

National Pg 3
Unverified phones to be switched off



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Govt on solutions to noise pollution



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India Republic day supplement



African governance stagnated in 2022, Ibrahim Index shows

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched yesterday shows that African governance has flatlined since 2019.

A statement released by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said this stagnation reflects a series of disruptions caused by a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased insecurity and widespread democratic backsliding, posing a serious threat to decades of progress on the continent.

Mo Ibrahim (pictured), Sudanese entrepreneur who is founder and chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said in a commentary on the data that the 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance highlights that African governance has flatlined since 2019.

"Unless we quickly address this concerning trend, the years of progress we have witnessed could be lost, and Africa will be unable to reach in due time the SDGs or Agenda 2063.

"Our continent is uniquely exposed to the converging impacts of climate change, more recently Covid-19, and now the indirect impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. Governments must address all at once the ongoing lack of prospects for our growing youth, worsening food insecurity, lack of access to energy for almost half the continent's population," he said.



Data is essential for effective policymaking and strengthening data production and uptake in Africa remains a priority of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

He similarly referred to the heavier debt burden, growing domestic unrest and restart of military coups while backsliding on democracy is spreading. "These are challenging times. More than ever, commitment to strengthen governance must be renewed, unless we lose all progress achieved," the philanthropist declared.

"The 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance highlights a stagnation of African governance since 2019, which should be a cause of concern for us all," he stated, affirming that democratic goals can't just be loosened.

"We have come too far to let the disruptions of the last few years derail our ambitions and unless we quickly address this concerning trend, years of progress could be lost, and Africa might not be able to achieve the African Union's Agenda 2063 or the UN Sustainable Development Goals," he declared.

He said that Africa was uniquely exposed to the converging impacts of climate change, Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, which have exacerbated pre-existing challenges

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Hero's welcome for Lissu

Rally calls for truth commission, tackling of food prices

By Guardian Reporter



Tundu Antiphas Mughwai Lissu, Vice Chairman (Mainland) of the opposition Chadema, in visibly buoyant mood when waving to ecstatic crowds as his motorcade headed from the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after he had jetted in from exile in Belgium. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TUNDU Antiphas Mughwai Lissu, the opposition Chadema's Vice Chairman (Mainland), returned to Tanzania yesterday from exile in Belgium to a hero's welcome from the party's members and supporters.

The 55-year-old former legislator jetted into the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam before heading for Mwembeya grounds in Tembe District.

His arrival came amid appeals by the party for the formation of a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate human rights violations conducted in the last five years.

Chadema Secretary General John Mnyika issued this demand at the Mwembeya grounds rally, also attended by national Chairman Freeman Mbowe and several other top leaders of the party. It was there that Lissu made his maiden speech.

Mnyika's remarks were part of a mixed grill of issues at the event, focusing on rises in food prices and several levies making life difficult, which he linked with the demand for a new Constitution as the answer to challenges facing the country.

Former presidential candidate Tundu Lissu, who was back home after living overseas for years in two distinct periods, urged the relevant authorities to take immediate action to tame the rapid rise in food prices.

Lissu, who has touched off passion and controversy since he survived an assassination attempt in Dodoma city in mid-2017, said he was delighted being back home.

He added that was back "to support efforts towards having a Tanzania that is loved by everyone".

Lissu said measures ought to be taken to address the food price situation by adopting interventions that will help stabilise prices and thus reduce the burden to the people.

He cited vast price rises for meat and staples like rice, maize flour, cooking oil

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Samia picks 37 new DCs

Shaka included, 48 DCs transferred, 55 retained

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday made major changes of district commissioners, appointing 37 new ones, transferring 48 and retaining 55 in their current stations.

Former CCM secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Shaka Hamdu Shaka and ex-Handeni MP Mboni Mhita were listed in the new appointments, on the basis of a statement from the Directorate of Presidential Communications.

President Samia appointed Shaka as new DC for Kilosa in Morogoro Region replacing Majid Mwanga, while Mhita goes to Kahama in Shinyanga Region to



Following the new list of DCs, the country now has 40 women holding the post or about 28.5 percent of the total of 140 DCs

replace Festo Kiswaga.

In other new appointments state broadcasting corporation news anchor Grace Kingalame will serve as District Commissioner of Nyang'hwale in Geita Region.

Jaffar Haniu, former director of State House communications will now serve as District Commissioner of Rungwe.

The following are the newly appointed District Commissioners with their work stations in brackets; Felician Mtahengerwa (Arusha), Marko Ng'umbi (Longido), Emmanuel Mtafikikolo (Arumeru), Gerald Mongella (Chemba), Col. Boniface Magembe (Geita), Leah

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell to Prof Bruno J Van Herendael, head of a delegation of doctors from the US and Belgium representing The International Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy Institute. This was shortly after talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

EAC starts weighing Somalia application

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is embarking on a verification process to admit the Federal Republic of Somalia as a new member after the Horn of Africa nation was accepted at last year's summit to submit an application.

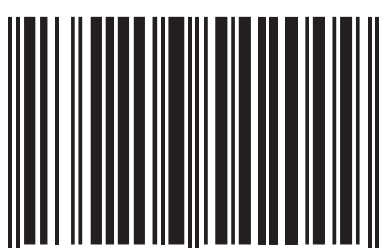
Dr Peter Mathuki, the secretary general, said at a press conference here yesterday that a secretariat team of experts had already visited Somalia and sat with senior government officials to examine the country's readiness to join.

"After the meeting, they will prepare their report to be submitted to the EAC council of ministers that expects to meet on February 23," he said, noting that the report will be submitted to the summit expected on February 25 for scrutiny and decisions.

The team comprising members from the seven EAC partner states yesterday began to examine Somalia's readiness to join the bloc, he said, noting that its observations will then be put to the council of ministers and eventually to the summit.

He similarly addressed fears among observers as to eligibility of Somalia to join, underlining that bringing the country on board will increase economic

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Hero's welcome for Tundu Lissu

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our struggles especially after things have started to settle," he explained.

He said living abroad hadn't affected only him but also his party, relatives, family and in other areas, noting that the rising cost of food and essential commodities must be addressed in earnest.

The party's national chairman, Mbowe, meanwhile said they would focus on implementing priorities in the party's policies so as to support development efforts in the country. "We will work hard to fight all types of oppressions, corruption and various challenges, with this our major work is to campaign for the country to get a new constitution," he said.

Lissu most recently announced his intention to come back home after President Samia Suluhu Hassan rescinded a ban on political rallies.

He had left the country for treatment abroad after being rained with bullets by people yet to be identified in September 2017. He cut short his stay abroad to campaign for the 2020 General Election as the presidential candidate on the Chadema ticket and soon shot, saying tensions surrounding both the previous (shooting) incident and the conduct of the polls were too high for comfort.

He recalled how Chadema had "toiled for the past 30 years, working hard to make Tanzania a better place for all people".

"Living abroad for almost six years by force due to fear of death hasn't been easy for me, but now I am here at home to continue with

our struggles especially after things have started to settle," he explained.

He said living abroad hadn't affected only him but also his party, relatives, family and in other areas, noting that the rising cost of food and essential commodities must be addressed in earnest.

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across the continent.

"Now, more than ever, governments must focus on promoting strong institutions and good leadership, for this will be critical to not only navigate these crises, but the challenges that lie ahead," he stated.

"Now is the time to strengthen our commitment to good governance. Failure to do so and we may lose much of what we have fought so hard to achieve."

The 2022 IAG results show that even though the average continental level of 'overall governance' is better in 2021 than in 2012 (+1.1), progress has flatlined since 2019.

Driving this stagnation is the deterioration of both the security and rule of law and participation categories, along with the rights and inclusion index, due to an increase in armed conflicts and violence against civilians. Democratic backsliding across growing parts of the continent added to the burden, the data indicates.

Although the IAG confirms that these concerning trends predate the pandemic, it highlights that the introduction of restrictive measures and emergency provisions to address COVID-19 and its fallout have exacerbated existing challenges by accelerating a decline in democratic practices, clamping down on dissent, shrinking the civic space, and avoiding democratic

scrutiny.

The IAG's other two categories - human development and foundations for economic opportunity - do offer cause for cautious optimism, as both have progressed over 2012-2021. "This is particularly the case for human development, which has improved year-on-year across the decade, with more than 90 per cent of Africa's population living in a country where progress has been made since 2012," the report noted.

As to foundations for economic opportunity, the level reached in 2021 is higher than in 2012, and this is the only category to have even continued to make progress since 2019, despite the seismic shocks of the pandemic, mostly due to considerable improvements in the infrastructure sub-category, it asserts.

The 2022 IAG Report also provides insights into key remaining data gaps on governance priorities in Africa, such as employment, health, rural areas, and climate challenges, for example.

The health sub-category is still unable to include data on health structures and capacities - a critical element of the continent's response to any pandemic - due to a lack of data. Data is essential for effective policymaking and strengthening data production and uptake in Africa remains a priority of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, it added.

EAC starts weighing Somalia application

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opportunities.

Youth in the member states will be assured of more job openings when trade between EAC member states is boosted, he said, while affirming that security challenges there, as in some EAC states, would be easier to address once these countries join the trading bloc.

Well intentioned Heads of State will address the challenges with greater ease within the bloc and not outside it, "hence we should not harbour any fears," he declared.

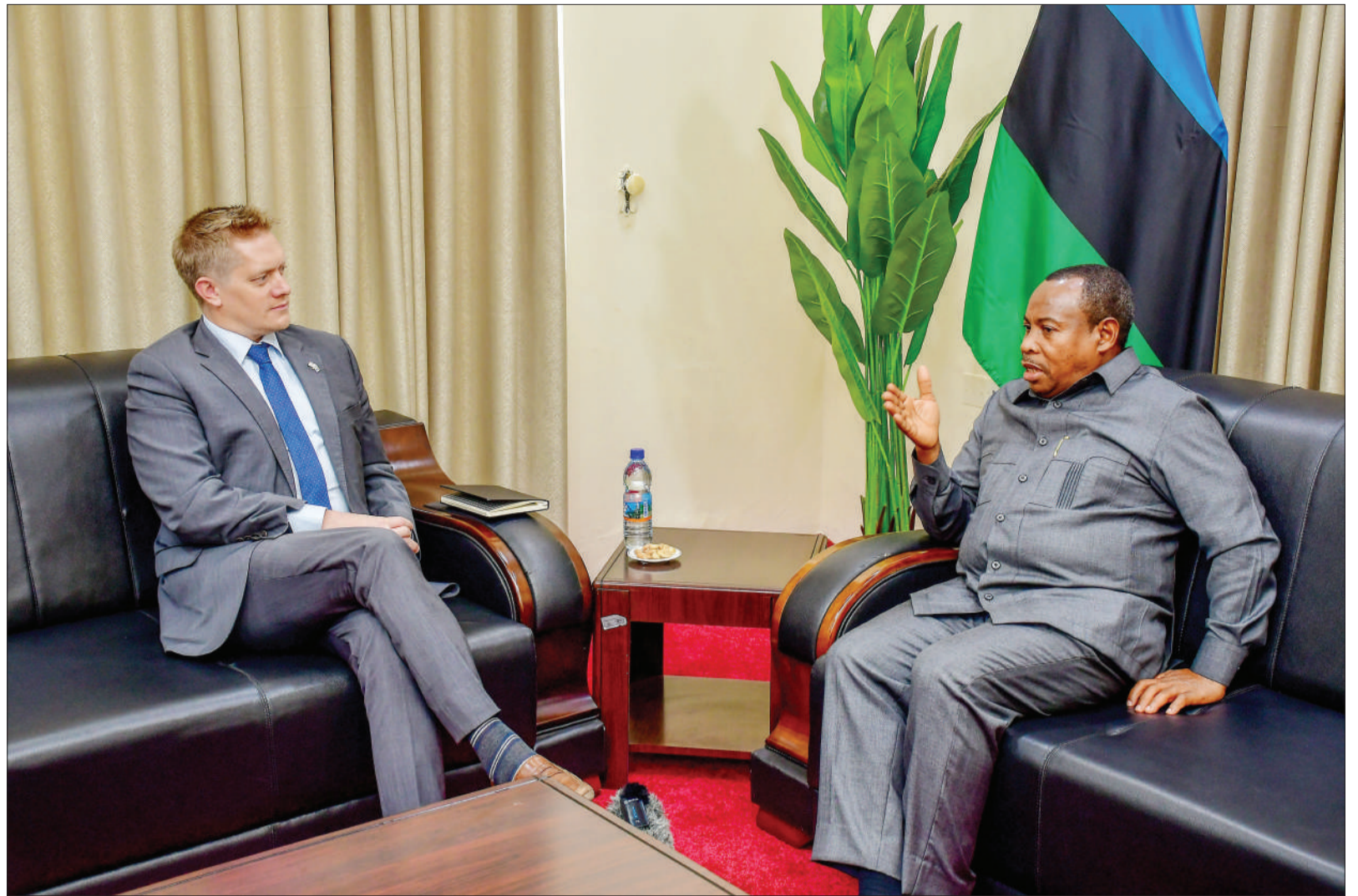
Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said at the EAC summit here last year that the country wants to join the EAC to "reap opportunities," noting that the EAC was a model that every African country wishes to join.

Somalia has experts offering services in various countries and they needed greater cooperation to develop the country's economy, he stated, asserting that chances for peace in Somalia were higher with EAC Heads of State making efforts to make sure peace is restored.

Somalia started expressing the wish to join the bloc back in 2012, without a formal decision at any level to back such an application, until the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was admitted in 2021.

DRC has greater economic opportunities for EAC member states compared to Somalia, and it has fewer security challenges by comparison, while South Sudan has internal unrest and partial stability that was buttressed by joining the EAC, observers affirm.

Earlier communication between the EAC Secretariat and Somalia in November 2018 did not change the mood among EAC states, especially as the previous government led by Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed better known as Farmajo, initiated a case against Kenya at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) seeking to project their land border into sea territory, contrary to the norm in international law. The court fluffed the case, asserting that the norm did not necessarily apply to the particular border dispute,



Zanzibar's First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman, has an audience in Zanzibar yesterday with the Deputy British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Rick Shearn. Photo: ZFVPO

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Ulaya (Mbogwe), Deusidedith Katwale (Chato) and Linda Salekwa (Mufindi).

Other appointees are Abel Nyamahanga (Muleba), Japhary Maganga (Kyerwa), Erasto Sima (Bukoba), Julius Laiser (Karagwe), Dinah Mathamani (Uvinza), Christopher Timbuka (Siha), Amir Mkalipa (Hai), Kasilda Mgeni (Same), and Goodluck Mlinga (Liwale).

Also making the list are Christopher Ngubiagai (Kilwa), Beno Malisa (Mbeya), Josephine

Samia picks 37 new DCs

Manasa (Kyela), Rebecca Msemwa (Morogoro), Rachel Kasanda (Magu), Hassan Bomboko (Ukerewe), Victoria Mwanziva (Ludewa), Colonel Joseph Kolombo (Kibiti), and Zephania Sumaye (Mafia).

Also appointed are Lazaro Komba (Kalambo), Jane Nyamsenda (Sumbawanga), Wilman Ndile (Songea), Farida Mgomi (Ileje), Solomon Itunda (Songwe), Zakaria Mwansansu Uyui and Naitapwaki

Tukai (Nzega).

Ex-DCs not making the list are Gabriel Zakaria (Busega) Lupakisyo Kapange (Bariadi), Jerry Muro (Ikungi), Frank Mwaisumbe (Monduli), Jamhuri William (Nyang'hwale), Wilson Shimo (Geita), and Martha Mkupasi (Chato).

Also sidelined are Sireli Mchembe (Handeni), Aswege Kaminyoge (Maswa), Sara Msafiri (Kibaha),

Simon Mayeka (Chunya), Ismail Mlawa (Kyela) and Pololet Mgema (Songea).

Following the new list of DCs, the country now has 40 women holding the post or about 28.5 percent of the total of 140 DCs, the statement noted.

Since she assumed office in March 2021 President Samia has continually altered line ups in ministries, departments, executive agencies, regions and districts, seeking efficiency and striving to bring on board more women to high level leadership.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa presents a dummy cheque for USD 5000 to Dotto Daudi Rangimoto, winner in the Fiction category in the Safal-Cornell Kiswahili Prize for African Literature 2022 held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Sagal Group CEO Andrew Lindgre and right is Culture, Art and Sports minister Mohamed Mchengerwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC instructs councils to set aside 1,000/- per child to fight stunting

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

LOCAL councils' executive directors in Manyara Region have been instructed to allocate 1,000/- for each child under five years of age for assisting in the implementation of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan for control of children's stunting.

Makongoro Nyerere, Manyara regional commissioner issued the order on Tuesday this week at a meeting to discuss the

implementation of the Nutrition Agreement for the period July to December last year.

He said in order for the region to realise its target, the health department should strengthen medical services and nutrition services including those to pregnant women and infants.

He said all the money to be so allocated should be spent by June this year and should be so informed.

"the nutrition issue is very essential, you might find a quiet

child, never misses class but suffers from stunting, while a naughty child, doing well in class is so much health," said RC Nyerere.

Earlier, January Dalushi, Manyara Region nutrition officer told the meeting that according to research done in 2018, stunting in Manyara Region stood at 36.1 per cent.

He said other local councils have not reached the planned level of the 1,000/- set aside for each child

Dalushi further said to implement the Nutrition Agreement well

should entail budgeting from reliable sources of income for FY 2023/2024.

Contributing to the nutrition debate, Manyara Region planning and coordination officer, Maarufu Mkwana called on council directors to allocate 1,000/- for each child and should know to where they submit the money.

For his part, assistant regional secretary Dr Damas Kayera said they will not endorse the nutrition budget if local councils will not adhere to government directives.

For his part, Mbulu town nutrition officer, Adan Mhako, said they were experiencing an acute shortage of working tools including measurement tools for children's stunting.



Fimbo Butallah, head of Kilombero Sugar Company's commercial unit, shows newly introduced 50-gramme "customer-friendly" packets of sugar made at the firm for retail sale at 200/- each. This was at a launch held in Morogoro municipality earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

More than 2.3 unverified mobile phone lines to be switched off by February

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MORE than 2.3 million mobile phone lines which have not been verified will be switched off on February 13, this year to ward off online fraud, the government says.

This is according to Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology when he addressed reporters here on Tuesday.

Nnauye said by January 19, this year there were 60,739,790 mobile phone lines in use but those verified numbered 58,432,669 while 2,307,121 or 3.8 per cent of the total had not been verified and liable for switching off.

"For a long time there have been a lot of fraud via mobile phones and this has been increasing as mobile phone lines in use increased, hence the ministry, through Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) took a step to re-register them via fingerprints, the

exercise that begun May 1 2019 and closed December 31 2021.

"Every sim card targeted at that time was so registered and we embarked on a joint campaign to verify the sim cards, the exercise that is still ongoing and agreed that it should end January 31 this year," said Nnauye.

He noted that there are so many mobile phone lines whose owners used other people's NIDA cards and the lines earmarked for switching off are the ones that were illegally registered.

"We have targeted to remove fraudsters from the system, we said we should increase a 14-day grace period beginning January 31 this year up to February 13 at 16:00hrs - one day before Valentine Day, we want all fraudsters removed from the system," he added.

The minister said that mobile line fraud has grown so much that even the fraudsters themselves were being conned.



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PIC: 'Royal Tour' film has beefed up TANAPA's revenues

By Guardian Reporter

THE Parliamentary Public Investment (PIC) Committee has said President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts in promoting the country's tourism sector via the royal tour film have increased Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) revenues.

The income has increased from 57.4bn/- in 2020/21 to 233bn/- by January this year.

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday after going through the Treasury Registrar's report on TANAPA, PIC chairman, Jerry Silaa said in the past TANAPA's revenues dropped from 282.4bn/- in 2017/18 to 57.4bn in 2020/21 - a more than 70 per cent drop.

He explained that for the half-year period July to December last year, 1.02 million visited Tanzania and by December TANAPA had collected 213bn/-, a very large

revenue increase.

Silaa commended President Samia for the decision to advertise the country's tourism via the Royal Tour film that had so much contributed to the revenue increase.

"I advise tourist services providers to continue advertising the country's tourist attractions to ensure many more tourists come to Tanzania," he said.

Meanwhile, Silaa said the

committee is satisfied by efforts of the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT).

"We commend their effort for the increase of sugar production in the country whereby by 2025 they plan to reach 700,000 tonnes," he said.

He said SBT has done great mobilisation and that by 2020/21 the country's sugar production was 380,000 tonnes thereby causing a shortfall of 50,000 tonnes.

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Dar resident allegedly accused of killing, burning and burying his wife appeals for president's intervention

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

A Dar es Salaam based businessman Khamis Luwongo (38) who is allegedly accused of killing, burning and burying his wife Naomi Marijani has appealed to president Samia Suluhu Hassan's intervention on his letters of plea to the Director of Prosecution (DPP) that he did not commit the offence deliberately which has not been responded.

The accused is said to have written a letter to the DPP explaining what exactly happened on that fateful day saying there has been no response from the prosecution office.

Luwongo made the request yesterday before senior magistrate Ramadhan Rugemalila of the Kisutu resident Magistrate Court, Dar es Salaam when the case was brought up for mention.

"My lord, give me two minutes, there are things which are surprising

me a lot, and there are people in the prosecution side doing things which are not legal at all, I have written letters telling that I did not deliberately kill my wife but up to now they are delaying the case and bringing new charges," he said.

He claimed that he started writing letters to the office since when the late John Pombe Magufuli was president but there has been no response.

After the request Magistrate Rugemalila asked the accused if he had made the requests when the case was before magistrate Yusto Ruboroga and Luwongo responded that he could not do so because the Kisutu Court had no jurisdiction to hear the case. "Yes, I am being accused for killing with intent but I did not intend to kill my wife. That is why I wrote a letter to the office of the DPP. Prosecution side has spent a lot of money to present witnesses

but they withdrew it claiming the investigation was not complete," Luwongo told the court.

However, magistrate Rugemalila told the accused to have patience because his lawyer has sent an application to the High Court; hence they should wait for a reply.

The case was adjourned until February 07, this year.

Earlier, State Attorney, Mosie Kaima claimed that they are in the process of submitting information to High Court but Defense Lawyer Majaliwa told the court that they have opened a request to High Court to check legality of the newly opened case.

It was alleged that on 15 May, 2019 while at Gezaulole within Kigamboni municipality Luwongo murdered his wife then burnt her using two sacks of charcoal and then buried her ashes inside his farm.



