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AWARD



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Many thrilled over CCM's seat in Z'bar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ANXIETY and excitement are being felt across a wide section of CCM members here, considering the likelihood of Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi taking over as the ruling party's vice chairman for Zanzibar.

The party is on the verge of concluding its electoral process, with Dr Mwinyi having spearheaded an energetic campaign against corruption in its various forms during his two years as Zanzibar president.

Most CCM cadres interviewed have expressed hopes that Dr Mwinyi can steer the party in the right direction when he assumes the vice chairmanship for Zanzibar, which is still held by his predecessor, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, in line with the party's Constitution.

The general impression from a number of interviewees is that CCM members in various regions are satisfied with Dr Mwinyi's ability to lead the Isles and spur economic development

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AU bureau looks at protecting donkeys

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE African Union Bureau for Animal Resources experts are meeting in Dar es Salaam for two days to figure out better ways of protecting donkeys that are at risk of extinction due to high demand for its meat and skin abroad.

Statistics unveiled at the meeting show that African countries sell 4.8m donkeys to the Far East for slaughter to obtain meat and skin annually, an alarming situation due to the species' low birth rate.

In 2021, the government closed two donkey abattoirs over mini-census results that the donkey population, a beast of burden, was cut by half within a decade or less to slightly over 657,000 animals.

Abdallah Ulega, Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister, said at the Pan African Donkey Conference yesterday that the participants need to come up with evidence-based suggestions on the peril of donkeys as an endangered species.

Under the theme "Donkey in Africa - now

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivers her World AIDS Day address to the nation from Lindi municipality's Ilulu Stadium yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia: Youths' HIV infections alarming

By Guardian Reporter

THE rate of infections among youths aged between 15 and 25 years is alarming, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

Addressing a World AIDS Day rally in Lindi municipality yesterday, the president said the country needs to take action to prevent the younger generation from being too exposed to infections.

When most of these youth are infected, we will be responsible for providing them with HIV related services for many years, she stated, highlighting issues of inequality in the spread of infections, noticed during



It is important that we use this celebration to come up with new strategies that ensure equality as we struggle to achieve the set targets

the COVID-19 outbreak and true of HIV/AIDS services as well.

"We need to work to achieve the global target of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 by putting in place measures enabling us to eradicate the disease, she said, urging the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) to forge strategies in that direction.

TACAIDS and health stakeholders need to put more effort into preventing new HIV/AIDS infections, improve HIV services and combat the stigma that still remains for people living with the disease, she said.

The president's observations reiterated national goals

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NECTA suspends 24 school exam centres

- 2,194 pupils' results struck off, 540 candidates under investigation
- Skips ten best performing pupils, schools listing

By Guardian Reporter

RESULTS of 2,194 pupils out of 1,350,881 candidates sitting for the primary school leaving exams have been cancelled over cheating suspicions.

Athumani Amasi, the acting executive secretary for the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) made this observation yesterday in announcing the results of this year's primary school leaving

examinations (PSLE).

Contrary to previous years, the council has this year not announced the ten best pupils and the top 10 schools at the national level, observers noted.

The results were cancelled in accordance with Article 30 (2) (b) of the 2016 Examination Regulations, together with Article 5(2) (i) and (j) of the NECTA Act, (Chapter 107 of the laws of Tanzania).

"We decided to announce the results in a different style," he said, elaborating that people need to get the picture of the overall performance and development of our education sector "instead of picking just one pupil as the best among the 1.3m candidates who took the PSLE this year."

The council has resolved not to announce the best 10 schools and best 10 students as it was the norm earlier while suspending 24 exam centres out of 17,935 exam centres and schools after the centres "were proven to have



The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (C, gesturing) pictured in The Guardian Limited (TGL) Newsroom yesterday briefing a Vodacom Tanzania delegation headed by managing director Philip Besimire (2nd-R, foreground) on the publishing company's pre-press operations. The Vodacom executive was on a familiarisation tour of IPP media outlets in Dar es Salaam. Another photo on Page 5. Looking on include IPP director Joyce Luhanga (L), TGL finance manager Samwel Orgensen (2nd-L), TGL print manager Balasubramaniyan Venkalachalam (3rd-L) and Nipashe newspaper deputy managing editor Epsom Luhwago (R). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



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NECTA suspends 24 school exam centres

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planned and cheated in the exam (PSLE) 2022," contravening Article No. 4(8) of the 2016 Examination Regulations

"The council is mandated to cancel examination results of candidates if they are found to have cheated even after being presented with leaving certificates," he specified.

Suspended exam centres are Kadama (Chato-Geita), Rweikiza (Bukoba-Kagera), Kilimanjaro (Arumeru-Arusha), Sahare (Tanga), St. Anne Marie (Ubungo-Dar es Salaam), Ukerewe (Mwanza), Peaceland (Mwanza), Karume (Bukoba-Kagera), Al-Hikma (Dar es Salaam) and Kazoba (Karagwe-Kagera).

Others are Mugini (Magu-Mwanza), Jamia (Bukoba-Kagera), Winners (Mwanza), Musabe (Mwanza), Elisabene (Tunduma-Songwe), High Challenge (Arusha), Tumaini (Sengerema-Mwanza), Olele (Mwanza), Mustlead (Chalinze-Coast), Moregas (Tarime-Mara), Leaders (Rorya-Mara), Kivulini (Mwanza) and St. Severine (Biharamulo-Kagera).

Some of the suspended examination centres were among the best 10 schools in PSLE results last year while some of their candidates were named among the top best pupils at the national level. The schools are Kadama (Geita) and St. Anne Marie (Dar), he said.

NECTA is holding the PSLE results

of 179 who fell sick in the middle of exams, thus couldn't finish the papers, while investigating 540 candidates from Joyland (PS026131), Castle Hill (PS0204150), Green Acres (PS02033129), Great Vision (PS0206099), Mtendeni (PS0202026) and Maktaba (PS0202058) over cheating suspicions. Those proved to have cheated will have their results cancelled, he declared.

"Candidates whose results have been annulled are allowed to enroll for secondary education at private schools. They are only barred from being admitted at public schools," the exams czar intoned.

Statistics show an increase in exam performance in most subjects apart from English, with the number of candidates increasing by 18.24 percent or 165,600 candidates, from 2021 figures.

A total of 1,384,186 candidates were registered for this year's PSLE, with 723,027 girls (52.23 percent) and 661,159 boys (47.77 percent), while 4,221 candidates had special needs (0.30 percent), he said.

A total of 1,350,881 registered candidates, equivalent to 97.59 percent, sat for the exams, with 33,305 candidates (2.41 percent) failing to sit for exams due to sickness and absenteeism, he said.

A total of 1,073,402 candidates out of 1,348,073 obtained results passed with Grades A, B and C, of whom 558,825 are girls and 514,577 are boys, he added.

AU bureau looks at protecting donkeys

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and in the future," experts and policymakers from around Africa will share knowledge and discuss ways of protecting donkeys on the continent.

Evidence-based findings will also help to invest in people to change their mindsets and stop selling donkeys, he said, noting that the conference recommendations will help in formulating appropriate regulatory measures for the entire region.

He urged stakeholders including the United Nations Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and private firms to seek a common understanding to voice out and promote the welfare of donkeys.

Dr Tizon Nzunda, the Livestock and Fisheries deputy permanent secretary, said donkeys are raised within an extensive indigenous breed environment and have the ability to survive in semi-arid areas.

Its numbers have dropped due to low fertility rates, minimal attention and extensive commercial slaughtering, he said, underlining that the ministry has formulated a five-year plan for enhancing the breed quality, and training donkey keepers to avert diseases.

Prof Hezron Nonga, the ministry's director of preventive services, said the conference resolutions will help African countries to come up with solutions on how to protect donkeys in the region.

The Donkey Sanctuary, an international animal welfare and rescue charity transforming the quality of life for donkeys, mules

and people worldwide, has in a new report identified previously unrecognised biosecurity threats to equines and humans due to the donkey skin trade.

Diseases identified in donkey skin samples represent a danger to both human and equine health, especially when shipped across great distances, the report noted.

Marianne Steele, CEO of the think tank, said the global trade in donkey skins is cruel and inhumane, unregulated and unnecessary, resulting in suffering for donkeys and donkey-dependent communities on a devastating scale.

"While many may choose to turn away from the direct impacts on animals and people, I would implore consumers, governments and the wider public to take notice of the risks to animal and human health," she strongly appealed.

"The global trade in donkey skins should be halted immediately. We now have evidence it is neither humane, sustainable nor safe and allowing it to continue, given the risks we have revealed, is unanswerable," she further stated.

Dr Faith Burden, executive director of Equine Operations at the NGO, said the findings in the report are shocking, although not altogether surprising.

The disease risks for animals and humans are obvious given the poor hygiene at all stages of the trade; the lack of traceability and basic biosecurity should alarm anyone involved in the trade. It puts people and animals in general at significant risk, the director added.

Seven East African nations sign IGAD agreement on free movement of people

JUBA

THE East Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) signed an agreement on the free movement of people Wednesday, as representatives from the eight African countries gathered in the Sudanese capital.

In a press conference that followed the meeting, the authority's secretary, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, said that "a free movement of people agreement and a 'trans-human protocol' were signed by seven countries' representatives with the

exception of Uganda's minister, who was absent from the meeting in Khartoum.

Gebeyehu provided no further details about the two deals, which were signed behind closed doors.

He called it a "very big achievement for the region."

East Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Khartoum was attended by representatives from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. The three day meeting will conclude today. The gathering will be held next year in Djibouti.



George Simbachawene (in jacket), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) with Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollie (to his right) visit youth pavilions at World Aids Day exhibition at Ilulu grounds in Lindi municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia: Youths' HIV infections alarming

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of achieving zero new infections, and deaths and ending stigma by 2026, under the third national strategy to eradicate HIV/Aids, launched last month.

Public institutions and the development partners need to work together in implementing strategic plans, she said, appealing to Tanzanians to help one another against the spread of infections.

Equality in providing HIV/Aids

services is essential to ensure all needy people get the services, as equality in the provision of services ends stigma and controls new infections, she asserted.

"Inequality in the provision of services holds back our efforts to eradicate the disease by 2030. It is important that we use this celebration to come up with new strategies that ensure equality as we struggle to achieve the set targets," she told the gathering.

Despite the work done so far to reduce new infections, deaths and stigma, there is still a lot to be done to make sure the disease is completely eradicated, the president emphasized, pointing at the need for community awareness, especially among young people.

"They are the ones that are more vulnerable to the disease," she underlined, while

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that intense efforts are

being made in fighting the once devastating epidemic.

The government has come up with strategies to identify indicators of HIV and national research on HIV/Aids (2022-2023) was launched in September.

This survey will take up 19,000 households who will be tested for HIV and Hepatitis B and C. Those found to be infected will be enrolled for medication at preferred health facilities, he added.



Moses Dulle (4th-L), director of planning in the Finance and Planning ministry, pictured yesterday presenting a certificate to one of the students of the Dodoma-based Institute of Rural Development Planning. It was at the institute's graduation ceremony. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavilia

Many thrilled over CCM's seat in Z'bar

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in various areas.

Former Kikwajuni legislator Parmuk Hoogan Singh said Dr Mwinyi has shown his intentions in removing obstacles habitually retarding development, including tackling rampant corruption and embezzlement of public funds.

In the two years, he has served as Zanzibar president, Dr Mwinyi has shown clear displeasure over such misdeeds by directing state organs like the Zanzibar Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) to take steps against perpetrators of these crimes, he said.

He praised the procedure initiated by President Mwinyi to publicize yearly reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) as this would enable the public to know the misdeeds of government officials after they are given the mandate to watch over public funds.

"Since corruption exists even within the party, including the use of fake certificates and presence of unfaithful executives catering for personal interests, I believe that when elected to the vice-chairmanship for Zanzibar he will mobilise the people in building up a clean party," he stated.

Khamis Ali Kaambwa, an

Unguja Central District resident, said Zanzibaris depend on his leadership style as it relates to the party's election manifesto. He has already shown good signs to open up the country, placing it on the world map in terms of economic opportunities, peace and people-based development, he asserted.

When given the party reins, Dr Mwinyi will strengthen the party by putting in place a new leadership team devoted to his vision for Zanzibar's development and obtaining another mandate in the next general election, he emphasized.

Catherine Pascal Mgoli praised

the culture of changing party and state leadership, saying the party polls held at various levels exhibit the culture of good leadership in the party, enabling the ability of a leader to be seen.

Mgoli, a youth from Uzini constituency, said President Mwinyi will inherit robust foundations in leading party structures in like manner as his predecessor Dr Shein, "thus Zanzibaris should have no fear regarding Dr Mwinyi's leadership."

CCM members and other people airing their views as to their expectations in Dr Mwinyi's election to the post said he will spur economic transformation, especially in regard to the blue economy sector.



Jamal Kassim Ali (L), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office, pictured in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday presenting an award to PSSSF (Public Service Social Security Fund) director of finance Beatrice Musa-Lupi. The Fund had emerged First Winner in the Pension Funds and Health Category for the Best Presented Financial Statements Award for the Year 2021. It was at an awards ceremony coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PSSSF wins Best Presented Financial Statements Award

By Guardian Reporter

PUBLIC Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) has scooped the Best Presented Financial Statements Award for the Year 2021 in the Social Security Funds and Health Insurance category.

The award presented by the National Board of Accountants and

Auditors (NBAA) was received by PSSSF director of finance, Beatrice Musa-Lupi at the event held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday graced by the Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office (CPA) Jamal Kassim Ali.

PSSSF has scooped the award for the second year in succession.

Speaking after the award's

presentation, PSSSF Director General, Hosea Kashimba said the award will enhance workers' performance in executing their duties by adhering to professionalism hence to continue providing exemplary service to fund members.

She said the award is an indication that PSSSF prepares its financial

statements by adhering to the established international standards but also it reflects the existence of professionalism of the fund in regard to workers and staff.

"In addition, the award also reflects the quality financial management of members' contributions and this gives us respect as an institution," she added.

She also assured PSSSF members the intention of the fund in making sure about the safety of their contributions at all time, including the existence of transparency in the management and upkeep of PSSSF resources.

Engineers take stride to address global warming, climate change

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

ROADS, bridges and large buildings are next on the list of infrastructural projects that are susceptible to adverse effects of global warming and Climate Change.

More than 500 engineers from Tanzania and Eastern African countries gathering in Arusha have stated here that, the effects of climate change have started to take a toll on infrastructural projects including high-rise buildings, roads, bridges and communication pillars, thus drastic steps need to be taken to curb the arising problems.

Country Representative of the European Union Delegation in Tanzania, Ambassador Manfredo Fanti who graced the meeting, pointed out that calamities resulting from global warming and climate change are cross-cutting issues that also need the attention of engineers, large project planners and construction entities.

Ambassador Fanti explains that the works of local engineers have a direct impact on ordinary citizens and therefore as the world experiences rising temperatures, concocts need to come together to devise ways of ensuring that the infrastructural projects under their care, withstand future effects of climate change.

It was also stated during the 13th Engineers Conference that there are new technologies that ensure all engineering works can endure negative weather elements such as massive flooding, earthquake, extreme temperatures and hailstorms.

Speaking at the 13th International Conference of Engineers, which addresses the roles of engineers in addressing climate change, Engineer Roselane Jilo from Kenya was of the view that to address challenges the Institution of

Engineers in Kenya, Tanzania and other East African countries must come together instead of each nation trying to solve problems on their own.

Eng Karimu Bushedede from Ghana said each country in Africa has its own standards of quality assurance which means many construction projects fall below the required international benchmark.

The President of the Institute of Engineers in Tanzania, Engineer Sayed Qadri admits that climate change and its related effects have been affecting large and small construction projects, steeping countries into major losses.

"When roads, bridges and houses collapse due to floods or earthquakes, it is taxpayers' money that gets lost, causing economic disaster to any nation and that is why we need to get prepared now, because global warming and climate change effects are here to stay and likely to get worse," Engineer Qadri maintains.

Some delegates were of the view that South African countries seem to be more advanced in this front of making their infrastructural projects resilient to effects of climate change and other weather elements, thus as East Africans, they will learn a lot from them.



When roads, bridges and houses collapse due to floods or earthquakes, it is taxpayers' money that gets lost, causing economic disaster to any nation and that is why we need to get prepared now...

First shipment of Russian fertiliser leaves Netherlands for Africa - UN

AMSTERDAM

AFTER sanctions-related obstacles hit Moscow, the first shipment of Russian fertilizer left the Netherlands on Tuesday for Malawi, Dutch customs and the UN said.

Some 20,000 tons of NPK chemical fertilizers - made from nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium - left Tuesday afternoon on board the MV Greenwich from the port of Terneuzen in the southwest of the Netherlands, according to officials. Russian fertilizer exports, crucial for combating the food crisis, have long been paralyzed.

Agricultural products and fertilizers do not fall under the sanctions against Russia, but because of the risks linked to the conflict incurred in the Black Sea, ship owners no longer wanted to hire their boats for lack of insurers.

The United Nations has undertaken "intense diplomatic efforts with all parties to ensure unimpeded exports of essential food and fertilizers (from) Ukraine and the Russian Federation, free of sanctions regimes, to world markets," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General. Some 260,000 tons of Russian fertilizer stored in ports in Europe must be exported in order to prevent "a catastrophic crop loss in Africa" where the planting season is underway, according to the UN.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TO OFFER VARIOUS CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO AMDT (EXTENDED DEADLINE)

About AMDT

Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) was established by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland in 2014 in cooperation with Tanzania. It is a long-term facility with a mandate of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people through a strong pro-poor focus on making markets work for the poor (M4P)/markets systems development (MSD) approach in Tanzanian agricultural value chains. AMDT works with the Private Sector, Government, and Civil Society Organisations to stimulate changes to market systems leading to broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as the competitiveness of agricultural micro small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

AMDT achieves this by working with market actors and invest in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and have pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

As part of its continued improvement and planned future growth, AMDT is seeking for eligible, reputable, and qualified consultants on the assignments mentioned below:

1. Consultancy for Reviewing and Updating AMDT Manuals: <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>
2. Consultancy Service to Develop AMDT Policy Briefs: <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>

All bidders are requested to access detailed Terms of Reference and tender descriptions through the above links on AMDT website. The links provide all required information and complete tender descriptions.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants **MUST** follow instructions in the notice on the RFP. All applications must be sent through procurement@amdt.co.tz by **9th December 2022, 1700, Hours**. For more information or inquiries, interested bidders are advised to contact AMDT through: procurement@amdt.co.tz on or before **5th December 2022** by COB.

Only the qualified firm will be contacted via email.

CLOSING DATE: 9th December 2022.



HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS NEEDED TO SERVE AND TEACH AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution founded in 1994 for children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for a vacancy of a competent, experienced, and qualified teacher.

The following positions are open for the school year 2023/2024 starting August 2023:

- History Teacher
- Science Teacher

JOB SUMMARY

An experienced history or science teacher will teach the subject as per the school curriculum and guidelines set by the school and according to the full job description and expectations. The science teacher will teach lower secondary (Grades 6-8, Cambridge Years 7-9) and the History teacher will teach upper secondary (IGCSE and A Level Cambridge History). The ideal teacher will be self-motivated, a team player, adaptable, and willing to learn with experience working in multicultural, international settings, and fluent in English.

HOPAC follows the Cambridge curriculum and is an ACSI/MSA accredited school.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in education or subject-specific field
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- Committed Evangelical Christian
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- Minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a multicultural setting
- Experience teaching Cambridge International Curriculum preferred

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your **Application letter and CV only** by email to personnel@hopac.sc.tz to arrive on/or before 15 January, or physically addressed to **Personnel Department, Haven of Peace Academy, P. O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.**

African leaders at AU summit seek the fast-tracking of industrialisation

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN leaders reviewed the continent's progress in industrialisation, economic diversification, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the context of global shocks, debt vulnerabilities, climate change, and security concerns.

