things which led us to postpone the meeting," she said.

TTU members were pushing their leaders to come out and provide a statement to the media that the union wants the old 50 per cent formula of computing the benefits retained.

TTU has sent a request to meet Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability minister at PMO to discuss the matter.

PSSSF public relations officer Abdul Njaidi said he had no information on the matter and promised to work on it and issue a statement.

In July, the government started using the new formula of calculating retirement benefits, with a 33 per cent lumpsum on total pension funds at retirement point.

In 2018 the government suspended application of a 25 per cent lumpsum formula decided back in 2014 regulations on pension benefits.

At that time pension funds for public sector employees were merged to form the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) as most of them faced balance sheet problems owing to tying up vast amounts of money in fixed assets, apart from other concerns.

The fifth phase government directed pension funds except NSSF to use the old payment formula for five years while a new framework was being set out, and mid this year the government directed an uplift of the payments to 33 per cent, not the 50 per cent formula.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (R) and Angola's Ambassador to Tanzania, Sandro de Oliveira, toast at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Friday to mark 47th anniversary of Angola's National Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

As Samia acts, HESLB reopens loans window

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necessary documents during application thus leading them to miss the loan," he said in a statement circulated to the media.

"The appeal window is an opportunity for them to do so," he declared. He said the board's target

was to provide loans to 71,000 new students in the 2022/2023 academic year, urging those who submit appeals "to read and follow all the instructions."

HESLB started sending funds to colleges before students arrived in the various campuses, advis-

ing beneficiary students to go to loan officers in their respective colleges to complete procedures to get the funds.

He expressed appreciation for higher learning institutions and student governments for helping with loan issuance operations and

strengthening efficiency in serving the large body of students.

While making no reference to the parliamentary instruction, he said that "this chain of serving students, college leaderships, student governments are important stakeholders

and they have been providing us with great cooperation. We are very grateful."

HESLB was established in 2005 to provide loans to higher education students and collecting loan repayments issued by the government since the 1994/95 financial year.



CRDB Bank Plc procurement director Pendason Philemon (R) receives a Most Preferred Domestic Bank in Customer Service award from Kilombero Sugar managing director Guy Williams at a Consumer Choice Awards ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. CRDB was also cited as the leader in providing the Most Advanced Digital Banking Services in East Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Perils of starvation and flooding in South Sudan

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan is facing record-breaking rains and floods for a fourth consecutive year. As the climate crisis accelerates, South Sudanese fear worse is yet to come.

A large part of the population is at risk of starvation due to destroyed crops from flooding in October.

"More than 1 million people in South Sudan have been affected by extreme flooding", the World Food Programme deputy country director - South Sudan warns.

"The surface area of land

permanently submerged underwater has tripled and an already dire food security situation exacerbated, leaving 2.9 million people at risk of starvation".

The proportion of people facing severe food emergencies ranging from gaps reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition to starvation (IPC Phase 3 [crisis] or above) is at the highest level ever, according to a report published by Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations children's fund UNICEF, and the WFP.

The Integrated Phase

Classification (IPC) is a scale describing the severity of food emergencies.

Based on common consensus (governments and other humanitarian actors) it comprises in five echelons—phase 1: "Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income".

Phase 2: "Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies."

Phase 3: Households either: Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition or; are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.

Phase 4: Households either: Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality or; are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.

Phase 5: Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution, and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)

"All our food is ruined! You can see my sorghum crops. The floods bring hunger because they take all our food. If we have no food how can we survive?", Nyadeng Majok, a sorghum farmer laments.

Farmers' concerns under the global spotlight at COP 27

SHARM EL-SHEIKH

THE climate crisis effects are felt all over the world with certain regions particularly disaster-stricken.

Farmers are on the frontlines and have to look for ways to adapt before they can no longer feed their communities or sell fruits of their toil. Some of them are attending the UN climate summit in Egypt, described the new challenges and problems they are experiencing as a result of climate change.

"We can see the (effects of) climate change, that okay the growing season is longer so now we can have new plants and new plant varieties but on the other hand, we get also new weeds, new pests", Finnish farmer Kati Partanen pointed out.

"Therefore, we have to find, and also new diseases, new plant diseases, because of maybe more humidity...more warm".

Sabrina Elba, the UN Goodwill Ambassador for the International Fund for Agricultural Development, visited Kenyan and Somali farmers earlier this year. Witnessing firsthand the coping mechanisms they've set up.

"For farmers, they're living this reality day-to-day. For real people, this is every day. They're dealing with the effects of climate change now. So for us, you know, it's on our doorstep as well, but we're not feeling it in quite the same way with quite the same gravitas."

"Having technology and speaking to the farmers about the different things that programmes like IFAD have done to help them be more resilient, it's so crucial. I mean, for them, it's a matter of life and death. It's to adapt or starve", she said.

According to the IMF, food insecurity increases by 5 to 20 percentage points with each drought or flood in countries like Ethiopia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, and Tanzania. This would be serious threat to millions of people.

"Our food system, our agriculture system is a system most vulnerable to the impact of the climate crisis. But it's not the system that's vulnerable", Ertharin Cousin, former executive director of the United Nations World Food Program analysed.

Adding: "It's the people, and we can't forget that." Renewed calls demand more commitments at COP 27 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century Ertharin Cousin doubled down: "We can't leave here without a declaration that embraces the sense of urgency and the interventions that are necessary."

Ndalichako directs varsities to produce competitive graduates

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MINISTER for Employment, Youth and Disabled, Prof Joyce Ndalichako has challenged colleges and universities in the country to prioritise practical work in their teachings to produce graduates who meet the sought after labour market demands.

Prof Ndalichako was speaking over the weekend during the 57th graduation ceremony at the College of Business Education (CBE) where 1,065 students were awarded academic certificates of different levels.

She said there is an outcry from employers that most of the graduates are half cooked and they don't fit in their positions once employed.

She commended CBE for introducing the apprenticeship programme where students use 50 percent of their learning time in class and another 50 percent for practical learning at various employers' offices. She said the programme makes students more competent after completing their studies.

She also commended CBE for introducing an incubation programme which gives a chance to youth to showcase their talents. Other universities with a similar programme are the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Mzumbe and Sokoine University of Agriculture.

The minister said through the Prime Ministers' Office, the government provides an apprenticeship programme to ensure that youth graduates with required skills that are relevant in the labour market.

She said in the 2021/2022 financial year, the government used 9bn/- for apprenticeship programme to 62,000 students and will use another 9bn/- in the 2022/2023 financial year for the same programme.

She commended the College Rector, Prof Emmanuel Mjema for the achievements attained within ten years of being the rector whereas he managed to increase CBE campuses and the number of students. Prof Ndalichako urged graduates to use the acquired education and knowledge to be creative and innovative by solving society problems. She said the current world needs people who are innovative especially in Information Communication Technology (ICT).

She said the speed of global ICT development is high and it needs people to continue seeking more education as things change quickly.

"Don't be tired of moving to another level and don't think that you have done it all. Things change quickly and you need to go at the world's speed to be able to cope with today's technological development," she added.

Prof Mjema said CBE has acquired a land parcel in Zanzibar and that they are soon expecting to start construction.

He said the college sponsors its academicians to go for further studies including Masters and PhDs, a move aimed to increase the number of lecturers to accommodate the influx of students.

The college has 36 PhDs lecturers and 46 are still pursuing their PhD studies.



Prof Joyce Ndalichako (3rd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to launch a modern reference library at the College of Business Education. Shortly later she graced the college's 57th graduation ceremony. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Samia, ambassadors to discuss plans to strengthen economic diplomacy

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is this week set to meet with ambassadors representing Tanzania in 45 countries to discuss and set strategies aimed to strengthen economic diplomacy.

Samia will meet with the envoys in Zanzibar during the special meeting which is expected to commence today to November 21, this year bringing together all ambassadors serving in the 45 countries, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African

Cooperation, representatives from the private sector and other key stakeholders.

Dr Stergomena Tax, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said this in Dar es Salaam during the weekend at the meeting with editors and journalists from various media stations.

She said that the meeting will set the country's new dimension on implementation of the national foreign policy that focuses on strengthening economic diplomacy by marketing the country's investment opportunities as well as

utilising opportunities overseas.

Themed: "New Direction in Enhancing Economic Diplomacy", the meeting will also serve as a platform for the diplomats to share their experience, challenges they are facing and then discuss on how best to tackle them.

"During the meeting, the envoys will receive directives from President Samia on the dimension that the country is taking while implementing the economic diplomacy policy. This will be on November 19, when the Head of State will address the ambassadors," she explained.

Dr Tax further said the meeting is an important opportunity to prepare strategies as well as reposition the country to benefit from various opportunities abroad.

Later today, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, will grace the meeting. And from there, the envoys will have a meeting with the ministry's management as well as various stakeholders from the public and private sector to speak on various issues.

On 17, November the envoys will

get an opportunity to visit various tourism destinations in Zanzibar, including inspecting the implementation of strategic projects including the Malindi port and Manga Pwani.

Diplomats will also meet with President of Zanzibar Dr Hussein Mwinyi on November 18.

The minister further commended the Tanzania embassies abroad for their good job in implementing economic diplomacy policy.

She said the embassies are doing a great job in attracting investment, marketing various op-

portunities and local goods such as crops, promoting tourism as well as seeking for grants and soft loans.

She also commended the good job performed by the embassies in coordinating visits by the government leaders in various countries including the recent visit of President Samia in China, Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango in Ivory Coast, Zanzibar President Dr Mwinyi visit in Oman as well as the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa tour in South Korea.

Deputy Minister wants water pump installed to solve water scarcity to Kizimbani residents

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Deputy Water, Energy and Minerals Minister Shaaban Ali Othman has instructed ministry officials to make sure water supply service reaches the Shehia (Ward) of Kizimbani, in Unguja West B District to alleviate water scarcity challenge facing the residents.

Speaking to residents of the area at the weekend, Othman said the residents have been facing water scarcity for over four months and ordered for the installation of a water pump at Rasilhema water well to pump water to the residents following the breaking down of the former water pump.

He said the Zanzibar Government, through the ministry is implementing huge water projects in various areas of the Isles following recent pledge by President Hussein Ali Mwinyi and urged for the projects to be completed in time.

"It is not acceptable for the Kizimbani residents to be faced with acute water shortage while water infrastructures pass through their area, hence I am directing my Permanent Secretary to install a new water pump at the Rasilhema water well," said deputy Minister Othman

He said Zanzibar Water authority (ZAWA) has the responsibility to restore water infrastructures to the people which were uprooted during the laying of main pipelines during the implementation of huge water projects.

He also called upon residents of the area to take care of water infrastructures passing through their area.

For his part, the Ministry's Permanent secretary, Joseph Kilangi said the ministry expects to receive water pumps at the end of December this year, hence he assured Kizimbani residents one of the pumps will be installed at the Rasilhema well.



It is not acceptable for the Kizimbani residents to be faced with acute water shortage while water infrastructures pass through their area, hence I am directing my Permanent Secretary to install a new water pump at the Rasilhema



Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande (2nd-L), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (3rd-L), TRA deputy commissioner general Mcha Hassan Mcha (L) and Barrick Tanzania administration & finance country manager Melkiory Ngido (2nd-R) do physical exercises during a 'walk and run for the taxpayer' event in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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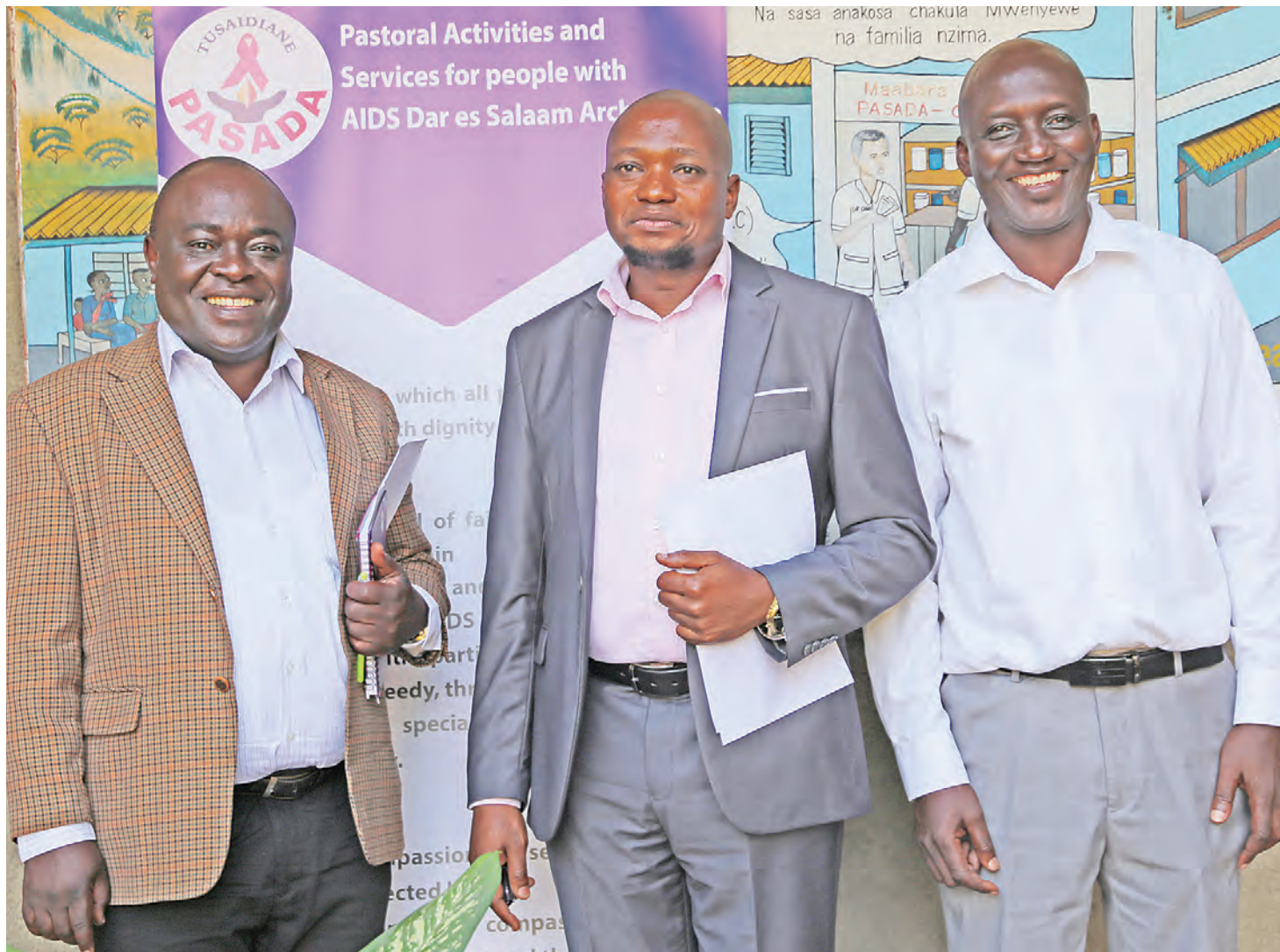
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Father Christian Nyumayo (L), chairman of the advisory board of the Pastoral Activities and Services for People with HIV and Aids at the Dar es Salaam Archdiocese, and the agency's newly appointed CEO, Cayus Mrina (R), have a quick word with journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on their work. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Experts discuss alternative methods to gauge poverty

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

RESEARCH experts for measuring and identifying poverty from 27 world countries have met in the City of Arusha to discuss on how to get an alternative method in gauging poverty on the country's poverty levels.

Thirteen of the experts came from the African Continent and others from various countries including Canada, UK and others continents of Asia, America and Europe.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting at the weekend, former speaker of Tanzania Parliament, Anne Makinda who is the Commissar for the 2022 Population and Housing Census said it is important if they will gauge poverty with another measurement to compare with.

"These researchers have their own association, it was established in 1947, 75 years ago and the great work was done in developed countries, and for the East African countries this is their first meeting, but 10 years ago another meeting was held in South Africa.

"By which comparisons they are conducting their research that produces results compared to developed and developing countries? she queried.

She said various challenges including drought and Covid-19 contribute to challenging environments in such research,

thereby differentiating from one country to another.

"As research experts, and taking into consideration of environmental challenges, they are supposed to use one measure all over the world to answer issues on the poverty teaser," she added.

The Zanzibar Government's Chief Statistician, Salum Kassim Ali, said the meeting has involved experts on the economy and statistics for assessment to incorporate issues of individual, family and national incomes to make sure they boost the country's economic situation.

"This meeting was earlier decided to be held two years ago, but due to Covid-19 it was cancelled. He said for Mainland and Zanzibar experts, the meeting will empower them since their counterparts from other countries are more experienced in assessment statistics on incomes.

Meanwhile, Amb. Mohamed Haji Hamza, the 2022 Zanzibar's Population and Housing Census Commissar said the two governments have been making efforts to fight poverty including empowering the people and providing various available economic opportunities to them.

"Poverty cannot be eradicated by simply helping the people by giving them cash, but will be eradicated by empowering them, including provision of loans, education and markets for their products," he added.

New PASADA boss pledges to prioritise workers' affairs

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Pastoral Activities and Services for people with Aids Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA) Cayus Mrina has promised to put workers priorities first during his leadership tenure.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Mrina said that PASADA employees will be among the organisation priorities throughout the entire circle of his leadership to ensure they enjoy

working.

"I will focus on staff development and professional growth. The human resource office will conduct skills mapping and come up with a staff development plan to ensure they enjoy opportunities to advance their skills and knowledge," he said.

He said despite challenges associated with mushrooming of local organisations that receive support from International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO), PASADA will continue to maintain

its brand and implement services to more than 27,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV) across Dar es Salaam and Coast Region.

Leadership and governance that fit national and international requirements will be the other part of the focus that the CEO will put into consideration.

"We will focus on reviewing and updating our policies to fit into the national and international standards and also define who we are and what we believe is fit in our environment," he added.

PASADA Advisory Board Chairperson, Fr Christian Nyumayo said on September 1st this year, Dar es Salaam Archbishop Yuda Ruwa'ich, received a retirement letter from Simoni Yohana who had held forte as PASADA CEO for 21 years; adding that immediately as he received and accepted the request he tasked the Auxiliary Bishop and health service overseer of the diocese Hendry Mchamungu and PASADA Senior management team to initiate the process of finding a new CEO.

Fr Nyumayo said after a moment

of prayer on September 15th, Archbishop Ruwa'ich appointed Mrina as the new CEO.

Mrina is a programme management and capacity development specialist with over 15 years of experience in managing donor funded programmes.

He has assumed leadership and management roles in a variety of projects ranging from public health, livelihood and community development.

PASADA is a social service agency operating under the Roman Catho-

lic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam that was established in August 1992 when a small group of people with HIV gathered to seek mutual aid and support.

PASADA strives to reach the poorest of the poor living with HIV and provide them with holistic care and support services.

The services offered are available to all individuals without discrimination of any sort and completely free of charge.



Wahida Mbaraka, Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd's marketing and sales manager, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend introducing the second edition of the 'Biriani na Coke' festival set to be held in Dodoma city at the end of this month. Seated (L) is Bushoke Band manager Anileth Bushoke. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanga city council, stakeholders launch safe travel campaign to reduce road accidents

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA City Council in collaboration with road safety stakeholders has launched a safe and sustainable travel programme as part of efforts to continue reducing road accidents.

Current statistics indicate that in 2021 more than 30 percent of the deaths in the country were due to road accidents.

Tanga District Commissioner, Hashim Mgandilwa who represented the Regional Commissioner, Omari Mumba, said the programme aims at reducing road accidents by 50 percent by 2025. The programme is supported by an international road safety non-governmental organisation-AMEND with financial assistance from Botnar Foundation.

He noted that road accidents have been resulting in the government spending a lot of funds for treatment of accident victims with families experiencing economic hardships and increased poverty.

He said the launch of the programme would largely support the city's efforts towards reduction of road crashes, calling upon all stakeholders to take part in its implementation so that it is successfully implemented.

"The safe and sustainable travel programme will reduce accidents in our region. I call upon Amend, the police

force and other stakeholders to continue providing road safety education to all road users," said the district commissioner, urging drivers to adhere to traffic regulations and respect road signs to avoid accidents.

AMEND Country Manager, Simon Kalolo said the safe and sustainable travel programme for Tanga city has been prepared by the NGO in collaboration with Tanga city officials, Botnar Foundation, Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS), Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), private sector, NGOs, primary and secondary schools as well as other road users.

He said the programme has outlined ten strategies and that funds for its implementation have been released. Some of the strategies, according to him include introduction of a road safety campaign, provision of education through the media as well as engagement of social welfare development officers in promoting safe road uses.

He said road safety education programmes at primary and secondary schools will be enhanced whereas road signs will be installed at school premises to allow safe road crossing by students. He said motorcycle drivers will also be educated on safe use of the roads.

By Jenifer Gilla, Egypt

Initiatives to address food security launched at COP27

FOUR key initiatives with an ultimate goal of transforming agri-food systems for enhanced food security were launched in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt at the on-going Conference of Parties (COP27).

The initiatives, among other things, seek to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable people in Africa by 2030 and ensure delivery of healthy diets respectively.

They come at a time when climate change is threatening food security and in African countries including Tanzania.

They are Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST), Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP), Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN) and Decent Life for a Climate Res-

ilient Africa.

Speaking at the launch, COP27 President Sameh Shoukry said food system must be equipped to provide communities around the world with food that is produced in an inclusive, responsible and sustainable way.

"With 43 million people suffering from hunger each year; this is a wake-up call for implementation. Initiatives such as FAST are critical in today's world where geopolitical shifts and extreme weather events can cause massive disruption to food supply chains that hurt the world's poorest and exacerbate hunger and malnutrition," he remarked.