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka Mafwanga exchanges document in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Centre for Science and Environment (India) executive director Jagdeep Gupta shortly after they had signed an MOU on safeguarding the Lake Victoria environment. Looking on is Mary Maganga, Permanent Secretary in Vice President's Office (Union and Environment). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAWASA starts to construct eight modern sewage treatment plants

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has started to implement a project that includes construction of eight modern sewage treatment plants for solid wastes.

The modern sewage treatment plants will bring relief to the people of Dar es Salaam as well as improve their health.

The project is also aimed to support efforts to deal with the challenge of environmental pollution in residential areas within the city.

The project is implemented by the authority in collaboration with World Bank (WB) through the second phase of the water sector improvement project which involves construction of eight modern sewage treatment plants in the district of Kinondoni, Temeke, Kigamboni, Ubungo and Ilala.

Speaking about implementation of the project, Eng Amon

Gracephord who is the Environment Sanitation Unit Manager at DAWASA, said they have started to implement the project at some areas including Mabwepande, Gezaulole, Kimbiji, Kisopwa, Vijibweni, Vikunai, Mtoni and Zingiziwa.

"We are constructing the plants to increase the efficiency of the sewage infrastructures in line with the Vingunguti and Kurasini water reservoirs as well as the sewage treatment plants located in Mburahati, Wailes, Mlalakuwa and Tuangoma," he said.

He said the aim is to reduce the distance between the resident's toilet and the area where the waste will be disposed. He said the project will also benefit residents who can use the remaining as fertilisers for their home gardens.

"Apart from processing solid waste, these plants have the ability to produce fertiliser, gas and water for irrigation in garden as it

is done in our plants at Mburahati, Mlalakuwa and Tuangoma," he said.

He said the contractor for the project has already been nominated and the construction work is expected to start this February.

Ilala District Health Officer, Reginald Mlay said the sewage treatment plant project has great benefits in the health sector as it will reduce the risk of people contracting epidemic diseases such as cholera and others.

The environmental sanitation improvement project involves the construction of 8 modern solid waste plants with the capacity to process 780,000 litres per day, the construction of 12 simple systems to remove waste from homes, construction of 30 public toilets.

The project is estimated to cost 35bn/- upon completion and will serve approximately 1.7 million residents in Dar es Salaam.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PROVISION OF STAFFS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO SANDVIK MINING & CONSTRUCTION TANZANIA LTD

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited (THE COMPANY) is in Mwanza, on the edge of Lake Victoria.

The purpose of this EOI is to explore the market for service providers that possess the requisite skills, knowledge, and capacity to provide and offer required shuttle transport services to Sandvik staffs to and from Bulyanhulu and North Mara to Mwanza. As well as daily transport of Sandvik staffs to and from Geita Gold mining to the agreed staff's collection point at Geita town.

Mandatory Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. At least two active staffs transport services contracts from a reputable organization.
2. Enough number of vans and shuttle busses available.
3. Minimum 5 years of proven background in operating large fleet of either shuttle or bus transportation service.
4. Compliant with Local Content Regulations.
5. Compliant with all National labour Laws and Regulations
6. Compliant with all required Permits, Certifications and Licenses, Eg valid vehicle passenger permits
7. Insurance Cover

Scope of Work

The transporter will be required to: -

1. Transport Employees to and from Bulyanhulu mining site to Mwanza once per week
2. Transport Employees to and from North Mara mining site to Mwanza twice per week
3. Transport employees to and from Geita gold mining site to agreed staff's collection point at Geita town.
4. Assist the company with any other transport needs

Expression of Interest

If your organization meets the above pre-qualification criteria, and you would like to be invited to tender, please submit your Expression of Interest, Company Profile, Company registration, Staffing policies, CV's for all key personnel and evidence of the above listed pre-qualifications tenders.tanzania@sandvik.com or Submit your Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope to the Tender Box at the reception of Sandvik Mining & Construction Tanzania LTD located at Plot no. 3, Bohari Street, Mkuyuni industrial Area, Nyamagana Mwanza.

The Reference "SMCT/STR02/2023" must be quoted in the subject of the email/ Envelope

Last Date for submission: **2nd February, 2023.**

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited

217244401

Chongolo promises to take legal actions against negligent officials

By Guardian Reporter

RULING CCM Secretary General Daniel Chongolo has vowed to take serious legal actions against government officials including ministers with a tendency of complaining instead of performing their duties.

He said the party will start inspection of the implementation of the election manifesto on how they are being served, saying it will take serious action to those who will be found not doing the right thing.

Speaking when receiving new members of the party's secretariat, Chongolo said CCM will not hesitate to take action against any individual tasked to serve the people but is

doing the contrary.

"One of the things affecting us is nepotism; we tend not to take things seriously. Leaders who have been entrusted with the mandate to find solution to challenges are also complaining," he said.

He said since CCM was elected to power, it was given the mandate by the people; there are various people who have been elected to various positions including directors, regional and district commissioners and village leaders to serve the people.

He said Tanzanians are in need of water, roads and other development projects instead of words and complaints which some leaders tasked with serving them are putting words ahead.

Chongolo reminded leaders that when people start pointing fingers at them it means they have failed in their tasks adding that Tanzanians have a lot of expectations from them.

Earlier, CCM chairman for Dodoma Alhaj Adam Kimbisa hailed the party secretary general for being appointed to the position saying members have a lot of faith in him.

The party's Ideology and Publicity secretary Sophia Mjema said the newly appointed team will work to ensure the trust bestowed to them by members was maintained.

He said the task to increase members and followers lies in the hands of the newly elected secretariat saying it will also work on issues which are a nuisance to CCM members and Tanzanians at large.

Shule Bora enrolls over 3,000 children for SRP in Rukwa

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a, Nkasi

THE implementation of Shule Bora Programme has identified and supported 60 percent of children aged between 5 and 6 years to access early education opportunities through the School Readiness Programme (SRP) in Rukwa Region.

Regional coordinator for the programme from Cambridge Education Tanzania Limited (CETL), John Shindika said this during the meeting that brought together information officers, journalists and community radio managers on the project, the event held on Monday at Namanyere in Nkasi municipal council.

"Shule Bora is a UK Aid-funded government-led education support programme with technical assistance from Cambridge Education Tanzania in partnership with Action for Disability and Development - ADD international, International Rescue Committee and Plan International, it is implemented in nine regions with the aim of improving the quality, inclusiveness, and safety of learning for girls and boys in government

schools," he said.

Sindika said over 3000 children equivalent to 60 percent were identified last year and provided with pre-primary education under SRP for twelve weeks before enrolling them to start primary school. "The twelve weeks of teaching to children who were left out of the early education system commenced in October-December 2022 whereby 3,392 (1,641 boys and 1,751 girls) have been enrolled in 17 centers for SRP this year and are continuing with studies.

This is a benefit move since it will increase awareness on education relevance as well as prepare the future generation with quality education," Shindika said.

He elaborated that the SRP has special teachers who volunteered for the job but they should be respected by the community, with mastery in Writing, Reading and Arithmetic (3Rs), speaks Swahili language and native language used by people where the SRP centres are located, this will help those children who don't speak other languages than their mother tongues.

Rukwa regional education officer, Samson Hango thanked the government through President's Office, Regional Administrative and

Local Governments (PO-RALG) and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for coming up with Shule Bora programme where in its one year of implementation has brought changes to the region by transforming the education system.

Currently there are 17 centers with conducive and attractive environments including caring teachers for children of pre-primary education," he said.

Regional administrative secretary (RAS), Rashid Mchatta declared: "Our region is not performing well academically in all levels from pre-primary, primary and secondary school, the situation is contributed by various reasons including low response from the public towards supporting the education sector."

Mchatta urged the public and media practitioners to disseminate information concerning development programmes in the education sector for them to be well known as they are playing a big role in strengthening education delivery in the country.

Shule Bora Programme is a six-year project (April 2021 to March 2027) and is implemented in nine regions including Tanga, Coast, Mara, Simiyu, Singida, Dodoma Kigoma, Rukwa and Katavi.

NEC to start providing education on electoral laws to young people

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) is planning to start providing education on electoral laws to the youth to help

them understand that winning or losing is part of election.

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday, the NEC Assistant Director Voters' Education, Monica Mnanka said that the electoral body has received

and will work on the advice given by the Chief Court Administrator, Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel, when he visited the commission's booth during the ongoing law week exhibition in Dodoma.

Earlier yesterday, Prof Elisante advised NEC to consider providing education to young people in order to make them understand that in elections, there are always winners and losers.

"Why don't you start educating young people, so that they can realise that winning and losing are all election results, so that we can mitigate complaints of people seeing that they have been robbed.

"Majority of those who lose do not accept the results after the election and most believe that the elections are rigged... there is a need to educate them to grow up realising that they have the right to lose and win," said Prof Gabriel.

Reacting to the advice, Mnanka said that the commission recognises the importance of providing education on electoral laws on young people.

"We have taken note and we will work on the recommendations

accordingly," she said, adding "We wish these young people could understand their rights and responsibilities when they are at the polling station," said Mnanka.

However, she said the electoral body is currently continuing to provide voters' education to citizens by educating them about election laws and their rights in election matters.

"In every election, voter and civic education are necessary to ensure that all constituents—men and women alike—understand their rights, their political system, the contests they are being asked to decide and how and where to vote," she said.

She insisted that for the election to be successful and democratic, voters must understand their rights and responsibilities, and must be sufficiently knowledgeable and well informed to cast ballots that are legally valid and to participate

meaningfully in the voting process.

She also said the NEC has always provided civic education, aimed at conveying knowledge of a country's political system and context.

She also said that NEC is providing education to political parties, stakeholders and various institutions with the aim of building their understanding capacity on election laws and how election activities are conducted.

"Along with educating the public, we also provide education to political parties on how they can participate in elections and electoral process and educate them on the laws guiding election process, so as to avoid various challenges caused by election misunderstanding.

The Law Week exhibition continues at Nyerere Square in Dodoma and has attracted at least 34 institutions. It was officially opened on Sunday by Vice-president Dr Philip Mpango.



Musoma district commissioner Dr Khalfan Haule (in cap) takes part in the making of bricks for use in construction work at a secondary school at Muhoji village yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt urged to find solutions on noise pollution

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARY By-Laws Standing Committee has called upon the government to find a solution to the noise challenges affecting people in the country's various areas.

The call was made here on Tuesday by the Committee's Vice Chairman, Kilumbe Ng'enda at its sitting for the submission of the implementation report for Vice President's Office for the period July to December 2022.

Elaborating the issue, Khamis Hamza Khamis, deputy minister in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) said the government continues to oversee and provide education on Guidelines and Control of Noise Pollution.

He said the guidelines aims to improve the management and control of pollution on noise and trembling by identifying the mode that will involve various stakeholders in reducing such type of pollution.

Elaborating on the complaints from stakeholders regarding pollution emanating from noise and trembling, Khamis said the VP office through NEMC continues to administer the implementation of the guidelines. "You will recall that in 2021, we held meetings with various ministries involved in the issue and issued a joint resolution that made sure we have to oversee the implementation of the guidelines to ensure the people are not subjected to pollution emanating from noise and trembling, said the



Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) on Supply and Inventory Management for Safety Equipment at Buckreef Gold Mine (BGCL/TZ/VMI/SE/2023/01)

Buckreef Gold Company Ltd "BGCL", a JV agreement company between State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) and Tanzam2000 Ltd, a 100% owned subsidiary of Tanzanian Gold Corporation (TSX: TNX\NYSE MKT:TRX). For more information visit: <https://www.tangoldcorp.com/>, the company has operations located in Mnekezi Village, Geita District, Tanzania.

The company calls for submissions of Expressions of Interest from eligible companies to carry out vendor management inventory of Safety Equipment for the BGC mine

The (EOI) Expression of Interest call aims at prequalifying or shortlisting capable vendors and does not constitute an invitation to tender.

Interested parties shall submit their expression of Interest ("EOI") with supportive documents,

The evaluation of the prospective bidders will be done based on the following minimum criteria: -

- a) Expertise of the company team shows professionalism on Safety Equipment like Personal Protective Equipment
- b) Experience of the company in Supply Safety Equipment in the mining industry
- c) Eligibility of the company
- d) Permit and Certifications-Prospective consultant to provide details and evidence of permit and registration issued by the relevant Government Authorities and any other statutory bodies
- e) Local Content-Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended by having a Local Content Plan.

The scope of work includes programs outlined below

1. Supply of certified Personal Protective Equipment
2. Work together with OHSE & Supply Chain Departments to eliminate delays in the availability of PPE on site
3. All the stock will be under Vendor but supervised by BGC OHSE Department and Supply Chain
4. Vendors must have a system in place that will recognize (Fingerprint or Facial recognition system) the employee for issuing PPE and reconcile with the supply chain department.
5. Vendor must show the test certificate from the origin of the PPE going to supply
6. All Safety equipment must have the Material Safety Data sheet from the original supplier to support the equipment
7. Vendor must have the stock in the mine site
8. Vendor to have employee/s working on site to sweet the BGC needs
9. BGC will give the space for the Vendor to have a small warehouse to stock the PPE and will be the issuing area (PPE Store)
10. Vendors are required to submit a Safety Policy, Child labor Policy, and Discrimination Policy as part of compliance.
11. All PPE items to be supplied must comply with Mining Standards

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email (procurement@buckreef.co.tz) no later than **02:30p.m 02ND Feb 2022** (Submission deadline).

Communication will be made to all pre-qualified consultants once the company has completed its pre-qualification evaluation based on the information supplied.

For and on behalf of Buckreef Gold Company Limited.

P.O. Box 326, Geita - Tanzania
 Dar-Es-Salaam Office: P.O Box 31588, Dar-Es-Salaam, Second floor, Diamante building, Chole road, Masaki, Tanzania
 E-mail: info@buckreef.co.tz Website: www.buckreef.co.tz



Embassy of Sweden
 Dar es Salaam

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Embassy is responsible for representing and promoting Swedish interests in Tanzania and has approximately 40 employees. The overall tasks of the Embassy include supporting business and trade, development cooperation as well as consular and visa services.

The strategy for Swedish development cooperation with Tanzania 2020 – 2024 focuses on four results areas i.e. 1). Democracy, the rule of law, human rights and gender equality; 2). Education; 3). Inclusive economic development; 4). Environment, climate and energy.

OPERATIONAL CONTROLLER

We would like to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Operational Controller. We are looking for a person to welcome to our team that has good ability to collaborate and build trusting relationships with colleagues and external partners. You also need to have the ability to lead yourself by self-sustaining, taking initiatives and pushing issues forward. To succeed in this role, you should have the ability to communicate effectively. Finally, it is important to be flexible; solution-oriented and capable of handling the unpredictable

Duties and responsibilities:

In close collaboration with the other Operational Controllers at the Embassy, assist managers and programme officers with advice and support, to maintain an effective financial control environment at the Embassy and on internal control issues in contribution management process. The job holder will be responsible for the following:

- Participating in the overall planning and monitoring of the contribution portfolio based on risk and materiality.
- Provide support, advice and quality assurance of contribution management in competency areas such as;
 - Risk analysis and risk management
 - Analysis assessment of partners' capacity and processes/ systems for internal control
 - Procurement processes
 - Contractual issues
 - Applicable rules and regulations.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

- Academic degree in the field of financial management and control
- Accounting certifications like Certified Public Accountant (CPA), ACCA, and ACA
- Minimum five (5) years of professional experience in financial management and/ or auditing.
- Exposure to Tanzania's public administration and financial management systems
- Computer literacy, i.e. knowledge of Microsoft's basic applications and experience working with an electronic financial management / information system
- Good analytical skills, with ability to apply qualitative and quantitative techniques
- Experience from working with risk analysis and management
- Good communication skills, with excellent command of English.

Merits:

- Experience of audit work (analysis of audit reports and procurement processes)
- Experience of managing and conducting large open procurement processes.
- Documented competence and experience in quality assurance in development cooperation or other government functions.
- Experience and/ or knowledge about working methods of Swedish civil service, or experience working in a multi-cultural setup.
- Knowledge of additional languages (Swedish inclusive).

Personal Qualifications:

- Ability and will to internalise innovative ways of working, while fulfilling the role of Swedish civil servant and respecting ethical and professional considerations.
- Ability to reach and report on agreed results and to seek the support needed to accomplish tasks.
- Ability to lead and positively influence the Embassy colleagues in applying new knowledge.
- Ability and willingness to share information, competence and knowledge with others.

If you are interested in this exciting career opportunity, e-mail us one attachment having your CV (maximum 5 pages) and one page application letter explaining your suitability for the job. Please, do not include your certificates. Write "O-Controller" in your e-mail subject line. The deadline is on 8th February 2023. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We regret the vacancy is not ideal for fresh graduates.

Executive Search and Selection Division
 Prospect Africa Limited
 e-mail: recruitment@prospect-africa.net





PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Dar es Salaam, 26th January 2023:

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) is commemorating the International Customs Day which is celebrated worldwide by Customs Fraternity on 26th January of every year. The World Customs Organization (WCO) has chosen the theme for year 2023 to be, **"Nurturing the Next Generation: Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs"**. This is in line with the effort to place human capital, and especially the new generation at the heart of customs transformation process.

TRA recognizes the role played by young custom officers who are often more receptive to latest technologies and new lifestyle. Their level of flexibility and creativity, renders them the space to acquire experience and aptitude that are specific to the Customs operations, and in some case specific to their own administration. Tapping on this cope, the Customs and Excise Department of TRA through its different corporate plans has empower and protected this generation through knowledge management policies that enabled TRA to implement several Digital Transformation initiative projects which reflect the theme for year 2023 International Customs Day.

In promoting a culture of knowledge sharing and Professional pride in Customs, Tanzania customs has various strategies of making sure that New Generation has been nurtured with customs knowledge, strategies includes introduction of tax clubs in secondary schools up to universities, this provide a chance to young generation to understand Customs operations in their early stage. Not only that also education to cross border business people at the border point has added positive energy.

Notes to the Editor.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an independent intergovernmental body, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC). On 26 January 1953, the CCC's inaugural session took place with the participation of 17 founding members. The CCC membership subsequently expanded to cover all regions of the globe. In 1994, the organization adopted its current name, the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The WCO represents 183 Customs administrations that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade. As the global Centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters.

The main function of the WCO is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the customs services across the global through: -

- 1) Providing Members with the necessary guidance, tools and instruments in order to offer a common understanding of best practices on customs procedures
- 2) WCO provide a platform for exchange experiences between national Customs delegates.
- 3) WCO Secretariat supports its Members in their endeavors to modernize and build capacity within their national Customs
- 4) WCO is providing necessary support both soft and physical support to her members by coordinating his partners such as donor countries and financial institutions to construct Customs Infrastructure, procurement of vehicle, boats, scanners and other customs equipment's.

The United Republic of Tanzania through Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has been a member of WCO since 1964 and continue to work on upholding the effectiveness of Customs Administrations for implementing a broad range of government policies in areas as diverse as revenue collection, trade and traveler compliance, protection of society including anti-terrorism, cultural heritage, intellectual property, collection of statistics and environmental protection, in an all-inclusive manner, covering all stakeholders including the private sector.

The benefit that Tanzania obtained after joined the WCO is evidence in the following areas:

- 1) Tanzania Customs has been provided WCO instruments and guideline text, for instance updated version HS tariff book with Explanatory text, Risk Management Compendium, Valuation Compendium, SAFE-Framework of standard etc.
- 2) The WCO has offered a lot of trainings and scholarship to Tanzania Customs officials in the areas of Enforcement, Rules of origin, Valuation, Risk Managements and so others
- 3) The WCO Convention, Agreement, instrument and packages has reformed the customs national laws and regulation into the adoption of the East Africa Community Customs Management Act (EACCOMA) and East Africa Community Customs Regulation (EACCR)
- 4) The WCO has been ready to provide Technical support in the area of Customs modernization and organize her partners, financial institutions and donor countries support Customs Infrastructure, for instance Tanzania Customs Laboratory.

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Issued by:
COMMISSIONER GENERAL

Iringa, Njombe farmers admit cost of ignorance on soil acidity and lime use

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Njombe and Iringa regions have admitted that for years they have been harvesting less than what they deserve because they were either unaware or ignored effects of acidity and failure to use lime to improve soil health of our farms, said Nelson Luhungo producer of soya, beans and sunflower seeds in Luganga village, Kilolo District.

"I am harvesting 45 bags in three acres as opposed to 30 bags I used to get in the same area. An additional 15 bags means a lot to a farmer. We are now better off because of the joint efforts of the three organisations, especially the Clinton Foundation Initiative," he

said.

Clinton Foundation Initiative's Senior Agri-business Advisor, Miembo Shija, said the company works with farmers so that they can get bumper harvests and put on the market quality produce.

Florence Nkini, the Public Relations Officer of the Farm for the Future, praised the cooperation the three institutions were getting from farmers and leaders in the two regions. "The success they are talking about is a result of this cooperation," she said.

Daimon Kisoma, a farmer in Chipengele Mtitu ward, Kilolo District, said they knew nothing about soil health "until Sagcot taught us about crop value chains in Ihemi Cluster. We have realised

that you cannot grow and increase productivity without a keen leader around," he said. The tour of villages was coordinated by Sagcot's IT and Communications Officer, Abraham Nyahucho.

Tahiya Chusi, a tomato grower in Ilula Sokoni, Nyalumbu ward, said in the past farmers used a lot of fertilisers, while harvests dwindled instead of rising. "We had never heard about pH in the soil until these people came. Harvests fell while we used a lot of fertilisers every season," she reported.

The three organisations are working jointly to protect the environment, improve farmers' livelihoods, increase people's nutrition and ensure stable food security in the two regions.



Dr Mzuri Issa, Director of the Zanzibar chapter of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa), pictured in Zanzibar on Tuesday addressing journalists attending a capacity building seminar on various forms and aspects of human rights violations. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Francis Kajubi, Kahama

MSALALA District Council residents in Shinyanga Region breathe a sigh of relief as medical services such as X-ray and ultrasound are now offered at Bugarama health center.

The relief comes after Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine had contributed over 90 percent of the health center's infrastructure improvements.

With the new improvements at the health center, Msalala residents will not again incur an average of 80,000/- in transport costs of rushing a patient to Kahama Municipal Hospital about 80 kilometres away.

Speaking at an event to launch the new buildings and handing over of the medical facilities, Mark Bristow, President and CEO Barrick Gold Corporation said that investing in the host communities' health services is among the company's priority.

"Barrick would like to see better health services offered to the community and we're proud of it. We intend to deliver more for the communities' in Tanzania apart from paying taxes that contributed to national development plans," said Bristow.