Twenty heads of state and government as well as their representatives attended the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Industrialisation, Economic Diversification, and the AfCFTA in Niamey.

"Not so long ago, the juxtaposition of the words industrialisation and Africa might have seemed incongruous. Today, the question it raises is mainly one of ways and means," said Nigerian President Mohamed Bazoum, the summit's host. "This in itself is proof that we are on the right track. A Nigerian proverb says, 'You cannot stop a river,' he added.

Bazoum called on African countries to entrench the rule of law to catalyze the emergence of the African private sector, unleash the energies of African entrepreneurs, and simplify the business environment.

"Inclusive, coherent, and sequenced industrialization that we want cannot be imposed and can only be achieved by creating synergies between the private and public sectors to empower small and medium-sized enterprises and create quality jobs."

Bazoum added: "The youthfulness of the population and its growth, which are a challenge, can constitute an asset, provided the demographic transition is well-managed."

His Nigerian counterpart, President Muhammadu Buhari echoed the sentiment. He said, "The African continent is blessed with a large youth population that can meet our labor shortages. Therefore, we need to tap into this abundant human resource by providing our youth with a quality education that is relevant to their goals and meets the requirements of the labor market."

For President Paul Kagame

of Rwanda, the way forward on industrialization entails investment in energy and infrastructure. "The pace of industrialization in Africa is still too slow to achieve Africa's development goals under Agenda 2063," said Kagame. "We need to invest more of our national budgets in industrial policy, and significantly increase energy and infrastructure capacity."

In a speech read on his behalf, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina noted that free trade areas had brought prosperity worldwide not by trading low-value products, but by industrial production. "It is, therefore, clear that Africa's prosperity must no longer depend on exports of raw materials but on value-added finished products," he said. Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, African Development Bank acting vice president for Regional Development, Integration and Service Delivery, represented Dr. Adesina and delivered the speech on his behalf.

"Across Africa, we need to turn cocoa beans into chocolate, cotton into textiles and garments, coffee beans into brewed coffee," Adesina said. He said the Bank was investing \$25 billion to transform the continent's agricultural sector and unlock the agribusiness market, which is expected to reach \$1 trillion in value by 2030. The Bank chief also detailed efforts to develop spheres that will boost Africa's industrialization and economic diversification, including the energy, health, natural resources, and pharmaceutical sectors.

"Africa has an abundance of natural resources, oil, gas, minerals and metals, as well as a vast blue economy that needs to be rapidly industrialized," Adesina said. "The future of electric cars in the world depends on Africa, given its vast deposits of rare mineral resources, including lithium-ion, cobalt, nickel and copper. The size of the electric vehicle market has been estimated at \$7 trillion by 2030 and \$46 trillion by 2050. Building precursor facilities for lithium-ion batteries in Africa will cost three times less than in other parts of the world," he said.



Jamal Kassim Ali (3rd-L), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Pieter de Jager, head of Tanga Cement Plc's finance division, the Overall Winner's award the firm won (for the sixth year running) in the Industrial Producers category for the preparation and best presentation of accounting information. It was at this year's edition of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) Awards ceremony. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CHODAWU to offer special training to domestic workers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzanian Conservation, Hotels, Domestic and Allied Workers Union (CHODAWU) is planning to start special training for domestic workers in an effort to make them more skilled and gain professional recognition.

The anticipated training to be conducted through Vocational Education Training Authorities (VETA) will help improve their capacity and understanding of their basic rights in order to ensure they are valued and given the rights they deserve.

CHODAWU, Secretary General, Said Wamba made the revelation here during a stakeholders meeting recently, calling on the government to support the initiative.

"The intended training project will help domestic workers to

be aware of their rights and increase their professional skills and quality hence giving them a chance to serve better with standards," he said.

He added that this is a national issue because it touches everyone, stating that domestic workers serve people, kids at home and elsewhere.

Wamba also said that funds to implement the training project have already been obtained from various donors but they are waiting for VETA to develop and design the curriculum where he asked all members who attended the session to contribute their idea on what should be included in the curriculum.

On her party, the Special Seats MP, Dr Tea Ntale (CCM) urged VETA to design and develop a special curriculum that will consider all

necessary parts like their rights, their professionalism, working environment, Obligations and what to be done when they encounter problems.

"Domestic workers especially girls are abused in their workplaces, they are abused by the father, mother, children even with relatives of their employer," she said.

The lawmaker also argued that they are abused psychologically, physically and socially, the society does not recognize that they are also human beings who need to be respected and valued.

"We need VETA to design and develop a curriculum that will help them realise their rights and obligations as workers, and that will provide all the necessary skills, they should be experts in their professional being able to be employed anywhere with a

reasonable salary," she added.

The manager of Nyumba Salama from Wote Sawa Project Mwanza Cluster, Jackline Ngalo said that many domestic workers have been experiencing economic, sexual and emotional violence, others at a very young age, thus the training will help them understand who they are, what their rights are and what is their profession.

She also vowed that the training will help them see and recognise the economic opportunities available in their working environment and how they can use them to improve and develop their economic status.

"The training along with their rights should help them analyse, identify and look for opportunities so they can increase their income aside from their monthly salary," said Ngalo.

HIV and Aids: Church called on to have focus on teenagers in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AS the international community marked World AIDS Day on December 1, some priests, church and agency officials said the Catholic Church must focus more on young people living with HIV in Africa.

This comes at a time when the first generation of children living on antiretroviral drugs since birth enters their teenage years or early 20s. According to experts in the sector, the group is facing a host of challenges, including stigma, lack of health services and economic

opportunities and misinformation, especially from social media.

Many young people fear disclosing their statuses because of the stigma. But as they also struggle with the challenges, experts say the category of those taking antiretroviral is extremely crucial in the fight against the pandemic.

"There is a need (for the churches) to do more. Unfortunately, this is the category of the youth who are at risk of being invisible in the church," Jesuit Father Ismael Matambura, director of the African Jesuit AIDS Network, told Catholic

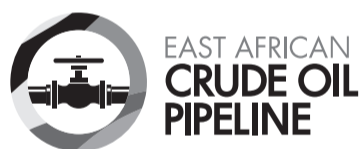
News Service. "Often, we cannot account for them. It is more visible that the church has not taken the issues of stigma and youth living with HIV as part of their core pastoral ministry.

"If all the parishes in Africa, for example, put the issue of youth at the center in all dimensions of their services, including HIV, we could cover so much ground," added Father Matambura, saying that the church has the capacity and structures to deliver the transformation needed to reduce the burden of HIV on the continent.

Teresa Odhiambo, a lay leader in charge of family life in the Kisumu Archdiocese, said it was easy to see that the church has not prioritized youth living with HIV and AIDS.

"I think as a church we have failed somewhere in this line, because when we are talking about family life, our concern is families and married couples. We forget the youth," she said, adding that young people with HIV were very secretive and fearful. "If they can think about their age and being HIV positive, that almost makes them crazy, but they need our support and counseling."

In early 2000, affordable antiretroviral drugs began arriving in Africa. The drugs have saved millions of children born with HIV. This year, as the world marks the World Aids Day, many of them in their teens are seeking to understand a condition that sets them apart from their peers.



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF OFFICE SPACE IN TANGA, DODOMA, SINGIDA, BUKOBA AND KAHAMA REFERENCE NO. 00000066

East African Crude Oil Pipeline [EACOP] LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable property owners or licensed agents to express their interest in providing office space services on rental basis in Kahama town, Tanga city, Bukoba town, Singida town or Dodoma city to the [EACOP] project.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to the Chongoleani peninsula, near Tanga, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania traversing eight (8) regions, comprising Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga and 231 Villages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The Company is seeking a service provider for office space on rental basis with interested parties possessing adequate experience and expertise. The scope of the offices at each of the locations Kahama town, Tanga city, Bukoba town, Singida town or Dodoma city includes:

- The office space should be able to cater for approximately 10-12 personnel working at the location whether in open plan or individual offices
- Ideally, the offices should have at least one meeting room to cater for up to 20 people
- The premises must include at least two restrooms.
- The office space should be fully accessible to people with special needs through ramps and a passenger lift if applicable.
- The premises should have a stand-by generator.
- The offices should be configured with internet services
- If the premises is a standalone building, it must have a perimeter wall of at least 2.1 meters and a secure lockable vehicle gate. It should also have a sheltered gate house/guard hut and at least one outdoor restroom facility.
- The offices are to have a permit for office use. If this is not available, the Contractor shall apply or such a permit and bear all applicable costs upon signing of the contract agreement.
- The building should project a professional and aesthetically pleasing appearance and should be approved for office use.
- The owner should offer minimum parking space for at least 5 cars.
- The Initial period of agreement will be for 1 year which shall be renewable. The offered space must be available in a building close to the Main Road within the urban center.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
 - Business license.
 - Appropriate licensing if any from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.
 - Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
 - Application for registration with the EVWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
 - Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
 - Experience, performance, and capacity in delivering the Scope of Services outlined above in Tanzania, in compliance with national and international standards.
 - Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
 - Evidence of a in compliance with applicable local and industry standards for similar works.
 - Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT) on or before **16th Dec 2022**. Email subject shall be: **00000066** Provision of Office Space.

Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long.

All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.



EATV programmes coordinator Sophia Mng'anya (in specs) pictured at the TV station briefing Vodacom Tanzania managing director Philip Besimire (R) during the latter's familiarisation visit to IPP media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

2022 Youth Parliament must advocate action against casual sex, argues Zungu

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Deputy Speaker, Mussa Hassan Zungu has said the 2022 Youth Parliament should warn the youth to avoid casual sex that could make them contract HIV/Aids. Statistics show that the youth make up 40 per cent of all HIV infections. Zungu made the remarks yesterday when addressing the Youth Parliament at Msekwa Hall

here whose slogan for this year is, "Youth's Place in Fighting Effects of Climate Change." "Every year on December 1, World's AIDS Day reports indicate that infections have dropped but not for the youth group, you must open your ears, do not engage in unsafe sex, besides even the scriptures have outlawed sex for the unwed," he said. He said organising the Youth Parliament aims to make the youth understand the workings of

parliament and prepare them to become good leaders. "To educate the youth on challenges facing the community and the nation in general and teach them on the importance of reaching decisions after the inclusive debate," he said. In regard to environmental conservation, Zungu said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been mobilising on the importance of environmental conservation. "Just recently President Samia

attended a meeting with global leaders who discussed the adverse effects of climate change and cited the increase of drought, melting of ice caps and global warming, and I believe that through this parliament you will learn how to deal with the issue," he said. He appealed to the youth to come up with resolutions including the praising of the awarding of PhD to President Samia for her contribution to the community.

EAC marks its week with CSR activities in Arusha

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has made a number of activities as part of the community's corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Arusha city including tree planting to mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

The move is in line with marking the EAC Week, themed "Towards an Integrated East Africa: Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change and Promoting Maternal Health."

During the week EAC workers started the day with a cleaning exercise at the Kilombero bus station in Arusha, the second largest bus park in the city that hosts several international organisations and is the hub of the tourism industry in north-western Tanzania.

They also donated maternity delivery kits to the Levulosi health centre, a public health facility that neighbours the bustling Kilombero municipal market and has a maternity wing.

Each of the maternity delivery kits consisted of, among other things, cotton wool, mackintosh sheet, surgical gloves, syringes and baby cloth meant to enhance safe delivery and maternal health.

Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Burundi's Minister for EAC Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture, Ezechiel Nibigira, hailed tree planting efforts in the region saying an increased forest cover would mitigate the effects of climate change, a phenomenon on which the very existence of the human race is premised. "There is a biting drought in the region due to failed rains over the past three years. The drought has brought untold suffering on our people with pastoralist communities losing millions of heads of livestock due to lack of water and pasture," said Nibigira.

"Tree planting is an exercise that should not be left to government and NGOs alone, rather it should be an initiative of each and every one of us, our children included," added the

minister. The minister later presented 500 tree seedlings donated by the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) to the Pastoral Women Council of Tanzania, an NGO that plants trees in Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro districts in northern regions.

EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki, said that the main aspiration of the Community was creating markets for its business people and produce a surplus for export.

Dr Mathuki urged the Partner States and other stakeholders to mount activities each year to commemorate the EAC day, adding that this would enhance a sense of integration among EAC Citizens.

The SG said that infrastructure development and strengthening of financial markets were meant to promote intra-regional trade and investment, adding that intra-regional trade has increased significantly, especially over the past one and half years.

"Tanzania has surpassed Kenya in terms of exports and has also increased its exports to Uganda. Tanzania exported goods worth \$510 million to Kenya and imported \$450 million from Kenya," said Dr Mathuki, noting that opening up of partner states' borders had witnessed increased trade volumes.

Arumeru District Commissioner, Eng Richard Ruyango disclosed that Arusha city has plans to plant 1.5 million trees this year, adding that the city had already planted 225,000 new trees.

Eng Ruyango, thanked the EAC for the CSR programmes mounted in the city to mitigate climate change and improve maternal health as it commemorated the EAC day.

Dr Burkhard Kömm, Project Manager of the Support to Pandemic Preparedness III, GIZ Project, said the integration process among nations is not a sprint but a long distance race, alluding to the challenges that integration initiatives face the world over.

UNAUDITED QUARTERLY RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022																																																																																																																												
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Dear Shareholders,																																																																																																																												
<p>The Group recorded a lower loss before tax of TZS 1,666 in the third quarter compared to the loss before tax of TZS 2,446 recorded in the second quarter.</p> <p>The Group's revenue decreased by 1% to TZS 57,968m from TZS 58,239m achieved in Q2 ending 30 June 2022. The decline is attributed to lower production output and sales due to an inadequate power supply with frequent power dips and power rationing. However, despite the decline in sales, the Group continued to perform well for the quarter. The Group's gross profit increased by 1% to TZS 11,311m from TZS 11,231m achieved in Q2. This increase is attributed to cost saving initiatives adopted by management and increased operations efficiency.</p> <p>We are proud to report that EBITDA has improved by 7% to TZS 6,078m from TZS 5,678m achieved in June 2022 driven by improved operational efficiencies and cost controls.</p>																																																																																																																												
<p>Consolidated and separate statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Group Sep-22</th> <th>Group Jun-22</th> <th>Company Sep-22</th> <th>Company Jun-22</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>TZS'000</th> <th>TZS'000</th> <th>TZS'000</th> <th>TZS'000</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Revenue from contracts with customers</td> <td>56,961,059</td> <td>58,229,918</td> <td>56,961,059</td> <td>58,229,918</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cost of sales</td> <td>(45,653,790)</td> <td>(46,998,234)</td> <td>(45,653,790)</td> <td>(46,998,234)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gross profit</td> <td>11,307,269</td> <td>11,231,684</td> <td>11,307,269</td> <td>11,231,684</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other income</td> <td>21,914</td> <td>588,793</td> <td>24,857</td> <td>586,693</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other expenses</td> <td>(35,476)</td> <td>(781,003)</td> <td>(35,476)</td> <td>(781,003)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Selling expenses</td> <td>(787,510)</td> <td>(5,368,956)</td> <td>(787,510)</td> <td>(5,368,956)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administration expenses</td> <td>(4,306,291)</td> <td>(4,734,486)</td> <td>(4,306,291)</td> <td>(4,734,486)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Depreciation charge</td> <td>(4,702,322)</td> <td>(5,345,465)</td> <td>(4,702,322)</td> <td>(5,345,465)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impairment/(reversal of impairment) on non-current assets</td> <td>(181,594)</td> <td>(3,345)</td> <td>(181,594)</td> <td>(3,345)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating profit</td> <td>1,186,694</td> <td>1,188,645</td> <td>1,186,694</td> <td>1,188,645</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest expense</td> <td>(6,874,869)</td> <td>(5,950,427)</td> <td>(6,820,540)</td> <td>(5,911,821)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance income</td> <td>1,094</td> <td>28</td> <td>1,094</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foreign exchange and fair value gains</td> <td>(773,460)</td> <td>(773,460)</td> <td>(773,460)</td> <td>(773,460)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loss before tax</td> <td>(1,666,138)</td> <td>(2,446,364)</td> <td>(1,666,138)</td> <td>(2,446,364)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income tax credit</td> <td>245,932</td> <td>481,223</td> <td>245,932</td> <td>481,223</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loss for the period</td> <td>(1,414,206)</td> <td>(1,959,141)</td> <td>(1,414,206)</td> <td>(1,959,141)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other comprehensive loss</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loss for the period attributable to owners of the parent</td> <td>(1,414,206)</td> <td>(1,959,141)</td> <td>(1,414,206)</td> <td>(1,959,141)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-controlling interests</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total comprehensive loss for the period</td> <td>(1,414,206)</td> <td>(1,959,141)</td> <td>(1,414,206)</td> <td>(1,959,141)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basic and diluted loss per share</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TZS/share</td> <td>(22)</td> <td>(31)</td> <td>(22)</td> <td>(31)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Group Sep-22	Group Jun-22	Company Sep-22	Company Jun-22		TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	Revenue from contracts with customers	56,961,059	58,229,918	56,961,059	58,229,918	Cost of sales	(45,653,790)	(46,998,234)	(45,653,790)	(46,998,234)	Gross profit	11,307,269	11,231,684	11,307,269	11,231,684	Other income	21,914	588,793	24,857	586,693	Other expenses	(35,476)	(781,003)	(35,476)	(781,003)	Selling expenses	(787,510)	(5,368,956)	(787,510)	(5,368,956)	Administration expenses	(4,306,291)	(4,734,486)	(4,306,291)	(4,734,486)	Depreciation charge	(4,702,322)	(5,345,465)	(4,702,322)	(5,345,465)	Impairment/(reversal of impairment) on non-current assets	(181,594)	(3,345)	(181,594)	(3,345)	Operating profit	1,186,694	1,188,645	1,186,694	1,188,645	Interest expense	(6,874,869)	(5,950,427)	(6,820,540)	(5,911,821)	Finance income	1,094	28	1,094	28	Foreign exchange and fair value gains	(773,460)	(773,460)	(773,460)	(773,460)	Loss before tax	(1,666,138)	(2,446,364)	(1,666,138)	(2,446,364)	Income tax credit	245,932	481,223	245,932	481,223	Loss for the period	(1,414,206)	(1,959,141)	(1,414,206)	(1,959,141)	Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	Loss for the period attributable to owners of the parent	(1,414,206)	(1,959,141)	(1,414,206)	(1,959,141)	Non-controlling interests	-	-	-	-	Total comprehensive loss for the period	(1,414,206)	(1,959,141)	(1,414,206)	(1,959,141)	Basic and diluted loss per share					TZS/share	(22)	(31)	(22)	(31)
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Interest income received	1,190	96	1,190	96																																																																																																																								
Income taxes paid	(1,511,687)	(300,106)	(1,511,687)	(300,106)																																																																																																																								
Net cash flows from operating activities	2,311,613	1,367,655	1,764,791	649,737																																																																																																																								
INVESTING ACTIVITIES																																																																																																																												
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	35,476	-	35,476	-																																																																																																																								
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(4,136,339)	(2,440,684)	(4,136,339)	(2,440,684)																																																																																																																								
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(4,100,863)	(2,440,684)	(4,100,863)	(2,440,684)																																																																																																																								
FINANCING ACTIVITIES																																																																																																																												
Principal repayments - lease liabilities	(945,921)	(318,066)	(945,921)	(318,066)																																																																																																																								
Lease liability interest paid	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)																																																																																																																								
Interest paid - overdrafts	(1,221,588)	(814,212)	(1,221,588)	(814,212)																																																																																																																								
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(2,167,599)	(1,132,282)	(2,167,599)	(1,132,282)																																																																																																																								
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(3,956,759)	(2,205,311)	(4,902,951)	(2,922,229)																																																																																																																								
Net foreign exchange differences	(592,842)	28,780	(544,940)	28,781																																																																																																																								
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	(6,710,870)	(6,710,870)	(6,775,873)	(6,775,873)																																																																																																																								
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	(11,260,471)	(8,887,401)	(11,334,394)	(9,670,321)																																																																																																																								
<p>Information to Members The company secretary would like to inform the members that dividends can be directly transferred to their bank. Members can contact The CSD & Registry Company Limited (CSDR) on +255 (0) 746 160 516 or on +255 (0) 677 070 414 for information on how to have the dividends deposited directly into their bank.</p>																																																																																																																												
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Stakeholders in Dodoma city benefit from on AMR training

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SEVERAL stakeholders in Dodoma city have been trained on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in an effort to help spread awareness in the region.