Tanzania is also experiencing the adverse effects of climate change which

includes water scarcity and prolonged drought.

Gwandumi Mwakatobe, a large scale farmer from Morogoro Region, said agriculture is now becoming a burden for many farmers hence the need for financial support to help them purchase inputs. He said it is only through availability of inputs that farmers can continue practising agriculture.

"A good number of farmers have shunned away from agricultural activities over lack of capital. They were harvesting below expectations thus failing to generate profit after auctions. These farmers will need financial support to go back to their agriculture fields," he stated.

Mwakatobe underscored the need for

training on modern farming methods to sustainably cope with climate change effects. He said farmers must be equipped with modern agricultural technologies which are resistant to climate change effects.

World leaders at the on-going COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt have assembled to seek solutions to the climate crisis that has affected millions of Africans.

Chairman of The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), Dr Sinare Sinare said the launched initiatives are important to Tanzania as they will help restore food production systems that have been affected by climate change and forced farmers to abandon their farms.

"Regions that were considered as food producers are now asking the government for relief food due to poor harvest associated with limited rains. Food prices have gone up; we used to buy a kilogram of rice at 2,000/- but the price has increase to 3,000/-. A kilo of maize flour is sold at 2,000/- compared to 1,200/- in previous years," said Sinare, noting Tanzania need the initiative to have sustainable food systems.

The 2020 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report indicates that climate change impacts are threatening human health and safety, food and water security as well as socio-economic development in Africa.

The document stresses the need for urgent accurate data for adaptation planning.

Carry Forward the Friendship, Forge ahead to Promoting New Achievements in the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between China and Tanzania

At the invitation of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania paid a state visit to the People's Republic of China from November 2 to 4, 2022. This is the first state visit by a Tanzanian head of state to China in eight years. President Samia is also the first African head of state received by China after 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). During this visit, President Xi Jinping held talks with President Samia, and held a welcoming ceremony and a welcoming banquet for her. Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Li Zhanshu had separate meetings with President Samia. I would like to introduce this visit to Tanzanian friends.

1. The talks between the two heads of state drew a blueprint for the development of China-Tanzania relations. During the talks, President Xi briefed President Samia on the important outcomes of the 20th CPC National Congress. He pointed out that China has already found a development path suited to its national conditions. Chinese modernization is grounded in China's own realities, with features that are unique to the Chinese context. On behalf of the Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the Tanzanian government, President Samia extended warm congratulations on the success of the 20th CPC National Congress and President Xi's re-election as General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee. The two heads of state announced the elevation of the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to developing China-Tanzania relations, and their firm mutual support for each other on issues concerning each other's core interests. They agreed to work together to boost China-Tanzania trade and economic cooperation and deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. They underlined the need to strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and carry forward the friendship between the two peoples. They also reiterated the importance to enhance cooperation in international fora and multilateral affairs, and jointly uphold international fairness, justice and the common interests of fellow developing countries.

The two heads of state exchanged in-depth views on China-Africa relations and agreed that in developing China-Africa relations, both sides need to remain committed to the overall direction of mutual trust, mutual benefit, mutual learning and mutual assistance. Both China and Africa need to carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, and show greater historical initiative in advancing friendship between China and Africa. China's continuous development will create new opportunities for Africa. China will speed up the implementation of the ongoing nine initiatives for cooperation with Africa. With a particular focus on infrastructure, we will continue to nurture new drivers for China-Africa cooperation through trade, investment and financing.

During the visit, the two sides issued a Joint Statement on Establishing a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania and signed 15 cooperation documents covering trade, investment, development cooperation, digital economy, green development and blue economy.

2. A Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between China and Tanzania will deepen cooperation between the two countries. The elevation of the bilateral relation-

ship to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership not only fully reflects the high level and strategic nature of China-Tanzania relations, but also ensures that China-Tanzania relations will continue along the general direction of "mutual trust, mutual benefit, mutual learning and mutual assistance" put forward by President Xi Jinping.

First, political mutual trust will be more solid. China and Tanzania will maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and political dialogue, expand the exchange of experience in governing the country, firmly support each other in exploring a development path that is in line with their national conditions.

Second, mutually beneficial cooperation will be deepened. We will forge our cooperation underpinned by infrastructure construction, supported by three important pillars namely trade, investment and financing, and foster new kinetic energy for cooperation in the fields of green development, digital economy and blue economy.

Third, cultural and people-to-people exchanges will be more extensive. We will further carry out exchanges in culture, education, tourism and sports, add luster to their respective cultural prosperity, enhance mutual knowledge and understanding between the two peoples, which helps to consolidate the public opinion foundation of friendship between the two countries.

Fourth, China and Tanzania will unite and help each other more firmly. We will adhere to true multilateralism, safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order based on international laws, promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, and the building of A Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

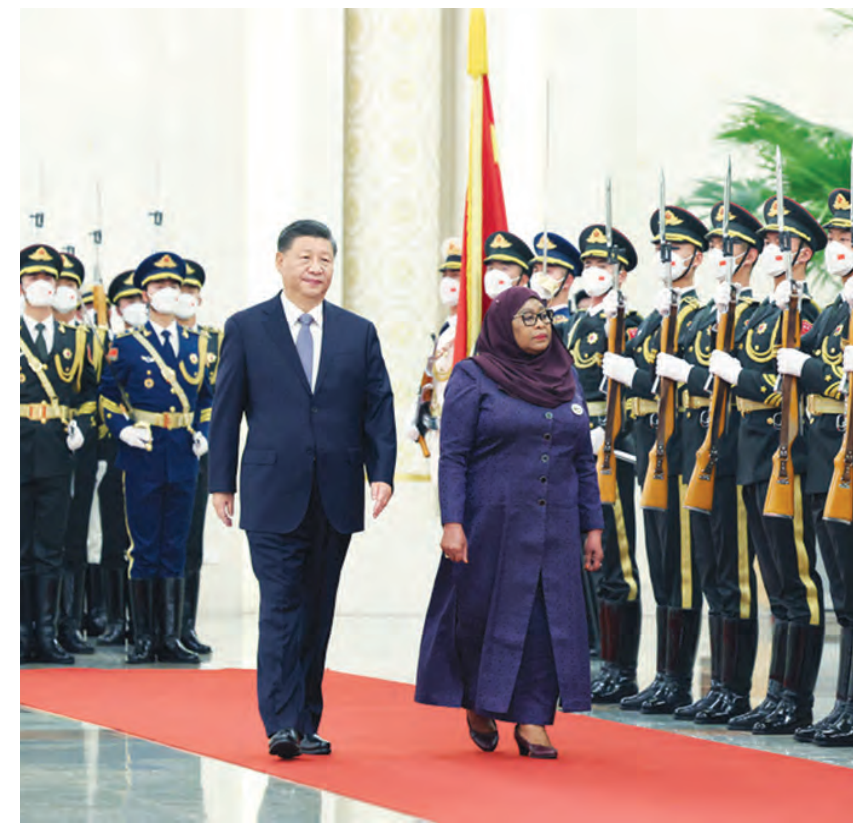
China, will work together with Tanzania, under the guidance of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to further strengthen our high-level exchanges, consolidate political mutual trust, and elevate bilateral relations to a higher level, and inject strong impetus into building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

3. The prospect of practical cooperation between China and Tanzania in various fields is more promising. The two sides should follow the important consensus on China-Tanzania practical cooperation reached by the two heads of state and take the establishment of China-Tanzania comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership as an opportunity to push the implementation of the nine initiatives of China-Africa cooperation in Tanzania to achieve early harvest, and push bilateral cooperation in various fields to be fruitful, stable and far-reaching. In the next stage, we need to do the following:

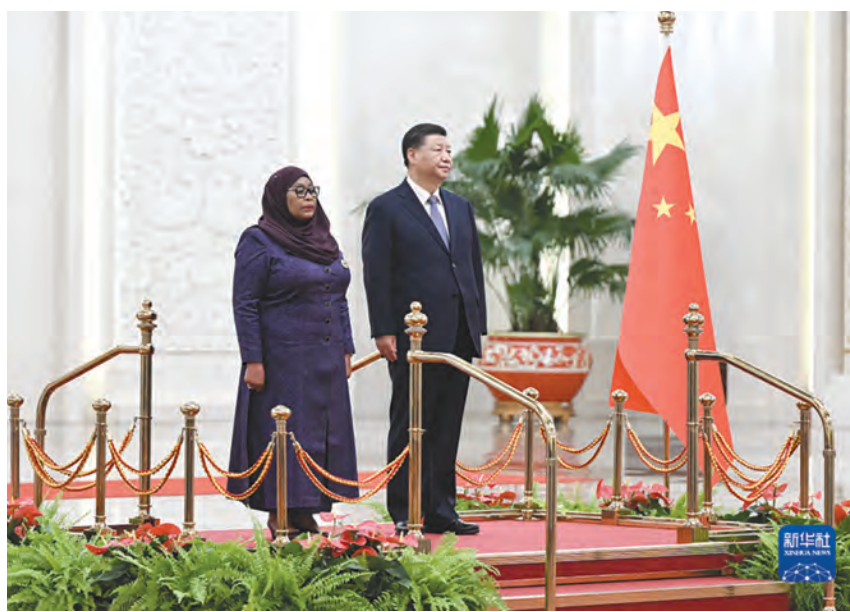
First, lay a solid foundation for development. China will strongly support Tanzania to improve the level of connectivity. We will discuss with Tanzania on how to revitalize the TAZARA, or the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, and support Chinese enterprises to participate in the construction of major infrastructure projects with high standards such as the Standard Gauge Railway, Nyerere Hydropower Station and Magufuli Bridge. We hope that the Tanzanian side will make good use of the duty free treatment of 98% tariff lines goods originally from Tanzania exported to China, and the newly granted market access to Tanzanian agricultural products, expand the export of Tanzania's soybeans, aquatic products and avocados to China.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a ceremony to welcome visiting Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan prior to their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 3, 2022.



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Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a ceremony to welcome visiting Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan prior to their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 3, 2022.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with visiting Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 3, 2022.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang meets with visiting Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 3, 2022.



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, meets with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 3, 2022.

Second, strengthen capacity cooperation. China will accurately carry out industrial synergizing with Tanzania, and support institutions and enterprises of both sides to make use of China International Import Expo (CIIE), CIFT and other platforms to conduct investment negotiations and business matching. We will continue to encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzania, and expand production capacity cooperation in steel, cement and glass, fill the gaps in Tanzania's market, and boost its development and industrialization.

Third, explore new areas of cooperation. China will dig deeper into the potentials of cooperation with Tanzania in emerging fields. We will carry out cooperations in fields such as ICT, climate change, Juncao (mushrooms and grass) planting, etc., under the framework of newly-signed agreements regarding digital economy and green investment. We will expand cultural exchanges, hold a China-Tanzania Year of Tourism and Culture in due

course, and facilitate people-to-people exchanges to carry forward the non-governmental friendship between the two countries.

4. The advantages of China-Africa cooperation is increasingly evident. China and Africa have built a strong traditional friendship and good cooperative relations, which serves as a model of relationship between developing countries. Compared with other countries and regions, China-Africa cooperation in new era has the following unique advantages:

First, historical advantages. Over the past 66 years, China and Africa have forged an unbreakable brotherhood in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism. No matter how the international situation changes, China and African countries are always good friends in the same boat, good partners sharing weal and woe, and good brothers with all sincerity. China and Africa have always been a commu-

nity with a shared future.

Second, ideological advantages. Why have China-Africa relations been so good? Why has China-Africa friendship been so deep? President Xi Jinping pointed out that the key lies in the enduring spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, that is, "sincere friendship, equal treatment, mutual benefit, common development, fairness and justice, progress with the times, openness and inclusiveness". This is a true portrayal of China and Africa's solidarity and shoulder-to-shoulder struggle for decades, and it is also the source of strength for China-Africa friendly relations to forge ahead into the future.

Third, mechanistic advantages. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation or FOCAC is an important platform for dialogue and an effective mechanism for pragmatic cooperation between China and Africa. Over the past 22 years, the FOCAC has become a firm pillar of China-Africa cooperation, and is widely recognized and welcomed by

African countries and the international community. China will continue to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in various fields under the framework of the FOCAC to improve the well-being of the Chinese and African peoples, and promote the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind.



H.E. Chen Mingjian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania

Partners to prepare NCDs strategic plan to control increase of patients

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH stakeholders have provided recommendations to the government as top priorities which include preparation of a Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) strategic plan as part of solutions to prevent its sharp increase.

Briefing participants of the 4th NCDs Scientific Conference 2022 in Mwanza city over the weekend, Chairman of the organising committee, Prof Apolinary Kamuhabwa said the strategic plan should be used in all health facilities across the country.

He said its implementation will help health facilities especially at primary level to have a capacity for early diagnosis of diseases and provide the right treatment to patients.

The conference deliberated in a theme 'Enhancing Scalability and Sustainability of Preventive and Integrated, Accessible quality to NCDs in Tanzania' brought together more than 400 academia, scholars, researchers, representative from the government, non-governmental organisations, World Health Organisation (WHO) and development partners.

It was jointly organised by the Muhimbili University of Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS).

He said it is high time that stakeholders start fighting the diseases which kill millions and lead to poverty. Prof Kamuhabwa mentioned other recommendations towards elimination of NCDs as strengthening of health systems that can allow communities to get services and have regular health check-ups.

Others are a strategy of mental health awareness focusing on youth especially boys who seemed to be forgotten.

"While implementing other recommendations, environment conservation must not be left behind; instead, it must be highly promoted to reduce effects on NCDs. Strengthening health providers in primary health facilities in the Lake Zone regions that are mostly affected by cancer will improve early diagnosis," said Prof Kamuhabwa.

He said tight school timetables should be checked to ensure schools promote programmes that allow students to do exercises.

Director of Curative Services at the Ministry for Health, Prof Paschal Luggago reaffirmed the government commitment to work on the recommendations.

He said multi sectoral engagement collaboration is important to ensure the fight against NCDs in the country. He said the diseases have been leading to deaths and poverty.

Prof Luggago said that currently NCDs contribute to 40 percent of all the diseases, adding that recent study showed that out of 10 patients admitted in hospitals 4 have NCDs.

"Concerted efforts are needed among the stakeholders to ensure NCDs are prevented," he said, stressing the need for strong primary health care to prevent the problem.

"I call upon the committee to prepare the NCDs strategic plan and its implementation to tackle all emerging problems," he said.



Catherine Mabula, Serengeti Breweries Limited's administrative and communications manager, opens training for police officers on the use of electronic gadgets to enhance road safety management - as part of the firm's 'Save Lives' campaign. She is with Superintendent of Police Deus Sokoni (L) and Dar es Regional Traffic Police Commander William Mkonda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Uganda coffee legacy, from culture to commercialisation

BULAMBULI, Uganda

FAR away from the coffee aroma in a cafe in Chicago, London, or Guangzhou, in the remote mountainous village of Kikobero, Bulambuli district, eastern Uganda, Samwiri Nangoli tends to his coffee trees, a skill set passed onto him by his forefathers.

From his childhood, the 75-year-old Nangoli, just like many children in the neighborhood, was taught that coffee is the major source of income to a family. It is a family tradition passed down from generation to generation.

In this part of the east African country, when a boy is being initiated into adulthood, he is given

several coffee trees as a startup to a new life. And so did Samwiri pass on the skill to Martin Nangoli, who now travels the world's major capitals selling specialty coffee from this remote village tucked on the slopes of the extinct Mount Elgon, shared by Uganda and Kenya.

Nangoli said that during the political turmoil in the 1970s, he used to scale the mountain and smuggle coffee to neighboring Kenya.

"It was a difficult time, I had to smuggle coffee in order for my children to survive. Through the earnings, I managed to provide basic necessities like salt, and sugar and also pay their tuition fees," Nangoli said.

Years on, his son Nangoli intro-

duced better farming skills in the village which increased the coffee yields. Through his organization, Kikobero Coffee, the village now exports coffee to London and is now targeting new markets like the Balkans. Some of the coffee proceeds have been used to build two primary schools in the village in efforts to increase the literacy level among youngsters.

Some parents who can not afford to pay school fees are encouraged to bring coffee to the school administration as a form of payment, according to Nangoli.

Kilometers away, in Kween district, Alfred Boyo Mashandich, a retired medical doctor supervises the coffee value chain right from the

tree to the point of export.

Mashandich, who also runs a coffee company, Masha Coffee, which buys from dozens of farmers, in an interview with Xinhua, referred to coffee as the backbone of families in most of rural Uganda.

He reminisces about the olden days when he together with his siblings, under the guidance of their father, tended to the coffee trees. It was from this coffee that they derived their livelihood.

"Coffee is a culture. We all grew up when our parents were growing coffee. Ourselves, we inherited part of our coffee farms from our parents," Mashandich said.

"Back then it was on subsistence, what we are trying to do is to bring

it to a commercial scale," he added.

Mashandich has a mini coffee processing plant in his compound and the majority of the workers are youths. Mashandich argues that there must be a deliberate effort to involve young people in the coffee value chain.

"We would like to have coffee produced sustainably and there is no way you can do that if you don't involve young people," he said. "Involving them along the value chain is extremely important. They begin to see the value, they begin to see it as a productive enterprise."

Eunice Chekaptui, 29, a coffee enthusiast, argued that coffee takes three to four years before harvesting starts. She said most of the

youths are not that patient, they want quick money.

"If you look at the trend, majority of the coffee farmers are actually elderly people, so you find that if we don't involve the young, the chain may cut at some point," Chekaptui said, noting that the youths need to look at coffee farming as a business.

"If you show them the economics involved, if you grew one acre of coffee versus one acre of Irish potatoes, the difference is way too big," she said, noting that once the coffee matures, one can keep harvesting for a period of 10 years, from the same coffee trees.

The government is now urging farmers to scale up coffee farming with a target to increase produc-



Magu district administrative officer Anna Mbao (C, in dark blue, glasses) with other participants of a workshop held in the township at the weekend. It was shortly after they witnessed the inauguration of Kitongo House of Hope, which accommodates parents of children born with spina bifida. The event brought together delegates from Tanzania, Belgium, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Over 21 tonnes of quality sunflower seeds to be given to farmers in southern highlands regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 21.7 tonnes of sunflower seeds is expected to be distributed to farmers in the Southern Highlands regions to alleviate sunflower seeds shortage in the country.

Out of the 21.7 tonnes, 18 tonnes has already been supplied to Agriculture Seeds Agency (ASA) which will be sold to farmers at 3,000/- a kilo.

The acting Manager of Highlands Seed Growers Limited, in Mbeya Region, Elizabeth Mallya made the remarks here at the weekend during her visit to inspect the level reached in the production of sunflower seeds that was organised by the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (ADMT) in collaboration with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute-Ilonga Centre (TARI-Ilonga) in Morogoro Region.

In solving the challenge regarding shortage of quality crops seeds in the country AMDT TARI, TOSCI and seeds producing firms, ADMT Marketing expert, Clarence Chitemi said they were implementing the project for quality production of sunflower seeds in the country.

Chitemi said the project is being implemented for ten years and is sponsored by Denmark and Sweden whereby 500m/- has been provided for increasing the production of quality sunflower seeds.

He added that through the strategy, they have planned to produce 50 tonnes of sunflower seeds that will enter the market to be used in the next farming season. Frank Reuben, the manager for the production of quality sunflower seeds in the country, and coordinator of the crop's research said edible oil demand in the country is huge compared to the supply.

He added that despite this huge demand, still sunflower crop takes 83 per cent for edible oil production compared from other crops.

Victoria Silungwe, sunflower farmer from Songwe Region said the scarcity of quality sunflower seeds contribute to low production especially for small farmers.

She said the project will help them to get quality sunflower seeds that will produce higher yields compared to last season's harvests.

She said apart from the challenge regarding the shortage of sunflower seeds, there is also the problem regarding shortage of rains that has also contributed to poor harvest.

USAID-funded Kizazi Hodari project inaugurated in Tanga

By Guardian Correspondent

A five-year project with goals to improve health, well-being, and protection of vulnerable children, including orphans and children aged 0 to 17 has been launched in Tanga Region.

Tanga City Mayor, Abdulrahman Shillow launched the project - Kizazi Hodari (Hodari stands for Hopeful, Daring, and Risk free) with a call to intensify efforts to end acts of violence against children, emphasizing the nation will thrive by protecting its children,

who are the future manpower of the country.

The project is being funded by USAID under the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

It will be implemented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) across Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Manyara Arusha, Dodoma and Singida regions.

The Tanga City Mayor said that it had been 39 years since the discovery of HIV in Tanzania, implying that a significant number of

individuals must have been infected at birth and were still infected.

He said the presence of the diseases has led to the creation of orphans and children living in difficult conditions.

"We must be wise to ensure that children with HIV and all vulnerable children are taken care of by recognizing their rights," he said.

Acting Tanga Regional Medical Officer, Dr Clement Marcelli, underscored the importance of the project, stating that orphans and vulnerable children faced a number of

challenges that led to their involvement in groups such as 'Panya Road'.

According to the Project Chief of Party, Godson Zakaria, the project implementation started in April this year is expected to end in March 2027.

He said: "Our major focus is vulnerable children and their families."

The project, which would cover 26 local government councils in the seven regions, is expected to benefit 65,362 individuals in total, according to a project brief presented by Wilfred Kasambala, Senior Case Manage-

ment and Child Protection officer with the project.

Tanga region leads in the number of beneficiaries with 12,734 vulnerable children in the project to be implemented in Tanga City, Muheza, Korogwe Town Council, Korogwe District Council, and Lushoto District Council, followed by Dodoma with 10,074 expected beneficiaries," Kasambala noted.

He said that the project would be implemented through partners, in Tanga the project would be implemented by PASADIT, a church-based organisation.