According to him, the company is willing to support programmes against gender based violence on

X-ray and ultrasound services to be available at Bugarama health centre

children and women so that the better community with equality is realised.

"Barrick is also willing to support the setup of road safety signs to avoid unnecessary accidents due to overspending by some drivers," said Bristow.

Silas Kayanda, Bugarama health center medical in-charge, thanked Barrick for his support in the health sector. He said the Bugarama health center started back in 1972 as a small dispensary attending the local community.

It was upgraded to a health center in 2016 after the mining company had shown interest in funding construction of new buildings and purchasing medical facilities.

He said the project was implemented in three phases since 2016 started with construction of maternity and outpatient department buildings under Barrick sponsorship through community social responsibility fund.

"It was followed with the construction of general ward and theatre buildings in 2018 to 2019. The construction of radiology and mortuary buildings followed in 2020," said Kayanda.

According to him, before the infrastructure developments, the

center had a capacity of attending 15 to 25 out patients a day. Currently, it attends 50 to 100 patients.

"We now have a clinic for pregnant women and children below five years where 250 to 300 patients are attended every day. The number of women who give birth at our center per month is between 250 and 300 and 20 to 30 patients undergo surgical operation," he asserted.

He said completion of the radiology building puts the center in a position of attending 50 to 120 patients who need X-ray and ultrasound services.

Leonard Mabula, Msalala Acting District Executive Director said that the center has one ambulance and asked Barrick to find a way of assisting the district to secure either one or two new ambulances.

"The center has no fence but this is within our capacity and will work on it soon," said Mabula.

Pili Ndaki, a Bugarama resident, thanked the mining company's collaboration with the government that has seen health services improved in the district. "We are now comfortable receiving medical treatments that we used to pay a lot of money for travelling to Kahama to get treated," said Ndaki.

TOAM embarks on project to promote organic farming

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) through financial partnership from various international and local organisations is implementing seven different programmes aimed to promote organic farming across the country.

The ongoing programmes, worth around 879.8m/- are based on strategies to impart the farmers with useful knowledge on agronomic practices, empowerment of small-scale farmer families, research and advocacy for agroecology as well as market access.

Bakari Mongo, TOAM's chief executive officer said the ongoing robust projects were realising intended end results in uplifting performance of the agriculture sector.

The CEO said this here during the opening of this year's TOAM annual general meeting held in Dodoma city.

He disclosed names of the ongoing programmes in questions and their respective budget in brackets as 'Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative -EOAI (135,889,229/-

), Institutional Innovation for Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa- IIABA (190,480, 500/-) and Knowledge Hub for Eastern Africa-KHEA (259,625,000/-).

"There are also, 'The Empowerment of Small-scale Farmer Families through Resilient, Democratic Rural Organisations, Organic Agriculture, and Market Access and Advocacy-ESFROMA (33,000,000/-), 'Research and Advocacy for Agroecology as well as National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy, at 163,598,000/-," he added.

And he added, the movement was very thankful for the patriotic manner to which the international partners are injecting their side with useful financial support for running the projects, saying TOAM was very committed to always ensure the funds provided are being utilised effectively.

He named the organisations behind the projects as Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), AFD; France, GIZ, Laudes Foundation, CISU, Organic Denmark, SwissAid, Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) and PELUM Tanzania.

Apart from receiving helpful

funds from donors, the movement is however working round the clock to develop possible ways to set and expand our financial sources in order to stand a safe side to implement more projects.

The Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement is a registered NGO formed in 2005 under the NGO Act of 2002. It is an umbrella organisation that coordinates and promotes the development of organic farming among farmers, distributors and consumers through networking and information distribution.

TOAM sees development of the organic farming sector as a crucial factor for sustainable livelihoods and envisions establishing a vibrant, sustainable and mutually beneficial organic sector in Tanzania.

Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity, whereby organic foods are products derived from certified farm management systems using land husbandry techniques and biological manual methods instead of synthesis inputs.



Franone Mining and Gems Ltd director Onesmo Mbise (3rd-L, in striped T-shirt), whose firm is engaged in tanzanite mining in Mirerani, briefs Manyara regional commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere (L, foreground) and Simanjiro district commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera (to the RC's left) on Tuesday on activities at the mining site. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

240 youth to benefit from implementation of major agribusinesses initiative project

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AT LEAST 240 local youth are expected to benefit from the implementation of the first phase of the country's major agribusiness initiative-Building Better Tomorrow- Youth Initiative For Agribusiness (BBTYIA) Project aimed to support them to engage in farming to improve their economic status.

Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe said that the 2022-2030 initiative designed by the ministry of agriculture in partnership with key institutions, focuses to enhance the engagement of youth in the agricultural sector for sustainable and improved livelihoods, where in its further strategic objectives, the move focuses to inspire youth through diverse training, mentoring and coaching.

According to minister Bashe, since January 15, this year, the parent ministry opened an application window for the eligible youths to apply for opportunities to join with the envisaged economic project.

"We are receiving applications from both the youth with agricultural background and the fresh ones, and finally, there will be a professional and careful evaluation to select the qualified best ones," he said.

He added, the 240 picked youth will enter into a professional training clinic to capacitate them with helpful skills on agronomic and agribusiness skills in readiness to start production.

"If all goes well, the prospective beneficiary youths to be picked in the project's first phase will in April, start receiving relevant training at our well-equipped training centre at Bihawana, Dodoma Region under supervision of the high-profile agro pundits," he added.

He informed that the parent ministry was now working to finalize vital processes for the preparation of a total of 23,000 hectares of lands, to be used by the farmers for the effective production of varied economic cash crops in terms of separate special block farms.

"Plans are to establish special block farms to be installed with irrigation schemes and other necessary infrastructures in order to assist the youths to produce effectively. And as per the project's design, each of the qualified youth will freely be provided with his/her own piece of land, ranging from one to around ten hectares," he expounded.

The Minister further detailed that the project intends to ensure each block farm has one big investor, saying the investor will not pay anything as a fee to engage into the block farm, but will be responsible for purchasing all of the economic

cash crops to be produced by the youth.

"The young farmers will be free to use the land, installed irrigation schemes and other facilities, and above all, they will be assisted to acquire friendly capital loans from financial institutions," he informed.

He further said that in the course of eight years of its operation, the project aims to achieve 12,000 profitable enterprises across 12,000 villages within the country.

"This is however possible through partnerships between the Ministry of Agriculture, private sector, development partners, Tanzania Youth in Agriculture Association and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)," he added.

The BBTYIA project formulation process adopted a participatory approach involving the government, the private sector, development partners and other key stakeholders. The initiative is indeed a tool for contributing to the attainment of the Agenda 10/30 that envisages increasing the youth employment by one million and obtaining the growth rate of the agricultural sector by ten percent by the year 2030.

Among others, the strategy's chief objective targets to inspire youth through implementing behaviour/attitude changing communication strategy, empower youth through training mentoring and coaching, engaging youth in profitable and sustainable management of agribusinesses; as well as enabling youth-led enterprises by improving business environment and coordinate effectively youth agribusiness support initiatives for synergy and efficiency.

In Tanzania, there are about 16 million youth, of whom 10 million are aged 15 to 24 years and the rest are aged 25 to 34 years.

Impeccable statistics show that most youths (51 percent of those aged 15-24 years, and 46.6 percent of those aged 25-34 years) are engaged in farming.

However, off-farm agri-food systems provide employment opportunities for 8 percent and 16 percent of youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years, respectively, whereas other sectors outside farming and agri-food systems employ around 19 and 315 percent of youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years, respectively.

Since the 2010s, Tanzania has been promoting youth in agribusiness with the main goal to see youth participating fully in agricultural development and contributing to the national economic growth. But the efforts have yet to meet the needed results as there are a lot of hiccups that continue to bar the youth from engaging into the economic sector fruitfully.

Stakeholders plant 1,000 trees to help conserve Gairo mountains

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

ENVIRONMENTAL stakeholders have launched a programme to rescue Gairo Mountains from human activities which are threatening its existence.

The stakeholders namely, office of the Vice President (Environment) Tanzania Forests Service (TFS) and the office of the Regional Commissioner for Morogoro yesterday started planting trees surrounding the mountain.

About 1000 trees have been planted

around the 700 acres which is also a source of water for residents of the district and is being affected by human activities such as deforestation and charcoal burning.

In collaboration with a Non-Governmental Organisation known as Matokeo Youth Development Groups (MAYODA), the stakeholders have planted 1000 trees to begin within a plan which is progressive.

The coordinator for the campaign, Agustino Matefu said the aim is to implement the plan to plant 60 million

trees around the mountain to protect it from extinction.

Despite planting of trees especially in the water sources, we offer education to residents on how to protect the environment for the use of the future generation.

One of the conservationists from Gairo district Edna Stephano named one of the tasks for the team saying it was going to work with citizens to plant trees.

Gairo District Commissioner Jabir Makame said the efforts taken are to plant more trees around the environment of the mountain so that it is saved.

The district commissioner banned all activities around the mountain including charcoal burning and other related activities to protect the physical feature.

Strategically communicate with public, finance ministry's communications unit heads advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

HEADS of various communications units under the Finance and Planning Ministry have been required to strategically communicate in order to convey ministry's reports to the people by adhering to quality and time.

The call was made by the Deputy Permanent secretary (treasury) Jenifer Omolo who was represented by the Assistant Director of Administration and Human Resources (human resources division), Benjamin Chilumba at the opening of the forum for the communications units of institutions under the ministry held in Morogoro.

Chilumba said the forum will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss challenges facing them and find solutions thereon that will beef up their day to day work performance and achievements for the ministry in general.

He said participation in the forum is a good sign for the ministry's growth and its institutions in boosting communications with the public and that advice and recommendations that will be provided from the discussions will be addressed.

"I direct all heads of communications units to continue

using the forum to discuss and exchange experience on various mass communications issues, and it is my hope that in the coming days the forum will be among bigger and better forums in the country," said Chilumba.

He also called upon the forum, the first one to be held, that in the coming days it should involve more communications stakeholders in order to get different opinions and build up good relations with the stakeholders in order to advertise the ministry, its institutions and the government in general.

Earlier, the Head of the

Communications unit in the finance and planning ministry, Benny Mwaipaja said due to changes in science and technology, the communications sector has also changed, hence, he said, the forum will provide the opportunity to participants to discuss, and remind each other important communications issues with stakeholders from within and outside the ministry.

He said in adhering to changes in the communications sector, the forum will help to exchange opinions and strategically plan on how to provide to the public the ministry's statements.



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INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLIERS 2023/2024

Introduction:
G4S Tanzania is a subsidiary of Allied Universal which is the world's leading integrated security company, we specialize in outsourced business processes in sectors where security and safety risks are considered a strategic threat. As part of Allied Universal company this makes G4S/Allied the largest employer in the world with more than 800,000 employees and operating in more than 80 countries in the world. For more information on G4S, please visit www.g4s.com. We work to safeguard the welfare and prosperity of our customers, their employees, infrastructure, assets and customers, across the globe - helping to create safer and more secure environments in which people live and work. We have an extensive range of customers around the world but our strategic focus is on sectors where safety and security are key. Our operations in Africa have been established for over 50 years and we now employ over 120,000 people in 26 Countries, across the continent. Our team of professional security risk experts have operated at high levels within the military, police forces and corporate security environments; we deliver security solutions to clients wherever they operate, and often in remote and hostile environments.

REQUIREMENTS:

S/N	Items Description	Lot NO.
1	Provision of General Supplies, Stationeries, Printing.	Lot NO.1
2	Provision of Fleet Management Services, Batteries, Tyres and related Accessories.	Lot NO.2
3	Supply and Delivery of Electronic Security Devices and Related Services.	Lot NO.3
4	Provision of ICT Equipment, devices and Related Services.	Lot NO.4
5	Provision of Professional services, Pre and Post Medical check up.	Lot NO.5
6	Provision of Facility Management, Fumigation, Pest Control Services	Lot NO.6
7	Provision of Courier Services within Tanzania.	Lot NO.7
8	Supply and delivery of PPE'S, Staff Uniforms and Shoes.	Lot NO.8
9	Design and Printing of Promotional and Corporate Branded Materials	Lot NO.9
10	Supply and Provision of hardware Materials, Fire Fighting Equipment, Smoke detectors and Fire Alarms.	Lot NO.10

Interested vendors should request the full Document which will be sent via email upon receipt of a clear stamped deposit pay-in slip of Tshs 100,000/= (Tsh One hundred thousand only) Per each Lot with clear reason for deposit, which is Purchase of Supplier Proposal. Bank details are as follows:

ACCOUNT NAME : G4S SECURE SOLUTIONS (T) LIMITED
ACCOUNT NUMBER : 011103028237
BANK NAME : NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LTD
BRANCH NAME : CORPORATE BR
BRANCH CODE : 015011

Submission Instructions:
The following information is to be included by a vendor in the proposal;
 . The current company profile.
 . Copies of registration, certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, Tax clearance certificate and any industry-relevant license or certificate.
 . Evidence of similar assignment and at least three(3) Names and addresses of clients served.
 . Current Audited financial statement-for two(2) consecutive years.
 . Payment terms and conditions.

NOTE: Send a separate Quote for each Lot item in the schedule of requirements,

Vendors who wish to answer our RFP should send their proposals or hand delivery in sealed envelopes to:

G4S SECURE SOLUTIONS (T) LIMITED
P.O. BOX 5555
PLOT NO:37
ALLY HASSAN MWINYI ROAD, OYSTERBAY.
DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA.
By 8 February 2023 16:00 pm.

All sealed envelopes need to be marked as 'per lot submission.

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY, 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Yes, Diaspora must be law abiding, to spare relatives

EXTENSIVE sadness is in the air following acceptance by the government that indeed a Tanzanian student in Russia has died in Ukraine battlefields, trying to win his liberty from prison by signing for the Wagner Group quasi-mercenary army. The group is part and parcel of key Russian outlays in military outreach and intelligence, but as with other countries, it is constituted as a foreign legion (France), while the US has companies known as 'military contractors.' When things get tough, they are pushed to the front, being easily expendable.

As the news sank in, the government found it necessary to stress the point, that Tanzanians living abroad need to abide by the laws of their host countries, to avoid disasters as in the case of convict Nemes Tarimo. A 33 year old post-graduate student, he incomprehensibly met with his end in Russian uniform, in the battlefields of the Donbass, occupied Ukraine. Earlier reports talked about conviction for routine street offences, earning a stiff seven years.

It was not merely his personal faults and whatever techniques he adopted in seeking an extra buck but a convergence of circumstances which led to hit death. When war breaks out, it is those in unstable social situations who are drafted first, get harum scarum military training and put to the field, where the consequences are largely predictable. But in such situations there will be no conscript counsellor about the risks involved, while fate is also at work there.

The tale of his transit from Tanzania to Russia bespeaks of a successful and professional youth, scarcely destined for the sort of murky circumstances in which he finally met with his demise. Official reports said he went to Russia in

2020 for further studies, where he joined the Moscow Technological University for a Master's degree in business informatics. Still last March he was sentenced to seven years in prison, where in view of the outbreak of hostilities he was offered freedom from prison in exchange for military conscription. As prison is in large measure accompanied with hard labour it was a choice between a rock and a hard place.

Perhaps imagining that the group he was joining would be interested in his information technology skills for instance, his choice to sign up for the Wagner group was in that sense understandable, apart from the harsh facts of prison life in a rather strange environment. It was the nemesis of what he went to do there, but fate usually takes its toll, as we throw all caution to the winds in seeking out small openings for making a buck, anything of the sort. What happened later is history; the units needed men on the front than on computer desks.

The proper tragedy of the story is when close relatives now receive Tarimo's body as it left Moscow early in the week, where they sit down to organise burial arrangements. Chances that they will repeat eulogies given at a military farewell by a unit of the Russian armed forces, acknowledging the former convict's contribution to the country's outstretched special operation in the neighbouring country are next to negligible. To the family it is simply an unmitigated disaster, for a promising and well cultivated post-graduate student, a potential wizard in information technology after years of local university training and abroad, to end that way. There will be a minimal amount of solace that we often don't run our lives or control the future, but fall to minor traps that can prove costly in life, and at times fatally.

Employers should learn from NSSF auctioning Rift Valley Tea property

LAW enforcement of a somewhat rare category was at work lately when the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) auctioned properties of the Rift Valley Tea Solution following an attachment order by the Tembeke District Court in Dar es Salaam, after the company failed to remit members' contributions pegged at 226m/- across three years. This indicates that while the company did not remit the funds, it did not have viable standby funds either, or hedging funds they could have used to pay upfront and gain time. It is thus a case of bankruptcy where properties are then sold to pay debts. Nothing surprising about the issue.

What is not so clear is why the two situations converged into one, failure to pay out social security remittances without having declared that the company faces a cash emergency, and then failing altogether by the time the relevant authorities decide to take action on the matter. They usually don't rush and make an effort to be patient with employers, to get their books right and do the necessary. When such efforts fail to pay off, as in this case it stretched out for three years, then evidently no one can ask for more patience on their part but legal recourse.

A court brokerage firm which conducted the auctioning exercise said that it was conducted after the court ruled that the fund should be compensated. Explaining this situation is somewhat bizarre as it arises from cloudy circumstances, of a company keeping its accounts in the dark, and not remitting insurance funds.

It appears it first decided to play unfairly with its employees, and then its account books went berserk after

allowing falsification of its actual records. When one decides to play dice with the welfare of others, his fate is also harmed, later.

That however is only a secondary and indirect lesson of the Tea Solution property auctioning, where the preliminary aspect is the need to play fairly in relation to workers' welfare.

The usual expectation that the matter will be slid under the carpet because this or that officer will receive a small bribe if NSSF starts following up remittances just won't work. Society moves on, and there are some habits that are ultimately shed like the snake's skin, with new technology aiding. Any datum or entry can instantly be checked by higher officials, not as in the past when low ranking company officials could hide files for months, etc.

So employers need to learn that the only profitable game in town is to keep clean accounting books and pay the bills, especially with remitting employees' benefits. For business executives wishing to maintain their professional standing, this isn't something about which they need to be reminded, but there are always some outlying habits that don't go away easily.

Professionals act with full observation of the law in what they do, taking risks with market openings they can't always govern, not flout the law and then seek openings. These errors at times occur with respectable firms everyone thought they were above board, but it isn't always the case, as often times cheating lasts for a lifetime and well beyond. When it starts, it touches not just employee welfare but puts the company itself on the course to ruin, in tolerating shabby accounts.

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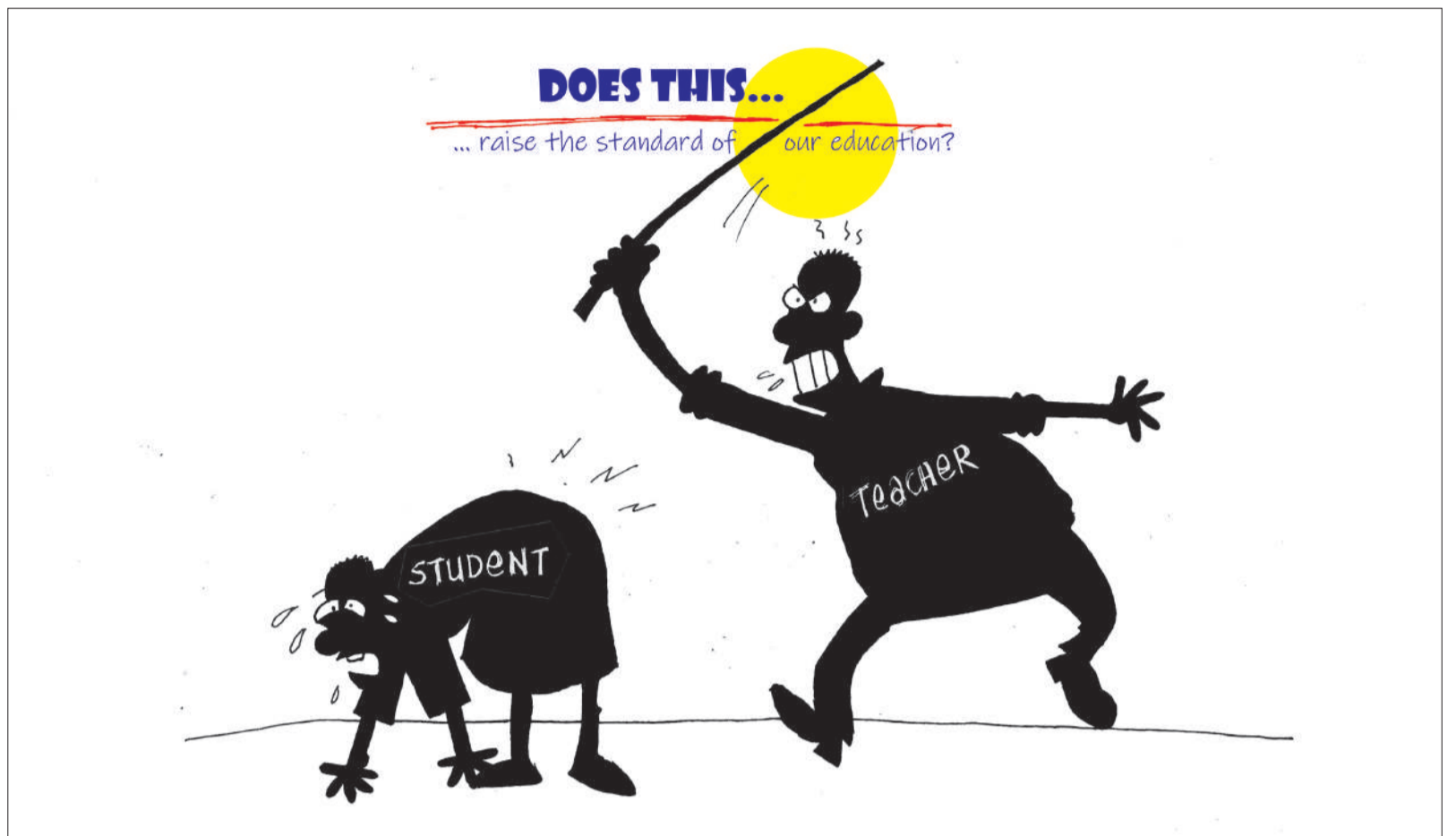
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African journalists: More training and resources will boost climate change coverage

By Kingsley Ighobor

AT the end of a five-minute newscast from a makeshift studio in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the venue of COP27, Cotonou-based journalist Ghyslaine Florida Zossoungbo was able to provide real-time information to her compatriots back home in the Republic of Benin.

Zossoungbo reports for Benin ODD Television, an online platform dedicated to promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in her country.