The training was part of the global celebration to mark World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2022 held between and brought together journalists, students, teachers and three-wheeled tricycle (Bajaj) drivers.

It was organized by the Roll Back Antimicrobial resistance Initiative (RBA Initiative), a non-governmental organization in Tanzania whose aim is to fight back antimicrobial resistance.

The organization promotes the rational use of antimicrobials, conducts research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and promotes behavioural change, with the aim of reducing the rate of infection due to AMR.

Speaking during the training, the organisation's Project Facilitator, Bakir Hussein noted that drug resistance is increasingly becoming a big problem not only in Tanzania but globally.

He said there is a need for continued public education and awareness of the problem, calling on the participants to spread the message. "Let us agree that the use of drugs without a doctor's prescription is wrong," he said.

Mussa Selemani, a teacher at K-Ndege secondary school, where there is also a students' AMR club noted that is a great improvement in awareness among students in the schools.

He hailed the efforts of the RBA Initiative that have made the students understand the importance of rightful medication.

The organisation established AMR clubs with at least 50 members in three schools of K-Ndege, Meriwa and Mkonze secondary schools in

the city.

"RBA Initiative is doing a great thing in spreading awareness on misuse of drugs and help improving people's health," he said, adding that education should be widely included in the school curriculum.

RBA Initiative Coordinator, Michael Masha on his part said that the organisation holds the annual meeting in marking the week, adding that many residents have been reached.

He cited evident cases where parents of students where there are AMR clubs have called to thank the organisation for the right knowledge impacted on their children.

"Through the week-long campaigns we have managed to distribute over 1,200 leaflets with information on AMR to people," he said.

He added that last year, RBA Initiative introduced the WAAW Bajaj campaign in the city as part of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2021.

This campaign used the three-wheeled motorcycle "Bajaj" to transfer the AMR messages to the community through the advert with a key AMR message in the Swahili language, placed behind the 'Bajaj'.

Furthermore, the Bajaj drivers were trained on AMR and distributed AMR flyers to their passengers and the general population.

According to the coordinator, the post-activity survey showed an increase in respondents who had heard about antimicrobial resistance from 37.3 to 44 percents.



RBA Initiative is doing a great thing in spreading awareness on misuse of drugs and help improving people's health



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo secretary general Ado Shaibu addresses members of the party in Kasulu during a recent visit to Kigoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MNH shifts some services to Mloganzila branch to reduce congestion at Upanga

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has located some of its main clinical services to Mloganzila branch to reduce congestion at its Upanga headquarters.

MNH Executive Director Prof Mohammed Janabi told journalists at a press conference that the hospital has located neurology, Cardiac and diabetes clinics in the new Mloganzila facility to free space at Upanga.

"Mloganzila has a huge space as you can see, there is room for

expansion and we believe that in the next two to three months this hospital will be full to its capacity," he said.

Prof Janabi said the hospital plans to shift more services to Mloganzila due to its location which offers room for comfort to specialists.

He said already, there are plans by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to set up infrastructures for specialized medical training and services in the area.

"In the next 10 to 15 years,

Mloganzila will be one of the main medical scientific cities in Africa because of the plans that have already been set up," he said.

He said with this move the number of patients has increased from 20 percent to at least 60 percent, this is a huge increase in just two months.

"Even the number of surgeries that we conduct has increased because all the specialists have moved to Mloganzila," he added.

Prof Janabi called for an increase in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) buses going to the hospital to facilitate

transport to passengers who visit the facility for medical services.

The construction of the MNH Mloganzila hospital was described as a milestone of attainment in the provision of health services and quality medical education in the country.

The Hospital is an outcome of an agreement between the governments of Tanzania and of Korea that was signed in 2010. The two governments entered an agreement towards the \$49.5 million grant for the hospital's infrastructure.

Dr Nchemba calls for prioritisation of use of statistics

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

FINANCE Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has called for the prioritisation of the use of statistics, especially at this time when effects of climate change have adversely affected agricultural production and nutrition as well as threatening food security in some African countries this year.

Dr Nchemba made the remarks on Wednesday in a speech read on his behalf by Deputy Agriculture Minister, Anthony Mavunde at celebrations to mark Africa Statistics Day held in Singida Region.

"To a large extent the farming sector in African countries depends on rains which the world over are affected by the effects of climate change, quality agriculture statistics produced in time are essential now than at any other time in the history of human development," he said.

He said modern methods in producing statistics should be given priority, especially taking

into consideration that the farming sector has a huge contribution to Africa's economic development.

Dr Nchemba said the farming sector is a major source of food for the nearly 1.2 people living in Africa South of the Sahara as well as for industrial raw materials.

He noted that according to 2021 World Bank statistics, the contribution of the farming sector to African countries' GDP is 15 per cent on average with South Africa's farming sector having the greatest contribution to its GDP - over 50 per cent.

He said for Tanzania, benefits from the farming sector include its big contribution to GDP - at 26.1 per cent and a big source of employment by employing 65 per cent of the country's labour force as well as a big source of foreign exchange - 24.7 per of the money accrued from all exports.

"Tanzania continues to be the second country in Africa in the export of goods and also the second with nearly 33.94 million head of


cattle with Ethiopia leading with 60.39 million," Dr Nchemba said.

He said the farming sector holds the destiny of people's lives as it provides hope for many people in the continent in alleviating poverty by its assurance of food security and nutrition.

He said the government recognises the importance of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for monitoring the production and distribution of official statistics.

He said as of now there is a big increase in the need for statistics stemming from our country endorsing the implementation of various zonal and global agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2063 Africa's Agenda and other zonal agendas.

The apex of Africa Statistics Day celebrations that began seven days ago involved various activities in educating the public on the celebrations' aims including the competition for the best writer of statistics news.



ZANZIBAR SOCIAL SECURITY FUND
KILIMANI MNARA WA MBAO
P.O. BOX 2716

Tender No. SMZ/F0308/W/ICB/2022-23/25
for
Design and Build for the Proposed Construction of Zanzibar Bus Terminal at Kijangwani
Invitation for Bids

Date: 02nd December 2022

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in **Zanzibar Leo Issue no. 6330** dated **9th June 2022**.
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through Zanzibar Social Security Fund has set aside funds for the operation during the financial year 2022/2023. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment for Design and Build for the Proposed Construction of Zanzibar Bus Terminal at Kijangwani
- Zanzibar Social Security Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers registered Class One (01) for Design and Build for the Proposed Construction of Zanzibar Bus Terminal at Kijangwani
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding via www.zppda.go.tz in (eproz portal) or link, procurement.zppda.go.tz
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders through online as instructed under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzanian Shilling Two hundred thousand only (200,000.00). Payment should be settled through the following Account details:
BENEFICIARY: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
BANK NAME: PEOPLE BANK OF ZANZIBAR
ACCOUNT NO: 0406588000
SWIFT CODE: PBZTZTXXX
- All bids must be accompanied by a by a Tender security in the form of banker's cheque in the amount of Tanzania Shillings **TZS 100,000,000.00 (Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Million Only)** or freely convertible currencies in case of Foreign Tenderers.
- All Bids must submit online through www.zppda.go.tz in (eproz) or link, procurement.zppda.go.tz. Properly filled and must be submitted before **Saturday 31st December 2022 at 10:00hrs**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderer or their representatives who choose to attend in the public opening at the ZSSF Conference Room 1st Floor Room No 208 at **10:00 hrs**.
- Late bids, portion of bids, and bids not received, bids not opened and not read out in public at the bids opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.
- Note any bidder who has interest with this bid should be visited at Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority's Office at Mazizini Takwimu House for registration and Information of E-Procurement

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17775301



Mari An (L) and Jacqueline Kawishe (3rd-L), representatives of shoe makers Barron Group, present 50 pairs of shoes to medical officer Zainabu Mwinyimkuu (4th-L) of Dar es Salaam's Mnazi Mmoja Hospital yesterday. The items were a World Aids Day offer from a person who preferred anonymity and were meant for children living with Aids undergoing treatment at the hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt vows to support IRDP's plan to expand infrastructure, facilities

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Ministry of Finance and Planning has pledged to continue to roll out lucrative financial support toward the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) in order to enable the varsity to expand its infrastructures as well as training facilities.

Ministry's director of planning, Moses Dulle made the pledge here yesterday when speaking at the 15th convocation ceremony of the Dodoma-based institute.

He stated that apart from the fact that the government is annually dishing -out at least 5bn/- to support IRDP, the institute had bravely been using its internal sources to implement key projects for the upgrading and expansion of its students' accommodation structures, staff offices as well as installation of modern training facilities.

"We at the ministry are very impressed with the patriotic manner in which you're using your internal financial gains to expand the varsity reaching to the capacity to absorb more students. This is a good example to be emulated by others, we will always stand on your side," he expressed.

Dulle noted that IRDP was playing a vital role to assist the government to attain its vision of eliminating poverty from the grassroots within the country by imparting the youth with useful skills to employ themselves in diverse income-generating projects.

Speaking earlier, IRDP's Deputy Rector (Academic, Research and Consultancy), Prof Provident Dimoso informed that the institute was implementing at least five development projects using Internal Generated Funds (IGF).

"The projects include construction of an administration block at Kitumba, Lake Zone in our Mwanza-based training centre at the tune of 397,482,925.43/- and construction of a mini-library worth 400,000,000.00/-," he unveiled.

Giving further information over

the projects, Dimoso added that the other projects being implemented under IGF include the construction of a cafeteria at Kitumba, at the cost of 435,239,691.45/-, compensation of 59.07 acres of land at Kitumba, Lake Zone training centre at around 1,728,039,000.00/- as well as compensation of 636.64 acres at Nala/Chigongwe in Dodoma city worth at 1,080,411,600.00/-

"We're implementing these entire projects through our internally generated funds with an eye to expanding student's accommodation structures and staff offices. However, we're very happy for the patriotic manner in which the government through the ministry of finance and planning has always been supporting us in implementing key projects," he appreciated.

Together with that, Dimoso said the fast-growing varsity has impressively improved its library services by increasing subscriptions to various online resources such as EBSCOHOST, EMERAIID, AGORA, HINARI, OARE, GOAL, ARDI, OMEKA, KOHA and TEEAL

The Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) is a corporate body established by the Parliamentary Act No.8 of the 1980s. Since its establishment, IRDP has been shaping destinies in planning and research methodologies focusing on the future prosperity of its students.



We at the ministry are very impressed with the patriotic manner in which you're using your internal financial gains to expand the varsity reaching to the capacity to absorb more students...



Zanzibar resident Nasra Kassim Mussa (L) speaks to a journalist earlier this week on Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi's resolve on ensuring a boost in employment in the Isles through blue economy projects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Human trafficking still big problem, says Z'bar official

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Director of Community Development, Abdallah Saleh Omar in Zanzibar has said illegal human trafficking is still a big problem and in the past year, the Zanzibar government has rescued more than 150 victims at Zanzibar's Malindi Port.

Omar made the remarks here yesterday in an interview with this paper on the sidelines of a meeting on the issue of human trafficking organised by C-SEMA through EU sponsored project.

He said 90 per cent of the

victims were children and girls hailing from various parts of both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar have promised to work as domestic servants.

He said there are so many middlemen who bring these children and girls to Zanzibar, some of who are subjected to GBV and child abuse and other inhuman acts.

He added that various steps were taken to connect them to their relatives and pay the fares for their return to their families.

An official from the secretariat in the Home Affairs Ministry that fights human trafficking said there is no

region in Tanzania that is safe from human trafficking.

He said there are various reasons for the trade including abject poverty, and the methods used that involve false promises in regard to lucrative employment offers.

He said other reasons include little understanding by the people on the issue of human trafficking and the dream of better employment elsewhere.

He added that in order to control the situation, the community has to be educated on the issue and the cunning methods used to woo the victims.

The Chairman of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Network, Edwin Mgambila said the human trafficking in the country is alarming as it is in other countries.

He added that girls for example undergo untold suffering by working without pay and sometimes even dying or contracting sexual diseases.

He said human trafficking within the country is more extensive than across the border with areas leading are domestic chores, the sex trade sector involving beauty treatment saloons, entertainment areas and others.

Dr Mwinyi reiterates commitment to improving trade, investment climate

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has reiterated the commitment to improving the trade and investment climate in Zanzibar and an open-door policy to investors.

"Foreign Direct Investment is of paramount importance towards implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and African Union Agenda 2063 for socio-economic growth," said the president.

He was speaking at the opening of the Zanzibar Trade and Investment Forum 2022, a two days forum aimed to promote trade, investment and finance opportunities between Zanzibar and the rest of Africa in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The president welcomed the investors to take advantage of Zanzibar's mega-blue strategic projects such as Mangapwani integrated hub port project, renewable energy, marine transportation and infrastructure.

The President expounded that since November 2020, the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Agency has recorded 181 investment projects valued at \$3.056 billion creating 9000 jobs.

EABC Chairperson, Angelina Ngalula said: "Africa contributes only 3 percent to global trade. The African Continental Free Trade Area brings on board a market of 1.3 billion and a combined Gross Domestic Product of \$3.4 trillion."

She said investing in Zanzibar offers investors a gateway to access the EAC and the AfCFTA market.

She said the Marshall Plan to accelerate Zanzibar's economic

growth and build resilience against global disruptions is through deeper integration of our supply chains and trading more with East Africa and Africa!

Mudrik Ramadan Soraga, Minister of State, President's Office, Labour, Economic Affairs, and Investment said the AfCFTA is set to boost intra-Africa trade. He expounded that Africa's level imports about \$50 billion outside the continent, this is capital that could be invested to create and expand businesses and jobs.

Dr Gainmore Zanamwe, Head, Trade Facilitation & IATF, Intra-African Trade Bank, Afreximbank said "Afreximbank has interventions to increase intra-Africa trade and investment such as Pan African Payment Settlement System and Africa Trade Exchange."

Afreximbank has supported the Pan African Trade and Investment Agency to drive Africa Direct Investments and FDI into the continent.

Afreximbank has a 5 billion fund to support Africa's economic recovery. Afreximbank has provided financial services for the development of industrial parks in Unguja and Pemba.

The Zanzibar Trade and Investment Forum convened 300 delegates composed of officials from the ministries and investment promotion agencies, international investors, and business leaders.

It was organised by the African Export-Import Bank in collaboration with the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIIPA), East Africa Business Council (EABC) and the Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC).



KPMG Tanzania managing partner Alexander Njombe (L) presents an award to State Mining Corporation (Stamico) managing director Dr Venance Mwase as second-best top performing CEO for this year. This was at the Top 100 Executive awards ceremony held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Vodacom boss pledges to work with IPP media on digital space

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE newly appointed Vodacom Managing Director Philip Besimire has pledged to work with IPP Media on digital space in a strategy aimed at outreach its targeted customers.

Besimire made the pledge yesterday when he visited The Guardian Limited, ITV/Radio One premises in Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, Dar es Salaam.

During his visit, the Vodacom boss was much impressed with the company's investment in

digital space hence seeing it as a tremendous opportunity for Vodacom to link with its targeted customers on various services offered by the company.

"It is impressive how IPP Media has invested in digital space. When you are outside you are unaware of how news is processed. I have seen and I think this is the massive opportunity to collaborate with the digital space," he said, adding: "As Vodacom, we have products that fit the youth, it's up to us to see how we create content in collaboration with

the digital media because it's where the world is going."

According to Besimire, one of the strategies with him at hand is to act as a catalyst to already initiated projects. "I will strategically drive a successful execution of the existing projects toward the company's vision. We have M-Pesa transactions that we want to advance more on lending," he said.

"Despite having the company's motive we are also rooting to keep supporting the government as we serve the citizens through

projects like Vodacom M-Kulima aimed at easy communication and transaction among agricultural stakeholders and M-Mama programme aimed to help pregnant women to receive vital medical assistance," he added.

Besimire was appointed as Vodacom's Managing Director with effect from October 15, of this year. He joined the company from MTN South Africa where he served in different capacities with the most recent one being the chief of sales, distribution and regional operations since 2019.

He replaced Hilda Bujiku who was serving the position in an acting capacity following the departure of the previous managing director Sitholizwe Mdlalose.

Let's invest more of our experience in efforts to end shortages of power

A week or so into an electricity rationing run in early February 2009, then-President Jakaya Kikwete told the nation that the country would continue to face power blues for at least two more months.

He said the then prevailing power supply interruptions, most noticeably witnessed in Dar es Salaam and surrounding areas, were due to damage to Songas turbines lying in a suburb of the city that used to produce 53 megawatts.

He added that the turbines were extensively damaged and it might take long to repair them, while the national grid had no surplus power.

By all accounts, that was horrendous news. But life had to go on, and it would be only fair if people were to bear with the situation while hearing of long-term workable plans to keep power shedding to the minimum.

That would be understandable - seeing that what was going on seriously hurt the economy and generally incomed the people so much.

Attention was focused particularly on the situation in Dar es Salaam, again for very good reasons. It was not because the rest of the country needed or deserved stable supply of electricity less but because the city was the nation's commercial hub and starving it of the energy would be a sure recipe for a socio-economic disaster.

The city boasts the biggest concentration of industries in the country and it is invaluable to state-owned power generation and supply giant Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) in terms of revenue collections - meaning that it plays a really pivotal role in the nation's development.

Critics wondered how, close to a whole half a century after independence, our power generation and distribution facilities were still terribly constrained mainly owing to inadequate investments.

The then newly released World Bank Doing Business report showed that Tanzania had slipped three places as a favourite destination for business out of 181 countries surveyed. That

was way below Kenya and Uganda, ranked fifth and tenth, respectively.

It was correctly argued that the gloomy scenario could easily discourage local and foreign investors who otherwise saw Tanzania as an ideal location for business.

Simple explanation: erratic power supply disrupts business and wreaks havoc to the lives of all those depending on electricity for their livelihood.

Thus, it is indeed of utmost importance for the government and other relevant players to employ measures, including economic early warning systems, which could better help the country foresee such problems and shield crucial sectors from too much stress resulting from power shedding.

The previous year has witnessed Tanesco unveil a power rationing schedule of up to ten hours a day, which it blamed on problems at Songas - one of its major suppliers of electricity.

But some analysts wondered why Tanesco experts often seemed to lack the capacity to forestall such catastrophes and thus make sure that appropriate measures were taken to prevent the country from slipping into recurrent power woes.

Many experts rightly or wrongly contend that the heart of the problem was faulty planning and delayed or inadequate investment in power generation.

We have heard of plan upon plan and strategy upon strategy by the government and its various partners to embark on expert studies to identify wind, solar and geothermal and other renewable sources of power but concrete results have been few and far between.

Small wonder, then, that sometimes there is wild talk of dereliction of duty or lack of accountability impeding or delaying smooth implementation of well-meaning interventions.

But when it is a case of a country nearing a catastrophe, it is a scenario where we should not brook such things any more. Fortunately, we have enough experience on this score and can easily fight to win. And let it be so.

Ending slavery has got lots to do with getting policy, growth formulas right

IT'S yet another December 2 - and yet another International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

Many commonly spend the Day with classical slavery and in particular the slave trade in mind, while its intention is altogether different.

Rather, the Day is meant to mark the date of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (resolution 317(IV) of 2 December 1949).