'Fifty representatives of NGOs have gained from the UNDP capacity building training'

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

OVER 50 representative partners from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and public sectors have benefitted from a three-day capacity building seminar on management of project funds.

Organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the workshop started on November 10th to 12th 2022 with participants coming from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

Opening a workshop, Onesphory Nestory, Assistant Auditor General from the Controller and Auditor General (CAG)'s office dealing with development projects, said their office has a major task to audit financial statements of projects and provide reports.

"Our office is now using the participatory auditing process whereas it also provides information upon arrival of the auditing team a week or a month before," he said.

He said the CAG office is mandated to audit public accounts, and that offices are given a grace period to prepare themselves for the audit exercise.

UNDP Head of Operations, Jeremiah Malongo said the harmonised approach in cash transfer, uses normal auditing standards that was agreed upon by UNDP, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

"The capacity building workshop aimed to create awareness among partners who were not familiar with cash transfer systems so that they have a common understanding in accomplishing development projects that are supported by UNDP," he added.

Mohammed Haji, Chief Accountant from the Zanzibar State House, congratulated UNDP for organising the workshop, adding the Zanzibar State House is not among UNDP beneficiaries, but the knowledge will help them once they receive from the fund for implementation of development projects.

Asma Kassim, head of the planning and statistics Division commended UNDP for the workshop saying it has increased their awareness on financial matters in different development projects supported by donors.



The capacity building workshop aimed to create awareness among partners who were not familiar with cash transfer systems so that they have a common understanding in accomplishing development



Tanga district commissioner Hashim Mgandiliwa (C) cuts the ribbon in Tanga city at the weekend when launching a safe and sustainable travel programme for the city, an event jointly organised by road safety stakeholders and Amend organisation. Right is Tanga city mayor Abdulrahman Shillow. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Early use of alternative energy will stop forests destruction'

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

EARLY start of the habit to use alternative energy will help the community to go in tandem with the government's pace in its efforts to abandon wood fuel for cooking that has been the cause for the environmental destruction through wanton cutting of trees.

Senior forest officer from the Office of the Vice President (Union Affairs and Environment) Timothy

eo Mande made the remarks here yesterday as he was addressing forests stakeholders at a meeting organised by Tanzania Forestry Working Group (TFWG) adding that there has been monumental use of wood fuel that has contributed to forests depletion.

He said Tanzania use about 85 percent of their cooking energy from wood fuel and the percentage is higher in urban areas including Arusha, Mbeya, Mwanza and

Dar es Salaam that contributes to the estimated loss of 469,000 hectares of forest land every year.

Mande said the government has been looking into many issues in the community including the use of alternative fuel including gas and electric cookers including making sure the huge Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) on Rufiji river is completed.

He said apart from various policy announcements on environ-

mental destruction, but still people use wood fuel, hence they are now supposed to change by starting to use alternative fuel.

Mande further said in discussing the issue they have seen that it is essential to have in place procedures to have agents selling charcoal as it is in regard to cooking gas so as to understand many that are obscured including loss to the local councils' revenues from villages and reserve forest areas.

He said without stressing on the environment issue, in 10-15 years to come the country will be without forests, a difficult story to recount to the future generations.

Meanwhile, a senior forestry official from the Forestry and Beekeeping Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Emmanuel Msoffe said the 1998 National Forestry Police, the 2002 Forestry Act (no 14), various guidelines and other

regulations direct on how to manage Tanzania's forests to enable all Tanzania benefit from forests resources.

Simon Luganzio, empowering officer from Tanzania Forests Conservation Group (TFCC) said TFWG is faced with challenges from GN no 417 on the issue of forests conservation and charcoal trade as the policies are harsh to the people including prices and levies imposed without involving stakeholders.

**GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA
CONSULTANCY - OPPORTUNITY**

Statement of Work
Purpose: To develop an interim transition plan for CMS to articulate a priority road map for the semi-autonomous agency
Period of Performance: December 1st 2022 to January 20th, 2023(35days)
Place of Performance: Zanzibar

1. Background
 The Zanzibar health care delivery system is divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare services. While the management of primary health care services was devolved to the Local Government, this government system came to an end by July 2021. Subsequently, all primary, secondary, and tertiary health care services will fall under the Central Government managed by the Ministry of Health (MoH). Supply of essential medicines, reagents, and equipment is through the Zanzibar Health Commodity Supply Chain (ZHSC) which integrates several institutions including institutions outside the health facilities themselves. The supply chain is supported by an Electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS), which provides logistics management information necessary for effective decision-making. It is based on a system of records and reports on health commodity supply and consumption that are digitally maintained. The system is hitherto managed centrally by the MoH. The main role of CMS is to stock and supply essential medicines based on needs. The eLMIS supports key decision-making for the needs and order of medicines by making available information on stock and consumption patterns of medicines covering all the health facilities. The Procurement Unit in MoH does the procurement on requirements lodged by CMS through the Chief Pharmacist.

The Central Medical store is one of the institutions of the Ministry of Health Zanzibar responsible for promoting healthcare delivery by ensuring access to essential medicines and quality supplies needed to meet the needs of the people through health centers, territories, regions, and appeals. Before 2011 the Central Medical Stores was a unit under the Chief Pharmacist's Office. In 2011 it was given the status of a department with two warehouses in Maruhubi (Unguja) and Micheweni (Pemba).

Currently, the CMS is responsible for receiving, storing, and distributing essential medicines, medical devices, laboratory diagnostic, and radiation diagnostic equipment as well as supplying various information on the use of medicines for assisting the Government to provide appropriate decisions.

The CMS has four divisions which are Customer service, Quality Control (Quality Assurance), Procurement and medication Management, and administration and finance.

While the HSCR found notable strengths, it also indicated that there is room for improvement in a few areas. The supply chain's inadequate effectiveness and efficiency of the Central Medical Stores have become more significant recently, leading to a decline in the system's performance. Some of the contributors to this decline have included broader health sector changes, including unintended consequences from decentralization within the health sector, local efforts to increase the involvement of the private pharmaceutical sector, and persistent underfunding due to internal system payment problems.

A central institution in the Supply Chain is CMS, an organization with responsibility for the storage and supply of health commodities. The Zanzibar Medicines Policy Implementation Plan 2016-2021 states, "Procurement of all pharmaceutical supplies for the public sector is handled through the Ministry of Health Procurement Unit, but in future will be carried out by CMS". Being such a central organization in the supply of health commodities and in line with the magnitude of its mandate, CMS needs to be run in such a way that it is effective and efficient. It needs to be able to make rapid decisions, respond to needs and adapt accordingly. There is a need for this organization to be transformed into an effective and efficient organization to effectively provide the required support to the Supply Chain. This can be achieved if this current Department in MoH is set up as a semi-autonomous institution.

In December 2019, the MOH requested support from USAID to conduct the Holistic Supply Chain Review (HSCR) of the public health sector supply chain. HSCR aimed to perform an end-to-end review of the health commodities supply chain in Zanzibar and propose viable options (priorities) to invest in and improve the performance of the supply chain. The MOH and GHSC-TA-TZ worked together to plan the review, and the review was conducted from March to September 2021.

Recognizing these challenges, in late 2021, the Ministry of Health decided to address the supply chain situation through the transformation of the CMS to become a semi-autonomous department with a full mandate to produce, procure, store, and distribute health commodities. The MOH submitted the draft bill to establish the CMS semi-autonomous to Balaza la Wawakilishi (BLW) for legislative proceedings.

Purpose:
 Develop the interim transition plan to assist the transformation of the CMS into an effective and efficient semi-autonomous supply chain institution. The Transition plan intends to provide a set of guiding policies and interventions, along with corresponding implementation activities, to address the priority road maps required to achieve the semi-autonomous status of the CMS.

Objectives:

- 1) Review progress and identify and execute key steps to ensure the plan's successful completion.
- 2) Conduct a Strategic workshop to develop the transition plan (define the roadmap, vision, principles, and strategic interventions) required to form a semi-autonomous CMS for the public sector's supply chain.
- 3) Identify desired objectives and best practices, and strategic interventions for implementation of the transition plan to achieve semi-autonomous
- 4) Conduct Business Process Mapping to identify result areas, key activities for effecting coordination and informing the development of HR capacity and role profiles at CMS during the transition

2. Activities

- 1) Develop and present an inception report
- 2) Conduct desk review of reports on previous work on CMS governance structures and business mandate
- 3) Develop the transition plan with a defined roadmap, vision, principles, and strategic interventions required to form a semi-autonomous CMS for the public sector's supply chain
- 4) Develop methods and tools for tracking the progress implementation of the interim transition plan
- 5) Present preliminary interim transition plan to CMS/MOH
- 6) Prepare a final interim transition plan and report with recommendations
- 7) Schedule and conduct planning and meetings with CMS and other key supply chain stakeholders as needed.

Deliverables/Outputs

- 1) An interim transition plan to achieve CMS semi-autonomous
- 2) PowerPoint presentation of the Interim transition plan

3. Travel
 There will be travel to Zanzibar for both consultant and project staff.

If you are interested in applying this position please send your resume, cover letter to ghsc.recruitment@gmail.com.
Deadline 21st November 2022

**REQUEST FOR TENDER
SMPP Construction Works**

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM059/2022	SMPP Construction Works for Two Packages: Package A: Filtration Plant Package B: Paste Plant	i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in mechanical construction works ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 3 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided iv. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment's, including facilities and intellectual property v. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel and resource schedule vi. Method statement for key construction works vii. Construction management strategy viii. Work program – Level II schedule ix. Local content compliance x. HSE policy xi. CRB registration, Class 3 contractor and above xii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations

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

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

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

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

Key Dates
 • Last date to submit EOI 18 November 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Water regulation intricate, but swift action necessary

WITH water getting increasingly scarce particularly in Dar es Salaam Region and parts of Coast Region, the government has resorted to the restoration of some disused wells and laying out new pumping sources.

Guaranteeing people access to clean and safe water and how to blend different sources of water into a single access regime have become especially complicated.

The point is that it is getting next to impossible to ensure that every water user obtains clean and safe water for all sorts of needs. It easily becomes a skirmish for water connection, pumping and sale by bowlers or 'simitank' outlets.

This is what is prevailing in Dar es Salaam city and its environs, as people keep hoping that pumping to the usual outlets will be restored.

This is not likely to be the case quite soon, though, and current measures to stop wasting water on secondary user needs like large numbers of cattle drinking or canalising water for irrigation will raise new problems.

Investment needs plenty of water, and saying that only domestic users ought to be considered isn't viable policy.

That is why it is hard to think of another way of making water availability more predictable and transparent without a sort of regulated commercial treatment of the public good.

It is a matter of going back to water use policy or research documents to see how far there are usable models of this sort instead of relying on apparently popular moves to close access to holders of large numbers of livestock, plantations or factories.

These groups might seek to buy the water from 'holding corporation' DAWASA (city water suppliers) and can't possibly be refused. But even if this were to be done transparently and equitably, there is just not enough water for now for the purpose.

The first task in a new regulatory situation would be for regional and district authorities to work with water basin management boards in seeking to curb environmental destruction induced by human activity close to water sources.

This has two aspects requiring first the removal quite simply large herds of livestock invading water banks, in which case a new regime can be negotiated where owners set up drinking points for livestock and pay for the water from DAWASA.

These are really hard times and remedial action has to be done as a matter of urgency. Herders cannot by themselves think of any workable options, and instead wrongly seek to approach the rivers from different points depending on where district officials will be posting guards.

At the same time, we should beware opening up "channels of corruption" that would allow livestock to drink their fill as guards look the wrong way. They will not have any sleepless nights; they know cattle have to drink, whatever is the regulations.

It appears that water use must first be scaled instead of supply being taken for granted. Commercial methods, say with a higher price for clean or soft water, and lower for salty water would control cattle water use or water used in agriculture, car washing or industries, depending.

Varsity learning could be restored as a public good

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has offered to foot the costs for 28,000 university students who the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) said it would not accommodate for the issuance of loans in the 2022 academic year.

The decision was made public by Prime Minister Kassim Majalwa only days ago in a speech to wind up the latest session of the Union legislature.

While this unprecedented development doesn't spell structural changes, it is a basic shift in attitude to higher learning, not making it a right explicitly but factually recognising it as such.

With the development, those who qualified for university or college admission but missed loans from the HESLB were allowed to report to their respective universities while the government searches for funds to ensure that they don't miss the chance to study. At the same time, the decision is a way to make better use of existing teaching and learning capacity in our universities, instead of letting market forces do the job. The moment for the announcement of the decision was also apt.

The premier had announced that the government was taking up parliamentary recommendations demanding that the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) make a special audit on HESLB operations, especially for issuance and repayment of loans.

MPs had suggested that such audit was likely to assist the government to rethink the financing of higher education. In that sense, the simple atmosphere of debating the issue has occasioned a rethinking.

Part of the rethinking was

contributed by MPs when they demanded to know why HESLB had failed to issue loans to thousands of students. For the record, the board was this year allocated 570bn/- in loans funds to students, sufficient to cover 42,000 against the 70,000+ students who had qualified for the support.

That shows how the method is somewhat inconvenient, suggesting that higher level policy makers could figure out how upwards of 570bn/- could enable the mass of 70,000 students to land the all-important support.

There has always been the issue of how appropriate the loan method is likely to be, though it must be admitted that recent technological input is lessening the risks. The big risk was previously non-repayment for inability to track a beneficiary's whereabouts, if such person isn't allocated a 'landing spot' upon graduation. If the beneficiary hits the streets, the communication channel is disrupted, as he or she must get a job first.

With an electronic tag in the form of national identification numbers that can be tracked over a mass of data, such as for new employees in the public or the private sector during the past year and aligned with HESLB loan repayment, this situation is eased.

But, conversely, the loans regime is not appropriate if it bars so many students from pursuing studies, as the loan cash could be more equitably used as subsidy to universities. The residual issue is whether the government needs to be repaid for putting our youths to university and, if not, what system could be put up for loans from other sources with prior guarantees.

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Interview

Beyond burnout: What helps - and what doesn't (Part 1)

By Tiffany Burns and Erica Coe

Despite leaders' best efforts, worldwide burnout persists. New research reveals why - and how to help employees begin to thrive again. Yoga. Therapy. Meditation. Yes, wellness perks are helpful, but they're not a panacea for workplace stress. Erica Coe, a McKinsey partner and co-leader of the McKinsey Health Institute (MHI), speaks with McKinsey Global Publishing's Lucia Rahilly about why burnout has hit record levels over the past two years and what leaders can do to create a path towards lasting change. Afterwards, senior partner Tiffany Burns describes one of her rookie moments: talking a client down from sending an email when angry. Excerpts:

Lucia Rahilly: We've talked about burnout before but, given that it has almost become a buzzword, I'd like to start by ensuring that we're all on the same page about what we mean when we use that term. What does it feel like to be burned out? What are the symptoms of burnout versus feeling lacklustre or just, say, limping towards vacation?

Erica Coe: You're exactly right that it has become a buzzword, so it's helpful to ground ourselves. According to the World Health Organisation, burnout is an occupational workplace phenomenon. It's driven by a chronic imbalance between your job demands - for example, how heavy your workload pressure is - and your job resources. It might be how autonomous or supported you feel at work. It's that disconnect and imbalance between demands and resources. It's often correlated with anxiety and depression, and a potential predictor of broader mental-health challenges. That's why it's so important to get a grasp on some of the burnout challenges that many employees are facing, to ensure that employers can intervene now.

To your question of what characterizes burnout, it's often marked by extreme tiredness, difficulty in concentrating, and difficulty with cognitive and emotional processes. It's important to understand those symptoms and tendencies fully.

Before Covid-19, people used to talk a lot about being busy. It was a badge of honour to be busy, a good thing. How did we go from being busy to being burned out? Did the pandemic play a role in that?

I think it certainly did. If anything,

of all the challenges that have come about because of the pandemic, one of the silver linings is the increased awareness and open dialogue around mental health and the importance of positive mental health and well-being and of investing in that.

Let's turn to the research you recently undertook along with colleagues from the McKinsey Health Institute. Why did you make employee burnout a focus for MHI?

We were already facing a global mental-health crisis before the pandemic. Now, after living through two and a half years of Covid-19, the crisis has only grown. With such an urgent need around a very core part of health, we knew that the only way we could improve health holistically is by first addressing mental health. Mental health impacts physical health. It impacts social health. It impacts spiritual health. You can't have good overall health without good mental health. So we felt that to add years to life and life to years, we had to focus initially on the urgent priority of mental health.

And then there's the question of why employers? Every day, employers are impacting the health and the mental health of their employees and workforces. So we felt that if we could find a way - through convening, collaborating, research and innovation - to start to change the behaviour of many of these employers, it could be one way to have an impact at scale. We also feel that we are very much at a tipping point for change. This is a unique moment in time. If we can find what research or innovations can be introduced, we might be able to shift things in a new direction.

How global is this phenomenon of burnout?

Interestingly, it's very global. We conducted a survey of 15,000 employees across 15 countries, on every continent around the world, and found consistently high burnout rates. One difference we found across these countries was the cultural context: how much stigma or discrimination exists in a workplace, how comfortable employees are sharing certain things, and the level of support they might feel from their employer.

A fascinating step in the research was translating into local languages all of the surveys we deployed across the 15 countries. At the stage of translating, we realized that there may not be a word that characterizes mental health or mental health in the workplace.

And you start to see stigma in many ways, even in designing the survey instrument, but also in the findings. Understanding the stigma and the broader cultural context is critical in highlighting what interventions will work. Depending on the culture and environment that an employee is in, very different approaches need to be taken to support employees and their family members and broader communities, which these negative impacts trickle down to.

Many large global employers have a footprint across a number of regions around the world. It's also important to understand how to effectively support their workforce more broadly.

So burnout is bad, it's potentially at a tipping point, and employers are keenly aware of it, particularly in such a tight talent market. We have seen record quit rates and churn, as we know from our Great Attrition/Great Attraction research. What are companies doing to help employees now?

If we look at investment rates - what employers are pouring into interventions - often investment is on the wellness side, and it isn't moving the needle. Burnout rates are continuing to increase, even as many organisations commit to this, making it a C-suite agenda priority, and trying to find ways to support employees.

In a recent survey, four out of five HR leaders said that they consider employee mental health and well-being a top priority. There are billions of dollars around the globe going into wellness benefits. But we think the challenge is that almost all the focus is on remedial symptoms rather than getting at the root cause of employee burnout. Instead, employers should step back and reflect on the structural challenges of the environment, which may be causing the burnout in the first place. If the root causes aren't fixed, then you're going to continue to put your employees in environments that are increasing burnout.

Let's talk about root causes. What are some of the drivers behind these pervasive burnout challenges?

One of the things that we asked in our survey across the 15 countries was intended to find some of the strongest predictors of burnout symptoms and other negative outcomes. One of these drivers, by a large margin, was what we refer to

as toxic workplace behaviour. Toxic behaviours are things that leave you, or leave an employee, feeling unvalued, unsafe - something that might feel like a demeaning treatment, non-inclusive behaviour, really extreme competition, abuse of management, or unethical behaviours. All those become almost a cultural norm that can really feed into toxic behaviour. In our survey, one in four employees reported high rates of toxic behaviour at work.

Through our research, we wanted to find out if toxic behaviour at work leads to higher rates of burnout. Is it predictive in any way? The subset of employees who reported experiencing these high levels of toxic behaviour were eight times more likely to experience burnout symptoms - significantly higher.

In terms of action, these employees were also six times more likely to report that they intended to leave their employer in the next couple of months. One interesting finding that I think came from other recent research is that often the culture of an organisation is one of the biggest predictors of the rate of resignation - ten times more predictive than compensation.

Our research revealed something about the broader environment - an interesting angle and finding for employers to consider. Are they even aware of their employees' baseline current state? Where do you stand as an employer across some of these aspects?

Let's acknowledge that leaders need to do more. How can employers take on toxic behaviour in the workplace?

One way that employers can approach toxic behaviour is to treat it as a lack of competence. If you're looking for a skill set that has to be demonstrated at any given level, embed positive and supportive behaviour as a skill. That would mean that it starts to be incorporated into performance reviews. You start to ensure that you're getting indicators in upward feedback, and you have measures and ways of picking up signs of toxic behaviour.

Another aspect is trying to focus on the degree to which you are cultivating supportive, psychologically safe work environments. It isn't just about removing or preventing toxicity; it's also about amplifying compassionate leadership, for example, or cultivating a supportive environment.

* A McKinsey Health Institute dispatch. To be continued.

By Thomas Lyimo

Teachers need true creativity to achieve objectives of primary school curriculum

IT is important to change education curriculum from time to time so as to structure it according to the needs of our society and eliminate unnecessary units, teaching methods and contents. Also, changes introduce latest and update methods of teaching and content as well as new knowledge and practices.

However, it is obvious that regular curriculum changes cost money. When curriculum changes, there is a certain loss incurred although benefits tend to be massive. For instance, people who devote their time to write and publish books for a particular curriculum find their materials invalid immediately after a new curriculum is adopted.

Writers of books may be appeased by being told that for the sake of the good of the nation, they should sacrifice their time, efforts and energy. Will this not discourage new individuals from venturing into book writing? We need to ask ourselves if changing curriculum regularly is the only way to improve our education.

There are a number of steps that may help us avoid changing curricula so often and yet little being achieved in terms of learning outcomes. The steps need to be taken due to the fact that any critical examiner would agree that the current primary school curriculum looks like the one for secondary schools if not for colleges or even universities.

It is very hard for primary school pupils to comprehend a concept. What they can do best is capture contents, meaning quantifiable information rather than qualitative information. Primary education should contain much quantifiable information and little qualitative information for it to be practical. The current curriculum contradicts the nature of learning for primary school pupils.