On this day, she had found a small corner in one of the pavilions at COP27 sat on a high stool behind a laptop while a camera perched on a tripod a few feet away.

At the conference, Zossoungbo and other journalists, even those from big established media institutions such as CNN or bloggers clutching an iPhone but with a large social media following, ran briskly after celebrities and world leaders or just about anyone who had anything significant to say about climate change.

And at the end of each day, they immediately churned out climate change content to audiences globally.

Yet, despite Zossoungbo's best effort to report on the climate crisis, buoyed by new public information technology, she says climate change reporting in her country—perhaps also in rest of Africa—is fraught with challenges.

"We are the only media institution that regularly reports on the climate crisis because we are focused on SDGs," Zossoungbo says. "Other media concentrate on politics and other issues."

She adds: "People can see that there is something happening to the weather because of the floods and drought, but they don't yet understand what it is in its full context. So we keep talking and talking about it."

In Cameroon, explains Killian Chinton Ngala, a journalist with multiple accreditations, "Climate change doesn't often make the front pages of newspapers or lead in television or radio news."

Reporting context Ngala's experience is that "Climate reporting often lacks context. When journalists report on flooding, for example, they don't necessarily link it to climate change. They usually focus on the event and the impact."

Without a perspective, climate change reporting becomes a complex concept for many, particularly the grassroots population.



Ngala provides an example of such reporting: "Not long ago, fighting broke out in communities in Cameroon's far North Region, between Choa-Arab cattle herders and Mousgoum farmers, over dwindling water resources.

Many people died in the conflict, and a top government official decided to visit the area.

"Do you know how journalists reported the story?" Ngala asks rhetorically. "They all reported that the minister had admonished the communities and asked them to be peaceful."

"Yet, when you look at it, why were the communities fighting? It's because the village stream was drying up, and community dwellers and cattle herders had to fight for the limited water, a consequence of changing weather patterns.

"If you ask many people in Africa why their lake is drying up or why they are experiencing frequent droughts, some will not even know, let alone advocate for solutions.

"Take the drying up of Lake Chad, which is forcing herders in northern Nigeria and Cameroon to migrate down south. The farmers in the south believe the herders are coming to take over their lands. The resulting fight has claimed many lives," he laments.

Why then is the media not robustly telling the climate story as it should be?

Need for training Ngala blames it on lack of resources and training.

"Environment reporting is expensive; it needs a lot of traveling and risk-taking. It does not come cheap. Many media organisations in Africa find it unaffordable. For instance, they cannot afford to spend thousands of dollars to

sponsor reporters to cover COP27," says Ngala.

There are very few trained environment reporters in newsrooms, he says. As a result, climate change reporting does not yet receive the attention it deserves.

"Media managers would rather send reporters to cover politics, which drive sales, than to report on issues related to the environment, unless it is a major disaster. They would rather send reporters to cover our President's trip to Addis Ababa than to COP27," she says.

External sponsors

Ngala was one of several African journalists sponsored to cover COP27 by climate-focused organisations particularly in Europe and North America.

For example, the Climate Change Media Partnership (CCMP) fellowship programme, an Earth Journalism Network (EJN) project managed by Internews and the Stanley Center for Peace and Security, brought Ngala and five other African journalists to Sharm El Sheikh to cover COP27.

They were among 20 journalists (out of over 500 who applied) from low and middle-income countries sponsored under the fellowship.

The fellowship package comes with training on "quality reporting on developments at COP27," according to an EJN announcement, adding that Africa accounts for 2-3 per cent of global emissions but bears the brunt of the climate crisis. Therefore, African journalists must continue to report on the impact of the crisis and hold governments accountable.

"It was a rigorous application process," says Evelyn Kpadeh Seagbeh of the Liberia-based Power FM and Television, also a fellow.

"But for the fellowship, I would

not be here [COP27]. I applied for the fellowship because coming here for two weeks would have cost thousands of dollars, which my organization may not afford."

Climate content

The symbiotic relationship between media content producers and content consumers is complex.

The perceived interest of the audience may influence content production even as the agenda-setting role of the media involves guiding audiences to focus on particular issues.

It leads to the point that African journalists have not yet effectively linked climate change issues to citizens' socioeconomic well-being.

"That's the point," retorts Ngala. "Journalists report on the environment in isolation of other economic development sectors. You can see why, in many countries, the economic affairs ministries do not consider the climate crisis a part of their portfolio. It is often the preserve of underfunded environment ministries."

"There is a lack of appreciation of the seriousness of the climate crisis," explains Mwika Bennet Simbeye, acting Managing Editor of the Times of Zambia.

"Journalists tend to instinctively focus on day-to-day problems—all the political drama and bread and butter issues," says Simbeye.

Agreeing that training and increased financing resources will boost climate reporting, Paul Omorogbe, the Chief Correspondent of the Tribune of Nigeria, is optimistic.

"I believe the situation is gradually changing. In Nigeria, climate crisis reporting is slowly but steadily gaining prominence in the media. We are getting there."

Let's continue improving business environment to lure more investors

By Guardian Reporter

THE trickiest task for any government of a developing country is to build investor confidence so that those with capital can start businesses and create employment for citizens. And the magic—all over the world—is to create a conducive business environment for investments to be profitable.

For, investors are not charitable organisations. Instead, they are for profit entities and want predictability that can guarantee just that. Therefore, governments that create ease of doing business and hence build investor confidence tend to succeed because of jobs and revenue through taxes.

One of the areas that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has recorded success in is building investor confidence and there are facts to prove this. For instance, statistics issued by Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in December last year showed that the country registered a total of 132 projects worth 3.16 billion US dollars (more than 7tr/-) in the past five months.

During the period, the manufacturing sector led by attracting 67 projects followed by the transportation (25), tourism (12), agriculture (nine), services (eight), commercial buildings (seven), human resources (three) and the financial sector (one).

The number of employment opportunities created from investment projects registered from July to November 2022 also increased by 57 per cent from 13,578 jobs during the same period last year to 21,297 employment opportunities.

This recorded value was almost four times the value registered during the same period in the year 2021, where the value was 881 million US dollars (about 2.06tr/-). TIC Acting Executive Director John Mnali said that the projects were those that were registered between July and November 2022.

Another area where the President has done well is selling Tanzania in the international forums where investors, business executives, influencers and philanthropists meet. One such opportunity was the recently-concluded 53rd annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in the resort city of Davos in Switzerland.

The meeting opened doors to negotiations between investors and the Tanzanian delegation led by President Samia which are expected to result in mega investments with the potential to create thousands of jobs and substantial amounts of money in tax revenue.

Thanks to Tanzania's participation in the forum, a number of foreign investors with shares in international companies have shown interest in investing in various sectors of production including agriculture, mining and industrial sectors.

According to Acting Executive Director of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) John Mnali some international companies have shown interest in setting up fertiliser manufacturing plants by using natural gas, adding that others want to invest in the health sector, extractive industry as well as in the value addition chain in the agriculture sector.

Director General of Zanzibar Investment Promo-



tion Authority (ZIPA) Sharrif Ali Sharrif, WEC enabled ZIPA officials to meet with investors who want to explore various economic opportunities in the isles under a win-win arrangement.

Zanzibar is currently promoting investments in the blue economy which is a flagship project of President Dr Hussein Mwinyi. This is informed by the fact that marine resources are largely untapped in the areas of deep sea fishing and fish processing, beach hotels and related tourism activities.

Zanzibar Zanzibar recognizes the role of the Blue economy in promoting socio-economic development through

better stewardship of the sea and related resources. This involves the utilization of maritime and marine resources to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth as well as creating employment opportunities.

Speaking recently, President Samia made assurance of achieving a 10 per cent annual growth rate in the agricultural sector by 2030 compared to the current growth of around 3.6 per cent, as part of the country's ambitious agricultural transformation vision.

If she succeeds in unlocking agriculture, President Samia will go down in history as the most successful leader.

For, agriculture sector—which contributes nearly one-third of the country's GDP and employs 75 per cent of the population—has the potential to increase incomes and improve livelihoods.

The President is already on the right trajectory by seeing agriculture as a means to achieve economic growth. If the government fully implements its plan to incorporate private sector engagement in agriculture, everything will fall into place.

I say so because if the government succeeds in attracting private sector investments in agriculture, everything else will work out. I say so because the

private sector will inject funds needed to mechanize agriculture and move from dependence on rain to irrigation.

With mechanization, irrigation and agro-processing, farming will have changed its current perceived lowly status to an attractive one where jobs are secured after submitting CV and passing interviews.

Because President Samia has registered success in attracting investors in other sectors of the economy, it can be hoped that she can do the same in agriculture. As a country, let us continue improving the business environment to attract more investors.

The educated ought to balance personal desires with social values

By Thomas Lyimo

THE aim of provision of education is to enhance personal development as well as societal and national development. Educated individuals are expected to behave well and relate with others in a respectful way.

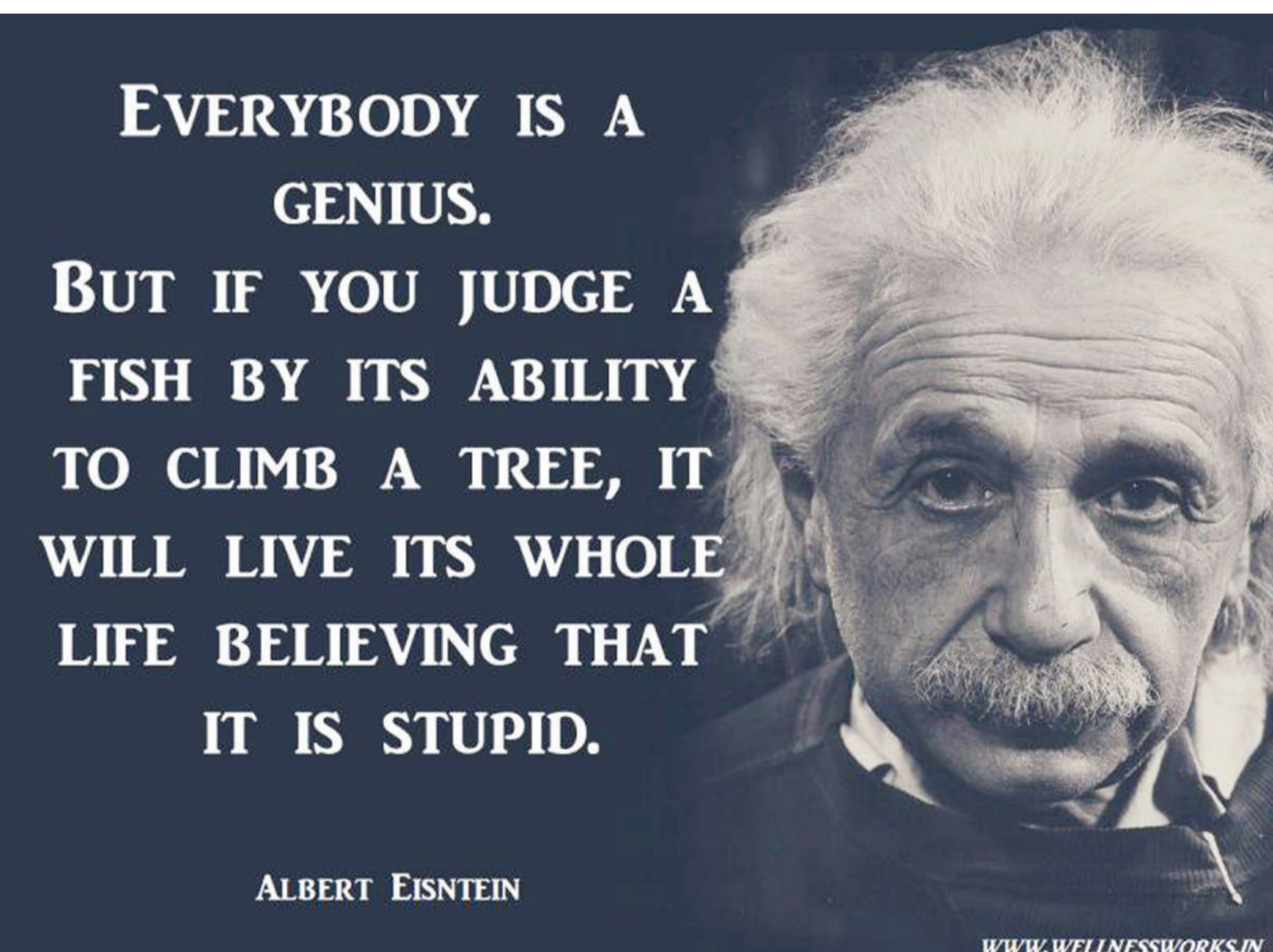
People who have gone to school now are supposed to live a healthy lifestyle by avoiding dangers to themselves and others by maintaining psychological and sociological wellbeing through positive interactionism.

Elites should help the society organize economic sectors for the betterment of the entire nation. They need to act as catalysts of development. But for them to succeed in promoting economic development, they must cooperate with others. The level of cooperation is what determines the level of development to be attained.

Those who are educated amongst us work in a society in which there are people of different levels of education, interests and perspectives and yet they have to succeed themselves and make the rest of the society succeed as well.

The challenge is how society defines success. There are those who believe that if a person can help others succeed, then they are successful. Others believe that one cannot claim to be successful if they are not surrounded by material wealth and most importantly financial resources.

After getting an education, individuals need to strive to strike a balance between their ambitions and the values and standings of the society. They have to stand in between their goals and the goals of society. Education that they have received in one way or another is likely to make them desirous of some luxuries as other people but at the same time the society ex-



pects them to do something for the social or national benefit.

With varied perspectives and demands of the society, elites need to strive to be balanced individuals as the great psychologist Sigmund Freud posited. They need to balance between their interests and the interests of

society. The society expects the elites to come up with new thinking and perspectives because there are set standards which the society expects everybody to follow including the elites.

For elites to balance their interests and those of the society and register success for themselves

and the society or nation at large, they need to be patient, reasonable and realistic.

Some in the society tend to expect educated people to register quick success immediately after school, something which rarely happens hence the fallacy that education is less important.

Words of disapproval or sarcasm come as a result of some individuals finding a relief in the same due to their failure to make it in education and hence negative stance which can be socially destructive.

The elites need to show a high level of wisdom in engaging with

people who don't comprehend the meaning of education as they gradually educate them. Effecting changes in society is not an overnight event as it demands effort. Patience enables learned individuals to ignore negativities.

It is individuals who can reason that can help the society appreciate the value of education. Justification in society on whether to do something or not is normally based on reasoning. Learned individuals who can reason can teach a lesson to people who cling to old ways of thinking.

Individuals who graduate from our educational institutions need to be realistic so as to not depend on miracles or influence the rest of the society to believe in what won't happen. These people need to aid in evaluation, planning and predicting future trends in socio-economic development. This helps the society embrace activities or initiatives which can bring development instead of waiting for things which are not likely to happen.

Education is very important for national development but those who attain it should know how to relate with the rest of the society so that their education becomes meaningful.

The learned individuals need to revisit the postulation by Sigmund Freud on balancing individual's desire and the teaching of the society as education normally increases the number of desires for someone and yet there are social values. To be a successful intellectual is to be a psychologist.

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

On International Day of Education, we must prioritise girls in humanitarian crisis

By Yasmine Sherif and Stephen Omollo

“IS it a sin to be a girl? We don't want to be at home and illiterate. We want to go to school, study and be intelligent.”

In just a few words, this plea for education from a young Afghan girl has captured the world's attention. Her heartbreaking question shows how the Taliban's recent ban on girls attending secondary school and university - effectively ending education opportunities for all Afghan girls and women - is not only violating their fundamental human right to education but shattering countless hopes and dreams in an instant.

Elsewhere in the world, millions of other girls living through humanitarian crises are also being deprived of the right to go to school. In their case, it isn't necessarily a proclamation that bars them from learning, but hunger, conflict or the consequences of extreme weather induced by the climate crisis, sometimes a combination of all of these. And underpinning this, gender inequality means that the sheer fact they are girls means their education and rights often aren't prioritized.

For example, at present, hunger is causing huge damage to girls' education opportunities in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, Haiti and other hotspots around the world.

The reasons for this are many and interconnected. When food is scarce, it is often girls who shoulder the responsibility of travelling long distances to find sustenance, or caring for siblings while their parents do so, leaving little time for their studies. When small quantities of food are shared amongst a family, evidence shows girls often eat last and last, making it difficult for them to focus and truly benefit when they do go to school.

Elsewhere, from Ukraine to South Sudan, conflict is disrupting girls' education as families are forced to flee for their safety - indeed, half of all refugee children are out of school.

Whatever the reason, when girls are forced to drop out of school, it isn't just their education and life opportunities that suffer. Adolescent girls in particular then become even more vulnerable to violence, exploitation, early pregnancy and harmful practices, from child marriage to female genital mutilation. Indeed, the chances of a girl marrying as a child reduce by six percent with each year she remains in secondary education.

Inclusive, quality education is a lifeline which has a profound effect on girls' rights. But more needs to be done to make this a reality.

Girls in crisis settings are nearly 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than those living in countries not in crisis. One reason for this is that in emergencies and protracted crises, education responses are severely underfunded. The total annual funding for education in emergencies as a percentage of global sector-specific humanitarian funding in 2021 was just 2.9 per cent.

Together with partners, Plan International and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the UN's global fund for education in emergencies and



“Is it a sin to be a girl? We don't want to be at home and illiterate. We want to go to school, study and be intelligent.” This plea for education from a young Afghan girl has captured the world's attention. Credit: UNICEF/2022/Adebayo



Yasmine Sherif and Stephen Omollo. Credit: Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

protracted crises, are calling for this proportion to be increased to at least 10% of humanitarian financing. This must include increased multi-year investments in the institutional capacities of local and national actors.

Today, on International Day of Education, we stand in solidarity with girls in Afghanistan and in all other crisis affected countries to say “education cannot wait.” Education is not only a fundamental human right, but a lifesaving and life-sustaining investment for girls affected by crisis. We must stand with girls as they defend this right.

Next month, when world leaders will gather in Geneva at the Education Cannot Wait High-Level Financing Conference, we urge donor governments to immediately increase humanitarian aid to education. We must translate our promises into action through bold, courageous and substantive financing.

This funding is essential if we are to build resilience in the most climate-exposed nations, where the consequences of extreme weather will all but certainly pose a threat to girls' education in the years to come. Education budgets - which declined by two-thirds of low- and lower-middle-income countries after the onset of COVID-19 - must be protected and increased, especially in crisis-affected countries.

Investments should be geared towards building stronger education systems and tackling gender inequality and exclusion, with girls' needs prioritized at every stage of programming. Governments should also ensure that refugee and internally displaced children aren't overlooked, and make concrete commitments towards inclusive quality education for displaced children and youth at the Global Refugee Forum in December of this year.

Right now, 222 million crisis-affected children and adolescents are in need of urgent education support and more than half of those are girls. It is critical that Education Cannot Wait is fully funded with a minimum of US\$1.5 billion in additional resources over the next four years, so that partners such as Plan International and others can deliver the critical programmes needed.

Too often, girls' voices are silenced during emergencies, leaving their experiences invisible and their needs ignored and overlooked. It's up to us to change this, for a more just, equal and peaceful world.

Yasmine Sherif is the Director of Education Cannot Wait, the UN's global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. Stephen Omollo is Chief Executive Officer of Plan International, a child rights and humanitarian organisation active in more than 80 countries globally.

IPS UN Bureau

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



Some beekeepers in rural Tanzania rely entirely on traditional log hives - study

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA is Africa's second-biggest producer of honey, and to get it to the next level, the country's government and aid agencies want beekeepers to adopt hanging-frame beehive designs to increase their production and income.

But beekeepers have been reluctant to abandon their traditional hives made from hollow logs. What do they know that the technical experts don't?

The latter are promoting hanging frame beehives, a design originating in Europe in the 1800s. These are rectangular hives made out of fast-growing commercial timber species like cypress and pine, into which removable wood frames are slotted that hold the honeycombs.

Traditional hives across East Africa are made from hollowed-out logs or bark peeled from living trees to maintain a cylindrical shape.

A study published recently in Tropical Conservation Science, researchers from the University of Dar es Salaam's Institute of Resource Assessment interviewed 74 beekeepers from four villages in the semi-arid Chemba district of Dodoma, in central Tanzania, about their use of hives. Just six of them used modern hives exclusively. Twenty-four used a combination of modern and traditional hives, and 44 respondents relied entirely on traditional log hives.

Log hives in Chemba are mostly made from acacia trees cut down outside of community forest protected areas, putting additional pressure on woodlands that are already highly degraded from charcoal production, the study says.

Lead author Charles Chami told Mongabay that few beekeepers admit to personally felling trees, which is an offense punishable by a fine under Tanzanian law. Chami's team took pictures of ring barked trees within the study area – a tell-tale sign beekeepers are at work, rather than charcoal burners or farmers clearing land.

There are no available figures that confirm the impact of log hive beekeeping on Tanzania's woodlands. A study done by a separate group of researchers, interviewing 15 beekeepers in one village just across Tanzania's southern border, in neighboring Mozambique's Niassa Special Reserve, found that beekeepers there killed 4% of the trees on a 5.9-hectare (14.5-acre) study site by debarking them to make log hives.

The practice, together with that of felling trees to get at wild bees' nests, is "likely to reduce the potential of honey production from hives, since bees depend on the nectar resource provided by large-diameter trees with large crowns," those researchers wrote.

The unwillingness of the majority of Chemba beekeepers to adopt

modern hives surprised Chami and his team, who say that poor collection and filtering methods mean the honey produced in traditional hives is often mixed with pollen and ash, and fetches a lower price. Modern hives also produce more honey, they say: as much as 20 kilograms (44 pounds) per hive, compared to as little as 5 kg (11 lbs.) from a traditional hive.

One reason that adoption of modern hives is low is likely the high cost, the researchers found. A hanging frame beehive can cost more than \$51 in Tanzania, well above an average beekeeper's annual earnings.

Another powerful reason for avoiding the modern hives may be deep cultural preferences. Chemba district is home to the Sandawe ethnic group whose ancestors used log hives. They told the researchers that they're unwilling to break with the past.

"They said they had been trained to hunt honey and acquire skills to create log and bark beehives from their grandfathers since childhood," Chami said. "It has become part of their culture, and they can't abandon it."

The Sandawe and another ethnic group in the area, the Rangi, use honey in traditional ceremonies. Ones involving marriage, for instance, require honey that's unfiltered and combined with brood comb, the part of the honeycomb that includes bee larvae. Sandawe beekeepers told the research team that this sort of honey can only be obtained from log or bark beehives.