Fighting human trafficking is crucial because trafficked people are often brutalised by masters or mistresses who know that such persons lack legal protection.

There was later the creation of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, with statistics showing over the past few years 18,000 victims annually received vital assistance from organisations financially supported by the fund.

On the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, UN member states and especially rich countries are urged to increase their contributions to the fund, or to establish similar funds nationally or regionally.

Whenever there is a breakdown of law and order, the situation of women and children becomes of particular concern, just as lack of jobs or assured incomes leads to their being abandoned by erstwhile

bread winners.

Left to themselves, they experience indignity, without schooling or assured shelter, etc.

Various forms of quasi-slavery conditions are tied up with traditions. Even the prevalence of large numbers of children in hazardous labour is a relic of traditional economic conditions, which global activists fight with rafts of global norms about the rights of children and women.

They scarcely ever campaign for land reforms, except to give the land to women, which can't work as clans are continued across generations by male heritage.

At times, campaigns become arguably contradictory when one canvasses for the global protection of indigenous systems and of lands they occupy, whereas these forms of social existence are tied up with violence, exercised on each one to remain traditional.

Rites that activists oppose, including those conducted on women, hinge finally on these indigenous systems they protect.

In many settings, untold suffering is wrought on smallholders whose farms are trampled upon either by rogue wild animals or livestock cattle, and the victims remain speechless. It is slavery.

Thus, when UN organisations like UNICEF and ILO say that close to 80 million children aged between five and 17 years are subjected to hazardous work and this is a contemporary form of slavery, it is true - but they have few answers.

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Five principles to guide your media strategy for year 2023

By Damian Radcliffe

“ONLY journalism will save journalism,” says Juan Señor, an award-winning journalist and President of the Innovation Media Consulting Group.

It is heartening that, as he points out, “people have rediscovered journalism”. He says the importance of the profession has been cemented over the past several years, “starting with The Trump Bump. Then the (Covid-19) pandemic. Now we have a war.”

Señor argues that high-quality, distinctive reporting produced during these tumultuous periods has had an impact. Now, he says, publishers need to “keep this momentum going”.

This is a point Señor emphasizes in the latest Innovation in News Media World Report 2022-23, which he co-edits. He and fellow editor Jayant Sriram write that “we need to build from this position of strength, even as the media world at large is in a period of unprecedented flux”.

But just how can publishers do this? Based on our conversation with Señor, and his latest Innovation Report, here are five recommendations for publishers as they look ahead to the uncertainties of the New Year.

One: Keep your foot on the subscription gas. “The key thing is to press on with subscriptions,” Señor recommends. He is highly optimistic about reader revenue, stressing the subscription spike many publishers have witnessed in the past few years.

“People know that they have to pay for news, so be the one that they pay for,” he says.

FIPP's new Q3 Digital Subscription Snapshot finds that “growth for most brands remains healthy, with period-on-period gains of 5 per cent or more for many.”

But growth is slowing, cautions CEO James Hewes. Gains are “significantly down” from this time last year, “when low double-digit growth might have been expected each quarter”.

FIPP is a global trade association whose purpose is to improve all aspects of the media content industry through the sharing of knowledge, mutual co-operation, and strategic partnerships. Its membership comprises 700 enterprises, including nearly 60 national magazine associations.

The cost of living crisis, coupled with rises in many subscriptions, may all be contributing to this. FIPP also points to a maturing of this market. That means that “it is inevitable that growth percentages will begin to decline”.

Despite this, Señor urges publishers to stay the course. He says: “Keep pushing subscriptions

first and foremost as a strategic priority, even if it means heavy discounts.”

A key factor behind this rationale is the cost of attracting new subscribers, which is typically more expensive than keeping new ones. That's one reason many publishers are increasingly investing in efforts to reduce churn.

The habitual, relationship-based, nature of media consumption also matters. As economic conditions improve, you may be able to nudge up prices or upsell existing consumers. That's harder to do with audiences who have churned off.

Two: Continue to explore opportunities for revenue diversification.

Alongside maintaining relationships with existing audiences, publishers need to continue to find new routes to revenue. To help them do this, the latest Innovation Report outlines 14 different business models that publishers can adopt. Publishers can mix and match these efforts to pull together a good range of diversified offerings.

Aside from subscription-led approaches, other possibilities include a blend of B2B and B2C models such as memberships, events, affiliate marketing, and “think tank” style output.

As many publishers know, if you wait long enough, then everything old becomes new again. In this regard, Señor is excited about what he describes as “the original habit-formation tool for newspapers - puzzles and games”.

The New York Times' acquisition of Wordle is the poster child for this, having brought “unprecedented tens of millions of new users to The Times”. And, as The Innovation Report points out: “If even a fraction can then be converted to paying subscribers, it would make for an excellent business proposition.”

Puzzles and games are again in vogue as gateways for publishers to capture new subscribers, generate fresh revenue streams and increase the “stickiness” of their relationships with audiences.

Nevertheless, as Esther Kezia Thorpe suggests, “offering games is not a strategy in itself... Publishers need to find ways to bring regular puzzlers into a deeper relationship”.

She says that would apply “whether it be through newsletters, social features, or additional layers to the games themselves”.

Three: Unlock the power - and results - of product thinking. Publishers have invested - and continue to invest - considerable resources in areas such as games, newsletters and podcasts.

Much of this is driven by a belief that these ventures can serve as a gateway to one's content and drive subscriptions and aid retention by deepening bonds with their

consumers. Señor calls them “conversion monsters”.

These efforts reflect product thinking, which has risen to the forefront of media strategies over the past decade.

“Product thinking begins with realising that every way people experience the news is a possible product or feature,” the Innovation Report observes. Of course, each of these touchpoints is also potentially monetisable.

Señor believes that, as a result, “publishers must now become product companies and not just news media publishers”. That's a sentiment increasingly applicable to revenue strategies as well as content propositions.

“Product is changing everything,” agrees Luciana Cardoso, the Brazil-based Vice Chair of News Product Alliance's Board of Directors. Cardoso comments on how product is a driver for innovation “because we need to have the customer at the centre of everything”.

Four: Be tech-led, not led by tech. This desire to be more consumer-centric is accentuated by the need for publishers to prepare for a world without third-party cookies. Describing this as a “first-party data moment”, Señor says these developments are “the key to a stronger future for our industry”.

“First-party data gives us the chance to have a direct relationship, control the pricing, content and dialogue with our readers without intermediaries,” the Innovation Report states, adding: “This is a massive shift and one we must prepare for.”

Señor points to the availability of “journalism without browsers” as one critical dimension of this brave new digital world, noting: “When you look at how Condé Nast is experimenting with this, it's very, very interesting.”

Condé's approach enables them to engage with communities in private online spaces, potentially reaching new audiences and serving existing ones in fresh ways.

It's part of a “conscious uncoupling” some publishers are having with traditional tech platforms, and part of a wider shift in media habits seen within the creator economy.

Tapping into these emerging spaces and behaviours may reveal insights that can inform continued product thinking, drive subscription models as well as support and shape first-party data strategies.

Five: Invest in content, especially visual media. Despite encouraging publishers to keep a watchful eye on emerging tech trends, Señor emphasizes that organisations shouldn't go overboard.

He contends that in terms of the industry's wider financial footing, “the Metaverse, Web 3, none of this

stuff will make the difference”.

“What will make the difference is investment in journalism. We need to do original reporting. A lot of people want that,” he adds.

As part of this, Señor stresses the importance of high-impact visual journalism, which he believes is “absolutely essential” and “perhaps the most exciting new field in journalism right now”.

Product thinking can also shape how - and where - these visual-first stories are told. “This is transformative,” Señor says, pointing out how many of these efforts are driven by a “story first, platform second” dynamic.

Memorable examples can also yield multiple outcomes for publishers. Impactful content can be integral to industry recognition (e.g. awards), and a key driver for unlocking new subscriptions, as well as the retention and upselling of existing consumers.

Noting that next year's Innovation Report will be their 23rd annual publication, Señor says the examples they feature are focused on reach, relevance, or revenue. Often, these elements are deeply intertwined.

Investing that relevance into different spaces and products, and encouraging audiences to pay for it, remains essential if publishers are to traverse stormy economic waters and successfully navigate their way through 2023.

“Whatever you do, put all your efforts into gaining and retaining subscribers,” Señor advocates, adding: “Everything should be about sustaining, developing, and amplifying your subscription strategy.”

There's a myriad of interconnected ways to do this. This includes multiple means to generate revenues, distinctive products to attract and retain subscribers, the knock-on effect of memorable - often visually-led - journalism, as well as deepening relationships with audiences both on and off-platform; including in new and emerging digital spaces.

This consumer-centric model eschews the shiny object syndrome that many media players have been guilty of in the past. Instead, as a new year begins to loom on the horizon, focusing on solid content-led foundations should be their guiding light.

As the sun sets on 2022, publishers will once again set sail and steer a path into an uncertain future. Meeting audience needs through the trifecta of content, product and subscriptions, must be their North Star as we quickly advance into these uncharted waters.

• A Digital Content Next dispatch. Damian Radcliffe is Professor in Journalism at the University of Oregon in the US.

Smallholders in Tanzania can now access loans to expand enterprises

By Dr Jhony Zapata

ACCESS to financial services, information and markets are cited as the major challenge faced by smallholder farmers in Tanzania and other developing countries. This is so because smallholders don't have valuable assets normally demanded by lenders as security.

To respond to this, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is currently implementing a programme on climate resilience and improved livelihoods in Tanzania. This programme is under the auspices of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)-a partnership between FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and AgriCord.

The FFF offers direct financial support as well as technical assistance to forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs) that represent smallholder farmers, rural women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples' institutions. It is expected that forest and farm producers will be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respond to climate change at landscape scales.

Maendeleo ya Wakulima (MAYAWA) Kagera, a network of Farmers' groups in Kagera Region, is one of the FFPOs supported by FFF. MAYAWA is a farmer-led organization founded in 1997 by farmers from Bukoba Urban and Bukoba Rural districts as well as Muleba and Misenyi districts in the region. MAYAWA currently has 277 farmer groups with a total of 4,965 members: 1,801 females and 3,164 males spread across four districts in Kagera



Region.

Leokardia Audax is a MAYAWA member and has been working in agriculture in Kagera since 1994. She is a mother of seven children and a producer of vanilla, honey and coffee. She and her husband began growing coffee in 2016 and later vanilla as cash crops.

While local communities, indigenous peoples and forest and farm producers such as Audax contribute the most to global food security and climate solutions, they also struggle to access climate finance. They manage over 4.3 billion hectares of forest and farm landscapes worldwide and produce 35 per cent of the world's food but receive only 1.7 per cent of global climate funds. Inaccessible bureaucratic procedures, insufficient assets to qualify for credit and limited experience in the financial sector compound their difficulty in accessing loans.

By joining MAYAWA, Audax was able to diversify her farm's production to include beekeeping and poultry, gain access to loans to strengthen her family farm business and improve her livelihood.

MAYAWA began facilitating links between its 5000

members and smallholder credit schemes offered by local banks in May 2021 to break down barriers between small producers and finance.

Its members decided to invest in beekeeping collectively in July 2021 after receiving training in business incubation and enterprise selection. Since September 2022, Audax has been able to establish six beehives, harvesting 10 litres of honey that fetches 10,000/- per litre.

Based on the success of her first harvest, she expects another in the next six months and plans to establish more beehives. In October this year, MAYAWA members established 230 beehives on 4.2 acres of communal land, producing nearly three tonnes of honey and earning nearly 36mn/- (USD15.3K) from honey sold at 12,000/- per litre.

Furthermore, MAYAWA members who were already involved in the poultry, vanilla, and coffee value chains took advantage of the collective opportunity to diversify their production and increase their income.

Audax, a pioneer vanilla producer, attended numer-

ous market analysis and development, entrepreneurship, and vanilla cultivation training to increase her production capacity. She produced 80 kilos of vanilla this season, earning 2mn/-. In addition, she collaborated with other vanilla producers in MAYAWA to meet with large-scale buyers. As a result, members were able to sell four tonnes of vanilla to a British company for USD 130 per kilo.

Since vanilla is a strategic cash crop for Tanzania, MAYAWA distributed 2,200 vanilla vines to over 100 members in February 2022 and trained them on the care of young vanilla plants.

MAYAWA, with strengthened business plans, scheduled meetings between members and local banks in June 2021 for consultation on credit schemes.

"Because we had attended financial capacity building sessions prior to the meeting, we were prepared to negotiate credit with the banks without feeling powerless or isolated," said Helen Binamungu, MAYAWA accountant and member of the financial committee.

After several interactions with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank

(TADB), MAYAWA received a 1bn/- loan in February this year. The loan was used to support small vanilla producers and 20mn/- was distributed to the newly-founded MAYAWA Farmer Saving and Credit Cooperative (SACCOS) and Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC).

The SILC is an internal fundraising engine that supports business ideas chosen by MAYAWA members. So far, 820 people have joined, and registration fees have raised 12mn/-. The members have been divided into 41 sub-groups, which will be formally recognized as producer organizations. These producers will be able to take loans from the SILC to invest in their business ideas, such as beekeeping, at a manageable return rate, generating benefits for all the members.

Audax, for example, managed to purchase shares from the SILC and recently received a 150,000/- loan. With the loan, she started growing tomatoes, field beans and maize. She has also been able to kick-start her poultry business and expand her beekeeping and vanilla enterprises by joining one of the SILC's

sub-groups called Mshikamano which means solidarity. When her maize production reaches a certain scale, she will be able to use it as poultry feed, allowing her poultry business to expand even further.

This loan has also allowed her to cover the costs of schoolbooks, uniforms and shoes for her seven children as well as improve her financial literacy. "Before joining the SILC, I used to take out loans as an individual for household cash and small income activities," she said.

"With the SILC, it is different. We are able to operate as a collective, taking out higher loans with better interest rates which respond to the needs of the group. We have a strategy, and long-term goals. We can think big and support other women producers."

Today, Audax is a female entrepreneurship champion in the region, supporting other women in joining SILC and applying for small loans.

In addition to improving the social cohesion in Kagera Region, the SILC serves as an important learning centre for members who have never managed loans before, building their financial capacities and allowing them to venture into commercial banks and Local Government Loan Schemes with a strengthened knowledge base. MAYAWA intends to build bridges with external financing institutions once members feel ready and empowered to manage such financial relations independently. As a result of this experience, the MAYAWA Resource Centre has also published a simplified manual on accessing finance for its members.

Moving forward, MAYAWA members wish to invest in adding value

to their products to nurture diversification, build resilience and increase their revenue. With the recently established internal networks, this aspiration is becoming a reality.

On the other hand, MAYAWA will improve the capacity of financial institutions to address the needs of forest and farm producers. To do so, a vanilla business model is being prepared to show how banks can support and profit from this sector. The model includes details of the vanilla value chain as well as a profit, loss and risk analysis. It will also conduct workshops and field visits with the participation of financial institutions and decision-makers to promote the development of sustainable, accessible credit schemes for forest and farm producer organisations.

MAYAWA's initiative is expected to inspire other producer organisations in the region to mobilize efforts for better access to finance. For instance, the Syndicat des Organisations Agricoles, a producer organization from Madagascar, has already expressed their interest in learning from MAYAWA's experience as their world-famous vanilla value chain expands.

In Tanzania, the seven forest and farm producer organisations supported by FFF manage 1.7 million hectares of forest and farmland and represent 115,000 producers. With adequate financial support, they hold the massive potential to deliver sustained improvements to rural livelihoods and build long-term resilience.

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Egypt racing to supply wind, solar energy to Greece, EU via submarine cables

Cairo

As Europe braces for an unusual winter due to a global energy crisis, Greece is embarking on one of Europe's most ambitious energy projects by connecting its electricity grid to Egypt's.

An underwater cable will transport 3,000 MW of electricity to power up to 450,000 households from northern Egypt to Attica in Greece.

In October, the two countries agreed to construct the Mediterranean's first undersea cable to transport electricity generated by solar and wind energy in North Africa to Europe. The project's total length is 1,373 kilometres.

The Copelouzos Group is in charge of the project, and its executives met with Egyptian leaders in October to speed up the process.

The agreement comes at a time when Greece, Cyprus, and Israel want

to invest \$900 million in constructing a line connecting Europe and Asia that will be the longest and deepest energy cable across the Mediterranean.

At a ceremony in Athens, Greek Energy Minister Costas Skrickas and his Egyptian counterpart Mohamed Shaker signed a memorandum of understanding on the project.

"This connection benefits Greece, Egypt, and the European Union," Skrickas said.

He explained that the project would help to build an energy hub in the eastern Mediterranean and improve the region's energy security.

Besides boosting the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix and lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector, the project is anticipated to enable the export of renewable energy from Egypt to Greece in periods of high renewable energy generation and vice versa.

According to Dr Ayman Hamza, spokesman for



Wind and solar energy are behind a major project to transport electricity from Egypt to Greece. Credit: Hisham Allam/IPS

the Ministry of Electricity, the Egyptian-Greek electrical connectivity project has significant technical, economic, environmental, and social benefits. The project aims to establish a robust interconnection network in the Eastern Mediterranean to increase the security and dependability of energy supplies, as well as to assist in the event of transmission network breakdowns, interruptions, and emergencies, and to raise the level of security of electrical supplies.

The project, scheduled to start in 2028, is a significant component of the two nations' ongoing

strategic relations and cooperation. It will speed up the development of the energy corridor by increasing the supply of electricity to Egypt and Greece while balancing energy demand, encouraging responses to the challenges of climate change, and reducing emissions, all of which will contribute to the corridor's continued growth, Hamza told IPS.

"We have 16 memorandums of understanding related to green hydrogen," he explained, adding that "there is a great demand from investors to invest in renewable energy, whether the sun or wind."

"On the margins of the COP27 climate conference, it is expected that extremely major agreements on the level of green hydrogen and others, with great experience, will be signed," Hamza elaborated.

The possibility of Egypt increasing its reliance on renewable energy, he continued, is made possible by a large number of investors pouring money into solar and wind energy. He stated that Egypt would become a regional renewable energy hub.

Egypt has electrical interconnection lines with Libya and Sudan, and we are collaborating

with other African organizations to take significant steps to connect Africa and Europe through electrical interconnection. Because Africa is a major energy source, this will benefit both continents, the spokesperson continued.

According to Dr Farouk Al-Hakim, Secretary-General of the Egyptian Society of Electrical Engineers, Egypt's export of electricity indicates a surplus, which generates a significant economic return, strengthens Egypt's political position, and transforms Egypt into a regional energy hub, in addition to the numerous job opportunities created in operation and maintenance.

Al-Hakim told IPS that Egypt has a significant surplus due to the installation of three enormous power stations in the past several years in the administrative capital, Burullus, and Beni Suef, as well as solar plants, including the Benban facility, which is the biggest in Africa and the Middle East.

The electrical connection currently offers many benefits, he continued, particularly given that Europe, like most other nations worldwide, is experiencing an energy crisis due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Therefore, it is a good idea to start with two nations that have shared a history with Egypt, such as Greece and Cyprus, he added.

Vaccine refusal, floods impact polio drive in Pakistan

PESHAWAR

Vaccine refusal is impacting the eradication of polio in Pakistan.

Pakistan has vaccinated about 35 million children during its door-to-door campaign, but about 500,000 remained unvaccinated due to refusal by their parents, Jawad Khan Polio officer in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recorded in 2022 so far.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of Pakistan's four provinces, has reported all 20 polio cases. North Waziristan has detected 17 infections, Lakki Marwat 2 and South Waziristan 1.

Khan says that hesitancy against vaccination is not a new trend, as Pakistan has been facing this problem since the start of the polio-eradication campaign in the 90s.

Of the 17 cases reported in militancy-riddled North Waziristan, 12 were not vaccinated, while five were partially immunized.