One of the things which can be done to cover weaknesses in the current primary school curriculum is teachers should talk more. Since the curriculum is rich in concepts, there is no way a teacher can teach without talking more. It is not possible to make a concept clear to pupils by use of a single line of explanation.

Another thing is that teachers should write short notes. The current curriculum tempts teachers to write a lot of notes in the quest to achieve the goals of the curriculum. Writing a lot of notes cannot help as experience shows that primary school pupils rarely read their notes and if they are bulky, they are likely to abandon reading at all.

Also, teachers need to set exams which correlate with pupils' ability. They should not ask questions which are beyond pupils' comprehension. Most of the questions should be either filling the blanks or multiple choices or mentioning but not something like explaining. Ability to explain requires analytical skills which only a few primary school pupils can possess.

There should be regular exams so as to make the objectives of the current curriculum met. Primary school pupils learn mostly through questions and answers. It is a big mistake to expect primary school pupils to engage in discussions if much emphasis is not made.



They are motivated by ticks rather than words of encouragement. The more questions they attempt and followed by marking with the red ticks, the more they are motivated to learn.

Additionally, an emphasis on vocational skills subject should be reinforced. This subject carries practical

skills necessary for life like farming, cooking, playing and making tools of production among other things which are beneficial. The cry in our education is how to produce self-reliant individuals. Vocational skills subject can help in this if the subject is valued and prioritized. The confusion is that the subject

is not examined separately in Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE). Instead, it contributes very few questions in the combined social studies and vocational skills examination paper. Creativity may help to correct errors in curriculum as changing the same too often costs the nation heav-

ily. We can continue with the current primary school curriculum and achieve results. Things can be improved if we are determined to do so.

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



Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande launches Tanzania Revenue Authority Thanks to Taxpayers Week celebrations by leading TRA employees in a 10 km race and a 5 km walk at Gymkhana grounds in Dar es Salaam.



BY SHARON WOOD

SA stands out from the crowd at COP27, but needs to seize the investor opportunity

HERE have been all too few moments since Jacob Zuma took over the presidency in 2009 when we have been afforded the opportunity to feel proud of our government – and the unveiling of South Africa's Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP) at the COP27 Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, this week was one of them.



From left: US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, President Cyril Ramaphosa and Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz during the JET Investment Plan meeting on the sidelines of the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit in Egypt, 8 November 2022. (Photo: GCIS)

South Africa had its moment in the sun when it delivered a plan that, in its detail, ambition and initial financial support, is a first for a developing country and, if executed successfully, could lead the way for other emerging markets and vulnerable economies that are suffering the human, environmental and financial consequences of the climate crisis.

However, as South Africans, we have learnt the hard way that a convincing plan is just a plan until you see the on-the-ground implementation of it and, as it stands, the R1.5-trillion plan has little chance of seeing the light of day if it cannot be fully financed and if the government doesn't move quickly on creating the right conditions for private sector support.

The Just Energy Transition Partnership – including France, Germany, the UK, the US and the European Union – has come through with the initial financing it committed to at COP26. While that's a vote of confidence in the plan, the \$8.5-billion committed and other existing domestic funding commitments still leave a R700-billion funding gap that will need to be filled over the five-year term of the plan. The government certainly doesn't have the means to bridge the gap and globally, climate finance raising, which is still

in its infancy and faces many challenges, has made little progress since the previous climate conference in Glasgow.

Government debt burdens

So, South Africa will not be alone in its endeavours to raise the finance needed to make the transition to a fossil-free future without imposing massive societal costs and without increasing already unsustainable government debt levels.

Most developing economies have seen their government debt burdens soar over the past few years. According to figures released by The Nature Conservancy, between 2010 and 2020 developing countries' public debt expanded to an average of 62% – an increase of 22 percentage points on the 40% at the beginning of the period. Most worrying is that a third of the increase occurred in 2020.

A World Economic Forum article, COP27: How climate finance and adaptation can support vulnerable countries, points to research exploring "The Climate Finance Conundrum", which quantifies the makeup of climate finance raised from 2011 to 2020, with only 12% (\$47-billion) of it low-cost or concessional and 61% (\$384-billion) comprising debt funding.

Despite the \$100-billion commitment by developed countries at COP26 to provide financial compensation to developing economies that are suffer-

ing the consequences of the irreversible climate damage inflicted by the developed countries, pledges have been unmet. Authors Anis Chowdhury and Jomo Kwame Sundaram say: "The world faces a climate finance conundrum owing to the failure to resolve the underlying issues equitably through international cooperation. Consequently, it would not be an exaggeration to describe the current situation as a mess."

Debt funding is not a sustainable solution and governments will need to rely on innovative funding methods that don't overwhelm public finances and do bring the private sector on board at scale. The common consensus is that the solution lies in blended financing, which spreads the risk across governments, asset owners, developed finance institutions, private sector investors, and other innovative funding methods.

Innovative funding methods, such as the "blue bonds" that have been used in Seychelles, resolve the problem that faces private-sector investors who cannot afford to finance climate adaptation without receiving a financial return. The blue bonds provide a solution by generating

earnings from investing in sustainable blue oceanic projects. Green and sustainable bonds operate in a similar fashion.

Seeking alternative funding solutions is all well and good, but what do these sizeable funding challenges mean for the South African government's roll-out of the JET-IP over the next five years?

Oxford Economics Africa economist Deon Fourie says that although the R128-billion that was committed by the International Partners Group (IPG) in the form of grants, concessional loans, investment and risk-sharing instruments will play "an important catalytic role to mobilise increased private-sector funding to help accelerate a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions", it still falls far short of what is needed. He calculates that the R1.5-trillion needed over five years is 11.5 times bigger than the funding committed by the IPG at COP26.

Other potential sources of funding that are detailed in the JET-IP include R500-billion from SA financial institutions, R150-billion from domestic development finance institutions and the New Development Bank, leaving a R700-billion funding gap that needs to be affordably secured to implement the investment programme in its entirety.

That's neither going to come from large-scale grant and non-debt instruments at the scale and speed needed, says Fourie, nor is it going to come from the fiscally strapped government's coffers. That leaves the private sector – and to win its confidence and backing, there will need to be a conducive policy as well as a regulatory and administrative environment.

And therein lies the rub. The government has put together a comprehensive plan with a convincing roadmap, including all the details needed. Presenting this at COP27 provided National Treasury with the invaluable opportunity to get the attention of investors worldwide.

But to garner their confidence and financial backing, the government will need to move fast. Fourie sees the priorities as concluding the public consultations and implementing the structural and policy reforms needed.

Without these, South Africa's new energy future will become nothing but a mirage – and in the meantime the government would have wasted the invaluable international visibility it achieved at COP27 and the opportunity to get private investors from around the world to open their coffers. **DM/BM**

US MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2022

Donald Trump: Why is he suddenly attacking Ron DeSantis?

By Anthony Zurcher

HERE we go again. Seven years ago, Donald Trump was feuding with the Rupert Murdoch conservative media empire and launching ruthless attacks against a Florida governor who many Republicans had anointed their leading presidential contender.

The real-estate magnate was then the ultimate outsider, seeking to tear down the political establishment – left and right – on his path to the White House.

Mr Trump achieved that goal, and spent a tumultuous four years as president, but a chaotic end to his term in office and two years out of the spotlight have left him lobbing bombs from the political sidelines once more.

Now it's Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, not ex-governor Jeb Bush, who is the prime target of Mr Trump's resentment. And while the ex-president still has allies at Fox News, its coverage has treated Mr Trump like an afterthought and the Murdoch-run New York Post and Wall Street Journal appear to be on a vendetta against their former hometown celebrity.

According to anonymous insider reports, Mr Trump still harbours presidential ambitions – and is leaning toward announcing another presidential bid from his Mar-a-Lago home next Tuesday. After this week's disappointing midterm results for Republicans, where Mr Trump's hand-picked candidates struggled to win key races, the former president's advisers are counselling him to wait for the dust to settle.

Instead, with his Thursday social media posts and evening press-release diatribe against Mr DeSantis, Mr Murdoch's Newscorp and all his critics, Mr Trump seems intent on throwing that dust in his enemy's eyes. He called his Florida rival an "average Republican governor with great public relations" and made explicit the parallels to his first presidential bid.

"This is just like 2015 and 2016, a Media Assault (Collusion!), when Fox News fought me to the end until I won, and then they couldn't have been nicer or more supportive," he wrote. "The Wall Street Journal loved Low Energy Jeb Bush, and a succession of other people as they rapidly disappeared from sight, finally falling in line with



Former US president Donald Trump (L) and Ron DeSantis

me after I easily knocked them out, one by one."

On Friday morning, Mr Trump's attention turned to another possible Republican presidential rival, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. He wrote on his social media site that the name "sounds Chinese" and noted that the Virginian couldn't have been elected without the ex-president's support. (Mr Youngkin pointedly tried to distance himself from Mr Trump during his successful 2021 governor campaign.)

All this is a familiar strategy – conducted with familiar viciousness and drama.

In 2016, Mr Trump lashed out at prominent figures within his own party with no restraint – presidential rivals Mr Bush, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, as well as Arizona Senator John McCain. He

didn't need the respect or support of Republican leaders and wore their scorn as a badge.

At the time, those leaders feared Mr Trump would be a disastrous standard-bearer, that he would sink the party and doom them to defeat. Mr Trump won the White House anyway, but after this week – and the Republican midterm rout in 2018 and Mr Trump's 2020 re-election defeat – his party's elders are once again getting skittish.

"In '22 we're going to net-lose governorships, we're not going to pick up the number of seats in the House that we thought, and we may not win the Senate despite a president who has 40% job approval," said Chris Christie, the former New Jersey governor who ran against – and later endorsed – Mr Trump for presi-

dent in 2016. "There's only one person to blame for that, and that's Donald Trump."

There are new twists to the story this time around, however.

Although the top of the party and its big-money donor base may want to move on from the ex-president, the grass-roots infrastructure of the Republican Party is run by those faithful to Mr Trump.

Republicans may have struggled this year, but they picked up congressional seats in 2016 and 2020, when Mr Trump's name was at the top of the ballot.

State legislatures and the US House of Representatives are stocked with Trump loyalists like Jim Jordan of Ohio, Andy Biggs of Arizona and Matt Gaetz of Florida.

"I am proud to endorse Donald J Trump for president in 2024," wrote Congresswoman Elise Stefanik of New York on Thursday, jumping the gun a bit on Mr Trump's possible presidential announcement.

"Republican voters determine who is the leader of the Republican Party, and it's very clear President Trump is the leader of the Republican Party."

Trump's recent attacks are also being picked up by his supporters, including Arizona governor candidate Kari Lake, who suggested that Mr DeSantis was being elevated over pro-Trump candidates.

"Ron DeSantis goes out and gives his big speech and then they want to make it look like the Trump Republicans don't have a chance," she said during an interview on Thursday.

But Mr Trump's latest round of invective suggests that he feels under siege. And if, as indications suggest, he does run for president again, he will do so as a bomb-throwing renegade willing to tear the party down around him if challenged.

He and his supporters may have a penchant for referring to him as "President Trump" even in the year-plus since he left office, but he is an outsider once more. **BBC**

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

NGO empowers vulnerable rural women through forest protection

By Felister Peter

WOMEN in Kilwa District's Mchakama village are now generating a good income through conservation agriculture practices, thanks to Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) for facilitating their transformation.

The NGO, with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has been working to help villagers to conserve and restore their forests to ultimately earn money from its resources.

Halima Madindi, Secretary of Maendeleo Kwanza women group at Mchakama village, one of the beneficiaries of MCDI conservation project said they are no longer practicing shifting agriculture which was one of the factors contributing to forest degradation.

"When MCDI approached us for sunflower cultivation some women were reluctant to join. We started the group with 14 members but the number has now increased to 20. We started by cultivating 20 acres of the crop and harvested 2,276 kilograms of sunflower seeds which generated more than 3,880 litres of edible oil," said Madindi as she acknowledged the organization for providing them with the value addition seed oil pressing machine.

According to her, other villagers who are not group members also benefit with the installed machine because they have a reliable market to sell their sunflower seeds.

In the last farming season, villagers sold 1,900 kilograms of sunflower seeds to the group which was established in July 2021.

Zaituni Mohamed, the groups' Marketing Officer said that most of the group members had their welfare improved as they are able to meet their family demands.

She said with the training from MCDI

they can produce quality sunflower oils which are properly packaged and sold to customers across the district.

According to her, access to market is still a challenge, they have been able to sell the oil and deposited more than 2m/- in their bank account.

"Markets are still a challenge; we do not have enough customers for our product. Some buyers are doubtful on whether our products meet the required standards because it is the first time they are getting such products from villagers," she added.

Zaituni stated that apart from practicing conservation agriculture, women also plant trees at woodlots and are also conserving the community managed forests.

She said the practices enable them to conserve the environment as well as improve their livelihoods. She said previously, they were practicing shifting agriculture as they searched for fertile land in every new farming season.

MCDI Project Supervisor, Joel Fares said they are supporting similar women groups in Liwiti and Nainokwe villages. He said women and other villagers have now changed their attitude towards nomadic farming.

Fares noted that conservation activities implemented by the NGO has facilitated establishment of commercial tree farms, tree nurseries and that villagers had jointly agreed to set aside part of forest land for conservation activities.

"Villagers are now seeing an increase in revenues from sales of forest resources. We have provided them with sawmill machines for value addition of timber products," said Fares, noting that villagers have also introduced eco-tourism whereas they also earn an income.

He added: "Eco-tourism has started to



Zaituni Mohamed, a marketing officer of the Maendeleo Kwanza women group operates a sunflower seed oil pressing machine at Mchakama village in Kilwa District.

bear fruits at Mchakama village; so far, 70 local tourists and 6 foreigners have visited the various attractions in the conserved forest."

Communications Manager at WWF Tanzania, Joan Itanisa said they have been implementing conservation activities in Kilwa District through MCDI who are directly linked to the villagers.

"We opted to implement forest conservation activities in Mchakama village due to various reasons including the high rate of degradation before introduction of the project; but also the village is within the Ruvuma landscape where WWF implements the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) program," she remarked.

Itanisa said they help villagers to conserve their forest for purposes of improving their living standards. She said the funds collected from sales of forest resources are wisely spent to improve social services such as education and health.

She added: "Villagers used funds from forest resources to build a village office; they

have also repaired schools and a dispensary."

The officer highlighted that WWF Tanzania is striving to help the villagers to market their harvested forest products as well as sunflower cooking oil through promotion of their activities to ultimately attract buyers.

Sharks, turtles, disease on agenda of wildlife trade summit

By Francisco Jara

HUMAN demand for shark fin soup, particularly in East Asia, has threatened shark populations.

The trade in shark fins, turtles, and other threatened species will come under scrutiny at a global wildlife summit in Panama, starting Monday, that will also focus on the spread of diseases such as COVID-19.

Conservation experts and representatives of more than 180 nations will today gather to study 52 proposals aimed at modifying protection levels set by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The CITES delegates will also take stock of the fight against fraud, and vote on new resolutions, such as the increased risk of diseases spreading from animals to humans, which is linked to trafficking and became a major concern after the 2020 outbreak of COVID-19.

CITES, in force since 1975, regulates trade in some 36,000 species of plants and animals and provides mecha-

nisms to help crack down on illegal trade. It sanctions countries that break the rules.

The meeting of the parties to the convention takes place every two or three years.

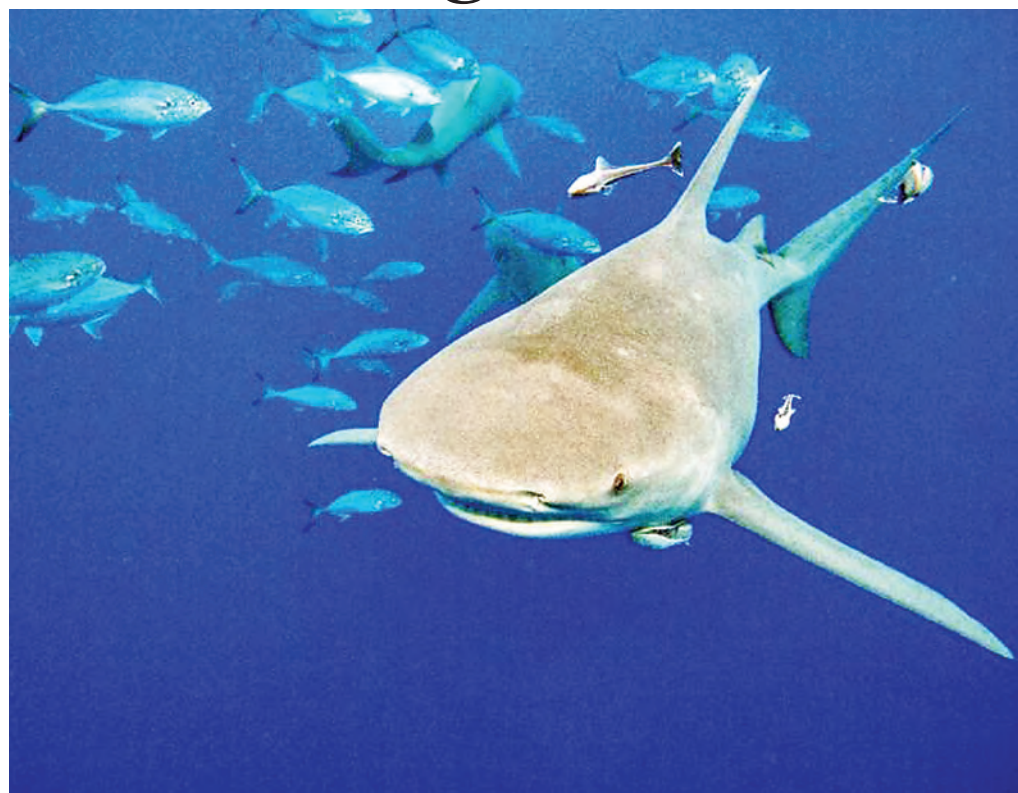
This year it is happening in the shadow of two major United Nations conferences with high stakes for the future of the planet and all of its inhabitants: the COP27 climate meeting currently underway in Egypt, and the COP15 conference on biodiversity in Montreal in December.

During its last meeting in Geneva, 2019, CITES boosted the protection of giraffes, and came close to imposing a total ban on sending African elephants caught in the wild to zoos.

Delegates also maintained a ban on the sale of ivory in southern Africa, and decided to list 18 species of rays and sharks in CITES Appendix II, which requires the tracking and regulation of trade.

'Shark extinction crisis'

This year delegates will weigh a proposal to regulate the trade in requiem sharks, hammerhead sharks, and guitarfish rays.



"It would be a historic moment if these three proposals are passed: We would go from controlling around 25 percent of the shark fin trade to more than 90 percent," said Ilaria Di Silvestre, the head of European Union campaigns for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

Meanwhile, Luke Warwick of the Wildlife Conservation Society warned that "we are in the middle of a very large shark extinction crisis."

A green sea turtle swims near Gorgona Island in the Pacific Ocean off the Colombian mainland.

He said that sharks, which

are vital to the ocean's ecosystem, are "the second most threatened vertebrate group on the planet."

"The trade in shark products—particularly fins, which can have a value of about \$1,000 a kilogram in markets in East Asia—for use in a luxury status dish of shark fin

soup, is driving the decline of these ancient ocean predators around the world."

Sue Lieberman, the vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society, told AFP that China—one of the top consumers of shark fin soup—has never voted in favor of a CITES marine species proposal, but often "implements it after it's adopted."

"I like to say this is the reptile COP," said Lieberman, who has attended every CITES summit since 1989.

Three crocodile species, three lizard species, various snakes, and 12 freshwater turtles are up for a total ban in trade.

"The freshwater turtles of the world are being exploited unsustainably and illegally for the pet trade, the collectors trade, and the food trade in Asia," said Lieberman.

Endangered violin wood

The trade of certain trees will also be examined, with proposals to add African mahogany and some species of brightly colored flowering trumpet trees to Appendix II. Brazil has asked for a total ban in the trade of Pernam-

buco wood—which is already protected—alarming musicians around the world as it has been used for centuries as the main source of wood to make bow instruments such as violins and the cello.

TRAFFIC, the scientific advisory body of CITES, has recommended rejecting the proposal, which is unlikely to obtain the required two-thirds of votes.

The Panama meeting, which will run until November 25, is the first to be held since the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Wuhan, China, which many scientists believed originated in bats before infecting humans.

Lieberman added that because CITES deals only with international trade, local markets for live wildlife, such as in Wuhan are not under its purview.

"But nevertheless, CITES needs to make a statement... It seems to us that it would be highly inappropriate for CITES for its first meeting after the pandemic started, not to mention it. So we're, we're hopeful that they'll adopt something."

Ivory Coast cocoa farmers fear unpredictable climate to lower crop yields

By Special Correspondent

JEAN Baptiste Saleyo lives in Ivory Coast's Bas-Sassandra region. The man has farmed cocoa on several acres of his family land for years. However, this year's unpredictable rain has affected his crop.

Inspecting the ripeness of one of his cocoa pods leaves him sad.

"When it should have rained, it didn't, it didn't rain. It's now the end of October and it's raining now but it's already too late."

Ivory Coast produces almost half the world's supply of the raw ingredient used in chocolate.

The cooperative helping farmers bring their crops to markets, says small-scale cocoa producers are hurting because of climate change.

"The rain hasn't been abundant and that has hit production", Jean Yao Brou, the secretary-general of farming cooperative Anouanze reveals.

"So if you expected to harvest 500kg, you'll only be getting 200kg. Our producers are really worried about their harvests".

Rains need to come at the right times in the growing cycle for the cocoa tree to fruit well. Coming at the wrong times risks crop disease.