But Chami said he feels that by persisting with their traditional techniques, the beekeepers are putting themselves at a disadvantage.

"These hanging frame beekeepers get support from the district to access big or national markets, such as during farmers' days (Nane Nane), to sell their bee products," he said. "They sell at high prices. This differs from traditional beekeepers who use log hives. They don't get support due to their low-quality bee products. Hence they access local markets and sometimes sell honey among themselves in their communities at low prices."

Still, traditional log hive owners don't do too badly, the data show. Out of the 74 beekeepers interviewed for the study, 14 traditional log hive owners exceeded annual earnings of 200,000 shillings (\$86) for their honey. By contrast, only 11 owners of hanging frame beehives surpassed that figure. Even the number of log hive owners who earned more than 50,000 shillings (\$21) surpassed that of modern hive owners: 15 to six.

Chami said these mixed results might be explained by the unique preferences of local consumers in the Chemba region. For instance, traditional beekeepers producing honey in log hives close to members

of the Rangi and Sandawe communities would earn more by selling them unfiltered honey, in line with their cultural preferences, than owners of hanging frame beehives.

"In Africa we must remember that beekeeping does not conform to agroindustrial practices and the agroindustrial mindset," said Neil Rusch, a research associate at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, in South Africa, who was not part of the Tanzanian study. "It's rather about augmenting livelihoods and the emphasis is really on biocultural practices, and the needs of the community."

"I believe we should listen and respect Indigenous knowledge and practices when it comes to beekeeping," he added, saying it's a fallacy that modern frame hives produce better-quality honey than log hives.

"Honey is honey. The quality is derived from the way it is harvested, and the methods of processing. The narrative that says that log-hive beekeeping is non-progressive, unhealthy, is just not a viable story."

That's a view shared by Nicola Bradbear, the director of U.K.-based charity Bees for Development. "So-called 'traditional beekeeping' is 'traditional' because it works well and is sustainable," she told Mongabay.

"In our work we do not use the word 'traditional' because it comes with so much baggage. We talk about, and respect, local Indigenous knowledge – bees, beekeeping and beekeepers are different everywhere – and beehives that work well here in the U.K. do not work well with tropical bees in tropical Africa."

It's possible that beekeepers in Tanzania hold similar beliefs, though this wasn't expressly stated during the course of the research.

Janet Lowore, a program manager and colleague of Bradbear's at Bees for Development, said the fact that Tanzania, along with Ethiopia and Zambia, is one of the top honey-producing regions in Africa is proof that traditional beekeeping is highly productive.

It also has "very positive forest management actions," she said. Lowore's research in Zambia, and similar work by others in the broad-leaved deciduous forests of Malawi's Nyika Plateau, shows that traditional beekeepers set early-season fires that prevent more intense and destructive fires later on. She said the use of log hives doesn't cause deforestation either.

"To make log hives, beekeepers use large trees. Smaller trees ... are left to grow," Lowore said. "Using log hives is destructive to the trees which are used for making hives – this is correct – yet it is an assumption without basis that the use of these trees subsequently causes destruction to the forest as a whole."



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



TRANSFER VACANCIES

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) was established through the Tanzania Meteorological Authority Act No. 2 of 2019. TMA is responsible for regulating, Coordinating and provision of meteorological services to the general public, institutions and individual users of tailor-made services for socio-economic development. The Authority is also responsible for issuing warnings and advisories on severe weather events for protection of human life and properties.

TMA is inviting suitable and qualified Public Servants who wish to be transferred to TMA to apply for the following vacancies:

POST TITLE : DRIVER II (7POSTS)
DUTY STATION : TMA OFFICES
REPORTS TO : TRANSPORT OFFICER

(a) Qualifications

Holder of Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) having a valid Driving License Class C or E and Basic Driving Course with driving experience of at least one (1) year without causing any accident. Possession of Trade Test Grade II or Level II in Motor Vehicle Maintenance or Mechanics is an added advantage.

(b) Duties and Responsibilities

- To make pre-vehicle inspection to the assigned vehicle prior to traveling;
- To drive Authority vehicles as assigned by the Transport Officer;
- To report any vehicle mechanical defects to the Transport Officer;
- To keep record of vehicle movements, distance covered within its logbook;
- To keep record of fuel and type filled within its logbook;
- To perform routine service to the vehicle; and
- To perform any other duties as may be assigned by the supervisors.

(c) Mode of Application

Any interested Public Servants may apply and the application must fulfill the following condition:

- Submit Application letter with Curriculum Vitae indicating names, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address;
- Submit Certified copies of Certificates;
- Submit Ones passport size photo and names and contact of three referees;
- Applicants must channel their application letter through their respective employers. Failure to channel the letter through to their respective employer will lead to automatic disqualification;
- Transfer is not a promotion, therefore applicants should apply for the position they are currently holding and must state their check number;
- Only successful candidates will be contacted for further procedures;
- The Authority will cover the transfer costs for those Applicants who will be successful in the transfer process to TMA
- Lobbying will not be entertained and may result to the applicant's disqualification;
- The applicants who will submit their applications through E-mail address provided below should attach all necessary attachments as one document, preferably in PDF format; and
- Interested applicants should submit their application by **8th February 2023** through E-mail; **met@meteo.go.tz** or to the following address;

**Director General,
Tanzania Meteorological Authority,
University of Dodoma,
Administration Block, College of Informatics and Virtual Education,
1 CIVE Street,
P.O.Box 27,
41218 Dodoma**

We want to be legal: We're not 'Zama Zama' criminals, say South African artisanal miners

By Fawzia Moodley

MINING towns across South Africa have become hostage to a booming but bloody illegal mining economy.

Wealthy kingpins, mainly from neighbouring Lesotho, run criminal syndicates and recruit poverty-stricken workers to go into disused underground shafts to dig for the country's mineral wealth. Dubbed 'Zama Zama', many of them are former mine workers retrenched by the big legal mines and who know the ins and outs of the dangerous but lucrative mining operations.

Paps Lethoko, the chairperson of the National Association of Artisanal Miners (NAAM), says these Zama Zama spend months in the underground shafts. Their criminal bosses run tuck shops in the dark belly of the earth.

"The tuck shops sell bread for R200 (normal price around R20), tinned fish for R300 (normally about R25). After months of living in the claustrophobic catacombs under hazardous conditions, the miners end up with about R30,000 (about 1800 USD) and paying more than double the normal amount for food and other necessities to the very bosses who employ them," he told IPS.

Lethoko says most disused underground shafts in Klerksdorp, a mining town in the North West province, are run by a wealthy politician from Lesotho.

"The Basotho miners are forced to pay the security guards up to R20,000 (about 1700 USD) to enter the mines they are employed at.

They are treated worse than slaves, just as they were by mining companies under apartheid."

Violence is inevitable. Local communities and artisanal miners, who until recently could not become legal, often get caught in the crossfire of territorial battles between rival Zama Zama gangs.



Zama Zama miners are seen in an informal settlement in Johannesburg, South Africa. Credit: Fawzia Moodley/IPS



In July 2022, all hell broke loose after the horrific gang rape of film crew members at a mine dump close to West Village in Krugersdorp on the West Rand. Police arrested 80 Zama Zama, 14 of whom were directly linked to the rape incident but were later acquitted.

Artisanal miners, who are already struggling with bureaucracy and lack of a proper legal regime to get licenses to operate legally, say the rape incident has damaged their cause even further.

Lethoko says: "We have been trying to form cooperatives and get permits to operate legally, but the mining companies, the media, and even the police lump us with the criminal Zama Zama."

An advocate who was assisting them at the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) agrees: "People and even the police don't understand that the artisanal miners, essentially local people who have for centuries been mining in survival mode, want to be law-abiding citizens but are hampered by a broken system every step of the way."

The LRC published a report in 2016 on the conditions under which artisanal miners operate, and little has changed since then.

In the North West province, NAAM tried negotiating with mining giant Harmony Gold to allow artisanal miners to continue mining on the perimeters of the mine. "The local people know where to find the gold in the abandoned mine dumps. This is indigenous knowledge because they have been doing it for a long time, but we want to be legal, so we formed a cooperative and had a meeting with the company.

"The next thing, Harmony's security prevented them from mining on the land even though it had long been abandoned, and the company applied for an interdict



The next thing, Harmony's security prevented them from mining on the land even though it had long been abandoned, and the company applied for an interdict against me and the miners for trespassing.

against me and the miners for trespassing," says Lethoko.

Worse still, a gold rush followed as news of the abundance of gold in the area spread.

"The Basotho Zama Zama arrived en masse; they have a lot of money, so they bribed the mine security and took over the area from where local artisanal miners had been barred by the mine."

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) now recognises artisanal mining but getting permits is expensive and onerous.

"Artisanal miners live a hand-to-mouth existence; most of us don't have data or even money for permits, and DMRE officers at the local level don't seem to know that artisanal mining cooperatives can now be legally recognised."

Lethoko says the other problem is a lack of a regulatory framework. "The regional DMRE and most local government officials are unaware that we have the right to be recognised, so they and the police continue to treat us as criminals instead of assisting us

to obtain permits."

Getting permits is literally a "minefield". So far, only one co-op in Kimberley in the Northern Cape Province has received legal recognition since the law changed in 2017.

Toto Nzamo, a member of the Tujaliano Community Organisation, says xenophobic tension erupts regularly as Zama Zama violence spills into local communities.

It doesn't help that the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Policy which recognises the potential of artisanal mining as a livelihood strategy, reserves the permit system for South Africans.

Nzamo works with artisanal miners and Zama Zama in the Makaanu informal settlement in Germiston near Johannesburg, who are involved in surface gold mining at a disused mine and are struggling to get licenses.

"They have to form co-ops, identify the land they wish to mine on, and have environmental assessments done. These people have neither the skills nor the access to the kind of money required. A geologist's report costs at least R82000; where are these poor people supposed to get that kind of money?" asks Nzamo.

He says the only way to end the Zama Zama violence and criminality is for the Department of Home Affairs and the DMRE to work together to ensure that foreign nationals who qualify get their papers quickly.

"The tragedy is that between the criminal syndicates, the big mining houses that are returning to mines they once abandoned because now there is technology available to mine profitably again, and the inept DMRE, decent law-abiding people are being prevented from earning a living lawfully," the advocate said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Islamic finance thriving despite global market storms

By Mohammed AlKaff AlHashmi

The Covid-19 pandemic has ravaged the global economy, with countries fighting record inflation levels with soaring interest rates across the board.

For example, inflation in the United States recently went as high as 9.1 percent: a figure that has not been seen in over 40 years.

Similar numbers are being witnessed globally in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and others.

Despite the adverse developments in the western world, the Islamic finance industry has not only weathered the storm exceptionally well.

Despite the global recession, Islamic finance continues to expand at an impressive rate, registering double-digit growth of 10.6 percent in the height of the pandemic.

That said, even though the gross domestic product (GDP) growth of certain Islamic nations countries is expected to be lower than in the past, studies claim that the sector will continue to grow at a steady rate of 10 to 12% over the next two years.

So what are the reasons for this growth, and how is the Islamic finance sector projected to develop in 2023?

Why does Islamic finance continue to grow?

As mentioned earlier, even though the value of Islamic finance assets stagnated throughout



2020, it is estimated that they will continue growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5 percent over the next five-year stretch, reaching a cumulative valuation of US\$3.5 trillion by 2024.

The reason for the continued growth is that the principles of Islamic finance are becoming increasingly attractive to people worldwide.

For example, Islamic finance prohibits the charging of interest and instead focuses on equitable profit and loss-sharing arrangements, promoting communal harmony and brotherhood.

Additionally, Islamic finance continues to benefit from increased and high-quality regulation as well as the rising popularity of socially responsible investments, or ESG, among other key aspects, including:

Commitment to transparency: Islamic finance is based on the principles of fairness, transparency and ethical conduct.

Protection of economic stability: As Islamic finance prohibits speculation and encourages investments in real assets, it can help spur economic stability and reduce the risk of financial crises.

Encouragement of social responsibility:

Islamic finance strongly emphasizes social responsibility and charitable giving. This way, it helps promote the development of underprivileged communities and support social welfare programs.

Market growth: The Islamic finance industry is expected to grow in the coming years, presenting an opportunity for investors and businesses to tap into this market and benefit from its expansion.

Lastly, the Islamic finance sector is valued at US\$2.3 trillion, serving the needs of nearly a quarter of the world's population.

Experts believe that the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region can help expand the industry's dominance further, especially as a growing forum of investors and householders in these regions continue to turn to Sharia-based finance tools.

For example, the total number of Sukuk issuances – Islamic bonds designed to produce returns for investors while staying in line with Islamic law – has witnessed steady growth recently.

To elaborate, data shows that Sukuk offerings will grow at a CAGR of nearly 7 percent over the next few years, eventually climbing to a cumulative valuation of US\$257 billion by 2026, which is more than 30 percent higher from its 2021 levels of about US\$196 billion.

Untapped opportunities in Islamic countries

While Sukuk finance will grow in the near-to-mid-term, ample statistical data suggests that the Takaful market will experience a lot of growth, expanding at a base rate of 5-10 percent.

In essence, Takaful is an Islamic insurance scheme that requires participants to put their money in consolidated pool to obtain certain guarantees against loss or damage.

Not only that, it is estimated that the Islamic fund industry will experience an increasing amount of consumer interest, especially as investors worldwide continue to understand its benefits when it comes to delivering higher yields compared to traditional financial instruments.

The future of Islamic finance
As the world continues to move in a more decentralized direction, it will be interesting to see how the Islamic world forges ahead with its plan of creating a unified legal, financial and regulatory framework.

In this regard, experts believe that blockchain can help since it stands to not only uphold the values and principles of Sharia law but also present a new paradigm of digital financing opportunities for the global Muslim community.

International Commercial Bank records 939mn/- net profit in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

The International Commercial Bank recorded a profit of 939mn/- last year compared with a loss of 14.5bn/- recorded during the previous year, due to dramatic decrease of impairment losses on loans and advances.

Earnings per share improved to 46/- last year compared with a loss of 726/- recorded during the previous year.

The bank's unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year shows both interest and non-interest incomes increased during the reported period, with major increase being recorded on non-interest income.

The statements show net interest income increased to 3.2bn/- last year compared with 2.7bn/- recorded during the previous year while on quarterly basis, net interest income gained to 820mn/- during Q4, 2022 from 780mn/- recorded during the previous quarter.

Non-interest income increased to 3.5bn/- last year from 514mn/- recorded in 2021 due to increase of other operating income,



which amounted 3.3bn/- last year compared with 419mn/- in 2021.

Impairment losses on loans and advances decreased dramatically to 411mn/- last

year from 12bn/- in 2021, which indicated successful asset recovery.

Total assets increased to 63.4bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from

62.5bn/- recorded during the previous quarter due to increase of underwriting accounts, investment in government securities and balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Investments in government debt instruments increased to 19bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year compared with 17bn/- recorded during the previous quarter while balance with BoT went up to 7.2bn/- from 6.5bn/- respectively.

However, loans, advances and overdraft slowed to 17.98bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 18.4bn/- recorded during the previous quarter while underwriting accounts gained at 1bn/- from 798mn/- respectively.

The statements show customer deposits expanded to 32.8bn/- in the fourth quarter of last year compared with 30.9bn/- in the third quarter, with no balance from other banks and financial institutions.

According to the statements, total shareholders' fund slightly gained to 26.4bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 26.3bn/- in the previous quarter.

Canara Bank profit down, as 951mn/- bad debt written off

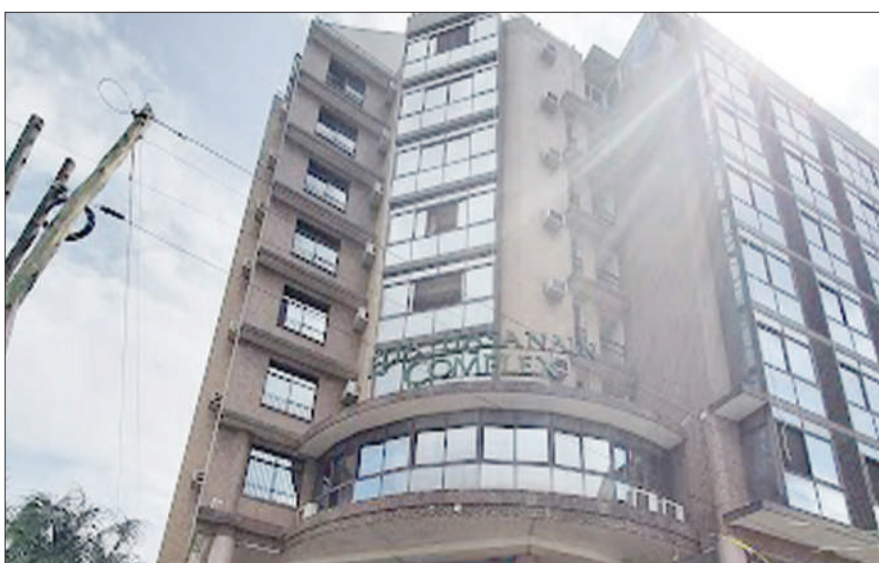
By Guardian Reporter

Canara Bank Tanzania net income after income tax slowed to 656.45mn/- last year, in a time when bad debt amounting 951mn/- were written off, to clean its book of accounts, compared with 2.62bn/- recorded in 2021.

Unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year show earnings per share also slowed to 20/- in 2022 compared with 80/- in 2021, while on quarterly basis, eps dropped to a loss of 13/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 19/- in Q4, 2021.

The statements show net interest income amounted 5.4bn/- during last year compared with 6.4bn/- recorded in 2021, while on quarterly basis it also decreased to 1.3bn/- during the fourth quarter last year, compared with 1.6bn/- in Q4, 2021.

According to the statement, non-interest income during last year was 702mn/- compared with 955mn/- recorded during the year before. Impairment losses on loans and advances dropped to 6.2mn/- last year compared with 82mn/- recorded in 2021.



The rate of non-performing loans and advances went down to less than one percent (0.67) during the fourth quarter of 2022, the industrial lowest, from 3.55 percent during the third quarter after deep decrease of the amount of NPLs to 336.2mn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 1.7bn/- recorded during the third quarter of similar year.

The bank, which has only one branch,

managed to increase its loans, advances and overdraft to 50bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year compared with 47.6bn/- during the third quarter, while customer deposits also increase to 53.3bn/- from 52.4bn/- respectively.

Total assets amounted 105.6bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year compared with 107bn/- during the previous quarter due to slowdown of cash, bal-

ance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and balance with other banks and financial institutions.

Cash went down to 595.7mn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 1.03bn/- during the third quarter, while balance with other banks and financial institutions decreased to 504mn/- from 1.8bn/- respectively.

However, the balance sheet shows, investment in government securities slightly increased to 43.7bn/- during the fourth quarter from 43.3bn/- during the third quarter.

According to the statement, the bank retained earnings amounting to 6.6bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 5.5bn/- recorded during the third quarter, while total shareholders' fund remained strong at 40.4bn/- during the end of last year.

Net cash provided by investing activities increased to 6.9bn/- last year from 2bn/- in 2021 due to purchase of non-dealing securities net cash used by financing activities went up to 772mn/- last year from 254mn/- in 2021 due to payment of cash dividends amounting 492mn/-.



BOA Bank secures US\$27.2 million credit to fund SMEs

RABAT

Three years earlier, the Bank of Africa had already secured a €25 mln loan from the same institution to support its small business lending activity.

Last Friday, investment fund Sanad, which focuses on financing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in North Africa and some sub-Saharan African countries, granted a €25 million (US\$27.2 million) credit line to Moroccan financial group Bank of Africa (BOA).

The loan is complemented by a technical assistance facility that will provide eligible companies (local SMEs mainly) with the tools to improve their potential.

"Bank of Africa has a strong track record of reaching our target group of entrepreneurs. Small and medium-sized businesses need access to stable financial resources to grow, support employment and stimulate the local economy," said Daniela Beckmann, Chairman of the Board of Sanad Fund.

Through this financing, Sanad strengthens its partnership with the Moroccan financial group. In 2020, it provided a €25 million loan to support the BOA's activities in sub-Saharan Africa. The fund, advised by German asset manager Finance in Motion, also supported BOA in the implementation of its group-wide sustainable development strategy via its technical assistance facility.

The new financing will allow BOA to support Moroccan SMEs evolving in various economic sectors by assisting in structuring, advising, and even financing.

In its 2021 annual report, Bank of Africa, which operates in 18 countries in Africa, said it slowed its lending activity but upped investment activities (mostly in sovereign securities).

According to the institution, "the group has voluntarily contained the acceleration of credits" in 2021, due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.

The decision situation has slowed the development of its SME client base. Over the 2022-2024 period, the group plans to focus on developing that clientele again.

THE FUTURE OF BANKING IS ENTIRELY DIGITAL

BY SOURAV GHOSH

The unanticipated global pandemic caused a shift to the digital era for all kinds of businesses. Banking is no exception. In the last few years, the number of consumers visiting a bank branch for banking services has dwindled quite a bit. In this article, let's reflect a bit on how digital banking is revolutionizing the banking industry.

When one considers the digitalisation of global banking infrastructure, a terminology that comes first into mind - "online banking". How is it different from digital banking? People sometimes use words a bit loosely without clearly understanding their meaning. This is why many people confuse digital banking and online banking.

In reality, they are two separate concepts. In case of online banking, the core aspects of a bank are made available online. These include deposits, withdrawals, fund transfers, and bill payments. But for anything more than this, you have to visit a branch. Hence, online banking is a technology that goes hand-in-hand with branch-based banking.

In the case of digital banking, the entire banking service is made available through the internet. You can access the digital bank through an app or its website. All



operations that a consumer avails through a traditional bank branch can be availed through the app. It embraces automated processing of requests from consumers and removes the hassle of paperwork completely. In digital banking, high-level of process automation is present and includes application programming interfaces (APIs) for cross-institutional services. Financial data can be accessed through desktops, mobile phones, or ATMs.

A brief history of Digital Banks

Digital banking is not a brand-new technology that came into existence in the last few years. The green shoots of digital banking technology

emerged in the '60s, with ATMs and cards that were dubbed as "e-banking" in many countries. Then in 1994, Microsoft Money, a personal finance management program, incorporated online banking. That was when thousands of households started accessing banking services online. The first digital-only banks were established in 1997 and 1998 in Canada and USA respectively. These banks were Tangerine (Canada) and First Internet Bank (USA).

With the proliferation of faster internet connectivity, digital banking has become a modern-day phenomenon now. As of 2020, over 76% of consumers receive their banking services through digital banks.