Muhammad Shah, whose son was diagnosed with the polio virus in August, told IPS that he had been opposing vaccination because this wasn't allowed in Islam.

"Our religion Islam says that no medication is permissible before the occurrence of any ailment; therefore, our people defy vaccination to fulfill their religious obligations," he said. Shah, a religious preacher, says his son will soon recover from the paralysis.

He says he was unrepentant in refusing vaccination of his child and would continue to thwart efforts by vaccinators to inoculate the toddler.

North Waziristan district, located near Afghanistan's border, has many militants who staunchly oppose vaccination.

"It was the hub of the polio virus till 2014 when militants ruled the area illegitimately as there was a complete ban on all sorts of immunization. The Taliban militants were evicted through a military operation in 2014, and parents started vaccinating their kids," Sajjad Ahmed, a senior health worker, said.

According to him, polio vaccinations have decreased with the emergence of militancy in the area.

"In the last three months, three persons, including two policemen and one health worker, have been killed by unknown assailants during a polio drive in North Waziristan," he said.

People are afraid to take part in the campaign due to fear of reprisals by Taliban militants, he said.

Dr Rafiq Khan, associated with polio immunization in the region, told IPS that parents refuse vaccination, arguing that it was a US and Western plot to render recipients impotent and cut the population of Muslims - a baseless argument.

"Alleged Taliban have killed about 70 vaccinators and policemen since 2012. Government deploys 25,000 policemen in each three-day campaign to ensure the safety of workers," he said.



A young child receives vaccine drops in Pakistan, but the region has experienced an upsurge of cases because of vaccine refusal. Credit: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

Khan said that militants are pressuring the people against vaccination, due to which parents weren't willing to administer jabs to their kids below five years.

"We are also facing fake finger marking of kids. As a standard procedure, our vaccinators mark the thumb of the vaccine recipients with indelible ink so that we know how many children have been immunized," he said.

However, the parents ask the vaccinators to mark their kids' fingers without vaccination, he said. In this way, parents deceive the government.

"Now, we have started convincing the parents through community elders and religious scholars to create demand for vaccination," he said.

The government has enlisted the services of religious scholars to do

away with refusals against poliomyelitis.

Maulana Amir Haq, a pro-vaccination cleric, told IPS that they had been holding awareness sessions with people telling them vaccination is allowed in Islam.

"It is the responsibility of the parents to safeguard their kids against diseases and vaccination aimed to prevent the crippling ailments. There, parents should fulfill their religious duty and inoculate their sons and daughters," he said.

He said that laboratory reports confirm vaccines given to Pakistan's children are safe and don't contain any ingredient to sterilise the recipients. The situation is changing because we now reach hardcore refusal cases and vaccinate them.

Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said that it is crucial to

understand that the only protection from polio is vaccination, and parents should protect their children against disability through free immunization.

"We want to wipe out the virus and safeguard not only our own kids but all around the world," he told IPS.

will keep haunting us until we interrupt transmission, Federal Health Secretary Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam said.

On August 31, a 16-year-old boy was diagnosed positive for polio in Waziristan, which shows how robust Pakistan's virus detection network is because it highlights that we can identify polio cases in children outside the usually expected age, he said.

National Emergency Operations Centre Coordinator for polio, Dr Shahzad Baig, expressed concerns about the spread of wild poliovirus

as millions of people in the country are displaced by recent floods.

"The scale of the current calamity is absolutely devastating. As part of the polio programme, our network of health workers is here to support in every way we can, but I am deeply concerned about the virus gaining a foothold as millions of people leave their homes and look for refuge elsewhere," he said.

The province of Balochistan and parts of southern Punjab, and 23 districts of Sindh were unable to hold a vaccination drive as floods swept away homes and villages around the country. Despite the extreme climatic conditions, polio teams reached children in all accessible areas, he said.

Neighbouring Afghanistan is facing the same problems; however, it has detected only two cases this year.

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

CIF announces nine countries to participate in first Nature, People and Climate platform

By Special Correspondent

THE Climate Investment Funds (CIF) will extend \$350 million in financing and other support for nature-based solutions in nine countries under its Nature, People and Climate Investment platform.

The beneficiary countries are: the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Kenya, and the Zambezi River Basin Region, comprising Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania. They were announced during the global climate summit (COP27) taking place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The Nature, People and Climate program deploys nature-based solutions that acknowledge linkages among land use, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and the improvement of the sources of livelihoods of rural communities and Indigenous people.

It covers sustainable agriculture, food supply, forests, resilient coastal systems and efforts to empower indigenous people and local communities. As a next step, the participating countries will develop investment plans in collaboration with a number of partner multilateral development banks. The platform also works with multilateral development



Vice president Beth Dunford (at right) and other participants at a Climate Investment Funds event during COP27

banks to de-risk and scale investment based on a systems-level rather than a project-level approach.

The Funds' CEO Mafalda Duarte said that fifty-five developing countries applied to participate in the programme over the past few months, underscoring the urgent demand for climate finance.

"I extend our gratitude to Italy, the United Kingdom and Sweden for

the incredible partnership. Congratulations to these countries. We cannot wait to get going and this is only the beginning. We will also be supporting Ethiopia, Rwanda, Namibia and Brazil for investment plan preparations, in anticipation of receiving further contributions," Duarte said.

In opening remarks, Italy's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Ambassa-

dor Alessandro Modiano, said: "Humanity is facing a dual threat: climate change and biodiversity loss. The two are a dire consequence of human activity and economic progress at the expense of nature," he said.

A panel discussion followed the announcement. The panelists were Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation Rania Al-Mashat; the Zambian Minister of

Green Economy and Environment Collins Nzovu; the Netherlands' Climate Envoy Prince Jaime de Bourbon de Parme; and African Development Bank Vice President of Agriculture, Human and Social Development Beth Dunford.

Dunford highlighted the importance of supporting farmers to adopt nature-based solutions.

"For agriculture to prosper, we need to have

healthy ecosystems that can be boosted by farmers. Supplying this technology and information will also help them adapt and make them climate resilient," she said.

Minister Al-Mashat thanked Climate Investment Funds on behalf of her country. "We have a lineup of priority projects on adaptation and mitigation. These funds will help us implement these plans," she said.

Minister Nzovu applauded the effort put in by organizations and partner countries to come together to help African countries in need of climate finance.

"Africa needs to adopt nature-based solutions so that we can provide our own food and water and be self-sufficient as a continent," he said. "There is a need for awareness for not only politicians but also citizens to under-

stand why their countries are sending funds to other countries."

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), (link is external) annual nature investments from G20 nations alone need to increase by an additional \$165 billion per year, an increase of 140 percent from existing levels, to realize biodiversity, land restoration and climate targets by 2050.

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CRDB BANK

Putting nature on a quantifiable, ambitious path to recovery

NAIROBI

Up to 1 million species are threatened with extinction - many within decades - this includes nearly one-third of reef-forming corals, shark relatives, and marine mammals. Half of agricultural expansion occurs at the expense of forests, and 85% of wetlands that were present at the beginning of the 18th century had been lost by the year 2000, with the loss of wetlands considered to be happening three times faster, in percentage terms, than forest loss.

Speaking to IPS ahead of UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) about the urgent need to accelerate measures to stop biodiversity loss, Dr Anne Larigauderie, the Executive Secretary of IPBES, says the loss we hear about is just the tip of the iceberg.

"In 2019, IPBES alerted the world that a million species of plants and animals, out of an estimated total of eight million, now face extinction, many within decades. A third of coral reefs are threatened with extinction. Nature is being deteriorated at a rate and scale that is unprecedented in human history," she cautions.

She said that the very first reason to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably is because this is the right thing to do from a moral and ethical standpoint, "it should not be to the purview of one species, the human species, to destroy the non-human species on our shared planet. But an important more selfish second reason is that conserving and using biodiversity sustainably are also a matter of ensuring human existence and good quality of life."



A blue sea star (*Linckia laevigata*) photographed on a largely dead coral reef on the Coral Coast on Fiji's largest island Viti Levu. IPBES estimates that nearly one-third of reefs are threatened with extinction. Credit: Tom Vierus / Climate Visuals

Biodiversity is central to human development, and its conservation is critical to people in every corner of the world. Fifty thousand wild species, according to IPBES, meet the needs of billions of people worldwide, providing food, cosmetics, shelter, clothing, medicine, and inspiration.

One in five people rely on wild plants, algae and fungi for their food and income; 2.4 billion rely on fuel wood for cooking, and about 90 percent of the 120 million people working in capture fisheries are supported by small-scale fishing.

This is just part of the

material contribution Larigauderie says biodiversity makes to humanity, along with innumerable non-material and regulating contributions such as maintaining the quality of air and soil, the control of emerging diseases and the pollination of crops.

Against this backdrop, Larigauderie says COP 15, which will be held in Montreal, Canada, December 7-19, sets the stage for a new Global Biodiversity Framework, hoped to be a quantifiable and well-resourced plan that is meant to set the path to recovery of all life on Earth and the

contributions it provides to people by 2030.

She speaks of the failed Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2011-2020, a strategic plan established to halt the loss of biodiversity and how none of the 20 targets agreed by governments for 2020 were fully achieved at the global level.

"COP15 is an opportunity to raise the bar—a renewal of the momentum of the ambitions for the global community. The most desirable outcome would be an agreement whose targets are supported by sufficient resources and quantified," she emphasises.



IPBES research reveals that half of agricultural expansion occurs at the expense of forests. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPBES

agriculture, fishing, and economic and financial systems, to decrease their impact on biodiversity.

"Agriculture represents one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss because it competes for land with nature, and because it pollutes nature. Governments could help farmers to transition to agroecological practices that are more respectful of nature," she observes.

Science, she adds, can inform transitions to new sustainable pathways for agriculture, fishing, and food systems, among others, to help conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Larigauderie stresses the great need to transition into these new pathways for the good of nature and people for present and future generations.

She also emphasises the need to support developing countries that are now expected to develop while protecting their biodiversity, unlike their more developed counterparts, who ensured their development by leveraging their natural resources.

Speaking about the just-concluded UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), Larigauderie said it is critical to recognise and act on the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity loss. Research has established that climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss.

"It is very important for the climate change community to take biodiversity into account. The topic of biodiversity is still very low on the agenda of climate change discussions. Yet, we know there can never be long-term solutions for climate change without better treatment of nature," she says.

"Moreover, some measures proposed to mitigate climate change are harmful to biodiversity, exacerbating ongoing biodiversity crisis and ultimately the climate change crisis."

She says these measures can include growing biofuel crops, also known as energy crops, such as sugarcane and soybeans, on a large scale to avoid using fossil fuels. Initially, such crops were meant to be grown on marginal lands.

But with very few marginal lands left, pieces of natural ecosystems are being converted into farmland, often for short-term profit, which in turn does further harm to biodiversity.

Another example of a strategy to combat climate change at the expense of biodiversity, she says, can be tree planting schemes. Rather than working to reduce emissions, "people contribute money for tree planting schemes to offset their carbon footprint. People plant trees and continue to do business as usual."

"Tree planting schemes can also cause social problems where indigenous people are displaced or ecological problems where trees are planted without factoring in ecological principles such as planting trees that require a lot of water in dry areas, causing serious water scarcity."

Instead, it is important to implement solutions that take both crises into account and combat climate change and biodiversity loss together.

As governments from around the world gather at COP 15, it is a vital chance to step up for nature. Doing so will call on the global community to leverage the established post-2020 biodiversity framework. The outcome could well be a framework to transform society's relationship with biodiversity, heal the planet and ensure a sustainable existence for humankind.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 392 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: CAB, INN, MOB
 4 LETTERS: SAVE, EDEN, ROAR, VEER, RIDE, TENS ALOE (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: RAIDS, NIGER, NOVEL, SOBER ORIBI (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: ARDENT, REASON, RIDERS, BRAZIL PLEASE (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: MINERAL
 8 LETTERS: CAMBODIA
 10 LETTERS: SWEET BRIAR

CLUES: Across
 1 Deepest lake in Tanzania
 5 dough made from maize flour and used to make tortillas, tamales
 7 a picture in the mind
 8 marks left on the skin
 10 a mischievous child
 11 the ability to appear effortlessly suspended while performing movements during a jump
 13 as soon as possible (abbrev)
 15 gas used to control riots
 17 a week
 19 call given by a court officer to command silence and attention
 20 the choice sth must be done

Down:
 1 minutes, hours, days
 2 a headland
 3 sweet potatoes
 4 Rwanda's President
 6 a commonly used British system of bidding designed to enable partners with weaker hands to find suitable contracts
 7 eirenic
 9 a master key
 12 evaluate
 14 Grasshopper in Kiswahili
 16 Turkish footballer
 17 plant seeds
 18 acquire as clear profit

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

SUGARCANE S
 U A I M
 SKIN ADOBE
 SNOISE A
 MTSARK
 FOREVER K
 RIT S
 TOES SHARP
 CWER
 SCRABBLE E
 POOL L A
 YBEACON D

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

SLAVE TRADE
 I V O
 GROW SMART
 H WASTEA
 P R R A D D
 C H A N C E A
 A E A
 A S I A T R E A T
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RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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WHAT CHINA'S BELT ROAD INITIATIVE MEANS FOR AFRICA

By Anuj Dhyani

China's presence in Africa has sparked a huge debate on whether China is the new neo-colonizer or a new development partner for Africa. This debate has, for the most part, ignored the role African nations play in this relationship.

This relationship is necessary for both parties. The Belt and Road Initiative which is an illustration of China's investments and aid for the African economies (BRI), with the help of (BRI) China will gain access to all the export markets, vital resources, and international support on sensitive issues, such as the human rights abuses that have been taking place in the area of Xinjiang, the policy of One China and the suppression of democratic institutions that have been taking place in Hong Kong.

However, China's relationship with each and every African nation is mostly in the favour of Beijing because of the deep pockets, "non-interference" policy, and rhetoric of its benign intentions, that's why China has been and will be the preferred partner for many African countries.

This is exemplified by China's 2021 white paper on Africa, which asserts that Beijing's goal on the continent is "giving more and taking less, giving before taking and giving without expecting anything in return, so China welcomes African nations aboard the

development express train with its open arms."

Despite the admirable nature of these sentiments, the question remains: how can African nations maximize their gains from such an imbalanced relationship? Accepting Chinese aid, investments, capital, and technology for massive infrastructure projects is insufficient for extracting benefits.

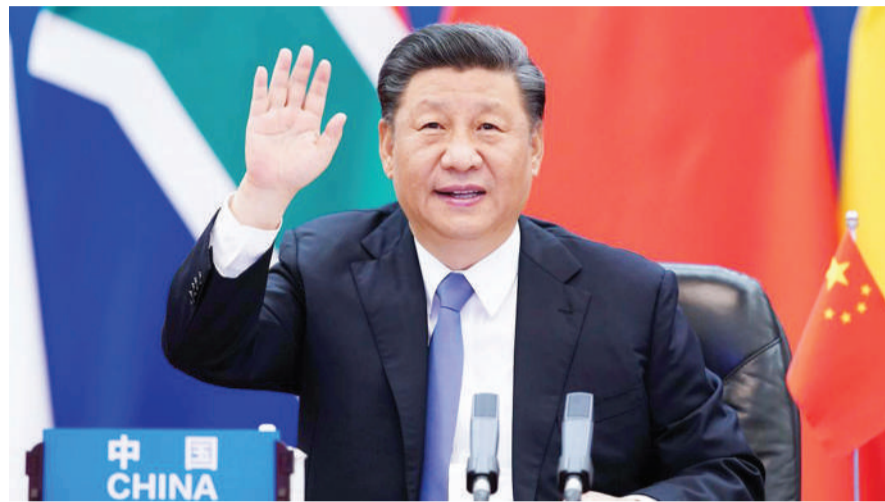
What is required is the practice of local agency, which entails exerting influence to extract the greatest possible benefits.

This would necessitate that the government emphasizes the localization of BRI projects so that political, social, and economic actors are involved.

In this regard, Nigeria can be the case study of what transpires when an African nation fails to exert its own influence to shape its relationship with China to meet the needs of its people. Since 2006, Beijing and Abuja have been strategic partners, and their economic relationship has flourished in a manner that both parties would generally describe as a "win-win."

In terms of trade and investment, China has emerged as a major player in Nigeria, and in terms of development assistance, China has become Nigeria's preferred partner.

China has been Nigeria's primary source of funds to re-establish its deteriorating infrastructure, with Abuja joining the BRI formally in 2018 at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit in



China President Xi Jinping

Beijing.

China and its economic actors, particularly the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), has emerged as the driving force behind Abuja's infrastructure reconstruction goals.

Beijing was also instrumental in the construction of the Kaduna-Kano (\$1.7 billion), Lagos-Kano costing \$6.7 billion, and the Lagos-Ibadan railway lines costing \$1.5 billion.

Even in the construction of airports and information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, Chinese companies have assumed a leading position.

The advantages are evident. The delivery of essential public goods to Nigeria will stimulate economic activity. Although Nigeria's political elites have repeatedly thanked China for their assistance. Nonetheless, not everything is perfect.

The operationalization of the BRI in Nigeria has been a mystery to local actors, preventing their participation in decision-making and project implementation. According to an Afrobarometer survey,

only 28% of Nigerians are aware of Chinese "loans/development assistance" in their country, which is significantly lower than the average of 47% across 33 nations.

Nigeria's national legislature has deplored the lack of transparency surrounding loan agreements which are existing between the executive and Chinese state banks. This conforms to a pattern identified by AidData: Typically, Chinese loan agreements contain "extensive confidentiality clauses." Due to Nigeria's inadequate institutional capacity, BRI projects are beset by secrecy, corruption, and flagrant disregard for domestic laws.

As a result, there are no comprehensive links between the megaprojects China has undertaken in Nigeria and the domestic economy. Chinese development assistance have generally tied Chinese companies, technology, and capital, which tend to threaten the supplant indigenous economic actors. Already, Nigerian construction firms are complaining that they are excluded from BRI projects.

Nigeria's transport minister, Rotimi Amaechi, responded by urging these

companies to increase their capacity to undertake such large-scale projects. In reality, these domestic corporations operate within a system that disadvantages them.

As the managing director of the Nigerian engineering and construction firm Dutum Company Limited, Temitope Runsewe remarked, "These Chinese companies appear with cheap funds from China... They will say to our government, 'Show us the projects, and we will mobilise and begin construction immediately.'" This is extremely enticing, and the majority of our government officials succumb to it at the expense of local capacity building."

This tendency frequently conflicts with the Nigerian Public Procurement Act of 2007, which stipulates that bids must be competitive, open, and transparent. Recently, Amaechi, Abubakar Malami, Nigeria's minister of justice and attorney-general of the federation, and the CCECC were taken to court for procurement irregularities relating to the awarding of a contract to the CCECC to construct a 190-kilometer narrow gauge track from Minna in Niger State to Baro for approximately \$210 million.

In addition, the government has shown reluctance to implement local content requirements in BRI projects. For instance, Nigeria's House of Representatives Committee on Treaties, Protocols, and Agreements argued that local content requirements were not present in the loan agreements under review.

According to Ian Taylor, this demonstrates that the Nigerian

government's agency can be described as "agency as corruption." The actions and inactions of those in authority benefit a minority at the expense of the majority. Amaechi's request that Chinese loan agreements not be scrutinised as "they are sensitive to what you say" exemplified this point. He argued that criticism could discourage Chinese development aid. This attitude represents the government's lack of political will to exercise the authority necessary to localise the BRI.

The question that arises is whether Nigerians are receiving the best possible deal from the relationship between their government and China.

According to the World Bank Report on the BRI, the risks associated with the BRI - debt sustainability, stranded infrastructure, and harm to local communities and the environment - are exacerbated by the presence of weak domestic institutions and the concomitant growth-stifling corruption.

To maximise the benefits of the BRI, good governance practises that advocate for openness, transparency, adherence to domestic procurement laws, and an emphasis on local content requirements are required.