"... If the plants don't get rain when they need, that can affect their growth cycle", Dr. Doga Dabe explains.

"This in turn can lead to a drop in production. But there are also certain (plant) diseases emerging that weren't around before [...]", the researcher at the National Centre for Agronomic Research (CNRA) concludes.

Cocoa farming employs nearly 600,000 farmers in Ivory Coast, ultimately supporting nearly a quarter of the country's population, according to the Coffee-Cocoa Council.

The production accounts for 15% of the nation's GDP.



Indigenous peoples have their own agenda at COP27; their demand is direct financing

SHARM EL-SHEIKH

INDIGENOUS peoples are no longer content just to attend as observers and to be seen as victims of the impacts of the current development model, at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) on Climate Change. That is why they came to the summit in Egypt with an agenda of their own, including the demand that their communities directly receive funding for climate action.

Billions of dollars in aid funds are provided each year by governments, private funds and foundations for climate adaptation and mitigation. Donors often seek out indigenous peoples, who are now considered the best guardians of climate-healthy ecosystems. However, only crumbs end up actually reaching native territories.

"We are tired of funding going to indigenous foundations without indigenous people," Yanel Venado Giménez told IPS, at the indigenous peoples' stand at this gigantic world conference, which has 33,000 accredited participants. "All the money goes to pay consultants and the costs of air-conditioned offices."

"International donors are present at the COP27. That is why we came to tell them that direct funding is the only way to ensure that climate projects take into account indigenous cultural practices. We have our own agronomists, engineers, lawyers and many trained people. In addition, we know how

to work as a team," she added.

Giménez, a member of the Ngabe-Buglé people, represents the National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples in Panama (CONAPIP) and is herself a lawyer.

That indigenous peoples, because they often live in many of the world's best-conserved territories, are on the front line of the battle against the global environmental crisis is beyond dispute.

For this reason, a year ago, at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, the governments of the United Kingdom, Norway, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and 17 private donors pledged up to 1.7 billion dollars for mitigation and adaptation actions by indigenous communities.

However, although there is no precise data on how much of that total has actually been forthcoming, the communities say they have received practically nothing.

"At each of these conferences we hear big announcements of funding, but then we return to our territories and that agenda is never talked about again," Julio César López Jamioy, a member of the Inga people who live in Putumayo, in Colombia's Amazon rainforest, told IPS.

"In 2021 we were told that it was necessary for us to build mechanisms to access and to be able to execute those resources, which are generally channeled through governments. That is why we are working with allies on that task," he added.



Representatives of native women from Latin America and other continents pose for pictures at COP27, taking place in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh. Some 250 indigenous people from around the world are attending the 27th climate conference. CREDIT: Daniel Gutman/IPS

López Jamioy, who is coordinator of the National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), believes it is time to thank many of the non-governmental organizations for the services they have provided.

"Up to a certain point we needed them to work with us, but now it is time to act through our own organizational structures," he said.

Latin American presence
There is no record of how many

indigenous Latin Americans are in Sharm el-Sheikh, a seaside resort in the Sinai Peninsula in southern Egypt, thanks to different sources of funding, but it is estimated to be between 60 and 80.

Approximately 250 members of indigenous peoples from all over the world are participating in COP27, in the part of the Sharm el-Sheikh Convention Center that hosts social organizations and in-

stitutions.

From there, they are raising their voices and their proposals to the halls and stands that host the delegates and official negotiators of the 196 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the organizer of these annual summits.

The space shared by the indigenous people is a large stand with a couple of offices and an auditorium with about 40 chairs. Here, during the two weeks of COP27, from Nov. 6 to 18, there is an intense program of activities involving the agenda that the indigenous people have brought to the climate summit, which has drawn the world's attention.

At the start of the Conference, a group of Latin American indigenous people were received by Colombian President Gustavo Petro. They obtained his support for their struggle against extractive industries operating in native territories and asked him to liaise with other governments.

"Generally, governments make commitments to us and then don't follow through. But today we have more allies that allow us to have an impact and put forward our agenda," Jesús Amadeo Martínez, of the Lenca people of El Salvador, told IPS.

The indigenous representatives came to this Conference with credentials as observers - another crucial issue, since they are demanding to be considered part of the negotiations as of next year, at COP28, to be held in Dubai.

The proposal was led by Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, a representative of the Kurripaco people in Peru's Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), who told a group of journalists that "We existed before the nation-states did; we have the right to be part of the debate, because we are not an environmental NGO."

From beneficiaries to partners?
Native communities have always been seen as beneficiaries of climate action projects in their territories, channeled through large NGOs that receive and distribute the funds.

But back in 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) issued a Policy for Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (PRO-IP), which explores the possibility of funding reaching native communities more effectively.

Among the hurdles are that project approval times are sometimes too fast for the indigenous communities' consultative decision-making methods, and that many communities are not legally registered, so they need an institutional umbrella.

Experiments in direct financing are still in their infancy. Sara Omi, of the Emberá people of Panama, told IPS that they were able to receive direct financing for Mexican and Central American communities from the Mesoamerican Fund for capacity building of indigenous women.

"We focus on sustainable agricultural production and in two years of work we have supported 22 projects in areas such as the recovery of traditional seeds. But we do not have large amounts of funds. The sum total of all of our initiatives was less than 120,000 dollars," she explained.

Omi, a lawyer who graduated from the private Catholic University of Santa María La Antigua in Panama and was able to study thanks to a scholarship, said indigenous peoples have demonstrated that they are ready to administer aid funds.

"Of course there must be accountability requirements for donors, but they must be compatible with our realities. Only crumbs are reaching native territories today," she complained.

Brazil's president-elect, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, will participate in the second week of COP27, and this is cause for hope for the peoples of the Amazon jungle, who in the last four years have suffered from the aggressive policies and disregard of outgoing far-right President Jair Bolsonaro regarding environmental and indigenous issues.

"In the Bolsonaro administration, funds that provided financing were closed," Eric Terena, an indigenous man who lives in southern Brazil, near the border with Bolivia and Paraguay, told IPS. "Now they will be revived, but we don't want them to be accessed only by the government, but also by us. The systems today have too much bureaucracy; we need them to be more accessible because we are a fundamental part of the fight against climate change."

"We see that this COP is more inclusive than any of the previous ones with regard to indigenous peoples, but governments must understand that it is time for us to receive funding," said Terena, one of the leaders of the Terena people.



Colombian President Gustavo Petro (grey suit) poses for pictures with a group of Latin American indigenous people at the end of a meeting they held in Sharm el-Sheikh during COP27. CREDIT: Courtesy of Jesús Amadeo Martínez

RATIBA YA VIPINDI
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has called on young innovators to explore untapped opportunities in the country's Information Communication Technologies (ICT) sector.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA's director general made the call over the weekend during an interview when briefing on what entailed at the International Cyber Security Forum in Saudi Arabia that comprised of ICT cyber security professionals, regulators, investors, researchers, academicians from private and public sectors, said that as an enabler to the communication sector.

The forum brought on board international decision makers and experts who shared new perspectives, approaches, and action, whilst charted a path forward for those most vulnerable in cyberspace.

The official said that the government was com-

mitted towards providing valuable, scarce communication resources of frequency spectrum, short-codes, numbering resources and Dot Tz Domain resources Free of Charge to Start Ups and Innovators in the Country as part strategy of boosting Digital Services and promoting the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) applications.

Dr. Bakari stated that one of the key role of TCRA is to promote the use of ICT and enable new communication services focused on improving living standards of the people.

According to him, previously innovators and other incubators had to pay substantial amounts of money to TCRA to get the valuable resources of Frequency Spectrum, Numbering Resources and Short codes plus Dot Tz Domain Name Resources for local network connectivity but they don't do that.

As part strategy of supporting the innovators to

come up with new ICT solutions that would directly benefit communities in the country, Dr Bakari said: "The government now offers the costly resources free of charge to Start Ups and incubators for a period of Three Months. He added that three month testing period could be extended, provided the ICT solution-testing projects have been approved COSTECH as viable and promising."

He said that TCRA has also created a conducive level playing field to service providers for a harmonised sectoral performance.

He said the private sector has taken very positive step in support of the TCRA initiative, whereby Mobile Phone Companies now allow credible innovators to use their facilities free of charge while banking institutions have offered sand box that enable Start Ups to practice and incubate their innovative ideas into a reality of tangible and visible services that benefit the public.

Dr. Bakari told thou-

TCRA tells innovators to explore diverse opportunities in ICT sector



TCRA director general Dr Jabiri Bakari (R) participates in the International Cyber Security Forum held recently in Saudi Arabia.

sands of the delegates who attended the conference that statistics that TCRA has just released on sectoral performance have revealed tremendous improvement and promising growth in the communication sector with very positive trend in economic development of the Country.

The TCRA Chief said most of sections in the communication sector realised progress like Mobile phone Network Providers (MNOs) who recorded growth in the number of SIM Cards regis-

tered from 56.2 million in June 2022 to over 58 million by September 2022.

Dr Bakari said TCRA recently successfully concluded auctioning of high value Frequency Spectrum Resources to service providers who will be able to open more opportunities for communication services in the country and enable the deployment of 5G.

Bocar Alpha Ba, SAMENA Telecommunications Council Chief Executive Officer, praised TCRA for the important step of provid-

ing communication resources free of charge to ICT innovators and digital technologies.

"I would like to congratulate TCRA for their historic decision of provide free spectrum resources to service operators. This issue has become like a war that we have been fighting our regulators in many countries. As you know, frequencies are very expensive and have become an enabling resource for various businesses in the private sector," emphasized Bocar. SAMENA Telecommunica-

tions Council is active within the South Asia - Middle East - North Africa region on digital development advocacy and sector partnerships between the private and the government sectors.

It is an umbrella that brings together more than 25 countries, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Vodacom Tanzania reports increase in service revenue

By Guardian Correspondent

VODACOM Tanzania Plc's just-released half-year financial results show the telcom as having registered a 4.7 per cent rise in service revenue over last year's interim results.

The improvement is attributed to a strong performance in the data segment, a recovery in M-Pesa usage, and double-digit growth in revenue from fixed services.

Vodacom Tanzania managing director Philip Besimire said in his statement on the financials: "The decision by the government to review levies on mobile money transfer and withdrawal transactions introduced on 15 July 2021 is a welcome move."

"The reduction is particularly relevant to our peer-to-peer and cash-out transactions which posted a modest recovery in the second quarter and our ability to expand financial inclusion to more Tanzanians," he added.

The MD further explained that M-Pesa customers recovered to 7.7 million, up by 19.5 per cent, elaborating: "M-Pesa's revenue trajectory reflects Vodacom's ongoing focus on driving innovative services, leveraging strategic capabilities from the M-Pesa Africa hub, and accelerating opportunities in new growth areas including digital loans and overdraft services, insurance, and merchant payments."

He also noted that M-Pesa was selected as a partner of choice in assisting the government's initiative to disburse money to support poor families under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

The first six months of the financial year saw Vodacom Tanzania usher in a new digital era for customers with the launch of the country's first 5G network, a substantial innovation and technology milestone for the country.

It also invested 74.9bn/- in capital expenditure to support business growth and broadband coverage obligations.

The investment was directed towards network coverage, including 159 new 4G sites and 63 initial 5G sites as well as capacity enhancement and infrastructure improvements.

The investment for that period supported a 30.1 per cent growth in data usage on the Vodacom network, with the MD noting: "More recently we secured a market-leading spectrum portfolio through an auction process."

He described the investment as key to the firm's network leadership expansion as well as future investment ambitions such as 5G, "both critical for bridging the digital divide and delivering on our purpose of connecting people to a better future".

From a commercial standpoint, Vodacom's customer base increased by 5.1 per cent, amounting to 16.0 million.

The number of data users meanwhile rose by 1.2 per cent to 8.0 million, both owing to the significant investment made in the same period.

The number of smartphone users grew by 18.2 per cent to 4.7 million, equal to 58.8 per cent of the number of the firm's data users. Likewise, the firm's market share grew by 0.8 per cent - to 30.5 per cent.

"Looking ahead, we remain positive on the potential to deliver growth and shareholder value, while also focusing on our social contract and purpose," said MD Besimire.

He noted that the firm was "well positioned to contribute towards Tanzania's economic growth and improved societal living standard", adding: "We will continue leveraging on our capabilities to offer segmented multi-products through our 'systems of advantage', enabled by our strong customer value management and machine learning platforms."

He explained that Vodacom continued to leverage its "Tech for Good" platforms M-Kulima and m-mama to deliver on its social contract and purpose pillars.

M-Kulima is designed to provide farmers with digital agricultural services including cashless electronic payments, market information, and weather forecasts through mobile devices.

It is now available to 1.3 million registered farmers, an over nine-fold increase in the past six months achieved through a partnership with the Agriculture ministry. Meanwhile, m-mama provides emergency transportation services to expectant mothers and newly born infants in rural Tanzania, chiefly to combat maternal mortality rate.

"We will continue investing in our operations, and through our services, focus on changing the lives in the community in which we operate and support Tanzania's economic progress," said the MD, adding: "We believe that accelerating data adoption, smartphone penetration, digital and financial services are essential for delivering on our purpose."

He saw the future making it possible for the mobile financial services provider of a wide range of communication services to over 15 million customers to engage in "continued dialogue and engagement with the government on various matters of interest to our industry".

These include the regulatory environment, spectrum resources, tax and levies, and opportunities to participate in and support the government towards attaining the UN sustainable development goals.

NMB rewards first batch of MastaBata IV winners



NMB Bank Dar es Salaam Zone manager Donatus Richard (C) presses a computer button to search for the first winner of the first draw of NMB MastaBata - kote kote campaign that is aiming at emphasizing on using NMB MasterCard's, scanning QR codes and online payments as means of payments. The draw witnessed 75 winners emerging with 100,000/- each and one winning a motorcycle. Right is NMB senior manager for card business, Manfredy Kayala, and left is the bank's Mlimani City Branch Manager, Deogratius Kawonga. Photo courtesy of NMB Bank

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has picked the first weekly winners of this year's edition of the MastaBata reward campaign who won prizes worth nearly 11m/- in a raffle held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

Whereas one of the 76 winners of the digital finance competition won a Boxer motorcycle whose current market prize is over 3m/-, the other 75 each took home 100,000/-.

The 7.5 m/- weekly cash prizes are part of the 173m/- the lender has allocated as prize money for the NMB MastaBata, Kote-Kote! promotion. The 10 boxers to be won every week and the four during the two monthly draws of the campaign will be worth some 42m/-.

During the 10 weeks drive to promote digital payments and entice usage of NMB Mastercard electronic cards, over 300m/- prizes will be won by 854 lucky

winners.

"The reward package for the 2022 MastaBata campaign comprises weekly and monthly cash prizes as well as motorcycles for the victorious customers plus a jackpot, which will be a luxurious trip for 14 people," the NMB Dar es Salaam Zone Manager, Donatus Richard, observed.

The zonal leader made the statement before the draw to pick the first batch of winners of the fourth version of the MastaBata series at the lender's Mlimani City Branch. Richard said the grand prize will be a four-day trip to Dubai for seven winners and their partners.

In the monthly draws, four motorcycles will be won and 98 customers will each pocket 1m/-. The MastaBata Kote-Kote campaign was launched late last month in Mbeya to principally promote increased use of NMB Mastercard and Masterpass QR by NMB customers.

Mr Richard said the campaign's

Kote Kote tag means NMB digital payment cards can be conveniently used to make transactions and withdraw cash within and without the country.

"This campaign is a continuation of the initiatives we continue to undertake to motivate and encourage Tanzanians to increase usage of digital payment cards and reduce hard cash transactions," he noted.

According to him, the investments NMB is making in the electronic payments space are part of its contribution to support efforts of the government and the national agenda to make Tanzania a cashless society that is supported by a national digital economy.

The bank debuted the MastaBata campaign series in 2018 to drive increased use of NMB MasterCard and NMB Mastercard QR by its customers. Season one was dubbed MastaBata, then followed MastaBata Sio Kawaida and last

year it was MastaBata - Kivyako-Vyako. NMB wants to use the biggest chunk of this year's rewards to empower winners economically by boosting their incomes.

And that is exactly what the first winner of MastaBata IV, Asumwise Stallone Mwajeka of Iringa, said he will use Boxer for by carrying produce from his farms.

The season's second winner, Dar es Salaam resident Benard Lucas Matiku, expressed similar economic empowerment sentiments after being told that he had won the first cash prize of the promotion.

Speaking earlier, NMB's Card Business Senior Manager Manfredy Festo Kayala said the MastaBata series are a joint effort with digital payments giant Mastercard International of the US.

He said apart from promoting digital finance, NMB has also been using the competition to reward loyal customers by sharing with them part of the profits it makes.

DCB emerges winner in the year's 'Consumer Choice Awards Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

DCB Commercial Bank has emerged the winner and announced as the most preferred domestic bank on customer service (Mid-sized) in the 2022 Consumer Choice Awards Africa (CCAA).

Speaking soon after receiving the award in Dar es Salaam during the weekend, DCB managing director, Godfrey Ndalawha said that the victory was the result of great improvement they have made in service provision.

He said the award has come at a right time when the bank is celebrating its 20 years anniversary.

"On behalf of the DCB family, I would like to thank our customers and the public for voting us as the best bank in the country for providing the customer care best services, receiving this award increases our happiness as we continue to celebrate the 20 years of our bank anniversary," he said.

Ndalawha said: "We are so thrilled with this and we promise our customers to continue expanding services to reach more people with quality and affordable services."

He said the DCB family members consider the award as a motivation to be proactive and innovative in serving its customers better and meet their expectations.

This is the second time for DCB to win this award, although for the first time in 2021 the bank emerged the second winner of the awards that aim at bringing competition between various companies and businesses in Africa, encouraging the provision of quality services and products to customers as well as recognizing excellent service providers.



Innocent Mungu (4th R), Head of Government Communications Unit, Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, presents the 2022 Consumer Choice Award Africa (CCAA), Most Preferred Domestic Bank at Customer Service (Mid-sized) first winner prize to DCB Bank board member, Dr. Amina Baamary during this year edition of the CCAA's grand finale in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Fourth left is DCB's managing director, Godfrey Ndalawha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Ecobank Tanzania managing director Charles Asiedu (R) hands over various items in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to CCBRT managing director Brenda Msangi in support of women with Fistula. Photo: Courtesy of Ecobank Tanzania.

Ecobank leads financial literacy for women, marginalised communities

By Francis Kajubi

ECOBANK has celebrated its tenth annual Ecobank Day of providing esteemed banking services in Tanzania as it brings the services even closer to its customers.

Ecobank Tanzania, an affiliate of the leading pan-African banking group, the Ecobank Group, celebrated its annual day on Saturday in Dar es Salaam with the theme 'Leave no one behind! Financial inclusion for all.'

Ecobank Day is the bank's flagship event, when staff members give back to their local communities across Africa. This year's focus has been on the importance of financial inclusion, and the crucial role that financial literacy plays in empowering women and youth, especially in marginalised communities.

Ecobank Tanzania Managing Director Charles Asiedu said in a statement that this year's celebration the bank has partnered with the Network of Africa Businesswomen Tanzania chapter (NABW-TA) under Graca Machel Trust to make everything possible for businesswomen.

"We are joining forces to ensure that we are reaching the maximum number of women and youth in our communities so that we can help establish equal access to financial knowledge and tools," said Asiedu in the statement.

According to him, the bank is determined to help raise financial literacy which in turn will drive financial inclusion in the local communities.

"We are committed to giving people the necessary knowledge and skills to address essential everyday money decisions, such as budgeting and saving;

Doing so will help them improve their finances, increase their ability to successfully start and run businesses and improve their quality of life," said Asiedu.

He said that Ecobank Day was first held in 2013, focusing each year on a specific theme. These have been Education for young people in Africa (2013); Malaria prevention and control (2014); Every African child deserves a better future (2015); ICT education in schools and improving maternal health (2016).

In 2017 it was celebrated under the theme 'Safe water management' and Orphanages in 2018. Ecobank Day then had a three-year campaign on Non-Communicable Diseases, with the focus on Cancer in 2019 while in 2020 the focus was on Diabetes and Mental health in 2021.

The statement reads that the bank's activities and initiatives in this year's celebration is conducting a financial inclusion seminar to NABW-TA under Graca Machel Trust and donation to support women and youth with fistula challenges at CCBRT hospital.

"At the bank we offer a comprehensive suite of services and solutions to our consumer, commercial, corporate and investment banking clients at five branches, seven ATMs and 402 Xpress point agencies," said Asiedu.

The Ecobank Group was established in 1985 to contribute to financial integration and socio-economic development in Africa. With a presence in 35 sub-Saharan African countries as well as in France, the UK, UAE and China, the Group has unrivalled expertise and experience across Africa.

Tanzania-Angola business forum to witness new bilateral relations

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Ambassador of Angola to Tanzania Sandro De Oliveira has said Tanzania and Angola are working on establishing a business forum to be launched in Dar es Salaam next year.

Speaking at the commemoration of the 47th Angola's national independence anniversary held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, he said the Tanzania-Angola Business Forum is slated for the first half of 2023.

"We recognize the pressing need to establish a platform for regular direct contact between the business communities from the two countries, as they are the engine of trade exchanges between States," said De Oliveira.

He believes that such interaction will build investors' trust who will be able to take advantage of the business and investment opportunities available on both sides.

"We are encouraged by the level of trade exchanges that we have been witnessing since 2019, mostly in terms of products exported from Tanzania to Angola, however, these statistics are far below the level of its real potential", he said.

Ambassador Oliveira said complementing the fundamental initiatives which have already been implemented, the experience of Tanzanian businesspeople can be an added value to the development of the agriculture and tourism sectors, among others previously mentioned, with strong probabilities of success.