Distinct traits of a truly Digital Bank
A digital bank is not the result of a functional website or an app. It's much more than that. There are a few fundamental aspects that are very important for every digital bank.

1. 24x7 invisible banking

Banking is evolving rapidly today. Hence, digital banks should be able to provide anytime/anywhere experience to its consumers without needing physical presence. This essentially eliminates filling up paper forms and standing in queues. Banks have now started doing e-KYC through voice, video, and biometrics.

2. Data aggregation

Advertisement
Digital banks should be capable of utilizing data more effectively. Successful digital banking corporations use data to provide a more personalized experience to their consumers. This is made possible by analyzing spending patterns, repayment obligation, and other data. As an example, a bank in Slovakia is doing customer onboarding using a third-party mobile application. This makes it 70% faster than the process followed by normal banks. They use neural networks,

biometrics, and machine learning for doing identity verification of customers. Authentication is done through customer device cameras and biometric technology to track eye movements, facial features, and light conditions.

3. Open banking

Open banking acts as the backbone of data aggregation. Through this, banks are now able to augment customer information through third-party vendors, like a retailer or a utilities company.

4. Security

Security is quite an important aspect in banking. New age security in the banking system is characterized by multiple layers, two-factor authentication, identity verification, facial recognition, fingerprint scanning, and voice recognition.

Digital banking is clearly a reality that is continuing to disrupt the financial world. In the coming years, a combination of blockchain and P2P could cause market decentralization. Also, the big tech companies will continue to digitise the banking platforms. Moreover, challenger and neo-banks, which are small now, will grow to rule the banking market

Mwalimu Bank earns profit in 2022, clears its 1.3bn/ losses

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Mwalimu Commercial Bank (MCB) posted a profit of 81mn/- last year compared with a loss of 1.3bn/- recorded in 2021.

The bank's unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year show earnings per share amounted 1.6/- last year compared with a loss of 22/- recorded in 2021.

The profit was recorded due to increase of interest and non-interest incomes, which pushed up operating income of 96mn/- last year from a loss of 1.3bn/- in 2021.

Net interest income increased to 5.4bn/- last year from 3.8bn/- recorded in 2021, while on quarterly basis, it increased to 1.6bn/- during the fourth quarter of this year compared with 1.2bn/- recorded during similar quarter

of 2021.

The statements show that non-interest income increased to 1.9bn/- last year compared with 1.3bn/- in 2021 due to increase in fees and commission and other operating income.

Fees and commission went up to 1.7bn/- last year compared with 1.3bn/- while other operating income amounted 220mn/- last year compared with 57mn/- in 2021.

The bank's balance sheet shows total assets increased to 83bn/- during the last quarter of this year from 79.6bn/- during the third quarter due to increase of balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) as well as loans, advances and overdraft.

Balance with BoT went up to 9bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 5bn/- recorded during the third quarter while loans, advances and



overdraft went up to 64bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 57.5bn/- recorded during the previous quarter.

However, the statements show, the bank has the lowest non-performing loan rate as it decreased to 0.9 percent during the fourth quarter of last year from 1 percent during the third quarter, with NPLs amount remained flat at

581mn/- during the reviewed quarters.

The statements show deposits from other banks and financial institutions amounted to 3.5bn/- during the last quarter of 2022 while customer deposits slightly went up to 60.1bn/- in Q4, 2022 from 60bn/- in Q3, 2022. Interbank float item increased to 1.2bn/ during the fourth quarter of last year com-

pared with 260mn/- recorded during Q3, 2022. Total shareholders' fund remained nearly flat at 15.8bn/-.

Net cash provided by operating activities increased to 2bn/- last year compared with 1.5bn/- during the previous year due increase of net change in loans and advances, net change in deposits and net change in liabilities.

Barclays sets to reveal co-head of global banking

LONDON

Barclays is set to choose former Credit Suisse dealmaker Cathal Deasy as co-head of global banking as the British lender continues to overhaul its investment banking unit, according to two people familiar with the hire.

Deasy's future has been a subject of speculation since his abrupt departure from Credit Suisse in December, less than two months after he was promoted to co-head of the Swiss lender's investment banking and capital markets business.

Deasy, 48, will work alongside Taylor Wright, who is currently co-head of global capital markets. They will replace JF Astier and John Miller.

In a memo confirming the moves, Barclays said they would be effective from March 27. The bank also said that Astier and Miller "are in active dialogue" about taking on "senior roles in the organisation".

The appointments have been made by Barclays' chief executive CS Venkatakrisnan as he considers succession at the top of the investment bank, headed by Paul



Compton, who is nearing the end of his tenure, say the same people.

Deasy and Wright will report to Compton, who was given the role in late 2021 after former chief executive Jes Staley was forced to step down amid a regulatory probe into his relationship with the disgraced financier

and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Deasy, who has mainly worked in London, will be based in New York, the biggest market for the investment bank.

The investment bank has been a bright spot for Barclays in the past few years, with revenue from M&A and trading surging during the coronavirus pandemic and pushing net profit to a record in 2021. Barclays managed to vault

Credit Suisse to take the number six spot globally in investment banking league table rankings.

However, while the markets division continued to see high levels of activity and earnings in 2022, the advisory and capital markets unit has dropped off sharply as dealmaking volumes have plunged.

Deasy's recruitment is part of a drive by Venkatakrisnan to bring

in a new generation of leaders and galvanise performance from the advisory side of the investment bank, one of the people familiar with the decision said.

Other changes have been made to the top positions recently. In September, Barclays chose Tim Main to lead its investment bank in Europe as it plots an expansion in the healthcare and technology sectors in the region. It also hired Arif Vohra from Bank of America as co-head of the financial institutions group.

Deasy joined Credit Suisse in 2016 from Deutsche Bank and worked as an adviser to corporations and private equity groups. He recently advised Rio Tinto, with whom he has worked on multiple mandates over the years, on its \$3.3bn bid to buy all of the shares it did not already own in Turquoise Hill, a Canadian miner. He also helped UK utility provider SSE on its defence from shareholder activist Elliott Management.

Strategic questions have always been asked about Barclays' presence in investment banking since it acquired the US operations of Lehman Brothers during the financial crisis.

Venkatakrisnan said in an interview with the Financial Times in December he has to do a better job in convincing investors of the merit of the investment bank as its share price persistently lags UK peers focused on consumer lending.

Universal Digital Payments Network unveiled

DAVOS

A Universal Digital Payments Network for stablecoins and CBDCs has been launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

According to Finextra, the network unveiled at Davos aims to provide interoperability between these digital currencies.

The publication noted that UDPN has been in development for the last two years with contributions from GFT, Red Date Technology, TOKO, and DLA Piper. A sandbox was launched in July 2022, where multiple banks tested stablecoin transfer and foreign exchange transactions.

The UDPN reports that several Tier 1 banks will participate in a series of POC use cases throughout the rest of this month to demonstrate how UDPN could be used to solve current and future challenges in integrating digital currency into daily business, banking and payment scenarios.

The first two of these proof-of-concepts will involve two global banks testing UDPN's digital currency cross-border transfer and swap transaction capabilities, and how the critical "Travel Rule" can be easily implemented on the UDPN between two financial institutions for anonymous stablecoin transfers.

GFT CEO Marika Lulay said, "The purpose of UDPN is to investigate a potential alternative to existing payments systems by enabling interoperability between fiat-backed tokens of stablecoins and regulated protocols. The decentralised approach and geographic breadth of participating firms, combined with the advanced technological solution deployed for these trials, set this network apart."

Okredo, an open data platform that merges open data, open banking, and credit bureau functionalities, has entered the UK market.

Bank funding for renewables stagnates versus oil and gas

LONDON

The share of bank finance going to renewable energy rather than fossil fuels has little changed in six years, raising questions about how fast lenders are pushing energy clients to become greener, according to research published Tuesday.

Since 2016 renewable energy has taken 7% of a total \$2.5 trillion in bank loans and bond underwriting for energy activities, according to a report commissioned by environmental groups including Sierra Club and Fair Finance International.

The total annual sum banks have facilitated into renewable energy rose to a high of \$34.6 billion in 2021, from \$23.2 billion in 2016, but the amount going to fossil fuels increased too, keeping renewables' share broadly the same.

Last year the share of renewable energy in funding 8% while in 2021 and 2020 it stood at 10% and 7% respectively.

"Banks' financing to fossil fuels



should be phasing out as financing to renewables increases drastically to have any chance of reaching the world's - and their own -

climate goals," said Ward Warmerdam, researcher at Profundo, which compiled the data.

Lenders say they must

finance fossil fuels given global energy needs but that they are helping firms transition to low-carbon future.

Renewable companies often tap private and government finance too, they add.

"This report does not provide a comprehensive view of clean energy investment," said a spokesperson for The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, a major grouping of financial institutions.

The spokesperson pointed to analysis from the International Energy Agency which suggested that between 2021 and 2022 around 48% of total energy investment went to low-carbon energy supply.

JPMorgan, Citi and Barclays' renewable energy share was 2% between 2016 and 2022 and The Royal Bank of Canada's 1%, the report said. Citi declined to comment. JPMorgan, Barclays and RBC did not respond to requests for comment.

The research covered 60 of the world's biggest lenders and 377 energy firms. It excluded biomass, nuclear and carbon capture and storage from its renewable energy definition.

Dubai Islamic Bank's 2022 net profit surges 26pc

DUBAI

The Dubai Islamic Bank pulled out a 26 per cent increase in net profit to Dh5.55 billion, against Dh4.4 billion a year ago. The increase was brought on rising 'core revenues' and 'prudent' cost management. The bank has proposed a 30 per cent dividend (or 30 fils a share).

The DIB numbers could be a precursor to a strong set of upcoming results from UAE's leading banks, against a backdrop of higher interest rate, solid corporate and retail lending, and drastically lowered impairment charges.

"DIB attained its strongest year in its history with robust growth in profitability as total income reached Dh14 billion, a 20 per cent year-on-year growth and balance-sheet now at Dh288 billion witnessing a 5-year CAGR of 7 per cent," said Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Director-General of His Highness The Ruler's Court of Dubai and Chairman of DIB.

The bank has called for a general assembly on March 15 to get the go-ahead on the dividend proposal.

The UAE continued to attain economic growth and expansion amidst a turbulent year withstanding the impact of geo political conflicts and higher global inflation depicting its robust financial and monetary policies, strong domestic recovery and fiscal surpluses.

"Given the rate environment and surplus liquidity, we made a deliberate tactical move focused on quality and structural sourcing rather than growth only," said Dr. Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO. "This led us to support large corporate and public sector entities in adjusting and aligning their balance-sheet in the new medium-term environment; a winning combination for customers, bank and economy.

"We continue to maintain firm control on expenses leading us to deliver to the best cost to income ratio in the market at 26.1 per cent while maintaining head room to elevate the bank's system upgrades."

During the year, DIB's NPF declined a 'healthy' 6 per cent to Dh12.98 billion from Dh13.78 billion. "The main improvement came from DIB's core NPF portfolio, which improved by 4 per cent while (Abu Dhabi based hospital operator) NMC and NOOR POCI (which constitute 17 per cent of NPFs) both declined a combined 14%, due to ongoing recoveries," DIB said.

According to the CEO Dr. Chilwan, "Liquidity remains solid primarily through deepened relationship with the government, public and large corporates. This current liquidity profile provides us with the impetus for growth in 2023."

Customer deposits were at Dh199 billion at year-end, a drop of 3.5 per cent year-on-year, with CASA at Dh87 billion, which is 44 per cent of deposits. "On a q-o-q basis, DIB has managed to increase its deposits during FY2022 by 7 per cent vs 9M-2022, driven by a 12 per cent increase in CASA deposits mainly through DIB's corporate funding base." The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) is at 150 per cent.

Credit quality improved with the non-performing financing (NPF) ratio dropping 30 basis points y-o-y to 6.5 per cent.

UK infrastructure bank criticised for misdirecting project funding

LONDON

The UK's state-owned infrastructure investment bank has been accused of "reinventing the wheel" by funding projects that already draw private capital, according to an influential group of cross-party MPs.

The House of Commons public accounts committee said on Tuesday that it was "not convinced" the UK National Infrastructure Bank had a "strategic view of where it best needs to target its investments".

The UKIB was set up 18 months ago to invest private sector finance into projects that help meet the government's net-zero climate targets and levelling-up commitment to tackle regional inequality.

It was also created to address the loss of £5bn a year in funding from the European Investment Bank after the UK left the EU in 2020.

The UKIB has so far deployed £1bn of its initial £22bn capital in 10 projects. But seven of these are loans and three are equity investments made through funds that invest on behalf of the bank rather than directly, the MPs said.

Dame Meg Hillier MP, chair of the public accounts committee, said: "It's really not clear what the UKIB is doing that the market wasn't already or would be with better functioning tax incentives."

"The Treasury didn't need to reinvent this particular wheel, with all the attendant risk to benefit, value and taxpayers' money," she added.

Although the UKIB was "sensibly cautious" in its first year, the MPs said, its allocation of funding raised questions on whether the bank is delivering on its mandate to fill gaps in the market.

They said the UKIB operated outside corporate governance code in its first year, arguing that it had been set up in a hurry.

The Treasury chose "not to follow its own business case best practice and normal government guidance for the establishment of an arm's length independent body".

The bank, whose chief executive is former HSBC boss John Flint, continues to rely on Treasury systems, staff and approvals, which raised "serious questions" on the bank's ability to make autonomous investment decisions, the MPs said.

Although the bank expects to reach a "steady state" by autumn this year, it is struggling to recruit enough staff, the committee reported. It had 31 permanent staff in post by the end of 2022 against a target of 270 in place by September 2023.

The UKIB said that since its launch it had succeeded in "unlocking more than £4.6bn in private capital, supporting projects across a range of sectors, including transport, solar and digital infrastructure".

"In the coming year we expect to invest in an increasing range of sectors and technologies, with a particular focus on clean energy and storage," it added.

The Treasury said: "We note the committee's report but are disappointed that there are a number of factual inaccuracies and misrepresentations within it."

"There has always been strong financial governance at the bank and all deals were scrutinised by the full UKIB Board before being approved. The bank's early deals were also approved by HM Treasury ministers to protect taxpayers' money."



BANKING&FINANCE

European banks to treat crypto as risky, says draft text

By Jack Schickler

Banks will have to treat crypto as among the riskiest class of holdings, according to a leaked document listing the final set of proposed amendments to a 2021 package intended to bring European Union bank capital rules into line with international norms.

The amendments to the package, which is designed to ensure that traditional institutions issue enough capital to sustain lending levels, are set to be voted on by EU

Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on Tuesday.

The text seen by CoinDesk asks the European Commission to propose a bill by June 2023, and says banks should apply a 1.250% risk weight to crypto exposures until the end of 2024.

Under global banking rules set by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, that is the maximum possible deemed level of risk. It would, in practice, mean banks

cannot gain any leverage, and must issue one euro of capital for each euro of crypto held.

"The existing prudential rules are not designed to adequately capture the risks inherent to cryptoassets," says an explanatory text accompanying the proposed law. "This is even more urgent in light of the recent adverse developments in cryptoasset markets."

The commission's more detailed legal

proposal, called for by the end of 2024, would have to offer a fine-grained analysis of the risks of different crypto assets, as well as liquidity requirements. Banks should also disclose their crypto exposure and risk management policies, the proposals said.

In December, the Basel Committee, a group of regulators and central bankers from across the world, said banks should treat crypto with caution, with unbacked assets such as bitcoin limited to 1% of their

Tier I capital, a core class of financial instrument seen as a measure of an institution's resilience.

The compromise proposal is based on one submitted by Green party lawmaker Ville Niinistö last year. If agreed in Tuesday's vote, it will still need to be approved by the parliament's 751 lawmakers and by national governments who meet in the EU's Council.

WORLD

Modi documentary: Indian students bent on screenings

NEW DELHI

INDIAN students said they would show again a BBC documentary about Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the government has dismissed as propaganda after a Tuesday campus screening was disrupted by a power cut and intimidation by rivals.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) plans to show the documentary, India: The Modi Question, in every Indian state, its general secretary told Reuters yesterday.

Modi's government has labeled the documentary, which questioned his leadership during riots in his home state of Gujarat in 2002, as a "propaganda piece" and blocked its airing and barred the sharing of any clips on social

media in India.

Modi was chief minister of the western state during the violence in which more than 2,000 people were killed, most of them Muslims.

"Imposition of undeclared emergency continues ... but they won't stop the voice of dissent," said Mayukh Biswas, general secretary of the SFI, the student wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

At the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, hundreds of students watched the documentary on mobile phones and laptops on Tuesday after power was cut in the campus before a scheduled screening, said student leader Aishe Ghosh.

The university had threatened disciplinary action if the documentary was



People watch the BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question", on a screen installed at the Marine Drive junction under the direction of the district Congress committee, in Kochi on Tuesday. (PHOTO / AFP)

screened, saying it had not given permission for a show that might disturb peace and harmony on campus.

"It was obviously the administration that cut off the power," Ghosh said. "We are encouraging campuses across the country to hold screenings as an act of resistance against this censorship," Ghosh said.

The media coordinator for the university administration did not comment when asked about the power cut on the campus.

Ghosh said members of a right-wing student group threw bricks at the students hoping to watch the documentary hurting several, and students had complained to police.

A spokesman for the right-wing student group did not respond to a

message seeking comment.

A police spokesperson did not immediately respond to queries.

The 2002 Gujarat violence erupted after a train carrying Hindu pilgrims caught fire, killing 59. Crowds later rampaged through Muslim neighbourhoods.

Modi has denied accusations that he did not do enough to stop the riots and was exonerated in 2012 following an inquiry overseen by the Supreme Court. A petition questioning his exoneration was dismissed last year.

The BBC has said the documentary was "rigorously researched" and involved a wide range of voices and opinions, including responses from people in Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Potential for arms control dialogue with US still exists – Russian envoy

GENEVA



RUSSIA proceeds from the understanding that it is still possible to resume and develop a dialogue with the United States on future arms control, including with the participation of all key actors, Russia's permanent representative at the UN office in Geneva Gennady Gatilov said at the annual session of the Conference on Disarmament on Tuesday.

"We believe that the understanding the Russian and US delegations reached in Geneva in 2021 has left the door open for resuming and developing a comprehensive and substantive dialogue on future arms control, including with the participation of all key actors," Gatilov said.

"Although Russian-US consultations are still frozen through the fault of the United States, sooner or later we will still have to work out a new global 'security equation' that will incorporate all significant factors of strategic stability, such as the whole range of offensive and defensive weapons, deployed and non-deployed and nuclear and non-nuclear ones, capable of influencing the balance of power and the situation in the field of international security," Gatilov said.

"We declare once again that we will be ready to consider new sound ideas on this matter, should our US counterparts present any," he stressed.

Gatilov drew attention to the fact that the world was struggling through "a period of profound transformation, accompanied by an upsurge of conflict potential, instability and unpredictability."

In a situation like this "collective efforts united by a common goal - to make the world safer in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are needed more than ever," Gatilov stated.

Africa needs resilient systems to anchor food security amid global shocks - expert

ACCRA

A Ghanaian expert has urged African countries to build resilient systems to ensure food security in Africa amid global shocks of food price hikes, shortages, and the impact of climate change.

Paul Bosu, director-general of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), made this call Monday when he opened a four-day meeting of African agricultural scientists on ways to use selected crops to anchor food security on the continent.

The CSIR is the foremost scientific and industrial research body in the West African country, leading innovation in various fields. "The COVID-19 pandemic, various conflicts and wars, the turbulence of the global financial landscape, and many other shocks have exposed our vulnerabilities, which include vulnerabilities in the area of our food systems," Bosu said, suggesting Africa should adapt its food systems, including production, processing, transport, storage, and consumption, to make them resilient in times of crisis.

The expert also advised governance issues and the economies of the food value chain are streamlined to ensure that the vulnerable, including women and youth, are being protected from these shocks.

In response to the increasing food insecurity in most parts of Africa, our governments have put in place initiatives aiming at improving self-sufficiency. At the very least, we should be able to feed ourselves.

At best, we should transit from being a net importer to a net exporter of food," Bosu urged. He said that legumes and cereals had adapted on the continent and offered great opportunities toward achieving food security, urging African countries to embrace these drought and climate-change-resistant varieties to maximize yield and ensure sustainability.

The expert lauded African researchers under the Dryland Legumes and Cereals Program for developing higher-yielding varieties of these legumes, including cowpeas, beans, peanuts, cereals, millet, sorghum, and maize to be resistant to drought. The meeting drew scientists from African countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.



The CSIR is the foremost scientific and industrial research body in the West African country, leading innovation in various fields. The COVID-19 pandemic, various conflicts and wars, the turbulence of the global financial landscape

Al-Aqsa in focus as Israel PM visits Jordan, meets king

AMMAN

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a surprise trip to Jordan on Tuesday for talks with King Abdullah, who the royal court said underlined the need for Israel to respect the status quo of the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Far-right Israeli national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir toured the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, which Jews revere as the Temple Mount, under heavy security this month. The visit angered Palestinians and caused an outcry among Arab states. The compound is Islam's third-holiest site after Mecca and Medina, and Judaism's most sacred site.

Abdullah told Netanyahu, who took office last month and whose visit to Jordan marks his first foreign trip since he came back to power, that Israel should respect the "historic and legal status quo in the Holy

Aqsa mosque and not violate it," the royal court said.

The monarch, who has had years of tense ties with Netanyahu during his past tenure as premier, was quoted as telling the Israeli leader that an end to violence was crucial to allow long-stalled peace talks to resume between the Palestinians and Israel.

Netanyahu's office said the two leaders discussed regional issues, especially strategic, security and economic cooperation between Israel and Jordan.

Jerusalem is a particularly sensitive issue for Jordan's Hashemite royal family as it is the custodian of Muslim and Christian holy sites in the eastern part of the city.

Netanyahu's return to power has deepened Jordan's concerns that ultra-right policies, which include accelerated Jewish settlement building in Palestinian territories in the West Bank, will spark a new cycle of



This file combo photo created on Oct 21, 2018 shows Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) attending a cabinet meeting at his office in Jerusalem on July 29, 2018; and a handout picture released by the Jordanian Royal Palace on Oct 21, 2018 showing Jordanian King Abdullah II speaking during a meeting with local political figures in the capital Amman. Jordan's King Abdullah II on Jan 24, 2023 hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Amman in a rare meeting as relations between the two leaders have been strained for years. The royal palace said they discussed the situation in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and "the importance of respecting the historical and legal status quo". AFP

violence. The kingdom fears provocative moves by ultra-right Jewish groups that perform prayers

in the compound of Al-Aqsa which Muslims consider part of the mosque. There are concerns that the prayer area could

inflame religious passions.