As demonstrated by the preceding analysis, this is not the case in Nigeria. The lack of public consultation and the propensity to use backdoor channels to approve projects have resulted in infrastructure projects that are "largely inaccessible to the public while all but inaccessible to the government."

Accelerating energy infrastructure development in Africa

NAIROBI

By 2050, it's expected that Africa will be home to 2 billion people. To secure the necessary socio-economic development of such a large population, the focus of the next few decades must be infrastructural transformation.

Tapping into the continent's abundant energy resources necessitates a significant financial commitment, however the opportunities for investors are attractive, and many are taking note.

As carbon-neutral initiatives and environmental protection are top priorities for many African governments, harnessing the continent's capacity to produce renewable energy will catalyse critical improvements that help to transform Africa into

a competitive, industrialised global player.

According to the World Economic Forum, clean energy investments in emerging markets and developing economies need to increase sevenfold by 2030 for climate change commitments to be met and the goal of net zero emissions to be achieved by 2050.

There has been a marked corporate commitment to transitioning to 100% renewable energy procurement throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe. This trend is only set to continue across all business and industrial sectors, with recent large-scale investments from European countries into African renewable energy projects serving as evidence.

The role and importance of CCPAs

Corporate power purchase agreements (CCPAs) will play a critical role in helping to develop energy infrastructure in Africa.

A CCPA is a long-term power purchasing mechanism between electricity generators and corporate customers that allows customers to buy renewable energy.

The outcome is a more certain wholesale price and reassurance for the generator that a predictable energy stream exists, helping to diversify risks and ease access to capital. More importantly, developers are then incentivised to construct new renewable energy infrastructure without leaning on government tariffs.

The wider economic benefits of CCPAs are indisputable, and many



African governments are open and welcoming of such partnerships.

This is because they recognise that increased deployment of renewable energy and security of supply creates more favourable conditions for trade and industry. A stable energy environment will help the African corporate sector to meet global business standards and integrate with digital supply chains -- all of which reinforce investor confidence.

Africa is breaking away

from stereotypes

President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, made several important remarks at a recent international conference, highlighting that the African region has the lowest cumulative debt default rate, second to the Middle East.

This serves as evidence that infrastructure as an asset class in Africa is, in fact, not only secure but also profitable.

While the task of accelerating energy infrastructure

development in Africa is a mammoth undertaking, with combined efforts from investors, governments and local communities, Africa's future is certainly a bright one.

The upcoming Africa Energy Indaba is set to empower attendees with insights to leverage significant opportunities that will ultimately accelerate Africa's energy infrastructure, subsequently transforming the continent into a competitive, industrialised global player.

US Mortgage firm files for bankruptcy

DELAWARE

Starwood Capital-backed home lender Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the latest company to succumb amid a rapid run-up in mortgage rates.

The company, which makes reverse mortgages, listed assets and liabilities of at least \$10 billion each in its bankruptcy petition. Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows companies to keep operating while they work on a plan to repay creditors.

Reverse mortgages, a type of home loan geared toward seniors, allow borrowers to convert equity in their homes into cash without needing to sell or pay more monthly bills.

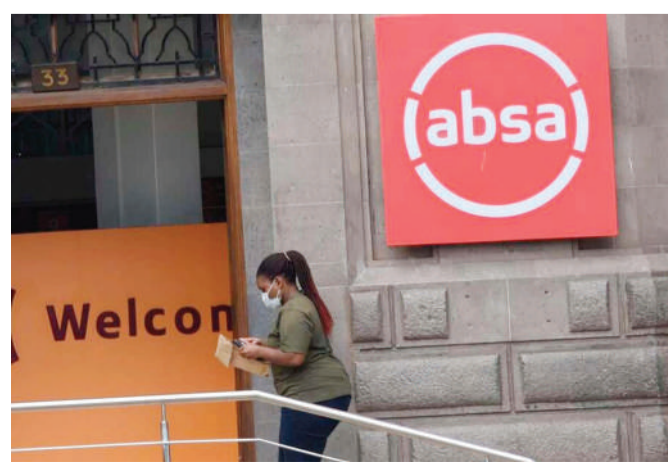
The mortgage industry is contending with a massive slowdown in business as sky-high rates deter new borrowers. Many homeowners locked in low rates during the last two years, and now they're reluctant to give them up.

In addition to being a lender and servicer of more than 84,000 reverse mortgage borrowers, Reverse Mortgage Funding has been a frequent seller of securitized bonds backed by mortgages. That business came under strain recently as well: late last month, the company shelved a \$290 million bond sale amid market volatility.

Starwood, led by Barry Sternlicht, owns most of Reverse Mortgage Funding through investment vehicles, court papers show.

The main case is Reverse Mortgage Investment Trust Inc., 22-11225, US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

Absa Bank asset arm launches offshore investment



NAIROBI

Absa Bank Kenya has launched an offshore investment offering targeting affluent individuals seeking to diversify their investment portfolio beyond the local market.

The new service will be managed by Absa Asset Management Limited (AAML), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the listed bank.

"We are leveraging our global footprint, market intelligence and expertise to set up a well-structured offshore investment infrastructure that not only meets regulatory standards across different markets but also resonates with the needs of clients looking to invest their capital with minimal risk and assured returns," Yusuf Omari, Absa Bank Kenya's interim CEO said in a statement.

He added that Nairobi is a leading regional financial services hub with an increasing demand for offshore, hard currency investments.

Absa's new service comes at a time when the number of rich Kenyans has been projected to increase by 27 per cent in five years, according to Knight Frank research, creating an opportunity for asset managers.

"We see numerous opportunities for growing this business unit in Kenya given the strategic interventions made to build Nairobi as the financial centre of choice in the continent," said Simon Gachahi, the head of premium banking services at Absa.

CRDB BANK SCOOPS BEST PRESENTED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AWARD

By Guardian Reporter

The National Board of Auditors and Accountants (NBAA) has for the third time awarded CRDB Bank Plc after being declared as the leading financial institution in Tanzania in presenting the best financial statements in accordance with the international standards for 2021.

The award was presented during the NBAA annual general meeting and 50 anniversary held at APC hotel in Bunju, Dar es Salaam, which was also attended auditing professionals and specialists from both government and private sector institutions.

Presenting an award, minister for the Office of Zanzibar President (State House) Jamal Kassim Ali congratulated CRDB Bank for continuing observing international standards in preparing financial statements, which has enabled it to edge other financial institutions.

He said in preparing annual financial statements for corporates and public institutions in accordance with international standards, gives supervising authorities, shareholders and general public opportunities to measure efficiency of the institution, as well as seeing how responsible they are in managing resources and implementing operations strategies.

"This award testifies how the bank has invested in modern operating system which not only improves efficiency but also to enable your stakeholders to get standard information. Once again, congratulations," he said while urging other institutions to learn good examples of



Minister in the Zanzibar President's office, Jamal Kassim Ali (C) presents an award to CRDB Bank chief finance officer Fredrick Nshakanabo after the bank emerged the winner of Best Presented Financial Statements for 2021 in the financial institutions category. This was at an awards ceremony organised by National Board of Auditors and Accountants (NBAA) in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

CRDB's good corporate governance.

Receiving the award, CRDB Bank Plc chief finance officer Fredrick Nshakanabo said the bank understand the importance of preparing financial statements through both national and international standards systems.

He said the act of receiving such awards for three consecutive years is enabling the bank to continue increasing efforts to ensure than it is presenting

best financial statements.

"Over the last three years, we have heavily invested in digital systems, which include systems for collecting and preparing statements. We have managed to integrate our system of issuing financial statements and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and all these have enabled us to be the best," he said. Nshakanabo said the bank has won the award is due to best management

systems which considers good governance, professionalism, transparency in preparing financial statements, responsibility and high standards of integrity on statistics.

"These are the things which our managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela and us as a bank, have always been insisting," he added.

Speaking during the awards presentations, NBAA executive director Pius Ma-

veno said CRDB Bank emerged the winner after meeting all criterions set by the board by more than 90 percent.

He said more than 60 institutions participated for this year's award which had 13 categories.

"This has been the best achieved year for CRDB Bank Plc as apart from NBAA awards, the bank has also being awarded as the best Tanzanian bank by two global magazines include Euromoney and Global Finance," he said.

The Euromoney award confirms CRDB Bank's position as 'Leading Bank' in the country and recognizes the success of the reforms that have led to the sustainable growth of the bank to benefit customers, investors and the country's economy as a whole.

Last year the Bank was named as the 'Best Bank in Tanzania' and the 'Leading Bank for Innovation' and the world's most famous financial magazine 'Global Finance', while the Institute of Quality Research in Europe receiving the 'Quality Award'.

The organizers of the awards have also recognized the contribution of digital transformation which have taken place within the CRDB Bank, stating that a large amount has helped to stimulate increasing financial inclusion in the country.

The Bank has also been recognized for having great potential in the facilitation of strategic projects implemented by the Government and the private sector for example the Nyerere Hydroelectricity Project and the Modern Railway Project (SGR).



Mwanza sewerage system lined up for upgrading

By Anita Anyango

The Mwanza Sewerage System is set for an upgrade. This follows an agreement inked between Mwanza Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (MWAUSA), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) with the European Union (EU) and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) to finance the project.

The goal for the sewerage system upgrade is to reduce wastewater pollution in Lake Victoria from coastal towns such as Mwanza. The city's effluent contributes significantly to the pollution of the lake, which is 68,800 km long, resulting in the loss of its aquatic biodiversity.

Estimated to cost US \$12.7bn, the project will involve construction of 14.4 km of infill sewers. In addition to Mwanza, MSNUP works will be carried out in Igogo, Kitangiri, Kirumba, Pasiansi and

Nyamanoro.

The MSNUP project is a component of the Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (IWRM) that will reduce pollution of Lake Victoria by wastewater from industries and households in major cities bordering this vast body of fresh water, including Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Rwanda is also involved in this programme.

In Tanzania, the IWRM will also build a new wastewater treatment plant in Igoma in the east, and another in Mkuyuni, south of Mwanza town. At least 7,400 households in Mwanza will be connected to the sewers, which will be connected to the three new treatment plants in Mwanza. The effluent sent to these treatment plants will undergo treatment before being released into the environment.

In addition to improving sanitation, the initiative will bring

the Tanzanian government closer to its goal of reducing pollution in the country by 30% through the expansion of sewerage and sanitation systems by 2025.

The majority of the urban population in Mwanza depends on on-site sanitation systems (pit latrines and septic tanks). These systems are managed by the Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MWAUSA), and their contents discharged into a waste stabilisation pond.

However, households with unimproved facilities, particularly those living in the informal settlements on steep slopes and rocky areas, are affected by the regular filling up and flooding of shallow latrines, and rely on informal pit emptying. To combat this issue, MWAUSA has developed a Decentralised Wastewater Treatment System (DEWATS) to handle the sewage.

EU sets \$150bn for infrastructure project for Africa

BRUSSELS

The European Commission has allotted massive funds for several key infrastructure projects in Africa under the €150 billion 'Global Gateway Investment Plan for Africa', announced during the European Union-Africa Summit in February 2022, a top EU official said.

Speaking at a press conference on 28 November, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU is mobilising massive funding for energy projects, from solar to hydro-power, to interconnectors and has signed renewable energy partnerships with Namibia and Egypt on the margins of COP27 under the plan.

She said, "We are ready to sign a new financing agreement worth €750 million on clean energy, on strategic transport corridors and on digitalisation. Work should start soon on submarine cables to digitally connect Eastern and Western Africa with Europe".

Strategic corridors

Eleven strategic transport corridors have been identified for enhanced and greener EU-Africa connectivity. These corridors will facilitate trade and mobility within Africa and between Africa and Europe, develop new value chains and benefit industries in both continents, a statement from the European Commission said.

They are: Abidjan-Lagos, Abidjan-Ouagadougou, Dakar-Abidjan, Cotonou-Niamey, Libreville / Kribi / Douala-n'djamena, Douala / Kribi-Kampala, Dar es salaam-Nairobi-Addis ababa-Berbera / djibouti, Mombasa-Kisangani, Maputo-Gaborone-Walvis

Bay, Durban-Lusaka, Cairo-Khartoum-Juba-Kampala.

Green Energy initiative

The EU-Africa Green Energy Initiative aims to support the deployment of at least 50 gigawatts (GW) of renewable electricity and 40 GW of electrolyser capacity for green hydrogen production in Africa by 2030. The initiative estimates to raise a total of €15 billion from public institutions and private investors.

3.4 billion euros in EU grants will support renewable energy, energy efficiency, the just transition and the greening of local value chains. Part of this, will be used to leverage private sector investments via guarantees and blending under the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), the statement said.

The projects for which funds have been allotted are A 200 km transmission line between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia connecting the Zambia Electricity Supply Cor-

poration Limited network to the future Congolese National Electricity Company's grid.

Other project is the (Kasama) - Tanzania (Mbeya) 400 KV interconnection that is part of the Zambia-Tanzania- Zambia Kenya transmission that will link the East Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) countries.

The Angola-Namibia interconnection (ANNA), part of the Southern Africa Interconnection corridor will also benefit from the financing.

After signing an MoU with Namibia on critical raw materials at the COP27, a similar agreement is in the pipeline for Uganda, South Africa, Rwanda, Senegal, DRC, Zambia, Burundi, Morocco and Algeria, the statement noted.

3 billion euros for the implementation of the Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa and a €1 billion Team Europe Initiative to help the low carbon transition of Côte d'Ivoire.



Zambia-Tanzania- Zambia Kenya transmission line is among the beneficiaries of EU projects funding

LONDON

UK house prices fall more sharply than expected

UK house prices are falling more sharply than expected at the quickest pace since the start of the pandemic after a jump in borrowing costs quelled demand, Nationwide Building Society said.

The mortgage lender said home prices fell 1.4% in November. That was the second decline in as many months and the fastest drop since June 2020.

Excluding the pandemic, prices haven't fallen this sharply since the global financial crisis more than a decade ago. Economists had expected a fall of 0.4%.

The cost of home loans has soared

above 6% in recent weeks from around 1% a year ago, driven by an increase in the Bank of England's benchmark lending rate and concerns among investors about slowing growth and rising government debt.

While costs for borrowers have retreated from their peak, they're still likely to remain well above the levels buyers enjoyed over much of the past decade.

"Interest rates for new mortgages re-

main elevated and the market has lost a significant degree of momentum," Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, said in a statement Thursday. "Housing affordability for potential buyers and home movers has become much more stretched at a time when household finances are already under pressure from high inflation."

The average value of a home fell to £263,788 (\$319,120), which is 4.4% higher

than a year ago. The annual pace of housing price inflation slowed from as much as 14.3% in March.

Home-buyers may have to pay an average of 5% to take out a mortgage through 2028, the government's Office for Budget Responsibility has estimated. It's anticipating a possible 9% drop in house prices over the next two years.

For now, Nationwide said that households were largely protected from rising

borrowing costs for the moment, given that 85% of UK mortgage holders were on fixed rates mortgages.

Monthly payments are set to double for many of the 1.8 million UK households due to refinance in 2023, according to a Bloomberg Intelligence report.

Housing in the northern regions of the UK, Scotland and Wales has become less affordable against average household incomes compared to before the pandemic. Meanwhile London -- the least affordable both before and since Covid -- has remained largely the same in terms of affordability for buyers.

CONSTRUCTION

AFRICA NEEDS RENEWED COMMITMENT ON INDUSTRIALISATION, SAYS AUC CHAIRMAN

By Guardian Reporter

The Chairperson of Africa Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat has called for renewed commitment to inclusive sustainable industrialization and economic diversification by combining the two perspectives for prosperity of the continent.

Speaking during the 17th extraordinary session of the assembly of the African Union on industrialisation and economic diversification held on 25 November 2022 in Niamey, Niger, Mahamat said: "Our leaders, have never failed to grant strategic value to industry by positioning it as both a major objective and a salutary means in the quest for economic transformation."

He said despite of all industrial policies developed over decades and adopted by the policy organs of the African Union, they have not always produced significant results.

"Acknowledging this is a motivation to transcend ourselves in our efforts to improve our results. While undeniable significant progress has been observed in some Member States, 3 in others the industrial sector has stagnated if not regressed," he said.

He said on average, industrial sector contributes only less than 15 percent in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in many of the member states while the exported products have only a very low technological content.

"These underperformances challenge us doubly, as Member States and as a Continental Organisation. The forward-looking eye that we are about to cast on the process of industrialisation of our Continent should, therefore, be nurtured, on the one hand, by questioning the past, on the identification of the factors that have weighed down Africa in its march towards industrialisation and on the other hand, on the major trends, the ruptures and the seeds of change, which are in the process of shaping the future of the world economy," he said in his speech during the opening of the meeting.

The chairperson said the prospective scenarios of the world economy will be influenced by the population growth currently estimated at 8 billion inhabitants, the acceleration of the technological changes in progress, the pressure of Climate Change, the securing of access to sources energy, the risks linked to the globalisation of finance, the heightening of security tensions due to the disastrous consequences of Terrorism and challenges to food security and the deterioration of climatic conditions.

"It is within this framework that we should, today, rethink the industrialisation model of Africa. The decisive challenge, in the choice to industrialise, lies in the objective consideration of all of our potentialities and in the relevance of the arbitrations between a plurality of schemes," he noted.

He explained that the gateway to industrialisation opens onto Agriculture, for which Africa has enormous potential.

The transformation of the Agricultural sector, through the Malabo Declaration, should make it possible to increase productivity, which would result in the reduction of imports of food products, estimated at 15 billion Dollars per year



African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat

and would free up human and financial resources for development of the industry, he noted.

He added that energy, an important variable in any industrial activity, acting both as a production and competitiveness factor, determines, depending on the level of its availability, the choice to be made for industrialisation.

In Africa, investment in energy could operate as a vector of Regional integra-

tion and promotion of industry when we know that energy consumption remains very low on the Continent. More than 600 million Africans have never known electricity.



Gerd Muller, UNIDO Director General

tion and promotion of industry when we know that energy consumption remains very low on the Continent. More than 600 million Africans have never known electricity.

Speaking during the extra-ordinary Summit of the African Union on Industrialization, Economic Diversification, and the African Continental Free Trade Area on November 25, Gerd Muller, Director General of UNIDO said Africa needs investments in energy, infrastructure, digitalization - in sustainable industrialization.

"UNIDO is your partner for sustainable industrialization. Our common goals are to grow domestic value creation in commodities like coffee, cocoa, cotton and by building up the agro-processing and food industry, the processing of raw materials into high-value products, for example copper, bauxite, cobalt," he said.

"We invest in agro- and industrial parks, in renewable energy projects, in

the development of green hydrogen projects."

He said Rwanda and Ghana are already successful in setting up their own car production and by 2050, Africa will need 500 million automobiles.

"The goal is your own auto production industry: cars 'Made in Africa'," he said.

Senegal, Ghana, South Africa and others are successfully building up a pharmaceutical industry and medicine pro-



Prof. Benedict Oramah, President of African Export-Import Bank

duction, he noted.

"Sustainable industrialization needs sustainable energy supplies, and the huge investments required for this," he added.

In his speech during extra-ordinary Summit of the African Union on Industrialization, Economic Diversification, and the African Continental Free Trade Area, Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of African Development Bank Group said: "We must turn the zone into an industrial manufacturing zone. Free Trade Zones that launch prosperity around the world have done so not by trading low value commodities, but by industrial manufacturing."

He explained that without any doubt, Africa's wealth must no longer depend on exports of raw materials but of finished value-added products.

"The door to poverty is from export of raw materials, the highway to wealth is

industrialization," he said.

"The sector with the greatest potential for industrialization in Africa is agriculture. Africa has 65% of the uncultivated arable land left to feed the world, therefore how Africa develops its agriculture will determine the future of food in the world. Across Africa, we must turn cocoa beans into chocolates, cotton into textile and garments, coffee beans into brewed coffee. That is why the African Development Bank is investing \$25 billion in agriculture across the continent, to transform the agricultural sector."