He said they also have investment opportunities in areas with great margin of progress, namely in the increase of capacity to generate and distribute electricity and the supply of water in cities, farmlands and industrialized zones; in land and railway transportation; in digital finance and information and communication technologies.

He also said they have an opportunity to create the Tanzania-Angola Chamber of Commerce to support the establishment of

companies, provide a forum for consultation and research, enable greater direct contact between businesses, promote and disseminate the existing opportunities in various sectors and boost transnational trade.

Therefore, we challenge the Tanzanian businesspeople to create this important chamber.

Narrating, he said Angola, in its foreign policy, will continue to advocate for the principles of good neighbours and mutually beneficial cooperation between States.

It equally supports the recourse to dialogue for conflict resolution and it has been following with concern the prevailing conflicts on the African continent and beyond, he said.

"Angola is ready to share its experience in this field and to contribute to the pacification and stabilisation of the southern and great lakes regions in particular and of the African continent in general", he added.

He said they will continue to work towards the reinvigoration of the excellent relations with the United Republic of Tanzania for the socio-economic benefit of their Peoples.

According to him, Agoala set by the Angolan government within the definition of its foreign policy identify the United Republic of Tanzania as an essential partner in the framework of the integration of southern African countries, free movement of people and goods, as well as cooperation at the level of sectors that promote development and social wellbeing, and these goals are treated by us with due seriousness and responsibility.

"In this regard, we have multiple agreements under negotiation that will establish the legal basis on which a new era of cooperation between our two States will be built", he said.

The envoy noted that it remains their priority to operationalize the railway corridor between Lobito and Dar es Salaam, thereby establishing a connection between the Atlantic and Indian oceans, with the potential

of aiding an increase in intercontinental trade.

"We would like to reiterate our readiness to undertake at least two experimental journeys, as soon as the logistical and institutional conditions are in place, for which, we count on Tanzania's collaboration" he said.

According to him, the referred railway link can tremendously facilitate the movement of people, the importation and exportation of goods between sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and America, therefore it may contribute in the reduction of transaction costs and product delivery times, especially for landlocked countries.

He stated that the Lobito-Dar es Salaam corridor will easily integrate into the regional and sub-regional transport networks, and may promote the functioning of a pan-African interlink with multimodal transportation.

"It is expected that the functioning of a regular train between Tanzania and Angola, passing through Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, will create many direct and indirect jobs besides encouraging the emergence of various investments and businesses along the corridor principally in terms of service provision to the respective railway authorities and to the passengers", he underlined.

He pledged that the Angolan government will continue committed to solving the various challenges faced by its society, with particular focus on the social sector and the wellbeing of the populations.

We expect increased investments on health, housing, education, basic sanitation, potable water, electricity and environmental conservation, he said.

"Following the conquest of independence and peace, the great challenge ahead of us is that of economic development, and the Angolan government has been engaged in improving the business environment with the aim of attracting foreign investment and of a more

equitable distribution of the national income", he said.

Angola understands that is essential to open and diversify the economy, without relinquishing the need to maintain oil at the level of importance it deserves, and in this regard it needs to explore the various enormous natural resources which abound in the country, such as: water, fertile land, forests, land, maritime and fluvial fauna, mines and ornamental rocks, tourist attractions, among others.

He said all of these resources are the basis for the development of agriculture, mineral exploration, forestry, livestock, fishing, trade, industry, construction, tourism and all else that enables the fight against poverty, creation of jobs and guarantees internal consumption as well as exports.

In 2011 the oil sector was responsible for 42 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 10 years later, the oil sector contributed 28 percent. And the next National Development Plan 2023-2027 will be developing and promoting actions that aim at maintaining the contribution from the oil sector around 20 percent. This is the path for the economic diversification of Angola, where the agribusiness sector has been a catalyst.

Agribusiness, with the objective of the government in placing Angola among the greatest African producers of grains, especially maize, wheat and soybean, will be the great determinant of our economy's growth.

The historic ties between our two Peoples and States demand tremendous work with the aim of elevating the current commercial and cultural exchanges to a strategic level.

We would like to once again reaffirm our compromise to work tirelessly towards writing a new and brilliant page in the history of the relations between the Republic of Angola and the United Republic of Tanzania, he concluded.

\$2million in prizes awarded at COP27 to African youth-led businesses

By Guardian Reporter

TWENTY African youth-led enterprises have won grant funding of up to \$100,000 each in this year's African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT) competition.

In addition to the grant, each winner benefits from a 12-month accelerator program to help them grow their businesses, deepen their impact and create decent jobs.

The annual competition and awards program for youth-led enterprises—which is 50% women-led—is jointly organized by the Global Center on Adaptation, the African Development Bank and Climate Investment Funds (CIF). The program is part of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program YouthADAPT flagship pillar (link is external).

The program boosts sustainable job creation by supporting entrepreneurship and youth-led innovations in climate change adaptation and resilience across Africa. The competition invites young entrepreneurs and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in Africa to submit innovative solutions and business ideas that can drive climate change



Hadi Sirika, Minister of Aviation

adaptation and resilience. Speaking at the awards ceremony, African Development Bank Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, said: "Africa's needs cannot be ignored. The youth must be at the center of everything we are doing about climate change. No young person is too young to engage in climate dialogue. Our young people must be part of the solution. They are creative, dynamic, and engaging. They are futuristic and must be part of the solution for climate adaptation in Africa."

"We want the youth to speak for Africa and develop solutions for the continent. For this initiative

last year, we supported 10 youth-owned and youth-led businesses in Africa with \$1 million. This year, we are supporting 20 businesses with \$2 million. So, we can expect that next year, we will double efforts to \$4 million dollars. That's the way it's going to go for Africa."

Adesina observed that 80% of the winners' businesses were in agriculture. He said: "Agriculture is the future of Africa. As you know, that has been my gospel for many decades. The lowest bar is for Africa to feed itself. The high bar is for Africa to feed the world. Agriculture is a business. I encourage our young

people to do three things: Create, Adapt and Prosper. CAP for short."

Norway's Minister of International Development Anne Beathe Tvinning commended the enthusiasm that the competition generated among the youth. She said it is important to tailor climate solutions that could be scaled up for the various communities.

"That is where the youth of Africa come in - you see the problem; you see the solutions and you have the energy and the resources to deliver and we want to help you with that," She said. She commended the African Development Bank and

the Global Adaptation Center for creating the initiative.

Professor Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation spoke about the impact of the award on one of last year's winners, Juveline Ngum Ngwa from Bamenda in Cameroon who was able to scale up her business, Bleglee Waste Management. As a result of last year's grant, she was able to open a second waste sorting factory and has developed further software for her drones which identify garbage which is blocking drainage systems.

He remarked: "Adaptation is good business. But it needs to be at scale. And that is exactly what the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program - the AAAP - does. The AAAP is mobilizing \$25 billion over five years to scale up and accelerate adaptation climate adaptation actions across Africa. And one of its four pillars is the YouthADAPT flagship program."

The winning enterprises of the Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge 2022 come from all parts of the continent. Half are female led. They are scaling innovations in critical social and economic sectors affected by climate change. These

include agriculture, waste management, water resources and sanitation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The 2022 winners of the African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge—Flushh, Namibia, Green Impact Technologies (Malawi), AgriTech Analytics (Kenya), Baramoda (Egypt), Cassavita (Cameroon), Eco-barter (Nigeria), Farmer Lifeline Technologies (Kenya), GroCircular Agro Services (Nigeria), IRIBA Water Group Ltd (Rwanda), Mpatsa Engineering Company Limited (formerly Sustainable Water Irrigation and Farming Technologies) (Malawi), Viva Organica (Botswana), Voltx for Engineering & Industries (Egypt), West African Feeds (Ghana), Kismoo Organics Limited (Kenya), Agroexpert farming (Senegal), Eurl Algerienne Des Industries Technologiques (Algeria), Lono, (Côte d'Ivoire), Pazelgreen Technologies (Nigeria), Akatale On Cloud (Uganda) and Multi-Tech Sustainable Solutions (MTTS), (Cameroon)

Program organizers received 3,000 applications for this year's competition. The top 50 were short-listed to pitch their innovations before a jury.

China trade fair expands African businesses' customer base finely

SHANGHAI

THE 2022 edition of the China International Import Exhibition (CIIE) has been concluded in Shanghai with good outcomes particularly to businesses that showcased their products and services.

The trade fair happened at a time, trade relations between China and Africa have been characterized by an imbalance. To tackle this challenge, China has opted to create a variety of opportunities for African countries to expand their wings. One such avenue is exhibitions like the CIIE.

And the exhibition appears to have been a success in this regard. Reports coming out of the trade fair show major contracts signed by Chinese and foreign companies participating in the exhibition exceeded \$73.5 billion.

This commitment by Chinese companies to buy goods and services from their foreign counterparts is in response to President Xi Jinping's promise to open up China's vast market to the world.

This value of transactions made in the six-day expo confirms that CIIE was a much-needed boost to businesses, especially from the developing nations, that have been struggling to find a footing following a wave of economic uncertainties brought about by the covid-19 outbreak.

"The fifth CIIE...displayed China's resolution in sharing growth opportunities with global businesses," said Sun Chenghai, the deputy director of CIIE Bureau.

The magnitude of deals signed during the world's largest import trade fair, according to organizers, will most likely keep it on a path to more success in the future, and which spells good news for all participating countries.

Among other initiatives, CIIE is steadily becoming a great platform for African companies to venture into China's vast market to showcase their products, promote their brands, and seek more business partners in the world's second-largest economy.

For African companies, the ad-

vantage is that there are opportunities already that have opened up and all they have to do is to ensure that they grab and exploit them. This is particularly so given that China has demonstrated a strong desire to work with African countries to improve their economies.

2800 exhibitors from 145 countries took part in the import fair. Compared to the previous years, companies from a good number of African countries, including Kenya, participated in the trade fair. These companies appear to have elected to use the CIIE as a stage to reach millions of customers.

The numbers, however, suggest that many companies are still struggling to come out and participate in the exhibition and which China hopes will change in the upcoming events.

"Glad to see African agricultural products have fascinated Chinese consumers at the 5th China International Import Expo. I hope more African products of high quality can be known and introduced to Chinese market through this open & inclusive platform," said Wu Peng, the Director General African Affairs at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CGTN confirmed that fresh Kenyan avocados, imported to China for the first time this year, stole the show at the exhibition. This coming at a time the Chinese have only been familiar with fresh avocados from the Philippines and Mexico. This kind of reception can only translate to a windfall to Kenyan farmers and businesses.

"Some buyers and dealers have reached out to us at the expo and told us to send them samples as soon as possible. I believe we can soon see Kenyan avocados in Chinese supermarkets," noted Vivian Wang Dole, China Marketing Director

Former economic adviser to the African Union Costantino Bt. Costantino, noted that CIIE would enable emerging economies in Africa and elsewhere with market opportunities in China as well as trade amongst themselves.



ITV	WEDNESDAY 16 Nov	FRIDAY 18 Nov	SUNDAY 13 Nov	CAPITAL
MONDAY 14 Nov 5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top Ten 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: TET 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:10 Soap rpt: Rebeca 14:40 Mipishi 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Abu yako rpt 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 DW: Afrimax 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Bundesliga na DW 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	WEDNESDAY 16 Nov 5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Uchumi wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Bundesliga rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt 14:15 Makala maalum: 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 DW: Afrimax rpt 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Abu Yako 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta 22:00 Ripoti maalum 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	FRIDAY 18 Nov 5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri Wako 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 KisiJam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Uchumi wetu 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	SUNDAY 13 Nov 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Our Earth 12:00 Dw News Africa rpt 12:30 Turning the spotlight 14:00 Telenovela: Laws Of love 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha kikiristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebeca 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo movie: 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera	CAPITAL Mon 14 Nov 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Club 101 rpt 11:00 Al Jazeera 12:00 Innovation 12:30 Culinary 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Tomorrow Today 18:30 Eco@Africa 19:00 Dw News Africa rpt 19:30 Meza huru 20:00 Our Earth Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera Frid 18 Nov 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Club 101 rpt 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Capchat 12:30 D ecor 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Dw News Africa rpt 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Out & About Rpt



WORLD

Democrats clinch control of US Senate with win in Nevada

PHOENIX

DEMOCRATS will hold onto control of the US Senate after Senator Catherine Cortez Masto won re-election in Nevada, Edison Research projected on Saturday, handing a major victory to President Joe Biden.

Still, Republicans remained close to winning control of the US House of Representatives as officials continued counting ballots cast in Tuesday's US midterm elections.

Cortez Masto narrowly defeated Republican challenger Adam Laxalt, a former state attorney general who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

With Masto's victory on the heels of Democratic Senator Mark Kelly winning re-election in Arizona late on Friday, Democrats will control at least 50 Senate seats, with Vice President Kamala Harris able to break ties in the 100-member chamber.

"America showed that we believe in our democracy, that the roots of democracy are deep and strong," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, told a news conference.

The Senate is currently split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans. The newly elected Senate will be sworn in on Jan 3.

Continued control of the Senate means Democrats will still be able to approve Biden's nominees such as federal judges. Should a vacancy open in the next two years, that would mean any

appointees to the Supreme Court.

If Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock were to win the Dec 6 Georgia runoff election against Republican challenger Herschel Walker, that would expand Democrats' majority to 51-49. That would give Democrats an additional edge in passing the few bills that are able to advance with a simple majority of votes, instead of the 60 needed for most legislation.

It would also dilute the influence of Democratic Senators Joe Manchin in West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona, "swing" votes who have blocked or delayed some of Biden's major initiatives, including expansions of some social programs.

Washington state upset

It could take several days or more before the outcome of enough House races are known to determine which party will hold the majority in the 435-seat chamber. Republicans continued to have an edge, but returns were still flowing in for several races, including many in liberal-leaning California.

Biden, speaking in Cambodia, said his party would be focused on winning the Georgia Senate race but regarding the prospect of keeping control of the House he said: "It's a stretch."

House Republicans, should they prevail, have pledged to try to roll back Biden victories on battling climate change and want to make permanent a series of 2017 tax cuts that will expire.

In Nevada, Democrat Cisco Aguilar



In this file photo taken on Nov 10, 2022 US President Joe Biden celebrates after speaking at an event hosted by the Democratic National Committee to thank campaign workers, at Howard Theatre in Washington, DC. President Joe Biden's Democrats retained control of the US Senate on Nov 12, 2022, a remarkable midterms election result that defied predictions of a Republican "red wave" over both houses of Congress. AFP

won the race to be the state's next secretary of state, the top election official. He defeated Jim Marchant, a Republican who supported Trump's false claim that he lost the 2020 election to Biden because of voter fraud.

Democrats also defeated Republican candidates in Michigan and Arizona who had supported Trump's false claim and sought to be their state's top elections officials.

Democrats got an important boost late on Friday when Kelly, the Democratic senator for Arizona, was projected to hold onto his seat, defeating Republican Blake Masters, who like Laxalt was endorsed by Trump. Masters has not conceded the race.

"We've seen the consequences that come when leaders refuse to accept the truth and focus more on conspiracies of the past than solving the challenges that we face today," Kelly, a former Navy combat pilot and astronaut, said in a short victory speech to his supporters in Phoenix on Saturday.

No winner was projected yet in the race for Arizona governor, where Democrat Katie Hobbs held a narrow lead over Republican Kari Lake, another pro-Trump election denier.

Judicial nominations at stake

A Democratic-controlled Senate

will provide insurance to Biden that his nominees to fill dozens of federal judgeships will win confirmation. That would be particularly crucial to Democrats if a seat on the Supreme Court, which now has a 6-3 conservative majority, were to open up in the final two years of Biden's term.

When the outgoing Senate returns on Monday for a post-election work session that could run through late December, Schumer aims to immediately confirm two more federal judges awaiting final votes.

Hovering over the 2022 midterm elections all year has been Trump, who used his continued popularity among hard-right conservatives to influence the candidates the Republican Party nominated for congressional, gubernatorial and local races.

With Republicans' lackluster performance on Tuesday - even if they do win narrow majority control of the House - Trump has been blamed for boosting candidates who were unable to appeal to a broad enough electorate.

A Republican loss in Georgia could further dampen Trump's popularity as advisers say he considers announcing a third run for the presidency in 2024 this week.

Agencies

Parties to Ethiopia's conflict agree to facilitate humanitarian access - African Union

ADDIS ABABA

SENIOR commanders of the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have agreed to facilitate humanitarian access in conflict-hit parts of northern Ethiopia, the African Union (AU) said Saturday.

The parties to the conflict have agreed to promote unhindered humanitarian access for all in need in Tigray and neighboring regions, and facilitate the movement of humanitarian aid workers, the AU said in a statement released after a four-day senior commanders' meeting sponsored by the organization.

They have also agreed to provide security guarantees for aid workers and humanitarian organizations as well as protection for civilians in accordance with the provisions of the "permanent cessation of hostilities" agreement signed by the two sides on Nov. 2, said the AU.

Meanwhile, the parties have

agreed to establish a joint committee to implement a comprehensive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program, it said. Speaking highly of these confidence-building measures, the AU encouraged the two sides to stride towards the full implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement,

as part of overall efforts to end the conflict and restore peace, security and stability in Ethiopia. The second most populous nation in Africa has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the TPLF since November 2020, which has left millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

NATO hopes to play leading role in Asia-Pacific region - Lavrov

NATO has stopped claiming its defensive essence and now hopes to play a leading role in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters on Sunday following his participation in the East Asia Summit.

"NATO no longer says that it is a purely defensive alliance. It was a defensive alliance when the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact existed.

They have moved their line of defense since then, when there is no longer the Warsaw Pact or the Soviet Union. It is unclear from whom they were defending themselves.

They have moved this line of defense closer to our borders several times, and now they announced at the Madrid summit this summer that they have global responsibility and that the security of Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-

Pacific region are indivisible," the top diplomat said.

"That is, in fact, they are now claiming that they will play a leading role here (in the Asia-Pacific region - TASS) and are already shifting the so-called defense line to the South China Sea," Lavrov added.

The Russian foreign minister drew attention to a tendency to militarize the region by matching the efforts of local US allies, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, with an expanding NATO presence.

According to him, the Russian side frankly outlined its assessments at the East Asia Summit summit, and approaches similar to the Russian ones were voiced by Beijing as well.

"However, unfortunately, this will hardly make the US and its allies take into account the interests of most of



the countries that are here," Lavrov continued, "But we will continue to convey our position.

It is met with understanding within ASEAN, although there is no consensus in ASEAN as well on how to proceed in the security sphere in this region.

So if the goal is to sow doubt in ASEAN and try to undermine their monolithic position, then the Americans have achieved their goal."

The Russian top diplomat noted the position of most ASEAN countries, which, according to him, were focused on defending their own interests and not subordinating ASEAN's actions to the interests of extra-regional players.

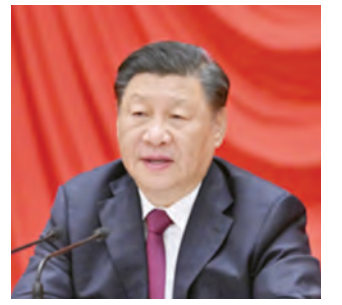
"Our partners highly estimate the position of Russia, the position of China, which are in favor of preserving the central role of ASEAN," Lavrov summarized.

Agencies

Xi delivers written remarks at global forum on food security

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping delivered a written speech at the International Forum on Hybrid Rice Assistance and Global Food Security, which was held Saturday in Beijing.



In his speech, Xi (pictured) noted that food security is fundamental to human survival. Half a century ago, hybrid rice was first successfully developed and planted widely in China. Thanks to this technology, China has managed to feed nearly 20 percent of the world's population with less than 9 percent of the world's arable land, and become the largest food producer and the third largest food exporter in the world.

From 1979, hybrid rice began to be introduced to the world, benefitting nearly 70 countries across five continents. This has been a remarkable contribution to their grain output increase and agricultural development, and offered a Chinese solution to food shortages in developing countries, Xi said.

At present, global food security faces severe challenges and complexities, China will continue to work with all countries in a spirit of solidarity and shared future to advance the Global Development Initiative, scale up cooperation on food security and poverty reduction, and make greater contribution to the speedy implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to building a world free from hunger and poverty, said the Chinese president.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the forum, where he read out the written message of Xi.

Wang said the recently-concluded 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China declared that China will make new contributions to human development with Chinese modernization and provide new opportunities for the world with China's new development.

Hybrid rice technology is a monument in the history of agricultural science and technology in China, which not only helps China achieve the miracle of food self-sufficiency, but also makes an important contribution to solving the global food shortage, Wang noted.

China has made food security one of the priority areas in implementing the Global Development Initiative, Wang said, adding that China is willing to make joint efforts with other countries and international organizations to make new and greater contributions to safeguarding world food security and achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The forum was co-hosted by the China International Development Cooperation Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration.

'Politicizing G20 special councils is unacceptable'

MOSCOW

TENDENCIES to politicize the work of the G20 specialized councils, particularly the Council of Ministers of Health, are unacceptable, as they put the responsibilities of developing the global health architecture in jeopardy, Russia's Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko said.

"I would like to point out that we are witnessing unfavorable tendencies toward the politicization of the work of the G20 specialized councils, particularly the Council of Ministers of Health, which is unacceptable and invalidates the agreements reached.

If the trend of political problems dominating industry issues continues, we risk failing to achieve our goals of strengthening global health architecture and achieving the highest level of global health," Murashko was quoted by the Ministry of Health.

Murashko also stated that Russia "strongly opposes" the criticism directed at Russia's special military operation by the G20 countries.

"The operation was aimed to protect people who did not recognize the anti-constitutional coup in Kiev in 2014 and have been subjected to military aggression over the past eight years," he said.