Jewish religious nationalists have increasingly toured the site and demanded rights for Jews to pray in the mosque compound in moves Jordan says undermine an arrangement in which Jews and non-Muslims are permitted to visit but not to pray. That arrangement has prevailed for years.

Jordan is a staunch ally of Washington and is home to many people of Palestinian descent. It is hopeful that the administration of US President Joe Biden will pressure Israel to preserve the status quo in the Al-Aqsa mosque, whose upkeep is paid for by Jordan.

Officials told Reuters that King Abdullah is expected to visit Washington at the end of January. He will hold talks with senior US officials and possibly meet Biden and address the issue of Jerusalem and ways to push the stalled Middle East peace process.

Quran burning: Türkiye defers meeting with Sweden, Finland

ANKARA

TÜRKIYE has postponed a trilateral meeting with Sweden and Finland on their NATO bids following the burning of a copy of the Quran in Sweden, the state-run TRT network reported on Tuesday.

The meeting was slated to take place in February, according to the report, citing anonymous Turkish diplomatic sources.

The decision came a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Sweden not to expect Türkiye's support on its NATO bid after Rasmus Paludan, the head of the Danish far-right political party Hard Line, burned

a copy of the Quran on Saturday outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden.

"Those who allow such disgraceful acts in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm can't expect good news from us on NATO membership," Erdogan said, adding that no individual has the freedom to insult the faith of Muslims or other religions.

Sweden and Finland submitted their formal requests to join the NATO in May 2022, which were initially objected by Türkiye, a NATO member, citing their support for anti-Turkish Kurdish organizations and political dissidents.

A month later, Türkiye, Sweden and Finland reached a memorandum of

understanding ahead of the NATO summit held in Madrid, Spain.

In the MoU, Ankara agreed to lift its veto on the NATO bids by Finland and Sweden, which in return pledged to support Türkiye's fight against terrorism and address its "pending deportation or extradition requests of terror suspects expeditiously and thoroughly."

The Turkish government accuses Sweden and Finland of supporting the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and Syria's Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Türkiye considers terrorist groups.

Earlier this month, supporters of PKK and YPG hung Erdogan's effigy

by the feet in Stockholm and shared its video footage on social media affiliated with the PKK, the semi-official Anadolu Agency reported. Türkiye's Foreign Ministry later condemned this "heinous act" and summoned Sweden's ambassador.

The Turkish parliament has not ratified the Nordic countries' NATO bids so far, citing that they have yet to meet Türkiye's requests.

On Tuesday, Finland's Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said that his country might have to reconsider promoting a joint, simultaneous entry of Finland and Sweden into NATO if Sweden's application is delayed much longer. **Agencies**

Morocco to re-evaluate partnership with European parliament after hostile resolution

RABAT

MOROCCO's Parliament has joined the growing chorus condemning the recent European Parliament resolution criticizing Morocco, announcing that it will re-evaluate the partnership between the two institutions after a session dedicated to the subject on Monday.

"The Moroccan Parliament strongly condemns the hostile attempts to harm Morocco's interests and image, and the long-standing relations between Morocco and the European Union," said the official statement following the session.

The parliament's statement expressed

"strong disappointment" at the EU Parliament's decision, stressing that Morocco is home to a "dynamic civil society" and independent institutions.

Perhaps the statement's most critical part is the Moroccan parliament's suggestion that it is considering re-evaluating its partnerships with its EU counterpart, noting that the resolution could break the trust between Rabat and Brussels.

"The European Parliament's decision has undermined the basis of trust and cooperation between the Moroccan Parliament and the European Parliament, and has affected the positive results achieved through

decades of common work, during a time when we were all anticipating new and promising horizons in the relations between the two institutions," the statement said.

Speaking before Parliament, several MPs and Moroccan political leaders agreed on condemning what they described as the EU's interference in Morocco's internal affairs and independence of its judiciary, accusing the politicians who voted for the resolution of having a political agenda.

Some spoke of being surprised by the EU resolution's damning, finger-pointing tone and conclusions. They pointed to the long-standing partnership between Morocco and the EU,

questioning the perceived change in tone and attitude by citing previous EU reports praising Morocco's human rights progress.

Several speakers saw the move as a frustrated response to Morocco's diplomatic gains. In their view, some quarters are actively working to undermine or sabotage the country's many diplomatic breakthroughs in Africa and Europe over the past decade.

MPs agreed that the EU resolution constituted interference in Morocco's internal affairs.

A large number of MPs also took the view that the EU resolution could also be a belated, desperate reaction

to Morocco's diversification of partners, as the North African country has recently been strengthening its partnerships with allies like the US and UK.

Overall, the Moroccan MPs unanimously lambasted the resolution as an example of unjust interference in an independent country's sovereign affairs. As they see it, the tone of the resolution is an example of Western elites' superiority complex, their self-appointed mission to police other regions of the world.

Despite the condemnation, there were also calls to work on improving relations and the partnerships that Morocco has with EU parties that did

not approve of the resolution.

Ahmed Touizi, representing the Party of Authenticity and Modernity, expressed specific thanks to Spain's socialists for not voting on the resolution. This showed some EU countries' commitment to further developing their friendly relations with Morocco, he argued.

Ahmed Touizi thanked politicians who refused to participate in the vote. Almost all the speakers during the session wondered about Europe's seemingly blind eye towards other human rights abuses in Morocco's region, specifically calling out poor conditions for refugees in the Polisario-run Tindouf camps in Algeria.

Lavrov says West seeks to put pressure on every country he visits

MBABANE

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that wherever he travels the West seeks to make the host country behave in a way that's desirable to the US.

"I'm not surprised that wherever I go our Western colleagues try to issue some warnings and make the host country to behave in a way that would be desirable to the Americans.

We very much appreciate and respect the position of all our partners, who in such situations are guided not by the orders of the former colonial powers and those who want to dominate the world now, but are guided by legitimate national interests.

Many of them don't hesitate to talk about it openly," he said at a news conference following talks with the Kingdom of Eswatini's top diplomat, Thulisile Dladla.

"We cannot change our Western friends and make [them] polite, behave democratically," Lavrov said.

According to the minister, the West is worried because the dominance it has enjoyed over the past five centuries is disappearing as a multipolar world is taking shape. Lavrov said that such centers as "China, India, Turkey, Egypt, the African continent Latin America" cannot be ignored and dictated how they should develop.

"We understand the painful feelings of the US and Europe, as the structure of international relations is changing, becoming multipolar, polycentric," he added.



Uganda starts commercial drilling of oil



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (1st R, Front) attends a ribbon cutting to launch the drilling process at the Kingfisher Oil Field in Kikuube, Uganda, on Tuesday. Uganda started the drilling of oil for commercial production in the Western Region district of Kikuube on the shores of Lake Albert. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni launched the drilling process at the Kingfisher Oil Field, operated by the Chinese oil giant China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC). Xinhua

KIKUUBE

UGANDA on Tuesday started the drilling of oil for commercial production in the Western Region district of Kikuube on the shores of Lake Albert.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni launched the drilling process at the Kingfisher Oil Field, operated by the Chinese oil giant China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC).

Museveni thanked China for its continued cooperation with Africa, right from the time the continent was fighting colonialism.

He stressed that China is cooperating with the continent in the economic sector to ensure mutual benefit. The president said the country would carefully use the oil revenues for the development of the country.

The government has previously said the revenues would be used for transport and energy infrastructure

development.

Chinese Ambassador to Uganda Zhang Lizhong said the investment by the CNOOC in Ugandan oil fields is the largest investment by China in Uganda. Zhang was optimistic that the investment will contribute to the well-being of Ugandans.

Chen Zhuobiao, CNOOC Uganda president, said the corporation is committed to ensuring that there is skills, knowledge and technology transfer to Ugandans.

Chen said the corporation will ensure that the local people benefit from the oil by providing, among others, contracts to local companies. He reiterated that the CNOOC will continue to adhere to high standards of environmental protection.

Proscovia Nabbanja, chief executive officer of Uganda National Oil Company, a state-owned oil enterprise, told reporters that 31 wells will be drilled in the Kingfisher Oil

Field, producing 40,000 barrels of oil per day. Nabbanja said Kingfisher will be drilled at the same time with the Tilenga oil field operated by French oil giant TotalEnergies.

She said 426 wells will be drilled in the Tilenga area producing 190,000 barrels of oil per day.

She said the crude oil drilled from both fields will be evacuated to a Central Processing Facility before it is exported to the international market through the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) to the Tanzanian seaport of Tanga. Nabbanja said Uganda is still on track to produce its first oil by 2025.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), the country also plans to construct an oil refinery.

At the same event, Uganda officially endorsed the start of the construction of the EACOP, after it handed over a construction license.

A construction license is required to enable the EACOP project to formally start on-the-ground construction activities in Uganda as part of the development of the 1,443-km pipeline from the oil fields to the Tanzanian seaport of Tanga.

"This marks another step forward for EACOP as it allows the commencement of our construction activities in Uganda upon completion of the ongoing land access process," said EACOP Managing Director Martin Tiffen. Uganda in 2006 discovered 6.5 billion barrels of oil, of which 1.4 billion barrels are commercially viable, according to the MEMD.

Xinhua

First phase of China-built light rail project inaugurated in Nigeria

LAGOS

THE first phase of a China-built electric-powered light rail project in Nigeria's southwestern state of Lagos was officially open for service on Tuesday.

Undertaken by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) since 2010, the completed tracks of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Blue Line project span 13 km in the first phase and cover five stations.

The LRMT Blue Line project is the first rail infrastructure traversing Okoko-maiko, a densely populated area in the western part of Lagos, and Marina, a business district on Lagos Island.

Speaking at a banquet held by the Lagos state government before the inauguration ceremony, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari described the project as "historic," noting that the rail will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, as well as improve the lives of locals.

The president also attended the contract signing ceremony for the construction of the second phase of the LRMT Blue Line project by the Lagos metropolitan area transport authority and the CCECC.

Cui Jianchun, the Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, said the completion of the first phase of the project demonstrated the harmony of China-Nigeria relations.

"It is a line of speed, line of sustainability, line of harmony," Cui said. The new light rail would reduce travel time, improve the quality of life of citizens and make Lagos one of the most resilient megacities in Africa that would compete favorably with other cities around the world, said Babajide Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos.

The iconic Marina Station has the capacity to process about 25,000 passengers per hour, Sanwo-Olu added. Construction of the first phase of the Lagos Blue Line project started in July 2010 and was completed in December 2022.

Xinhua

Beirut blast: Lebanon's ex-PM, top public prosecutor charged

BEIRUT

THE judge probing the 2020 Beirut blast has charged Lebanon's top public prosecutor, the then-premier and other senior current and former officials in connection with the devastating explosion, judicial sources said and court summons show.

Judge Tarek Bitar unexpectedly resumed an inquiry on Monday after it was paralyzed for more than a year by political resistance and legal complaints filed by top officials he was seeking to question.

The explosion on Aug 4, 2020 was caused by hundreds of tonnes of ammonium nitrate that had been stored at the port in poor conditions since it was unloaded in 2013. So far, no senior official has been held to account.

Bitar has charged former prime minister Hassan Diab, former interior minister Nuhad Machnouk and former public works minister Ghazi Zeaiter with homicide with probable intent, according to court summons seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

He also charged Prosecutor General Ghassan Oweidat, the head of Lebanon's domestic intelligence agency Major General Abbas Ibrahim, former army commander Jean Kahwaji and other current and former security and judicial officials, court sources said.

It was not immediately clear what they had been charged with, but one judicial source said Bitar had found Oweidat had not acted responsibly with regards to the ammonium nitrate.

Reuters could not immediately reach Diab or Oweidat for comment. Ibrahim declined to comment on reports he had been charged when contacted by Reuters on Monday.

Kahwaji, Zeaiter and Machnouk declined to comment.

All those previously charged by Bitar have denied wrongdoing.

Oweidat on Tuesday sent Bitar an official letter saying that Bitar's probe remained suspended and that no official decision had been taken on whether he could continue investigating, according to a copy of the correspondence seen by Reuters.

Differing opinions within the judiciary over whether Bitar was allowed to resume his probe mean that some of his decisions could go unimplemented, analysts say.

Pushback

Bitar's previous efforts to interrogate top officials over the explosion that killed 220 people and shattered parts of Beirut have been hindered by factions including the heavily armed Hezbollah.

A source with knowledge of Hezbollah's position noted Oweidat's letter and said that accusing the country's top prosecutor "would only deepen the crisis."

The source said the party would "wait and watch the reactions."

Hezbollah has campaigned against Bitar as he sought to question its allies and it also accused Washington of meddling in the probe.

The US ambassador has denied the accusation. The embassy on Tuesday tweeted that the United States "support and urge Lebanese authorities to complete a swift and transparent investigation" into the blast.

The Lebanese judiciary, where appointments depend largely on political backing, has long been prone to political influence.

Brazilian mining giant confident in future of Chinese market

BRAZILIAN multinational corporation Vale S.A. announced that it would officially kick off the operation of the Sol do Cerrado solar farm in Jaiba, Brazil, on Nov. 17, 2022.

The solar farm is one of the largest solar projects in Latin America. Its solar modules and spare parts were supplied by Chinese solar panel manufacturer JinkoSolar.

Before this, the Brazilian company's second 100-percent electric, battery-powered locomotive had been put into use, and this locomotive was also manufactured by a Chinese enterprise - CRRC Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Co., Ltd.

"Zero-emission equipment manufactured by China are assisting us to achieve net zero emissions before 2050," said Tracy Xie, president of Vale China.

"The report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China stressed promoting green development and the harmonious coexistence between human and nature, which signifies that China will keep playing an active role in tackling global climate change. It inspires us very much," Xie noted.

Vale S.A. is one of the largest mining corporations in the world and one of the largest excavators and suppliers of iron ore. According to Xie, the company's first shipment of iron ore to China was in 1973, a year before China and Brazil established diplomatic relations.

"China has become Vale S.A.'s largest market in the world since 2006, and over half of the company's iron ore products are sold to China each year," Xie said.

She said the strong momentum of China's economic development is obvious to all, and the country's green development philosophy would create enormous business opportunities and has provided vast platforms of cooperation for



A 100-percent electric, battery-powered locomotive manufactured by a Chinese enterprise arrives at the Itaquí port in state of Maranhão, Brazil, April 2022. (Photo provided by Vale S.A.)

many foreign enterprises, including Vale S.A.

The Brazilian company will always place the Chinese market at the center of its development strategy, Xie added.

Vale S.A. has witnessed the constant optimization of China's business environment during its development in the country.

"We are a beneficiary of the reform of the General Administration of Customs (GAC) to simplify customs clearance. Paperless customs clearance enables us to submit materials online, and the procedures are safer, more convenient, and more efficient. The GAC also optimized its inspection and monitoring models for imported iron ore products," Xie said.

"Today, some of our iron ore products, upon inspection by third-party companies, can arrive at warehouses from some ports in just three days, which used to take 20 days. It enables us to deliver the best-quality iron ore to Chinese steel manufacturers with higher efficiency," she said.

Xie told People's Daily that the slowdown of global growth is making uncertainties, but the fundamentals

sustaining China's long-term stable growth remain unchanged.

"China enjoys a solid industrial foundation and complete and stable industrial and supply chains. Besides, it also boasts the world's most promising domestic market, which will release huge development potential as it accelerates the building of a new development paradigm. The optimization of China's COVID-19 response will make international trade exchanges more unimpeded, which helps safeguard the stability of global industrial and supply chains and will create more opportunities for international cooperation on innovation and technology," Xie said.

The production of China's new energy vehicles and solar cells surged by 100.5 percent and 44.1 percent respectively during the January-November period last year.

"This indicates that as the world speeds up the transition of energy utilization, China's efforts to promote the use of green energy products and strengthen market cultivation have paid off. Since 2021, Vale S.A. has signed cooperation documents on low-carbon iron production with 10

Chinese steel manufacturers. As an important supplier of raw materials for Chinese enterprises, we are looking forward to embracing a green future of carbon neutrality together with them," Xie said.

She said China's efforts to advance high-level opening up are of important significance for global recovery.

According to a world openness report issued last November, China has continuously improved its openness indexes and become an important force driving economic globalization.

"China's development is creating new opportunities, and we are confident in the future of the Chinese market," Xie told People's Daily.

People's Daily



The Executive Director of a basketball center, Premier Project Academy located at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, William Mziray (C), is pictured with Basketball Africa League (BAL) officials, Sergine Mouhmadou (L) and Ijeoma Ofomata, after the two had visited the center recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Pulling legs or talking strategy: Robertinho wishing to clinch CAF Champions League title

By Correspondent John Kimbute

How far was new Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira making a serious remark on his expectations with the club, in thinking aloud about bagging the 2022/23 CAF Champions League title?

That is a question several pundits have been addressing for a few days, as the coach looked serene enough in making those remarks, not saying outright that he expects his side to clinch the title but asserting that it isn't out of the way, or impossible.

It can't be asserted that this expectation or projection has ever been publicly made at the club, save for the distant future.

So if a club leader or any official stands up and backs up the wishful thinking of the new head coach, pundits will demand to know what sort of preparations have been put into the pursuit of such a goal.

That is necessary based on the adage that 'if wishes were horses beggars would ride', as horses are owned by those with spacious country houses and fitting compounds, not a hut and a farm.

By the rule of preparedness, it is virtually out of the way that the Msimbazi Street side can think of bagging the top club title it can aspire to win.

What follows is a technical issue, for instance, the way the lesser club titles are sorted out, and any team can win the title, as in the recent Mapinduzi Cup tourney, and it is also visible in some knockout competitions like the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

In that case, the CAF Champions League has a combina-



Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

tion of two aspects, the usual league run where squad depth matters, which automatically favours clubs that are more expensive to bring together.

Simba SC is an expensive side at the sub-regional level, within the east and central African zone, not CAF.

The trickier issue is how far winning a match is possible, especially at the knockout stage where results aren't as consistent with squad value as with the group level or league format.

While one can hypothetically say 'yes' there is a chance of winning a match or two at the knockout stage, by comparing with what happens in knockout tournaments generally, there is a conceptual problem with stretching the possibility of such a win to the title.

By definition, a projection that depends on a throw of the coin in a knockout game is not stretched, as at that point it takes another format; a series of matches always brings about squad value testimony.

In that sense, the possibility

that their next street rivals Yanga were asking from any rival wishing for the services of their key midfielder Feisal Salum, but when it came to receiving the cash, they balked.

It means they admit the market value of the player(s) needs revisiting; 100m/- is poor compensation.

Another way of looking at squad depth or value is in the manner of recycling players, or what sort of players the city giants can get on the market - as what is applicable for Simba SC is also true of Yanga.

The book value of their respective sponsorships put aside, the value of their squads is comparable, in the sense that their sponsors were thinking firstly of clinching the local championship and making the continental tournament a matter of luck, despite trying to assert differently.

The price range of players they recruit is largely the same, such that despite the Msimbazi Street side having a book value of 20bn/- assets, they don't pay 1bn/- for a player, because the disposable cash they can use is largely comparable to their rivals.

That adds up to a point of inconsistency and indeed unfairness on the part of Msimbazi Street club leadership when they recruit coaches, while it can't be said that Jangwani Street outfit leaders are any different.

They recruit a foreign coach with objectives to reach, for instance, the semi-finals of the continental run, the CAF Champions League, which means that the side emerges as one of the four best teams in the continent, whereas their player registration value would scarcely rank them at that level. They register also-ran stars and expect plenty of luck.

For once, that was the price

National Kabaddi League now set for next month

By Correspondent Shufaa Lyimo

THE National Kabaddi League is expected to be held in Dar es Salaam from February 22-26 this year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tanzania Kabaddi Sports Association (TKSA) spokesperson Victoria Zamboni said that the league was originally slated for January 25-29 but it has been pushed back because of various challenges.

"We are preparing well for the National League, we ask all clubs that have not completed the registration to complete it seven days before the showdown gets underway," Victoria disclosed.

The official noted the players continue to practice individually while

waiting for the time to enter the camp.

Victoria asked various sports stakeholders to come forward to support the TKSA so that the association can achieve its goals.

The spokesperson said the goal of the league is to identify players that will form the national women's and men's teams that will jet off to India to participate in the International World Kabaddi Championships slated for later this year.

According to the official, Tanzania's national teams got the chance to take part in the World Championships after doing well in the African qualifiers which took place in Egypt last year.

Dar to host Zone V Handball Championship in February

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TEN national women's handball teams are expected to battle it out in the International Handball Federation (IHF) Trophy Africa- Zone V Championship scheduled for April in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania Handball Association (TAHA) president Michael Chibwala said the tournament which will bring together U-20 and U-18 teams has attracted Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and the host Tanzania.

He said the championships are set to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Indoor Stadium and Ngome grounds from April 24-30.

Chibwala said the Zone V Championships have been sponsored by IHF but TAHA will take care of all local preparations and it needs more than 100m/- to successfully host the championships.

He said Tanzania's team comprising 40 players (20 handballers in the U-20 team and as many in the U-18

team) is expected to enter residential camp one month before the championships begin.

According to the official, the two teams are made up of players mostly selected when the last year's Inter-Secondary Schools Games (UMIS-SETA) and Inter-Primary Schools Games (UMITAMSHUMTA) took place.

"We will host the Zone Five Championships in April this year. IHF will sponsor accommodation and transport for the visiting teams but TAHA will be responsible for the national team's preparations and other important local logistics," Chibwala disclosed.

"Our team is made up of 40 players, one physician, two matrons, four coaches, and two leaders, we are appealing to the corporate world and sports stakeholders to support us," he said.

Last year, Tanzania's men's handball side did not compete in the Zone 5 Championships which took place in Kenya, with Chibwala attributing the failure to logistic challenges.

MultiChoice Tanzania unveils new 'Panda Tukupandishe' promotion

By Guardian Correspondent

MULTICHOICE Tanzania has launched a mouthwatering upgrade offer dubbed 'Panda Tukupandishe'.

This offer, according to the company, gives all active and disconnected DStv Poa, Bomba, Shangwe, and Compact customers a chance to pay and get to view programming on higher packages within 48 hours at no extra cost.

Head of Customer Value Management at MultiChoice Tanzania, Hilda Nakajumo, graced the launch of the 'DStv Panda Tukupandishe' campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Hilda disclosed: "At MultiChoice, our mission is always to deliver value to our customers by making great entertainment more accessible. Our key priority is to put our customers' needs at the heart of everything we do."