Dr Adesina said African Development Bank is investing over \$1 billion in the development of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones in 18 countries, to help unlock Africa's potential in food and agriculture. This is part of our efforts to unlock the food and agriculture market estimated to reach \$1 trillion by 2030.

Under the chairmanship of President Macky Sall, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission are organizing a Presidential Feed Africa Summit from 25-27 January 2023 in Dakar to develop action plans to fully transform Africa's agriculture to feed itself and to contribute to feeding the world.

"Africa has an abundance of natural resources, oil, gas, minerals, and metals, as well as extensive blue economy that must be rapidly industrialized," he said.

"The future of electric cars in the



Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of AfDB

world depends on Africa, given its extensive resource deposits in rare minerals, especially lithium-ion, cobalt, nickel, and copper. The size of the electric vehicles market has been estimated to reach \$7 trillion by 2030 and \$46 trillion by 2050. Building precursor facilities for lithium-ion batteries in Africa will be three times cheaper than in other parts of the world."

The African Development Bank and its partners -- which includes the Africa Finance Corporation, African Export Import Bank, Africa50, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Trade and Development Bank, European Investment Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank -- are working to develop lithium-ion manufacturing value chains in Africa.

At the 12th Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification and the Extraordinary Session on the AfCFTA, Professor Benedict

Oramah, President of African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) said Afreximbank is helping African economies to manage the exodus of international banks by financing African owned financial institutions to acquire those banks, helping to build a strong interconnected African financial system.

"We are re-creating our banking systems so that they can serve Africa better. We have also onboarded about 500 of the continent's 600 regulated commercial banks into our Afreximbank Trade Finance Facility (AFTRAF) and are providing them with Trade Credit Confirmation lines," he said.

The bank CEO noted that the goal is to grant an aggregate of US\$8 billion in Trade Confirmation lines to these African banks and ensure that every country on the Continent has at least one bank that has a dedicated credit line to support intra-African trade.

He noted that Afreximbank sits today at the center of the most extensive messaging network, with connections to almost 500 banks.

"We have built a web that will form the architecture for an integrated African banking network. We do these because we are convinced that Africa's economic development prospects will be defined by the extent of control the continent wields over its financial system. We understand that it is access to, and control of our capital, that will define our future," he said.

He also said Afreximbank is actively facilitating the harmonisation of Standards for major tradeable goods in Africa through grant financing and technical assistance programmes.

"As we mark the 2022 Africa Industrialization Week, I am pleased to state that Afreximbank has also been at the forefront of the drive to transform the structure of African trade through aggressive support for industrialization and export manufacturing," he explained.

According to him, the bank is working with various African Governments to develop and expand Industrial Parks (IPs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to deal with infrastructural constraints to industrialisation.

Projects in the total amount of about US\$900 million have been implemented or are ongoing across ten African countries, including two parks in Malawi and one in Cote d'Ivoire under development. We have also commenced discussions for the creation of industrial parks in DRC, Zambia, Rwanda, Kenya and Botswana.

And, given that there are more than 30,000 parts in an average vehicle, the Auto industry presents a good opportunity for building regional value chains and driving industrialisation.

"That is why we are working in collaboration with the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM), the African Union Commission and the AfCFTA Secretariat to promote the emergence of an automotive value chain in Africa. The Bank has supported the development of a Continental Auto Strategy and provided a grant to finance its implementation," he said.

"We are also working with partners to champion the emergence of an Auto Pact between and among relevant African States with a view to fostering the emergence of a credible automotive value chain."

Ford to build UK electric vehicle plant by \$180mn

HALEWOOD

Ford Motor Co will invest an extra 149 million pounds (\$180 million) to raise electric vehicle (EV) power unit capacity at its engine factory in northern England by 70%, as the U.S. carmaker accelerates its push to go electric.

The Detroit-based carmaker said on Thursday the additional funds will boost electric drive unit production capacity at the Halewood plant to 420,000 units annually from 250,000 units

starting in 2024. The move would bring Ford's total investment to transition the combustion engine factory to EV parts production to 380 million pounds.

"Our vision in Europe is to build a thriving business, by extending leadership in commercial vehicles and through the electrification of our car range," Kieran Cahill, Ford's vice president for industrial operations in Europe, said in a statement. "Halewood is playing a critical part as our first in-house investment in EV

component manufacturing in Europe."

The EV power unit, which consists of an electric motor and gearbox, replaces the engine and transmission of a fossil-fuel vehicle.

Ford has committed to selling only fully-electric cars in Europe by 2030, and electric commercial vans only by 2035. That puts it ahead of the European Union's plans to effectively ban the sale of new fossil-fuel passenger cars by 2035.



Minister in the Zanzibar President's office, Jamal Kassim Ali presents an award to Kigoma regional treasurer Johnson Gamba after the region came second best presented financial statement in the regions category. It was at an awards ceremony organised by National Board of Auditors and Accountants (NBAA) in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo by Correspondent Miraji Msala

WORLD

US appeals court rejects Biden's bid to revive student debt plan

WASHINGTON

A federal appeals court on Wednesday declined to put on hold a Texas judge's ruling that said President Joe Biden's plan to cancel hundreds of billions of dollars in student loan debt was unlawful.

The New Orleans-based 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Biden administration's request to pause a judge's Nov 10 order vacating the \$400 billion student debt relief program in a lawsuit pursued by a conservative advocacy group.

The decision by Fort Worth, Texas-based US District Judge Mark Pittman was one of two nationally that has prevented the US Department of Education under Biden from moving forward with granting debt relief to millions of borrowers.

The administration has asked the US Supreme Court to similarly lift an order by the St Louis-based 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals that, at the request of six Republican-led states, had barred it

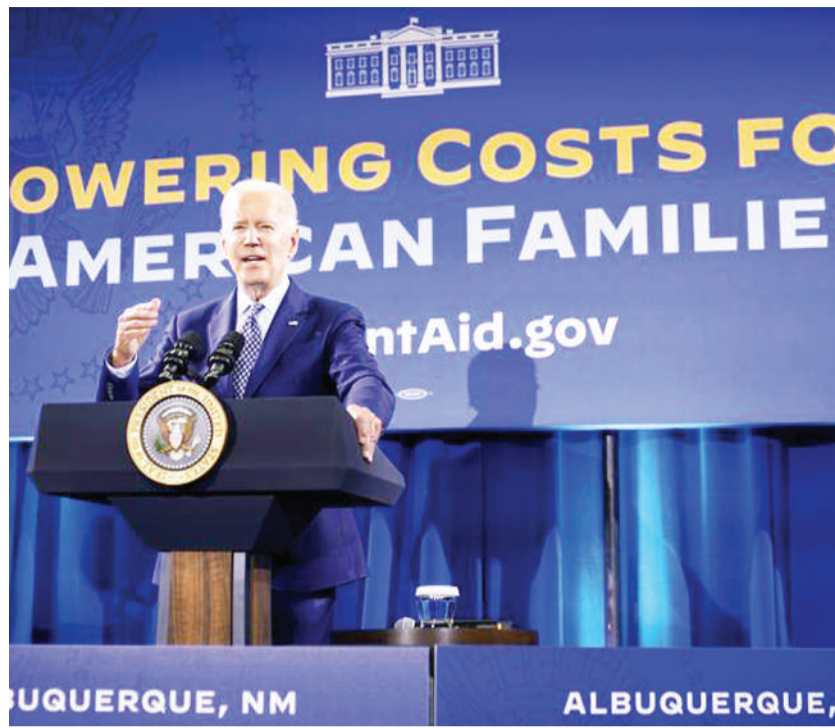
from canceling student loans.

A three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit in Wednesday's brief order declined to put Pittman's ruling on hold while the administration appealed his decision, but the court directed that the appeal be heard on an expedited basis.

The panel included two Republican appointees and one judge nominated by former Democratic president Barack Obama. Pittman was appointed by former Republican president Donald Trump.

Biden announced in August that the US government would forgive up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for borrowers making less than \$125,000 a year, or \$250,000 for married couples. Students who received Pell Grants to benefit lower-income college students will have up to \$20,000 of their debt canceled.

During the 2020 presidential campaign, Biden promised to help debt-saddled former college students. Biden's program has drawn opposition from Republicans, who have portrayed it



US President Joe Biden speaks about his student debt relief plan at Central New Mexico Community College, Nov 3, 2022, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

as shifting the burden of debt from wealthy elites to lower-income Americans.

The Congressional Budget Office in September calculated that the debt forgiveness program would cost taxpayers about \$400 billion.

About 26 million Americans have applied for student loan forgiveness, and the US Department of Education had already approved requests from 16 million by the time Pittman issued his ruling.

Pittman ruled in a lawsuit by two borrowers who were partially or fully ineligible for the loan forgiveness

who were backed by the Job Creators Network Foundation, a conservative advocacy group founded by Bernie Marcus, a co-founder of Home Depot.

The judge said it was irrelevant if Biden's plan was good public policy because the program was "one of the largest exercises of legislative power without congressional authority in the history of the United States."

Pittman wrote that the HEROES Act - a law that provides loan assistance to military personnel and that was relied upon by the Biden administration to enact the relief plan - did not authorize the program.

UN wants 25% more money in 2023, no famine in Somalia yet

NEW YORK

THE United Nations will ask for 25 percent more money in 2023 to fund humanitarian aid operations globally, the UN aid chief told a Reuters NEXT event on Wednesday, where he also warned that while famine would not yet be declared in Somalia, people were already dying there of hunger.

The United Nations had appealed for a record \$41 billion to provide life-saving assistance for 2022 and is due to launch its appeal for 2023 on Thursday.

"It's going to go up by about 25 percent and that's a shocker," UN aid chief Martin Griffiths (pictured) said without giving specific figures. "It's gone up about each year by about 25 percent in recent years ... the gap between needs and funding is going to grow."

He said that in 2022 the United Nations had only received about 44 percent of the money needed, adding: "In years gone by, we've seen 60-65 percent as a norm."

Griffiths said the gap between funding and needs was growing because of the "knock-on effects of the last couple of years" from events like the conflict in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, like a spike in cholera outbreaks.

He predicted that the gap would be bigger in 2023 and "frankly we are going to continue to fail, in many more countries, the high numbers of people that we serve and we serve roughly a population which is equivalent to about the third-most populous nation in the world."

"It's a staggering and somewhat ludicrous responsibility," Griffiths added.

Somalia hunger

In Somalia, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) - used by UN agencies and aid groups to determine food insecurity - in September projected a famine in two districts in Somalia. The IPC is expected to issue a new analysis of the situation in the coming weeks.

Griffiths said that he understands that a famine will not yet be declared in Somalia, but he warned: "We can assume that in Somalia and soon in Ethiopia, where the numbers will be much worse ... people are dying already of hunger and starvation."

Famine has been declared twice in the past 11 years: in Somalia in 2011 and in parts of South Sudan in 2017.

"Half the people who died in Somalia died before the famine was declared," International Rescue Committee President David Miliband told the Reuters NEXT event. "Why aren't we taking action now because we know the deaths are starting now."

The most extreme warning by the IPC is phase 5, which starts with a catastrophe warning and rises to a declaration of famine in a region.

Somalia's drought envoy, Abdirahman Abdishakur also told Reuters that the humanitarian community had said the threshold for a famine had not yet been met, but that "they told the government that a famine will be declared, maybe in a few months, if the rains fail again."

For famine to be declared, at least 20 percent of the population must be suffering extreme food shortages, with at least 30 percent of children acutely malnourished and two people out of every 10,000 dying daily from starvation or from malnutrition and disease.

"If they have the data and examine it and they decide the threshold has been met then the Somali government is not against famine (declaration). But the threshold must be met and it hasn't," Abdishakur said. "There are no politics in this, it is only data."

Democrats elect Hakeem Jeffries as first Black party leader

WASHINGTON

HAKEEM Jeffries was unanimously elected on Wednesday to become the Democratic Party's top leader in the US House of Representatives beginning in January, making him the first Black American to hold such a high-ranking position in Congress.

The vote by Jeffries' fellow Democrats also marked the rise of a younger generation of leaders in the 435-member House, and the end of the Nancy Pelosi era and control by other Democrats in their 80s.

Jeffries, a 52-year-old New Yorker, will hold the position of House Democratic leader for the 118th Congress that convenes on Jan 3.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he was not surprised that Jeffries, a fellow Brooklynite, was chosen.

Coming from Brooklyn means "you learn how to work with all kinds of different people. You learn how to stand your ground. You learn to not take things personally," Schumer said on Wednesday, adding that Jeffries "exemplifies all these traits."

The two leaders live just blocks apart in adjacent neighborhoods.

Jeffries formally announced his candidacy on Nov 18, following a decade in the House, pledging to preside over a caucus that would return power to committee members and give junior lawmakers more say in shaping legislation and being rewarded with high-profile positions.



US Rep Hakeem Jeffries speaks to the media following the House Leadership news conference, after being elected as the new Democratic leader in the House of Representatives for the next session of Congress, on Capitol Hill in Washington, US, on Wednesday. REUTERS

"Our commitment is always to extend the hand of partnership whenever and wherever possible, in order to get things done for everyday Americans," Jeffries said, when asked how he will work with Republicans.

Also elected as part of Jeffries' team are Representative Katherine Clark, 59, of Massachusetts, who won the No 2 Democratic job, a post known as "whip." Californian Pete Aguilar, 43, and a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, was elected to Jeffries' current job of Democratic caucus chairman.

Their elections mean that for the first time in either party, the top three party roles are held by women or people of color.

"Together, this new generation of leaders reflects the vibrancy and diversity of our great nation - and they will reinvigorate our Caucus with their new energy, ideas and perspective," Pelosi said in a statement congratulating the trio.

The leadership change for Democrats comes as Republicans are set to take majority control - by a slim margin - of the House as a result of the Nov 8 midterm elections.

Republicans and their leader Kevin McCarthy, who wants to become the next speaker, have put Democrats on notice that they will hit the ground running, launching investigations of administration officials and President Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

While they made tackling inflation the centerpiece of their 2022 congressional campaigns, Republicans have since said little about that subject.

The three House Democratic leadership jobs have been held for two decades by Pelosi, 82, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 83, and Majority Whip James Clyburn, 82.

They have been under pressure for years to give way to a younger generation. The momentum for that came after Republicans won the majority, but without the "red wave" of wins they had expected - a turn of events that buoyed Democrats.

Their agreements to step down meant a smooth transition of power. Outside the

closed-door meeting on Wednesday, reporters could hear loud celebrations in the room.

"Hakeem Jeffries spent a fourth of his time praising the GOAT (greatest of all time), Nancy Pelosi," Representative Emanuel Cleaver told reporters afterward, referring to Jeffries' speech to his colleagues before the vote.

Cleaver, an ordained minister, said caucus members "were on their feet, like at church" celebrating the election of Jeffries, "who I call the hip-hop juggernaut." Jeffries is known to be a fan of the music genre and hosts an annual "Hip Hop on the Hill" fundraising event.

China sets example for global poverty reduction - Bolivian politician

PROFOUND changes have taken place in China's economic and social development under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said Gerardo Garcia, vice president of the Bolivian political party Movement for Socialism - Political Instrument for the Sovereignty of the Peoples (MAS-IPSP).

Last year, the country declared a victory in the fight against poverty, and it was the first to achieve economic recovery amid COVID-19, which mirrored the governance capability of the CPC, said Garcia during a recent interview with People's Daily.

He noted that China, while embracing

high-quality development, always adheres to its people-centered development philosophy, which sets a good example for other countries.

"I'm eager to learn from more Chinese practices and experiences, deepen Bolivia-China cooperation, and push for common progress," he said.

Garcia visited China twice, during which he witnessed the country's development achievements through investigation tours to factories, enterprises, and free trade areas.

"I found that the rural areas in China have established a sound communication channel with the outside

world, which helps boost their development," Garcia said.

China has lifted 770 million rural people out of poverty over the past 40-plus years of reform and opening up, which accounted for over 70 percent of the world population that escaped poverty during that span. He noted that this achievement sets a good example for global poverty reduction and sheds light on and is inspiring for developing countries, including Bolivia.

In March 2019, Garcia led a delegation to visit the China Executive Leadership Academy, Jingtangshan, in east China's Jiangxi province, at the invitation of the International

Department of the CPC Central Committee.

Listening to speeches and joining symposiums, he learned the history of the CPC and the significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era for the innovative development of China's economy and society.

"I also visited Chinese factories manufacturing aircraft and trucks and processing meat products, where I was deeply impressed by their advanced technologies and automation," Garcia said.

He told People's Daily that Bolivia boasts rich raw materials but lacks processing technologies and human

resources.

"Therefore, it's difficult for our products to gain high value-added or an advantageous position in the global industrial chain. I hope we can draw more inspiration from China's experience in this regard," he said.

After visiting China, the Bolivian politician has been actively introducing China's experiences in reform and opening up and development to his country. As a result, Chinese philosophies, such as the harmony between man and nature, have received high attention from the Bolivian side.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping said

a good ecological environment is the fairest public product and provides inclusive wellbeing for the people. It has inspired us a lot," Garcia noted, adding that China's ideas and practices in coordinating economic development and ecological conservation have set a good example for developing countries, including Bolivia.

"If every Bolivian can join the afforestation efforts, we will have tens of millions of trees. The great vision of 'Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets' will tackle environmental and ecological crises from the root," Garcia remarked.

People's Daily

Stop arming Kiev otherwise no talks: Diplomat warns US on arms control dialogue

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is not going to discuss the New START Treaty with the United States as long as Washington keeps arming Ukraine, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Sputnik radio on Wednesday.

"The United States is planning to send more weapons to the region of the conflict in which Russia has been involved. So, they will keep supplying all those arms and goad the Kiev regime into committing more bloodshed, while allocating funds for extremist activities conducted under the authority of individuals on Bankovaya Street (where the Ukrainian presidential office is located - TASS) who are far from being rational people, while we sit down to discuss mutual security issues with them, including those in their interests?" she mused.

According to the Russian diplomat, Moscow highly appreciates the New START Treaty which she said meets the mutual interests of Russia and the US, but appropriate conditions must be in place to discuss it, she insisted.

On Monday, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced its decision to postpone a meeting of the Bilateral Consultative Commission under the Russia-US New START Treaty originally scheduled to take place in Cairo on November 29 - December 6.



UN General Assembly resolution calls for efforts to solve Palestine question

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN General Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution to call for efforts to solve the question of Palestine.

The resolution reiterated the assembly's call for the achievement, without delay, of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions and for an end to the Israeli occupation, and reaffirmed its unwavering support for the two-state solution.

It stressed the need to urgently exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final-status issues in the Middle East peace process, and called once more for the intensification of efforts by the parties toward the conclusion of a final, just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement.

It also called for a timely convening of an international conference in Moscow for advancing and accelerating the achievement of a settlement.

The resolution called on both parties to act responsibly in order to urgently reverse negative trends and create the conditions necessary for a credible political horizon and the advancement of peace efforts.

It called on Israel to comply strictly with its obligations under international law and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law, including all unilateral actions in the occupied Palestinian territory that are aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the territory and thus at prejudging the final outcome

of peace negotiations.

It stressed the need, in particular, for an immediate halt to all settlement activities, land confiscation and home demolitions, for the pursuit of measures to ensure accountability, and for the release of prisoners and an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions.

It further stressed the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and incitement.

The resolution called for Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem; the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent state; and a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees.

It also urged all states and the United Nations to continue and expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian government in order to help alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian state-building efforts in preparation for independence.

The resolution was adopted with 153 votes in favor, nine against and 10 abstentions.