Agencies



China sees prosperous development of offshore wind power generation

THE first batch of wind turbines of an offshore wind farm in central Bohai Sea and 20 kilometers from the Dongying Port in east China's Shandong province were recently connected to the national power grid.

"It is the first offshore wind farm project in China that sells electricity without a subsidy," said Zhu Hai-fei, deputy general manager of the project from Shandong Energy, a state-owned coal-mining company headquartered in Jinan, capital of Shandong province.

Zhu introduced that the wind farm is expected to generate nearly 1.7 billion kilowatt hours of green electricity each year, which is equal to the reduction of 519,000 tons of standard coal and about 1.26 mil-

lion tons of CO2.

China has made outstanding achievements in developing offshore wind power in recent years. According to a report issued by the China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the country's installed capacity of renewable energy had reached 1.06 billion kilowatts as the end of 2021, accounting for 44.8 percent of the country's total installed capacity. Besides, China ranked first in the world in terms of installed capacity of offshore wind power.

Last year, 2,603 wind turbines were installed across the country, with a capacity of 14.48 million kilowatts, surging 276.7 percent year on year.

"It's a general trend to develop

offshore wind power. China enjoys rich resources and huge development potential of offshore wind, which has an important significance for ensuring energy security, promoting low-carbon development and achieving the 'dual carbon' goals," said Wang Man-chang, chairman of the China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) Haizhuang Windpower Co., Ltd.

He told People's Daily that offshore wind power, compared with onshore wind power, boasts richer wind resources, higher utilization hours, less occupation of land and water resources, and larger-scale development.

However, the construction of offshore wind farms is technically challenging, Wang noted that anti-

corrosion technology is key to offshore wind farms, and the design of chips and software is also a barrier. Besides, supporting facilities for offshore wind farms are more costly than those on land, he added.

China has rapidly improved its capability in the development and manufacturing of high-end marine engineering equipment.

In the recent years, a number of "China's first" and "world's largest" offshore wind power projects were unveiled.

On Oct. 13, a 13.6-megawatt offshore wind turbine rolled off the production line. It has the largest single-unit capacity in the Asia-Pacific region and the largest impeller diameter in the world.

On Sept. 28, China's first 2,000-ton-class offshore wind farm installation vessel Baihetan was delivered for operation. The giant ship, developed by CSSC Huangpu Wenchong Shipbuilding Company Limited, is the first one that meets the functional standards of the fourth generation of offshore wind equipment in China and the requirements of integrated construction operations, including self-lifting and self-navigation in deep waters. It will help make a deeper exploration of offshore wind power potential for China.

"The launches of new turbines and products indicated that Chinese enterprises have made progress in their manufacturing capabilities and are catching up with

world-class manufacturers," said Zhou Jianqi, head of the Enterprise Evaluation and Research Office of the Enterprise Research Institute at the Development Research Center of the State Council.

Zhou said China still needs more innovation in developing offshore wind farms. He suggested that the country support outstanding enterprises to establish intelligent experiment platforms and integrate industrial resources to strengthen areas of weakness, so as to enhance its capability in domestically producing wind power equipment. He also called for innovation in management, in particular strengthening the management capability of the supply chain.

People's Daily

UN chief calls for greater equality as world population hitting 8 billion

UNITED NATIONS

AS the world's population is approaching 8 billion, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday gave a review of the mixed implications, urging the world community to seize opportunities and take actions to bridge divides between the global haves and have-nots.

On Nov. 15, the world's population is projected to reach 8 billion people, having grown by 1 billion since 2010, according to a recent policy brief by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In an op-ed article published Friday by the USA Today newspaper, Guterres called the milestone "a testament to scientific breakthroughs and improvements in nutrition, public health and sanitation."

The 8-billion-strong world could yield enormous opportunities for some of the poorest countries, where population growth is highest, he said, adding that within a few decades, today's poorest countries could become engines of sustainable, green growth and prosperity across entire regions.

"But as our human family grows larger, it is also growing more divided," the UN chief warned. He noted that billions of people are struggling, hundreds of millions are facing hunger and even famine, and record numbers are on the move seeking opportunities and relief from debt and hardship, wars and climate disasters.

"Unless we bridge the yawning chasm between the global haves and have-nots, we are setting ourselves up for an 8-billion-strong world filled with tensions and mistrust, crisis and conflict," wrote Guterres.

As the world has grown richer and healthier in recent decades, the inequalities have grown too, he pointed out, citing a handful of billionaires controlling as much wealth as the poorest half of the world, and people in the richest countries can expect to live up to 30 years longer than those in the poorest. The accelerating climate crisis and the unequal recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are turbocharging inequalities.

The conflict in Ukraine is adding to ongoing food, energy and finance crises, hitting developing economies hardest. Anger and resentment against developed countries are reaching breaking points, Guterres said, while toxic divisions and lack of trust are causing delays and deadlock on issues from nuclear disarmament to terrorism to global health. "We must curb these damaging trends, repair relationships and find joint solutions to our common challenges," he stressed.

The UN chief expressed hopes that the ongoing UN COP27 climate conference in Egypt "will see a historic Climate Solidarity Pact under which developed and emerging economies unite around a common strategy and combine their capacities and resources for the benefit of humankind."

He called on wealthier countries to provide key emerging economies with financial and technical support to transition away from fossil fuels. He also urged the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) summit to be held in Bali, Indonesia, to adopt a stimulus package that will provide governments of the Global South with investments and liquidity, and address debt relief and restructuring.

The UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative is an essential part of the efforts to ease the global food crisis, Guterres said, noting that removing the remaining obstacles to the exports of Russian fertilizers is an essential step towards global food security.

"This month's big global meetups must be an opportunity to start bridging divides and restoring trust, based on the equal rights and freedoms of every single member of humanity's 8-billion-strong family," he wrote in the article.

UN COP27 climate conference in Egypt "will see a historic Climate Solidarity Pact under which developed and emerging economies unite around a common strategy and combine their capacities and resources for the benefit of humankind"



Russia has more weapons in its arsenal for use in Ukraine, Medvedev says

MOSCOW

TODAY, Russia is building an equal world order for the future and is fighting alone against the West, while protecting its citizens and returning its lands, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on Saturday.

"[I'd like] to reiterate that it is Russia who is protecting its citizens. And that it is this country who has been returning and has already returned Russian lands, not the other way round. And it will continue returning its lands," he wrote on his Telegram channel, summing up the result of 2022.

"It is Russia, and not the [United] States or Great Britain or the gloomy Kiev, who is building a future world order," and "such an equal world order will be built," he added. "Russia is fighting alone against NATO and the West, so drawing any parallels with the past is either incorrect or conventional," he maintained.

According to Medvedev, Russia is doing its best to save the lives of its service people and civilians while performing combat tasks. Commenting on the weapons being used by Russia in its special military operation in Ukraine, he said: "For reasons that are obvious to all sensible people, Russia has not yet used its entire arsenal of weapons. Nor has it hit all possible enemy targets in localities. <...> Everything in its time."

Medvedev concluded saying that only unity, everyday hard work and the highest morale would help the country to win.



Rwanda private investors optimistic about green investment facility



President Paul Kagame in a group photo during the launch of Ireme Invest, Rwanda's green investment facility, on the sidelines of COP27 in Egypt on Monday, November 7. Village Urugwiro

KIGALI

THE newly launched Rwandan government green investment facility will boost green financing by unlocking new spending for the country's response to climate change, according to private investors.

Dubbed Ireme Invest, the investment facility with 104 million U.S. dollars in initial capitalization was launched earlier this week by President Paul Kagame on the sidelines of the ongoing United Nations climate change conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The government's initiative was launched through the Rwanda Green Fund and the Development Bank of Rwanda with support from a range of other development partners.

"As players in the e-mobility sector, it is a capital-intensive business. It requires investment and we hope the Ireme Invest facility offers us an opportunity for scalability," Donald Kabanda, the Chief Executive of Rwanda Electric Motors Ltd, told Xinhua.

"We are enthusiastic to get more funding to contribute toward the targets of cutting carbon emission through e-transport. The company is ready to scale up, we have trained human resource and it is well positioned based on our business model to tap into the new investment facility once it becomes operational," he said.

The company helps commercial mo-

torcycle operators who wish to retrofit their bikes to environmentally friendly ones.

Emmanuel Hakizimana, an official at Ampersand, Africa's electric motorcycles company working in Rwanda to assemble electric motorcycles, also said the facility will enhance the private sector's contribution to the country's response to climate change.

"The facility will ease access to needed green investment funds. Putting more e-motorcycles on the road or setting more battery swap stations all require money yet for startups in green business without collateral, it is not easy to acquire loans from banks," Hakizimana said.

Ireme Invest is poised to offer a range of financial instruments tailored to meet the needs of Rwanda's private sector.

Information from the Rwanda Green Fund shows that the facility has several financing instruments and two windows that will work in an integrated approach.

A project preparation facility at the Rwanda Green Fund will offer grants to cover early-stage project activities to move projects from feasibility to bankability while a credit facility embedded within the Development Bank of Rwanda will offer credit guarantees and concessional loans.

Rwanda has set an ambitious climate action agenda that the government hopes will build the country's resilience and foster green growth.

To hit the goals, the country needs investments worth 11 billion U.S. dollars, according to the Ministry of Finance.

Teddy Mugabo, the Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Green Fund, said achieving Rwanda's ambitious climate action goals requires significant financial resources and collective stakeholders' engagement.

"We are delighted to bring together public and private funding to boost the country's efforts to address climate change. Ireme Invest will be a one-stop center for private sector-led green investments that will spur innovative green climate solutions," she said.

According to officials, the facility will strengthen the country's ownership of climate finance and build the green finance capacity of local banks through innovation, risk mitigation, and deal arrangements.

Kampeta Sayinzoga, the Chief Executive Officer of the Development Bank of Rwanda, described the Ireme facility as a truly unique green financing initiative that positions the private sector in the driver's seat of Rwanda's green growth while unlocking sustainable finance for the country's banking sector.

"Climate change is a global crisis and everyone needs to play their role. That's why we are delighted to work with a range of partners who have supported this impactful initiative," she said.

The facility was designed to support Rwanda to achieve its climate and development goals as well as create green jobs through investments in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and e-mobility.

Private sector companies operating in Rwanda will have the opportunity to partner with Ireme Invest from early 2023.

Investing in such sectors is hoped to drive Rwanda's green growth and recovery through the creation of a more resilient and sustainable society.

Rwanda's launch of Ireme Invest will foster private sector-led green growth and increase access to green finance in the country, said Ahunna Eziakonwa, Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa.

Rwanda has cut 126,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over the last nine years owing to climate resilience investments. **Xinhua**

Uganda coffee legacy, from culture to commercialisation

BULAMBULI

FAR away from the coffee aroma in a cafe in Chicago, London, or Guangzhou, in the remote mountainous village of Kikobero, Bulambuli district, eastern Uganda, Samwiri Nangoli tends to his coffee trees, a skill set passed onto him by his forefathers.

From his childhood, the 75-year-old Nangoli, just like many children in the neighborhood, was taught that coffee is the major source of income to a family. It is a family tradition passed down from generation to generation. In this part of the east African country, when a boy is being initiated into adulthood, he is given several coffee trees as a startup to a new life.

And so did Samwiri pass on the skill to Martin Nangoli, who now travels the world's major capitals selling specialty coffee from this remote village tucked on the slopes of the extinct Mount Elgon, shared by Uganda and Kenya.

Nangoli told Xinhua in a recent interview that during the political turmoil in the 1970s, he used to scale the mountain and smuggle coffee to neighboring Kenya. "It was a difficult time, I had to smuggle coffee in order for my children to survive.

Through the earnings, I managed to provide basic necessities like salt, and sugar and also pay their tuition fees," Nangoli said. Years on, his son Nangoli introduced better farming skills in the village which increased the coffee yields.

Through his organization, Kikobero Coffee, the village now exports coffee to London and is now targeting new markets like the Balkans.

Some of the coffee proceeds have been used to build two pri-



mary schools in the village in efforts to increase the literacy level among youngsters.

Some parents who can not afford to pay school fees are encouraged to bring coffee to the school administration as a form of payment, according to Nangoli. Kilometers away, in Kween district, Alfred Boyo Mashandich, a retired medical doctor supervises the coffee value chain right from the tree to the point of export.

Mashandich, who also runs a coffee company, Masha Coffee, which buys from dozens of farmers, in an interview with Xinhua, referred to coffee as the backbone of families in most of rural Uganda.

He reminisces about the olden days when he together with his siblings, under the guidance of their father, tended to the coffee trees. It was from this coffee that they derived their livelihood. "Coffee is a culture. We all grew up when our parents were growing coffee. Ourselves, we inherited part of our coffee farms from our parents," Mashandich said. "Back then it

was on subsistence, what we are trying to do is to bring it to a commercial scale," he added.

Mashandich has a mini coffee processing plant in his compound and the majority of the workers are youths. Mashandich argues that there must be a deliberate effort to involve young people in the coffee value chain.

"We would like to have coffee produced sustainably and there is no way you can do that if you don't involve young people," he said. "Involving them along the value chain is extremely important. They begin to see the value, they begin to see it as a productive enterprise."

Eunice Chekaptui, 29, a coffee enthusiast, argued that coffee takes three to four years before harvesting starts. She said most of the youths are not that patient, they want quick money. "If you look at the trend, majority of the coffee farmers are actually elderly people, so you find that if we don't involve the young, the chain may cut at some point," Chekaptui said, noting that the youths need to

look at coffee farming as a business. "If you show them the economics involved, if you grew one acre of coffee versus one acre of Irish potatoes, the difference is way too big," she said, noting that once the coffee matures, one can keep harvesting for a period of 10 years, from the same coffee trees.

The government is now urging farmers to scale up coffee farming with a target to increase production to 20 million bags by 2030, and triple the income of 1.7 million households that derive their livelihood from coffee.

According to the country's coffee roadmap, the government is targeting to reap up to 2.2 billion U.S. dollars per year from the sector by 2030.

Apart from the traditional markets in Europe and U.S., Uganda is now looking at new markets like China and the Balkans. For the traditional markets, coffee enterprises are now focused on specialty coffee, a coffee process monitored from the tree to the cup.

In specialty coffee, farmers are not allowed to use agrochemicals to spray pests and diseases. The coffee cherries are carefully hand-picked and dried. Janet Chekwoti, a smallholder farmer, said while the process of taking care of specialty coffee is tedious, it fetches premium prices which have improved farmers' livelihood. **Xinhua**



The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager Irene Mutiganzi (R) speaks at a panel discussion during the 2023 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon launch function which took place in Dar es Salaam. Sitting (L) is the Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager takes Kili Marathon to greater heights

By Guardian Correspondent

THERE is no turning back for Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, when it comes to supporting athletics, as the brand reflects on the achievements and the impact that it has had so far in the prestigious Kilimanjaro Marathon for the last 21 years that this popular international athletics event has been in existence.

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager has been Kili Marathon's main sponsor since the race's inception in 2003, the very first event attracted hardly 500 social runners who stuck together year after year and made it one of the biggest sporting events in the region.

No doubt that the brand has played a key role in making the event consistent because the sponsorship has never been suspended at any one time during the entire 21 years of the showdown hence making it the longest sponsorship in any sporting event in Tanzania.

Irene Mutiganzi is the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager who says numerous elements have inspired them to continue supporting the event over the years and among the key elements are the people who also happen to be the brand's valued customers.

Irene notes: "As we all know the event attracts thousands of people from more than 55 countries across the world. Some come to run while others come to have fun with some cold Kili Lagers."

"This is why we are proud to be associated with this event dubbed 'The people's race' that also helps to promote Tanzania globally," she says.

According to Irene, the brand has also been inspired by the development of athletics, the growth of tourism, and cultural promotion as a whole - which the event helps promote in complementing the government's endless efforts.

She says participants have confidence in the event due to the good organization and professionalism portrayed by the main organizers.

"This has also been one of the key motivators for us as the main sponsors and I believe other sponsors have been greatly inspired by this too," she states.

Irene wants Tanzanians and visitors to travel to Moshi town in Kilimanjaro Region and have a lifetime experience under the splendor of the snow-capped mountain as they look forward to a bigger and more exciting Marathon that will leave behind great memories.

"The ambiance in Moshi during the Kilimanjaro Marathon is something no one would want to miss that is why by now most people have already booked hotels and they are training hard ready for the February

26, 2023 event at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) ground," she says.

The Kili Marathon weekend is according to Irene always full of fun and flair with 'nyama chomas', exciting promotions, and musical events featuring artists at different locations that pull crowds courtesy of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager.

"This is what most of the participants want and for next year's race they are in for a good surprise as we have more interesting items in stock but we will announce later as the event approaches," she says.

The Brand Manager says they are well prepared for the 21st edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon and have set aside 22, 760, 000/- in prize money with the top winners in both the male and female categories walking home with 4.2m/- apiece.

They are proud that as a brand they have been able to make the 42km race more popular among Tanzanians.

A race that used to attract hardly 200 runners is now, according to Irene, attracting over 800 runners with Tanzanians starting to dominate this long race.

She has a special appeal to fellow sponsors to register for the corporate challenge which will see them get to run as a group and the organizers will calculate their average time and announce the winners after the race.

"This is a unique way of bringing us together as employees for team building and also encouraging fitness and a healthy lifestyle in general," she says.

She acknowledges the role of other sponsors, including Tigo-21km, Grand Malt-5km water table sponsors Simba Cement, TPC Sugar, Kili Water, and official suppliers Garda World, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, and CMC Automobiles.

She says apart from sponsors, other stakeholders like The Ministry for Sports, Kilimanjaro Local Authorities, Athletics Tanzania, Kilimanjaro Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA), the Police Force, media, and tourism stakeholders also have played quite an instrumental role in ensuring the successful hosting of Kili Marathon events over the years.

For Irene, it is not just about running but the fun and the memories galore that come with it and Kilimanjaro Premium Lager is ready to take this event to greater heights as it marks 21 years of existence. The next event will take place on February 26, next year.

Kilimanjaro Marathon is organized by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Ltd.

Nabi rises to career epic, hosts Yanga players at home before a miracle

By Correspondent John Kimbute

YOUNG Africans 'Yanga' head coach Nasreddine Nabi, who is among the top coaches in the CAF Champions League contests for most of the past two decades, is unlikely to have been aware that he was on a sort of career epic, despite having bagged even the title of the current tournament with Sudanese clubs in particular.

The only way in which this would not be a special moment is if he conducted a similar feat with one of those clubs. Then it would be a characteristic of his career, reaffirmed again.

It would thus need a bit of investigation to find out how often this sort of situation has come about in his career, being an odds underdog and his fan base having mentally surrendered to fate, and their ardent hopes for his stewardship largely evaporating.

Yet he comes up with a game plan to stop the opposition from ensuring cohesive play, using player location and either confrontation or pressing techniques such that just one player used a unique opportunity. It was all they needed.

What was interesting about the goal scored by Yanga's inside left Stephane Aziz Ki against Club Africain is that it was almost identical to a goal scored by Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies' side against Simba Queens SC in a pulsating 2022 CAF Women's Champions League semi-final in the Moroccan capital of Rabat, not far from where Nabi and his team were being hosted by Tunisian side Club Africain in 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round's return leg.

An excellent forward in Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies' side, Boitumelo Rabale, connected an assist by a midfielder, hitting the rolling ball with her left foot and into the nets, to win the tie.

That was also what Aziz Ki did, a situation that has been seen countless times in major competitions, like a famous rebounder at a final of the UEFA Champions League when Real Madrid star player and later coach, Zinedine



Yanga's head coach Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Zidane, raised his left foot high in the air to hit with a swerve the oncoming ball, to a far side of the goal posts.

There are similar situations, where the reflex of hitting a rolling ball with speed and accuracy leaves little room for either defenders or goalies to get organized.

That the two engaging encounters of the late Wednesday night soccer festival were settled in the same manner bespeaks of the prowess of both Tanzanian clubs in the African tournaments.

With the Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies' win, it signals that Simba Queens SC was sufficiently well drilled to stop all formations of scoring except for that sort of unstoppable use of the opportunity.

The same for Yanga, to stop the usual scoring formations from their determined opponents and use a rare connect to win.

In that case, the Wednesday qualifying matches of local

football, where the city rivals competed at different levels, ended in identical results but the city rivals' sides stood on different ends of the results spectrum.

However the results were consonant with the prior standing of the teams, as by rapid comparison Simba Queens SC was seen as neatly lower down the pack when confronted with the South African side, but with sheer determination, they sealed out scoring chances, but for a flip shot that was by any standards or measure both unpredictable and in that sense shows the prowess of the side obtaining and using that singular opportunity.

Yet the situation looks like it is another affirmation of the lucky stars of the pivotal individuals who brought about this moment, though finally, it is the entire team, the full technical bench, the club leadership, and the fan base.

Without intense, constant

pressure from the fan base and the clear non-acceptability of the Nabi stewardship, unless he could pull the miracle, chances are that the Newtonian reality, seeing Club Africain dominating Yanga as gravity, a natural situation, would prevail.

The fan base did not reject that situation because they knew the side could do it, but as it threw on paved roadside their dreams, for their next street rivals to trample upon.

Given the fact that coach Nabi was hired before by Sudanese and other Premier League clubs to realize their dreams in continental competitions, it is a matter of casual survey whether this is the fifth or perhaps the sixth time he has been asked to take over a premier league side and succeeded to take it to the group stage of continental tournaments.

The situation is also true of Aziz Ki, who like strike partner Fiston Kalala Mayele has been something of a dream striker, twice.

Mayele finished off the city rivals Simba SC first in a Community Shield encounter, and then in a league derby, while the Burkinabe midfielder has done so with a free kick in the derby and now a virtual free kick at the return leg of the second tour of preliminary rounds.