She revealed: "We listen to our customers to understand their changing lives, the economic pressures they face, and what matters most to them."

Hilda added: "We recognize that most of our customers are living in tough economic times and understand our customers are under pressure to make every shilling they spend count. As such, we're constantly reviewing our prices."

The official noted: "Hence, we are delighted to launch a Step-Up campaign named 'Panda Tukupandishe', whereby our customers will be upgraded to the next higher packages at no



The Head of Customer Value Management at MultiChoice Tanzania, Hilda Nakajumo, shows the slogan of the company's new campaign termed 'Panda Tukupandishe' which was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The campaign will offer DStv Poa, Bomba, Shangwe, and Compact customers a chance to pay and get to view programming on higher packages within 48 hours at no extra cost. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

extra cost. This offer is valid for all active and non-active DStv customers from January 25th to 31st March 2023."

She added that with this offer, their customers, say in Bomba (23,000/-) package will be required to pay for Shangwe (34,000/-) bouquet worth and DStv will step them up to the Compact (56,000/-) package, and get access to watch the biggest soccer leagues in the world such as English Premier League (EPL), the Spanish Primera Liga (La Liga), Italian Serie A and the other major soccer championships in the world.

Explaining how the DStv Step Up offer works, she noted: "If you are an active customer on DStv Poa, Bomba, Shangwe or Compact package, simply upgrade to the next package and DStv will give you a further boost to an even higher package at no extra cost."

Hilda pointed out: "If a DStv Bomba customer pays for the DStv Shangwe package at only 34,000/- he or she will Step Up to Compact. If a DStv Shangwe customer pays for the DStv Compact package at only 56,000/- he or she will Step Up to Compact Plus and if a Compact customer

pays for the DStv Compact Plus package at only 99,000/- he or she will Step Up to DStv Premium."

The official said: "Once payment is made, customers may be upgraded to the next higher package within 48 hours. New customers are also not left out of these amazing benefits because this Step-Up offer is open to both active and disconnected DStv customers."

According to Hilda, this limited offer is run under the terms and conditions and is expected to continue till March 31.



Our team is made up of 40 players, one physician, two matrons, four coaches, and two leaders, we are appealing to the corporate world and sports stakeholders to support us,

PSG faces busy February with Bayern and Marseille tests

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

THERE's a busy February ahead for Paris Saint-Germain.

Next month will be packed with a series of big matches for PSG and likely to set the tone for the rest of the defending French champion's season.

But PSG won't be sorry to see the end of January. It has been struggling since the start of the new year, with two defeats in its last three league matches. Although the 7-0 demolition of amateur team Pays de Cassel in the French Cup on Monday boosted morale, Christophe Galtier's team is not in the best of form ahead of a loaded period.

PSG will play seven matches in February, including major tests against Bayern Munich in the Champions League and bitter rival Marseille in a domestic doubleheader.

"There are things for us to put right," Galtier said after his team saw its lead at the top of the league over second-place Lens cut to three points.

In the two league defeats against Lens and Rennes, PSG's lack of inspiration and rhythm was worrying for a team whose ambition is still to win the Champions League, Europe's top club competition, for the first time.

"When you are PSG, yes, there is an urgency," Galtier said. "We must find our game, have much more energy, much more rhythm, much more intensity."

PSG's matches in February start at struggling Montpellier before hosting Toulouse. Things are expected to get harder with a trip to Marseille's Stade Velodrome in the round of 16 of the French Cup in what is the biggest fixture in French soccer.

Then it will be another away game at fourth-place Monaco before Bayern travels to the French capital for the first leg of their round-of-16 match in the Champions League on Feb. 14. After that, PSG will host Lille and travel again to third-place Marseille in the league.

"The calendar is like that, unfortunately," Galtier said. "With the accumulation of matches, we'll need to be careful with the players' management."

There are concerns surrounding the form of Neymar, who is looking a shadow of the inspired and ruthless player he was in the first part of the season before damaging his right ankle at the World Cup in Qatar.

The picture is not rosier in defense, as Presnel Kimpembe has yet to recover from an Achilles injury, while right back Nordi Mukiele is out with a thigh problem expected to keep him sidelined for weeks.

The good news is that Kylian Mbappe remains unstoppable.

After a stunning World Cup, the France striker became the first PSG player to hit five goals in a competitive game against Pays de Cassel, taking his overall tally with the club to 196 goals – just four shy of Edinson Cavani's record.

Russia meets UEFA looking for path back into world sports

NYON, Switzerland

RUSSIA tried to make progress Tuesday on its slow and difficult return to international sports amid its war in Ukraine at a meeting Tuesday with officials at European soccer body UEFA.

Russian Football Union vice president Aleksandr Alaev declined to comment when leaving after three hours of face-to-face talks. They were the first since Russia drew back from a threat last month to leave UEFA and seek to join the Asian Football Confederation.

A follow-up meeting will be held in February, the Russian news service TASS said.

Russian teams are banned from UEFA and FIFA competitions during the war in Ukraine and there currently is no way back from those decisions that were upheld at sport's highest court.

National teams including Poland, Switzerland and Albania had refused within days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February to play their scheduled games against Russia.

When the UEFA and FIFA bans imposed on Feb. 28 were challenged at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, judges agreed that the consequences of letting Russian teams play "would be irreparable and chaotic" for the smooth running of competitions.

Russian teams were removed from trying to qualify for the men's and women's World Cups, the women's 2022 European Championship which it had qualified for, plus European youth and club competitions.

UEFA also terminated sponsorship deals with Russian state energy firm Gazprom, moved the 2022 Champions League final from the home stadium of Zenit St. Petersburg, and banned the club from this season's Champions League group stage.

While soccer is blocked, Olympic and sports officials worldwide had conference calls last week to explore ways – all of them complicated – to help Russian athletes and teams compete soon in qualifying events for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee has an executive board meeting Wednesday which is expected to discuss its position on Russia 18 months ahead of the Paris opening ceremony. The IOC advised sports bodies last Feb. 28 to exclude Russia from hosting and competing.

Are bad shots, blown leads at Australian Open 'choking'?

MELBOURNE, Australia

WHEN Matteo Berrettini

missed what should have been a simple backhand on match point against Andy Murray in the first round of the Australian Open last week, the crowd inside Rod Laver Arena let out a collective gasp of disbelief.

As Murray moved in the wrong direction, leaving the court wide open, Berrettini dumped the ball halfway down the net. At the most important moment of his day, the Italian – talented enough to be the Wimbledon runner-up in 2021 – was unable to hit a shot he might make the other 999 times out of 1,000.

In tennis parlance, he "choked."

Berrettini smiled right after that blunder but never recovered; Murray went on to win in a fifth-set tiebreaker.

"He had a pretty bad shot on the match point," Murray said. "I was lucky there, for sure."

Singles tennis is an individual sport, of course, so there are no teammates to cover for mistakes or provide help at key junctures. The attention falls on one athlete, which translates to plenty of praise for winners and, in certain circumstances, accusations of "choking" lobbed at losers – fair or not.

It's a versatile term, too. Sometimes, as with



Jessica Pegula of the U.S. plays a backhand return to Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023. (AP Photo)

Berrettini, it is banded about when a player flubs what appears to be a gimme shot on a crucial point. It also gets used when a high-ranked player is defeated by someone who is much lower-ranked. Or when someone throws away a big lead, such as when a man takes the first two sets of a best-of-five match at a Grand Slam tournament yet loses – which happened seven times in the first two rounds in Australia. Or when someone is quite close to ending things but fails to seal the deal.

The word "choke" popped up all over Twitter on Monday after No. 9 Holger Rune, a 19-year-old from Denmark, gave away a lead of 5-2 in the fifth set, then leads of 5-0 and 7-2 in the first-to-10 tiebreaker that capped the match, in what

became a loss to No. 5 Andrey Rublev.

Famously, Jana Novotna double-faulted when serving at 4-1, 40-30, against Steffi Graf in the third set of the 1993 Wimbledon final and never won another game. Gabriela Sabatini blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead against Mary Joe Fernandez at the French Open in the same year. In the 2004 men's final at Roland Garros, Guillermo Coria was serving while ahead 6-0, 6-3, 4-4, 40-love, let that huge edge disappear and wasted two match points in the fifth set before Gaston Gaudio took the championship.

"The basic definition of 'choking' is the feeling of overwhelming anxiety that the athlete is unable to manage with his or her current defenses," sports psychologist Tom Ferraro said.

Digging deeper,

Ferraro said this sort of thing can occur "when an athlete unconsciously decides to stop focusing and eases up. This may be due to conflicts with aggression, guilt, fears of separating, shame or a repetition compulsion." Not surprisingly, many tennis players don't like to hear about "choking." "It's a harsh word," said Jessica Pegula, an American who is ranked No. 3 and made it to the Australian Open quarterfinals in singles before losing Tuesday night.

"I think everyone kind of does it to some extent. I think it's just because you get nervous. Some days there's no rhyme or reason," she said. "Some days, you can feel like you're a little tense and, for some reason, you can feel like maybe the momentum is shifting in a match and

you're just putting a lot of pressure on yourself to do the right thing. I think maybe instead of thinking clearly, you're panicking a little bit."

Another point made by Pegula, whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, is that there is a big difference between being in the arena and rendering judgment from afar.

"Sitting and watching, it's very easy to say, 'Oh, they're choking. They're choking,'" Pegula said.

No. 8 seed Daria Kasatkina lost 6-1, 6-1 to 97th-ranked Varvara Gracheva in the first round in Melbourne, then said she "lost my mental battle with myself" after waiting around through two days of rain delays.

Kasatkina said that, in general, she doesn't like the term.

"It depends how and when you use it, of course," she said. "But when it's people on the internet, after the bad matches, they say, 'Ah, you choked' – it's really bad."

Mark Petchey, a former player who has coached Murray, was a TV announcer for the Murray-Berrettini match when that crucial backhand error arrived. "It's hard to believe he has missed that," Petchey said on air. "He just needed to get it over the net."

Petchey said in an interview later that "choking" is a "complex subject, there's no question about that,

because it's not just about mental frailty. It's also about your technique."

Looking at Berrettini's miscue, Petchey noted that what it might have exposed more than anything are "flaws in his backhand."

Pivotal lapses can also snowball, resulting in poorer play as a match progresses, because, Petchey said, "you want it too much."

"Once you see the momentum get away from you," he said, "it takes a very strong mind to get out of it."

Players who let an advantage disappear often talk about how their arm felt like it was twice its normal weight or their legs weren't effective anymore.

"Definitely, when you're nervous, you freeze up," Pegula said. "You don't want to move your feet. You get a little tense on your serve."

Petchey said the circumstances, the occasion and the opponent should also be taken into account.

"It's always easy to say that they 'choke,'" he said. "But if you force them to hit their worst shot, is that really 'choking'? Or is that good play from the opponent on the other side that they force you to actually have to beat them with your least favorite shot?"

Berrettini, for his part, put what transpired simply.

"I had a match point. I missed. ... That sums up the match," he said.

AP

LeBron scores 46 points with 9 3s, but Clippers rout Lakers

LOS ANGELES

LEBRON James hit a career-high nine 3-pointers while scoring 46 points, but the Los Angeles Clippers hit 19 3-pointers of their own on the way to a comfortable 133-115 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

James scored at least 40 points against the Clippers for the first time in his 20-year career, giving him a 40-point game against all 30 teams in the NBA. James hit his record ninth 3-pointer with 6:45 to play, setting a career high from distance in his 1,404th game.

"I was able to make a few shots tonight and try to help us stay in the game," James said. "But the Clippers, they are really good. Exceptionally good when they're shooting the 3-ball, and tonight they did that."

Indeed, James' brilliance wasn't nearly enough: The Lakers never caught up after falling behind by 23 points, and James spent the final minutes on the bench after the Clippers pulled away for their 10th consecutive victory over their arena coterminants in downtown Los Angeles since former Lakers guard Tyronn Lue became the Clippers' coach.

James also ramped up his chase of Kareem

Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring record with his 101st 40-point game, including the postseason. He trails Abdul-Jabbar (38,387 points) by just 177 points, putting him in position to potentially break the record at the end of the Lakers' upcoming five-game road swing instead of back home in Los Angeles.

"I've got to this place by not even thinking about it," James said. "Just being in the moment, trying to play the game the right way. Even tonight, as well as I shot the ball, I was still trying to distribute to my guys, to make sure they felt some type of rhythm. That's just always how I've played the game."

Paul George had 27 points and nine rebounds, and Kawhi Leonard added 25 points in the Clippers' third straight win overall. The Clippers never trailed largely because they hit a season-high 15 3-pointers in the first half while scoring a season-high 77 points in the first half.

"(James) had a great shooting game, but we weathered the storm," Lue said. "When they cut (the lead) to 10 and LeBron is on fire like that ... we just tried to take everyone else out and make him go one-on-one."

Norman Powell had 22 points and Reggie Jackson added 19 for the

Clippers.

"We were forcing them into really tough shots, and they were just making them," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "Against a great team like that, you've got to play damn near perfect to overcome that deficit."

Russell Westbrook scored 17 points and Thomas Bryant added 15 for the Lakers, who could get Anthony Davis back Wednesday from his 20-game absence with a right foot injury.

"The possibilities are limitless," Ham said with a grin.

Rui Hachimura sat on the Lakers' bench in street clothes one day after they acquired him from Washington in a trade for Kendrick Nunn. The Japanese big man will in uniform Wednesday, Ham said.

AP

Premier League clubs set new record for January spending

Premier League clubs have broken the record for transfer spending during the January window with a £440 million (\$542 million) spree, according to sports finance experts Deloitte.

By 1500 GMT on Tuesday, the gross spend by Premier League sides had surpassed the competition's previous high of £430 million in January 2018.

Funded by their new owners, Chelsea have fuelled the English top-flight's record-breaking January.

The Blues have spent around £180 million this month, with Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mudryk joining from Shakhtar Donetsk in a deal reportedly worth £88.5 million.

Chelsea also brought in David Fofana from Molde, Monaco's Benoit Badjiashile from Monaco, Andrey Santos from Vasco da Gama and PSV Eindhoven's Noni Madueke.

Netherlands forward Cody Gakpo joined Liverpool from PSV for £44 million in another of the big January deals.

There is still one week left before the January window closes, leaving room for the new record to rise even higher.

In the January 2022 window, Deloitte said Premier League clubs' gross spend was £105 million with one week to go

and finished up at £295 million.

January 2023 has already surpassed the record spent during any previous winter window as Premier League clubs look to reinforce their squads ahead of a crucial second half of the season," said Calum Ross, assistant director in Deloitte's Sports Business Group.

"The 2022-23 season has seen clubs invest heavily in their squads, and to date this season Premier League clubs have spent more than £2.4 billion on player transfers.

"New ownership and an availability of financial resources to pay significant sums to maximise performance continue to be key contributors towards record spending levels.

"While this level of spending illustrates Premier League clubs' recovery post-pandemic, the importance of long-term financial planning and focus on financial sustainability should continue to be a priority."

Deloitte said that gross spending by Premier League clubs for the 2022-23 season so far is £2.4 billion, with the new winter record following the record-breaking £1.9 billion spend last summer.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Are bad shots, blown leads at Australian Open 'choking'?

PAGE 19

Sudanese giant Al Hilal SC arrives in Dar ahead of Namungo FC clash



Sudan's Al Hilal Sports Club.

held on December 12, 2022, at the CAF headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

Sixteen teams were drawn into four groups, each made up of four outfits.

Defending champions Wydad Athletic Club have been drawn in Group A and are also re-uniting with a side they faced in the group stages last year, Petro Atlético de Luanda.

They will be joined in the group by Congolese side AS Vita Club and Algeria's JS Kabylie, both of whom are returning to the group phase after a long spell out.

Group D will meanwhile play host to some tantalizing North African derbies, with Tunisia's Esperance, Egypt's Zamalek, and Algeria's CR Belouizdad all drawn together. Joining them in the group is Sudan's El Merreikh.

In the group stage, each group will be played on a home-and-away round-robin basis.

The winners and runners-up of each group will advance to the quarter-finals, the first stage of the showdown's knockouts.

Sudanese giant Al Hilal SC arrives in Dar ahead of Namungo FC clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SUDANESE soccer giant Al Hilal SC has arrived in Dar es Salaam safely ahead of the club's first friendly against Tanzania's Namungo FC.

The squad landed at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) at noon, having flown from the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Ethiopia.

The Sudanese club is in Dar es Salaam for a short training camp ahead of their 2022/23 CAF Champions League group stage campaign next month.

Al Hilal SC has been drawn into an all-familiar group with

two of the same teams they faced in the same stage last season.

In Group B, they will once again play record champions Al Ahly of Egypt, South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns, winners of the 2016 CAF Champions League, and will be joined by Cameroon's Coton Sport.

Al Hilal SC, under Congolese head coach Florent Ibenge who led Morocco's RS Berkane to the CAF Confederation Cup title last season, will play their first

friendly today against Namungo FC.

On Tuesday next week, they will play against Azam FC at Azam Complex Stadium.

On February 5, Al Hilal SC will play their final international friendly against Simba SC who are the ones who invited them to the country.

Simba SC is also using the friendly as part of the side's 2022/23 CAF Champions League group stage preparations.

The Tanzanian represen-

tatives have been drawn in Group C, picking out an interesting East African battle against Ugandan debutants Vipers SC and will also duel with Morocco's Raja Club Athletic and Guinea's Horoya AC.

The 2022/23 CAF Champions League group stage is set to kick off on February 10, after the conclusion of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) in Algeria.

The draw for the premier continental soccer competition's group stage was



Namungo FC forward Ibrahim Abdallah (L) gets a football from referee Ally Simba once the footballer scored a hat-trick during his outfit's 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC that took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Namungo FC beat Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 3-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NAMUNGO FC

Forward over the moon after netting hat-trick for Namungo FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

STRIKER Ibrahim Abdallah 'Mkoko' was over the moon on Tuesday afternoon after netting a hat-trick for Namungo FC as the outfit defeated hosts Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League match played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The 22-year-old player made judicious use of the opportunity handed to him by his squad's head coach Denis Kitambi as a result of injuries that veteran striker Reliants Lusajo had sustained.

In a post-match interview, Mkoko was a model of modesty, attributing his first league hat-trick to team-work.

The attacker noted: "The game was difficult, we were away. The secret to our success was a determination to make sure we follow the coach's instructions."

The performer pointed out: "I'm thankful we fought and got three points. I aim to make sure I fight every day to help my team. I believe if I do that I can score more goals than the ones I scored right now."

"The top goal scorer race is almost beyond me but you never know... we fight to make sure we help the team."

"The coach keeps telling me to keep on fighting, I have the ability and I keep adhering to his instruction. I am grateful that I can help my team."

The footballer noted: "It is a special moment for me because this is my first league hat-trick. The last goal was the best because it eased pressure from the team and ensured we claimed the three points."

Earlier, the striker hailing from Zanzibar, who was part of Serengeti Boys' class of 2017 that played in the Africa U-17 Cup of Nations finals in Gabon, connected with a Pius Buswita cut-back to break the deadlock in the 40th minute.

Buswita, once again, turned provider for Mkoko who headed home the former Yanga midfielder's set-piece cross in the 55th minute to double Namungo FC's lead.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC pulled one goal back via fullback Kelvin Kijiri at the hour mark before Mkoko sealed his treble with a powerful shot that went past the hosts' goalkeeper David Kissu outstretched hands.

The Namungo FC attacker becomes the fourth player to score a hat-trick in the NBC Premier League this season, following in the footsteps of John Bocco and Said Ntibazonkiza of Simba SC and Yanga striker Fiston Mayele.

Tuesday's win puts Namungo FC in sixth place with 29 points from 21 games, 14 points behind fourth-placed Singida Big Stars in the race for a top-four finish.

In other games played on Tuesday, Geita Gold FC continued with the outfit's good run of form when it edged Coastal Union 1-0 at Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School's Stadium.

Caravans Cricket Club storms into Gymkhana Shield tournament semis

By Guardian Reporter

CARAVANS Cricket Club has secured qualification for this season's Cello|Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament last four following the outfit's hard-fought two-run victory over Gymkhana Cricket Club in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The clash's eventual winners will therefore lock horns with Aga Khan SC in the last four clash at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue on Saturday, seeking to make it to the final.

Caravans Cricket Club's performers were forced to deploy all skills at their disposal to overcome the determined Gymkhana Cricket Club mostly made up of youthful cricketers.

The Sreejit Kumar-led Caravans Cricket Club went on to notch 101/9 after it had garnered the opportunity to take the crease first in the Group B duel which was reduced to 18 overs.

Top-order performer Amal Rajeevan made his experience count for Caravans Cricket Club, finishing nine runs short of a half-century.

Rajeevan, deployed at number four, nailed three boundaries and a six in his batting spell, propelling his outfit to 100 runs after 17.4 overs when he was finally dismissed.

His batting showing turned out to be a timely boost to



Caravans Cricket Club's performers are pictured before taking part in this season's Cello|Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament duel against Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

the side that had endured an early wobble brought about by early dismissals of senior cricketers that have so far been consistent.

Openers, Adersh Dileep and Jitin Singh, and Kasim Nassor who was slotted in at number three, could not chip in with meaningful contributions having failed to repel Gymkhana Cricket Club's bowling attack.

Promising all-rounder Johnson Nyambo was the other cricketer with notable contribution during the innings, having made his way back with 15 runs.

The other experienced cricketer Manoj Kumar, de-

ployed at middle-order, was one run short of a two-digit score at a time the club kept on losing wickets in quick succession.

Gymkhana Cricket Club's spinner, Tambwe Rashid, and Kartik Syal led the outfit's bowling onslaught, having notched three wickets apiece.

Needing 102 runs to grab victory, Gymkhana Cricket Club came out with all guns blazing, the club's performers though fell short having managed to notch 99/8 in the scheduled 18 overs.

Gurvinder Singh was the batsman with the most runs in the club, having posted 29

runs not out, fellow performers Rashid and Kheel Suchak made their way back with 21 runs and 19 runs respectively.

Spinner Nassor and Nyambo were impressive with the ball as Caravans Cricket Club's bowling unit curtailed Gymkhana Cricket Club's chase, the duo notched two wickets apiece.

Caravans Cricket Club's Rajeevan walked away with the Man of the Match prize because of his scintillating showing with the bat.

The outfits battling it out in this season's showpiece have been placed in groups A and B.

Group A consists of Caravans Cricket Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club have been put in Group B.

The ongoing edition is sponsored by Cello|Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

Cello|Ruby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This season's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on November 6 last year.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skipper in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries have all along been in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