As in the previous instance, what was at issue was not firstly the issue of qualifying to the group stage, as Yanga could be improved in the January transfer window to be somewhat assured of the Premier League title (in their view at least) and in the main transfer window to prepare for the continental tour. It was their pride that was at stake.



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Mohamed Mchengera (4th L) executes a jump off to mark the start of this season's CRDB Bank Taifa Cup basketball tournament's women's category final between Dar es Salaam and Unguja at Bandari courts in Tanga last weekend. Standing (6th L) is CRDB Bank's Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar Boxing Derby set to involve 30 boxers

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

A total of 30 boxers last week did a medical examination in Dar es Salaam for final preparations for boxing bouts, termed 'Dar Boxing Derby', slated for November 20 at the Kinesia Stadium in the city.

Some of the pugilists lining up for the bouts are domestic boxers Ally Ngwando of Manzese and Ismail Boyka from Gonga Mboto that will take on each other in the day's main card.

The fights' entrance fees have been set at 5,000/- and 10,000/- for each of the sport's followers that will buy tickets at the entrance, whereas each VIP seat will cost 15,000/-.

The organizer of the 'Dar

Boxing Derby' Bakari Khatibu disclosed they had last week completed the first exercise for conducting medical examinations for all boxers before the bouts which are eagerly awaited by the sport's fans.

"We have already completed the first part of the preparation by conducting medical examination for all boxers as per the rules and regulations of professional boxing in this country," Khatibu revealed.

"The important issue is that we want to tell the fans we have been operating efficiently because they should not expect to see Kinesia Stadium having been arranged akin to the venue's arrangement previously," the orga-

nizer noted.

"We have planned to have a unique approach when it comes to arrangement, and those who will buy VIP tickets will get the exact status," Khatibu said.

Some of the boxers for 'Dar Boxing Derby' who had medical examinations is a prominent boxer, Karim Said, who appealed to the sport's fans to come out in large numbers in the showdown while maintaining he will showcase his mettle.

The boxer revealed: "We have already completed a medical examination in preparation for the 'Dar Boxing Derby', we want to motivate young boxers and the sport's fanatics that want to watch exciting bouts."

Other boxers who will take the ring in the 'Dar Boxing Derby' are Gilbert Machupa that will face Juma Kichupa, Joseph Maigwisa will confront Ibrahim Tamba, Mohamed Pesa will take on Amani Bariki, and Yuko Kyando is set to come up against Hemedi Rashid.

Other boxers that will participate in the fights include Vigilo Shafii who will take on Bakari Dunda, Hamad Furahisha will confront Max Mushi, Paul Magesta is set to trade blows with Haruna Ndaru, Emmanuel Kitimtim is set to face Swahibu Kitimtim, Mshamu Mohamed will come up against James Killian while Peter Tosh will confront Jackson Malinyingi.

Potter's Chelsea reign looks in crisis after Newcastle loss

NEWCASTLE, England

GRAHAM Potter's Chelsea reign already looks to be in crisis after a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Saturday left the London club eighth in the Premier League.

Joe Willock's 67th-minute strike consigned Chelsea to a third straight loss in the league – and a fourth in five games in all competitions.

It's a run that will pile the pressure on the former Brighton manager, who has only been in the job for two months.

It will also test the faith that Chelsea's American owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital have in the man they chose to lead their overhaul of the club. They have already demonstrated their ruthless side when firing Thomas Tuchel in September, just over a year since the German led Chelsea to the Champions League title.

Potter will have to hope his superiors show more patience where he is concerned but alarm bells will be ringing.

A desperate run of results will only fuel concerns that the job was too big and came too soon for a man whose career had previously seen him manage Brighton, Swansea and Swedish team Östersunds.

And it could still get worse for Chelsea, with Fulham having the chance to move up to eighth on Sunday with a win against Manchester United.

Either way, it promises to be an uncomfortable World Cup break for Potter as the English season pauses until Christmas.

"It is not nice for us," Potter told Sky Sports. "We are in a bad moment. We take the break to recharge and go again."

"Sometimes you have to accept the struggles you have. It is about regrouping and starting again. It is the second half of the season and there is a long way to go."

It is a completely different story for Eddie Howe, whose Newcastle team continued its outstanding start to the season.

This was a fifth-straight win in the league to move to within two points of second-place Manchester City.

The Saudi-backed club will go into the World Cup break third in the standings and looking like genuine contenders for Champions League qualification, if not more.

"I feel immense pride at how the players have performed consistently," Howe said. "Now the challenge is to maintain and enhance that. We'll focus on what we think we can improve as a team. Hopefully the boys can come back from the World Cup in good spirits."

"I'll enjoy maybe a few days off, but then the challenge is to come back and make sure we hit the ground running."

Meanwhile, Bournemouth piled the pressure on Everton manager Frank Lampard with a 3-0 win in the Premier League on Saturday.

Defeat leaves Lampard's team just one place and one point above the relegation zone as the league pauses for the World Cup.

Bournemouth beat Everton 4-1 in the League Cup in midweek and inflicted more misery on the Merseyside club.

Jordan Pickford was partly at fault for the opener when the England goalkeeper spilled Dominic Solanke's shot into the path of Marcus Tavernier, who slotted home.

Kieffer Moore added a second in the 25th minute, before all three points were wrapped up by substitute Jadon Anthony in the second half.

Bournemouth had gone into the game on a run of four straight league defeats with interim manager Gary O'Neil yet to be awarded a permanent contract, but took a further step toward safety with victory.

Tavernier had already seen a shot saved in the 10th minute and then slotted past Pickford in the 18th to open the scoring after Solanke's shot was parried straight into his path.

Bournemouth had a second shortly after when Moore struck.

But there was an element of controversy about it, with James Tarkowski going down in the buildup with a head injury.

Referee Craig Pawson did not blow immediately and the goal was allowed to stand.

Bournemouth completed the scoring in the 69th when substitute Anthony struck just moments after being brought on. He was unmarked at the far post to head past Pickford from Lewis Cook's cross.

Meanwhile, James Maddison, who was a surprise inclusion in England's squad for the World Cup, limped off with a hamstring injury in his right leg while playing for Leicester in the Premier League on Saturday.

The playmaker fell to the ground off the ball in the 22nd minute against West Ham and was holding the back of his right leg when medical staff came onto the field.

The score was 1-0 at the time, with Maddison having netted the goal.

Maddison was consoled by West Ham's Declan Rice, who is also in the England squad, as he went off though later played down any fears as he left the London Stadium.

"It should be fine," Maddison said. "Yeah, I think so."

After his team had completed a 2-0 win, Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers confirmed Maddison came off as a precaution.

"I've just spoken to the doctor, he said he's fine," Rodgers said. "He just felt a little knock on the knee. We didn't want to risk it for him or the team."

Europe's World Cup stranglehold tested by Brazil, Argentina

By STEVE DOUGLAS

WHEN Gianni Infantino told a gathering of European soccer officials in Vienna he hoped the winner of the World Cup came from their continent, the FIFA President quickly stated – with a smile – he adapts the comment to whichever region he's in.

It's no laughing matter for the rest of the world.

Seven of the last eight World Cup finalists have come from Europe. Thirteen of the last 16 semifinalists, too.

Only three non-European nations – Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay – have reached the World Cup final. Uruguay hasn't played in the title match since 1950.

And only two non-European nations other than Brazil and Argentina have reached the semifinals since 1970 – South Korea in 2002 and Uruguay in 2010.

No African country has ever gotten to the last four – in part because of Luis Suárez's last-minute, goal-line handball for Uruguay to deny Ghana in the 2010 quarterfinals – and nobody from North America since the United States in the first World Cup in 1930.

Nations from around the world are invited to the party but, really, it's mostly the Europeans



FILE - FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaks before the 2022 soccer World Cup draw at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center in Doha, Qatar, Friday, April 1, 2022. (AP Photo)

staying until the end.

"You want the World Cup to be a world tournament," soccer author Jonathan Wilson said.

"Ideally you'd have a team from every confederation in the quarterfinals. 'You want the best teams, but you want the best teams to come from as many different places as possible. This is a global sport. If it becomes entirely focused on a rich pocket of western Europe, that's boring for everybody.'"

Wilson puts the recent European dominance down to the continent's top soccer nations pumping lots of money and resources into the development of young players – what he calls an "industrialization of youth production," starting with France at its national soccer center in the 1990s. That was followed by the likes

of Germany, Spain and most recently England doing the same.

These young players are then exposed to their own soccer leagues, which are the strongest and richest in the world.

"You have the best facilities, the best teachers, the best people to learn from," Wilson told The Associated Press. "Then you are testing yourself against the best."

The only nation to have prevented a European triumph at a World Cup since 1994 was Brazil in 2002. Brazil's coach that year, Luiz Felipe Scolari, said he had a "spectacular generation" – remember its storied front three of Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho? – and that European nations are now producing better players than before, having studied the 1958 Brazil team which earned the coun-

try the first of its record five titles.

Speaking to the AP, Scolari said the current European domination is a "phase" which could be ended by Brazil in Qatar or, maybe, in 2026.

After all, Brazil will enter the World Cup as the top-ranked team, undefeated in South American qualifying and with only five losses in 76 matches under coach Tite.

"This class of 2022 is great," Scolari said. "If we don't win now, we can do it in 2026 with one of the best teams."

"These kids playing now might give the result we expect but you can't pressure them to give everything. Maybe in four years we can because then ... they will hit the pinnacle at age 26, 27."

Typically, it's Argentina, ranked No. 3 by FIFA

and a two-time World Cup champion, rivaling Brazil as the most likely winner from outside Europe. And that should again be the case in Qatar.

While Europe's best have been struggling – England is winless in six games, France and Germany have won only one of their last six games, Italy hasn't even qualified – Argentina has gone 35 games unbeaten under Lionel Scaloni, who has a well-balanced team with more than just a slew of star attackers led by Lionel Messi.

There's a caveat, though. The introduction of UEFA's Nations League – and, to a certain extent, the impact of COVID-19 – has meant top European teams go head-to-head more often and rarely face Brazil and Argentina.

Only one such game stands out since the 2018 World Cup: the Finalissima, a newly devised match between the European champions and Copa America winners that saw Argentina beat Italy 3-0 in London in June.

Argentina has played three European teams since the last World Cup. Brazil only one.

"It's pretty hard to get a true read on them," said Wilson, whose books include "Angels With Dirty Faces: The Footballing History of Argentina." "It might not be the worst thing that they go into this tournament with

confidence, without a sense of inferiority."

Take away Brazil and Argentina, and it's hard to look beyond another winner from Europe, which has the other 10 teams in the top 12 of the FIFA rankings and 13 of the 32 nations in Qatar.

There's even greater depth to the European challenge these days, too, with nations like 2018 World Cup finalist Croatia, Euro 2020 semifinalist Denmark and Switzerland as consistent and hard to beat as the traditional heavyweights, with more of their players sprinkled around Europe's top clubs.

As for African teams, whose World Cup challenge is fronted by African Cup of Nations champion Senegal, they still seem to be held back by a lack of resources off the field more than a lack of talent on it.

"(African countries) have so many players playing in Europe at good teams now, I think they should perform better than they do," Lars Lagerback, who coached Nigeria at the 2010 World Cup, told the AP. "There's a lot of challenges, so many people involved around the logistics and everything."

"They have the players with the individual skills but you have to have everything around it."

And that, ultimately, is where Europe has the edge.

AP

VAR still controversial 4 years after its World Cup debut

MANCHESTER, England

THE introduction of VAR at the last World Cup proved one thing for sure: It's nigh impossible to remove controversy from soccer even at the highest level.

The technology – short for Video Assistant Referee – has transformed the game, but not everyone agrees that the change has been for the better.

Part of the reason is because the rules of the game remain open to interpretation, so there still aren't enough camera angles or slow-motion replays to reach a unanimous consensus for every incident on the field.

At some point, human discretion will still be required, and that opens up the potential for argument.

Even matters that can be determined using frame-by-frame evidence is not immune from dispute. A classic example would be the number of offside calls labeled to be "against the spirit of the game."

Some argue a modicum of common sense should give the benefit of the doubt to the attacking team. The logic being that a measurement that could be as small as the length of fingernail should not be enough to see a goal disallowed.

The problem, however, comes when deciding where the new bar should be set. Should it be the length of a finger? A hand? An arm?

It becomes a discretionary call – and from



file - Referee Anthony Taylor checks the VAR screen during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur, at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, England, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. VAR's World Cup debut came in 2018 but referees and players are still getting to grips with the technology four years ago. Human error is still there with decisions open to interpretation however many times a referee goes over to the pitch-side monitor to watch replays. (AP Photo)

there comes the issue of consistency, of human error, of controversy.

For so long coaches have stuck to the mantra of wanting consistency. However unsatisfying the use of VAR is for offside calls, it is, for the most part, consistent.

Yet in October, Tottenham manager Antonio Conte was sent off for his furious reaction after Harry Kane's injury-time goal against Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League was ruled out.

"VAR is doing a lot of damage," the Italian coach said. "I want to see if in another stadium of a big team if they are ready to disallow this type of goal. I'd like to know this."

There was period at the 2018 World Cup when it felt like everything was a penalty – there were

a record 29 at the tournament four years ago. After that came a spell when penalties were endlessly being retaken because of the number of encroachments or premature movements from goalkeepers, all of

which could be meticulously dissected back at VAR headquarters.

The system has ironed itself out since then, but controversy remains.

Jürgen Klopp was critical of it in Liverpool's 3-2 loss to Arsenal in

October. Pep Guardiola's rage when Manchester City had a goal ruled out against Liverpool at Anfield a week later was a defining image of that match.

It has also become a unifying force among supporters. They hate it.

However, the sight of the referee gesturing to review an incident on a sideline monitor is greeted with celebration in the expectation a decision will almost certainly be overruled or corrected.

Like it or not, VAR has become an intrinsic part of the game since it was first introduced to international soccer in a game between Italy and France six years ago.

"That was on Sept. 1, 2016, and in the six years since, VAR has not brought the 'end of football,' as some reported at the time, but instead it is now part of the fabric of our sport, and it is hard to imagine football without it," former referee Pierluigi

Collina told FIFA.

"VAR has been one of the biggest changes in the history of football, so it is understandable that it takes people time to comprehend and appreciate it. Encouraging players, coaches, fans and the media to better understand the technology and its uses has been a crucial goal for us over the past years."

Collina accepts decision-making can still be too lengthy a process. Newer technology has been designed to improve that. Semi-automated offside technology will be deployed in Qatar, which will include a tracking system to pinpoint the precise positions of players. In-stadium graphics will better illustrate decision-making for fans.

But that will not remove the subjective nature of officiating – and with it the potential for ever more controversy.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Europe's World Cup stranglehold tested by Brazil, Argentina

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History of COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championships

LILONGWE

THE TotalEnergies U-17 Africa Cup of Nations, COSAFA Qualifiers, at the Region 5 Games Lilongwe 2022 from December 2-11 will also serve as the regional championship for COSAFA this year.

Here is a look back at the previous tournaments played in this age-group since the first some 28 years ago.

The first attempt at a regional U-17 championship was played in South Africa in 1994 and won by the hosts.

They edged the likes of Zambia, Swaziland and Malawi in the opening stage, as well as recording a 9-0 win over Namibia.

That set up a semi-final with Zimbabwe, which was claimed 5-1 by the hosts, who then defeated Mozambique 2-1 in the decider.

The South African side included a number of players who would go on to have full international careers, including Delron Buckley, Steve Lekoelea and Wayne Roberts.

But it was Junaid Hartley who proved the star with hat-tricks against Namibia and Zimbabwe, as well as another goal in the final for a tournament tally of seven.

It would be another seven years before the competition was staged again and this time it took place in Malawi in 2001, with the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe playing host.

Malawi ultimately triumphed as they defeated South Africa 3-0 in the decider for what should have been a fine new generation of players, though only Moses Chavula and Robert Ng'ambi truly went on to fulfil their potential.

A number of the South African players also did not make it despite a strong showing again, though the team did include stalwarts Daine Klate and Lebogang Mokoena, who would go on to enjoy fruitful careers.

The tournament returned to South Africa the following year and for the third time running it was the host nation who lifted the trophy.

This time round the competition was played in a round-robin format with the four-team field made up of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

The highlight of the competition was a thrilling 5-4 victory over Swaziland. Mokoena was again the star of the show for the home side as he netted six goals in the three matches played.

South Africa won all three of their games, while the other sides all finished on two points from three games. Swaziland claimed second place on goals scored.

Zimbabwe claimed their first title in this age-group as they edged South Africa on penalties in the final, winning 4-2 after a 1-1 draw in the competition that took place in Namibia in 2007.

They eased through the pool stages of the competition, gaining wins over Angola (2-1) and Eswatini (3-1), and ultimately sealed their place in the knockout stages after 1-1 draw with hosts Namibia.

South Africa won both their games in a three-team pool, beating Lesotho (5-0) and Mauritius (3-0), while Zambia edged Malawi to top-spot in Group B but both teams qualified for the semi-finals.

South Africa edged Malawi 1-0 in the Last 4 clash, while Zimbabwe needed penalties to see off old foe Zambia as they won 5-4 following a 1-1 draw.

Archford Gutu scored in that game and would do so again in the final as Zimbabwe used a shoot-out once more to lift the title.

It would be a long nine-year wait for the next finals to be played and this time the competition was played on the Indian Island nation of Mauritius in 2016. It proved a wonderful showcase of the skill among young players in the region and was ultimately won by Namibia.

There was a level of controversy when Zambia, who had stormed through their first-round group with three wins from three, and 10 goals scored and none conceded, were disqualified from the competition after being found guilty of fielding two over-age players.

That meant Malawi and East African guest nation Kenya advanced from Group B, while the top two sides in Group A were South Africa and Namibia.

AGENCIES

Bigirimana sheds light on his struggles at Yanga



Gael Bigirimana. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's midfielder Gael Bigirimana has not been assured of a place in the club's first team since he joined it during this season's main transfer window.

The Burundian midfielder recently shed light on his absence from the Jangwani Street club's first team after making highly publicized registration, having earlier turned out for Northern Ireland Football League Premiership outfit, Glentoran FC.

The defensive midfielder joined Yanga and was introduced by the club's president, Hersi Said, in front of the outfit's members who attended

the Annual General Meeting that was followed by the election of leaders in Dar es Salaam on July 9, 2022.

The experienced footballer, who is as well a member of Burundi's senior national side, was welcomed with

aplomb once Said introduced him to Yanga's members and fanatics.

Bigirimana said that the environment and the quality of Yanga's squad at the moment, especially in the midfield, is the reason for his reg-

ular presence at the club's bench much as the footballer is fit.

The footballer pointed out: "I wish to serve Yanga for a long time on the pitch and I believe I will do so whenever I get a chance."

"At first the environment was a bit of a challenge to get used to but now I'm used to it and I'm ready for any match," the player noted.

"I am here to make the team fulfil its goals, those who get opportunity regularly are good players so it is not wise to talk about them."

The player noted: "Everything happens at a time and I will play when my time comes because I believe in my quality."

He is a defensive midfielder who once had an impressive stint at Newcastle United in English Premier League and other European teams.

The Burundian midfielder is currently facing stiff competition for a place in Yanga's starting lineup, losing out to other equally efficient footballers.

Regular starters in defensive midfield at Yanga include Congolese Yanick Bangala, Ugandan Khalid Aucho, as well as Tanzanian Salum Abubakar who have been enjoying the action in domestic tournaments and African inter-club tournaments' ties.

Bigirimana clocked 13 minutes when Yanga came up against Simba SC in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash which took place in Dar es Salaam on October 23 and ended in a 1-1 draw, having come on in the 77th minute of the duel.

Coastal Union striker opens up on inept finishing

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COASTAL Union's goal-getter Maabad Maulid has said that the 2022/23 NBC Premier League clubs' strikers go through a difficult period when they fail to score goals and are consequently losing motivation.

The attacker stated after scoring a goal for Coastal Union in a Premier League match against Tanzania Prisons that took place in Mbeya on November 10 to, as a result, lower the pressure facing him.

Coastal Union commanded a 2-1 victory over Tanzania Prisons in the duel that was held at Sokoine Stadium.

The forward consequently scored his first goal for Coastal Union this season since he joined the side from KVZ of Zanzibar, an outfit he played for successfully in Zanzibar Premier League.

Maulid had, in the Isles Premier League's 2021/22 season, emerged as the showdown's top goal scorer having scored 15 goals.

The goal-getter pointed out the NBC Premier League attackers go through a difficult period especially when they fail to score goals and the situation gets worse once the players do not get motivation from the sport's stakeholders and fans.

He said that after going through a difficult period by playing seven matches



Coastal Union's players participate in a warm-up session before participating in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash against Prisons that took place at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on November 10. Coastal Union won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

without scoring a goal, the other day the pressure decreased after removing the problem while promising more in the continuation of the league.

Maulid pointed out: "We are going through a very difficult and challenging period when we fail to score goals, there are very few people who can

give you encouragement but many always ignore you."

"I am grateful for the goal I scored the other day against Prisons, it has given me morale and confidence," Maulid revealed.

He said he believes he will continue to do well to help his outfit excel in the league. Maulid insisted that due to

the changes which have been done in the squad, he and his teammates expect to perform well.

He noted the NBC Premier League is extremely difficult compared to Zanzibar Premier League, explaining that the former is quite competitive and, as the days go by, he continues

to get acquainted with it and coordinate with his teammates.

The attacker noted: "Mainland Tanzania football is very competitive and needs a footballer to play hard but thankful good changes are happening in our outfit as we continue to play, I believe we will do well."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