Xinhua

Scientists build 'baby' wormhole as sci-fi moves closer to fact

WASHINGTON

IN science fiction - think films and TV like "Interstellar" and "Star Trek" - wormholes in the cosmos serve as portals through space and time for spacecraft to traverse unimaginable distances with ease. If only it were that simple.

Scientists have long pursued a deeper understanding of wormholes and now appear to be making progress. Researchers announced on Wednesday that they forged two minuscule simulated black holes - those extraordinarily dense celestial objects with gravity so powerful that not even light can escape - in a quantum computer and transmitted a message between them through what amounted to a tunnel in space-time.

It was a "baby wormhole," according to Caltech physicist Maria Spiropulu, a co-author of the research published in the journal Nature. But scientists are a long way from being able to send people or other living beings through such a portal, she said.

"Experimentally, for me, I will tell you that it's very, very far away. People come to me and they ask me, 'Can you put your dog in the wormhole?' So, no," Spiropulu told reporters during a video briefing. "...That's a huge leap."

"There's a difference between something being possible in principle and possible in reality," added physicist and study co-author Joseph Lykken of Fermilab, America's particle physics and accelerator laboratory. "So don't hold your breath about sending your dog through the wormhole. But you have to start somewhere. And I think to me it's just exciting that we're able to get our hands on this at all."

The researchers observed the wormhole dynamics on a quantum device at Alphabet's Google called the Sycamore quantum processor.

A wormhole - a rupture in space and time - is considered a bridge between two remote regions in the universe. Scientists refer to them as Einstein-Rosen bridges after the two physicists who described them - Albert Einstein and Nathan Rosen.

Such wormholes are consistent with Einstein's theory of general relativity, which focuses on gravity, one of the fundamental forces in the universe. The term "wormhole" was coined by physicist John Wheeler in the 1950s.

Spiropulu said the researchers found a quantum system that exhibits key properties of a gravitational wormhole but was small enough to implement on existing quantum hardware.

"It looks like a duck, it walks like a duck, it quacks like a duck. So that's what we can say at this point - that we have something that in terms of the properties we look at, it looks like a wormhole," Lykken said.

The researchers said no rupture of space and time was created in physical space in the experiment, though a traversable wormhole appeared to have emerged based on quantum information teleported using quantum codes on the quantum processor.

"These ideas have been around for a long time and they're very powerful ideas," Lykken said.

Buckingham Palace: Royal aide steps down after racist comments

LONDON

A member of the British royal family's household has left her role after making "unacceptable and deeply regrettable" comments about race and nationality to a woman at a grand reception at Buckingham Palace, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Ngozi Fulani, who was born in Britain and works for a domestic abuse support group, wrote on Twitter that the royal aide had repeatedly asked her: "What part of Africa are you from?" when she attended an event hosted by King Charles's wife Camilla, the queen consort, on Tuesday.

"We take this incident extremely seriously and have investigated immediately to establish the full details. In this instance, unacceptable and deeply regrettable comments have been made," a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said the individual concerned, referred to by Fulani as Lady SH, wanted to apologize for the hurt caused and had stepped aside from her honorary role with immediate effect.

Neither Fulani nor the palace identified the aide in question, with the spokesperson saying the individual would not be offering any comment. British media said it was Lady Susan Hussey, the 83-year-old godmother of Charles's son and heir Prince William.

William's spokesperson said he was really disappointed to hear about the incident.

"Obviously, I wasn't there, but racism has no place in our society," the spokesperson said. "The comments were unacceptable, and it is right that the individual has stepped aside with immediate effect."



A general view of Buckingham Palace in London, Britain, Jan 11, 2020. File photo

Harry and Meghan allegations

The incident is the latest to embroil the royal family in allegations of racism, after Charles's younger son Prince Harry and his wife Meghan made accusations in an interview with Oprah Winfrey in March 2021.

Meghan, in the interview, said one unnamed member of the family had asked, before their son Archie was born, how dark his skin might be.

The allegation clearly stung the monarchy, which promised any such issues would be treated very seriously, and prompted William, Harry's older brother to remark days later: "We're very much not a racist family."

The exchange with Fulani had occurred at a 'Violence Against Women And Girls' reception at the palace, where guests included Ukraine's first lady Olena Zelenska, Belgium's Queen Mathilde and Jordan's Queen Rania.

In her account posted on Twitter, Fulani, who works for Sistah Space - a group which

provides support for women of African and Caribbean heritage who have been affected by abuse - said about 10 minutes after she arrived, the aide approached her and moved her hair to view her name badge.

After being asked a number of times what part of Africa she was from, Fulani said she replied: "I am born here and am British."

The aide responded: "No, but where do you really come from, where do your people come from?"

Last year, a senior royal source said Buckingham Palace had not done enough on diversity, although it has been endeavoring to boost the number of staff from ethnic minorities.

"We have reached out to Ngozi Fulani on this matter, and are inviting her to discuss all elements of her experience in person if she wishes," the palace spokesperson said.

"All members of the Household are being reminded of the diversity and inclusivity policies which they are required to uphold at all times."

Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park makes progress in ecological conservation

THE Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park, located in the central part of south China's Hainan province, makes up around 1/7 of the province's land area with over 4,400 square kilometers.

It boasts one of the most concentrated, best-preserved and largest contiguous tropical rainforests in China, and is the only habitat in the world for Hainan gibbons, a critically endangered species.

Since the national park was established in October last year, Hainan has strengthened the restoration of tropical rainforests, carrying out ecological relocation projects in core protected areas, adopting differentiated protection and management measures and building ecological corridors.

"Animals that were once uncommon to see are frequently observed nowadays, and the range of activities of those that are common have expanded," said Huang Haijing, a forest ranger from the Wuzhi Mountain sub-bureau of the management bureau of the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park.

According to Huang, the area of rainforests on Hainan Island shrank drastically due to the rapid population growth and economic development in the 1970s and 1980s, which resulted in a sharp decline in the number of wildlife highly dependent on the rainforest ecology.

Since Hainan set up a pilot area of the tropical rainforest national park in 2019, the restoration of rainforests has become a top priority.

According to a plan for ecological relocation issued by the province in March 2020, 11 villages in four cities and counties were included in the core protected areas of the national park. A total of 1,885 residents from 470 households needed



Photo taken on Sept. 21, 2022 shows Xin'gaofeng village in Baisha Li autonomous county, south China's Hainan province. It is one of the first villages to implement the ecological relocation for the construction of the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park. (Photo by Sun Shijie/People's Daily Online)

to be relocated.

Li Kaiwen, deputy head of the Forestry Department of Hainan Province, said that the ecological relocation in the core protected area would be finished in two rounds.

The first round of relocating 118 households in the three villages in Baisha Li autonomous county had been finished in 2020, and the residents in the rest eight villages are expected to be relocated before the end of this year, Li said.

To ensure smooth relocation and better lives for the residents involved, relevant counties and cities provided young crops, new houses and public service jobs for the relocated, and tailored specific plans to ensure employment.

For instance, Baisha Li autonomous county offered 5,000 mu (333 hectares) of rubber plants for 500 villagers and has been actively developing the fungi industry.

Wuzhishan city and Baoting Li and Miao autonomous county allocated commercial front stores and market stalls to relocated residents and launched vocational training sessions for them.

Dongfang city built featured towns and tourist attractions to encourage the relocated residents to

engage in tourism services, catering and transportation industries.

While guiding the relocation of residents, Hainan has demarcated functional zones in and around the national park and implemented differentiated conservation and management measures.

After the villagers moved out of the core protected area, the province began ecological corridor construction in an attempt to return habitats to animals and plants in the rainforests.

Residential buildings in the area were gradually removed to expand the foraging area for animals. Besides, vegetation was recovered through both natural and artificial means.

Sun Xianglai, an official responsible for the ecological relocation work, said the management bureau of the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park has launched scientific programs with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and other institutions to repair the natural forests damaged by unreasonable human activities and the disturbed secondary forests.

Science and technology is another guarantee for ecological conservation in the national park. Last year, a "smart rainforest" project was

launched in the national park, which included 105 monitoring cameras, a vibration fiber-optic sensing system stretching 35 kilometers, and hundreds of infrared cameras.

"The intelligent monitoring system, on one hand, ensures targeted supervision and prevents illegal felling, and on the other hand, helps discover new species," said He Cong, who works for the project.

According to him, the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park will expand the system and set up smart management centers in all of its seven sections in five years. It will be connected to a national sensing system of China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration to better observe the changes in rare species and the rainforest ecosystem.

People's Daily



Simba SC center-back, Henock Inonga (L), commits a reckless foul on Yanga midfielder Salum Abubakar when the sides locked horns in a 2022/23 Community Shield clash played in Dar es Salaam last month. Yanga cruised to a 2-1 victory.

Fair play is not a rule in footballing world-1

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER the final whistle of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round rematch against Tunisia's Club Africain, Yanga of Tanzania went to the group stage with a 1-0 victory over the former.

The results had the Jangwani Street club triumphing with a 1-0 aggregate success, considering the first leg which was played on the squad's home turf had ended in a barren draw.

Yanga's Burkinabe midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki was fielded in the rematch in Tunisia and ended as the hero of the fixture, thanks to his well-taken goal in the second half.

He took the pitch at a time he was banned for three ties by Tanzania Premier League Board for his refusal to heed to mandatory handshake shortly before his side locked horns with age-old rivals Simba SC in a 2022/23 Premier League tie.

Yanga decided to give the footballer permission to go to Burkina Faso after the tie against Club Africain because they saw no need to return with him, after all, he had been banned for three matches by the Premier League Board.

He skipped a handshake with Simba SC players and the encounter's officials before kick-off.

I was watching Simba SC lock horns with Singida Big Stars in a domestic top-flight duel in Singida on November 9.

The Msimbazi Street squad's players seemed to be having a difficult time creating space and opportunities against the hosts.

Except for Zambian attacker Moses Phiri, the other players in the visitors' front line were Pape Ousmane Sakho and Kibu Denis.

Simba SC missed the virtuosity and creativity put to show by the side's midfielder Clatus Chama.

The Zambian player missed the clash following a decision by Premier League Board to ban the playmaker for three ties for his refusal to heed the mandatory handshake before his side's tie against Yanga.

On November 12, Simba SC was confronting an outfit languishing at the bottom of the domestic top flight, Mbeya-based Ihefu SC. Simba SC's footballers faced the same problem that they faced in the match against Singida Big Stars.

The hosts lacked creativity in the final third, and I believe that such weakness was in view because Chama was not there for them.

Once Simba SC finds it difficult to get the better of opposing clubs' defenders, Chama makes it easy for the former when he is available.

He, however, missed three games for a similar offense committed by Aziz Ki considering Chama avoided shaking hands with Yanga players for unknown reasons.

It is a little surprising given in Europe, shaking hands before the match starts is a voluntary custom.

It is a fair play decision considering the footballers do not have to heed the gesture.

The players shake hands before and after the conclusion of the duel

as a gentlemanly gesture, it is not set out in the rules.

In Tanzania, such a gesture has been put in the rules. Those who put it in the rules are surprising but those who passed it also are the people to be questioned for the resolution.

However, it is barely surprising to me because people end up practicing such gestures.

Even in Parliament, some people passed the bill on value-added tax, and then they came back to oppose the bill. They are the critics who approve of something without understanding its consequences.

First of all, a handshake before league matches should not have been a rule. It is a matter of will and attitude.

Sometimes an individual is hardly forced to shake hands with someone he/she is hardly in association with or if there are circumstances he/she hardly likes.

For example, if a soccer performer practicing the Muslim faith sees another footballer that practices the Christian faith rubs fat from the abdomen of a pig in his hands, will the footballers heed a handshake?

There are though players that are always full of hate. Such a habit may begin at either the family level or in the streets, or on the pitch.

It is akin to what happened when the then Chelsea defender John Terry was accused of discriminating against West Ham United's Anton Ferdinand.

The following matches that witnessed Chelsea facing Manchester United, saw incidents which had Rio Ferdinand, Anton Ferdinand's elder brother, refusing to shake Terry's hand and no action was taken against them.

The same Terry found himself in a difficult time when he was denied the gesture by former Manchester City fullback Wayne Bridge who accused the defender of sleeping with the latter's former girlfriend. No action was taken against Bridge as it was his decision.

After that, there are other questions to ask. Why in such cases players are not called to defend themselves? They probably have their reasons for not doing so.

This tendency by the Tanzania Premier League Board to change everything in matters of justice is a bit surprising.

After that soccer lovers in Tanzania ought to ask themselves the magnitude of the offense. Yanga's winger Bernard Morrison deliberately stepped on Azam FC's defender Lusajo Mwaikenda during an NBC Premier League duel.

Morrison ended up getting banned for three games. Singida Big Stars' keeper Metacha Mnata deliberately elbowed Mtibwa Sugar forward Charles Ilamfya when the sides locked horns in the showdown duel and ended up being banned for three matches.

Aziz Ki and Chama have not performed the mandatory handshake and were given the same punishment. What is a big mistake and what is a minor mistake?

To be continued

Ihefu SC showed fortune favours the brave in stunning win over Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IT was a top versus bottom clash when Young Africans SC, the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table leaders, took on Ihefu SC, the bottom-placed club, in the domestic top-flight clash held in Mbeya on Tuesday as both sides sought three points for very different reasons.

Young Africans, alias Yanga, wanted the three points to stay out front and clear of their title challengers.

They headed to the Highland Estate Stadium on Tuesday afternoon knowing victory would have seen them move three points clear of one of their closest rivals, Azam.

Up to this point, the Premier League defending champions had, on the one hand, enjoyed an unbeaten start to the season, winning 10 and drawing two of their first 12 NBC Premier League matches and making it to the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup group stage, achieving the feat for the first time since 2018.

Against Ihefu SC, the Jangwani Street club went into the encounter full of confidence in their away form as they looked to extend their unbeaten run in the league to half a century of games. They had won all of their six away games in the league.

On the other hand, hosts Ihefu SC were in a very different situation, stuck in the relegation zone, and had only managed to pick up nine points in total since the start of the season.

They came into the clash on the back of a 1-0 defeat to Geita Gold FC that was preceded by four losses in a row.

Ihefu SC had struggled for goals, having only found the back of the net nine times in their 13 league games, with three of those goals coming from Jaffary Kibaya who is the team's leading goal scorer this season.

To compound their problems, it does not bode well for Ihefu SC's defense which has looked fragile in recent games, with Juma Mwambusi's side have conceded 16 goals in 13 games.

There was no home comfort to talk



Ihefu SC's players participate in a warm-up session before playing a recent 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash that took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF IHEFU SC

about as they had suffered three defeats from six home matches so far this season, losing to Ruvi Shooting, Namungo FC, and Polisi Tanzania.

Mwambusi knew the magnitude of the task at hand. After all, everything had pointed to an afternoon of pain for his side.

The tactician urged his players to respect Yanga but not to be covered on the pitch. His side showed both in abundance but still found themselves one goal down inside the opening 10 minutes.

However, they did not let up from their attacking approach, taking the game to the champions and were rewarded with an equalizer before the halftime break.

A draw would have been enough for Ihefu SC, after all,

nobody believed they could stop Yanga.

Nobody would have belated themselves if they had opted to play for a draw after equalizing and especially in the second half.

However, Mwambusi's side refused to back down from their attacking mindset. This may not be a blueprint for success, but a courageous approach rewards.

With risk can come even greater rewards. If you beat your chest and decide you are brave enough to find out.

Mwambusi wanted more and his players responded positively. His calls were answered as Ihefu SC masterminded one of the best shocking wins of the season.

In the second half, the commitment Mwambusi had demanded was needed once more as Yanga pressed and

pressed but Ihefu SC would hardly lie down.

They defended resolutely, competing physically and taking the opportunity when it arose.

With a second goal in the second half, Rock bottom Ihefu SC caused a major shock to end Yanga's 49-match unbeaten run in the NBC Premier League.

They succeeded where the big boys, Azam FC and Simba have failed to do in Yanga's 20-month-long unbeaten run.

A third win of the season lifted Ihefu SC to 11 points, leapfrogging three teams but the confidence in the results will be just as important.

They have now won two out of their past four league matches to move up to 13th in the table.

For all the tough days that lie ahead - and there will be many - Ihefu SC fans will always have this.

They will always have the day they downed Nasreddine Nabi's unbeaten Yanga - and proved they can mix it with one of the best sides in the league.

For coach Mwambusi this is an unforgettable victory in his long coaching career that includes stints at Yanga, Prisons, and Mbeya City.

He has moved from the worries of expecting to feel the cold steel of a dagger in the back while his Ihefu SC was bottom of the table with just eight points to show for their efforts to the highs of masterminding one of the biggest shocking victories in league.

Mwambusi and Ihefu SC have shown a lesson to other teams up the table, if you are brave enough to play, here is what can be achieved, even against the 'invincible' Yanga.

NBC Premier League defenders now displaying scoring prowess

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NINETEEN goals have been scored by the defenders so far in the ongoing NBC Premier League with the participating outfits positioned lowly in the top flight trying to break free from relegation and others are working hard to stay in better positions.

This season's NBC Premier League, which features 16 teams, has been tough and very competitive, with Yanga lately boasting a winning streak stretching to 49 league matches, won in a row since last year.

The goal-scoring battle has been intense for the attacking line, with the defenders as well scoring despite their defensive duties. The Guardian brings to light the defenders who scored in the games that their teams have played.

Bakari Mwamnyeto - Yanga (2 goals)

The lanky defender has scored in a top-flight duel against Polisi Tanzania which ended with Yanga commanding a 2-1 victory and scored again against Ruvi Shooting to help Yanga garner a 2-1 victory.

Daniel Amoah - Azam FC (2 goals)

Amoah scored in the game against Yanga which ended in a 2-2 draw, he did it again in the game against Mtibwa Sugar, in which Azam FC, known as 'Ice Cream makers' won 4-3.

Nickson Kibababe - Mtibwa Sugar (3 goals)

He scored in the game against Namungo FC which ended in a 2-2 draw, then scored again against Ihefu SC, Mtibwa won 3-1, while against Mbeya City they drew 2-2.

Malickou Ndoye - Azam FC (1 goal)



Yanga right fullback, Kibwana Shomari (R), outfoxes Dodoma Jiji FC's midfielder, Rajab Seif, in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League encounter that took place in Singida. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

The game pitting Azam FC against Yanga in which the sides settled for a 2-2 draw, witnessed the center-back notching one goal which earned his team one point.

Hassan Mahamud - Mbeya City FC (2 goals)

In the game against Namungo FC who won 2-1 and their game with Kagera Sugar ended in a 2-2 draw, he scored one goal in each match.

Kibwana Shomari - Yanga (1 goal)

He is among Yanga defenders who were not given a chance to prove their worth at the club once the player was roped in but he has had a great contribution.

He netted a goal during the Jangwani Street outfit's match against Singida Big Stars, his first since he signed for the defending champions.

The diminutive fullback showcased improvement offensively, finding the opponents' back of the net as his outfit commanded a comprehensive 4-1 victory over the Singida side.

Nicholas Wadada - Ihefu SC (1 goal)

The former Azam FC fullback scored one goal for Ihefu SC in the duel against Coastal Union which his team won 2-1 to register their second win in the league.

Shomari Kapombe - Simba SC (1 goal)

He is a trusted defender all the time in the Simba SC squad whose absence is conspicuous, should he be sidelined by an injury.

In the game against Ruvi Shooting which ended with Simba notching a 4-0 victory,

Kapombe scored a goal to mark his successful return from an injury layoff.

Djuma Shaban - Yanga (1 goal)

The 3-0 victory that Yanga garnered against Mtibwa Sugar witnessed Djuma posting one goal on a season that has been full of a roller coaster for him due to lack of game time.

Shafik Batambuze - Singida Big Stars (1 goal)

The three points that Singida Big Stars collected against Ihefu SC came courtesy of the only goal of the clash scored by the fullback, adding points to Singida Big Stars.

Shawn Oduro - Geita Gold FC (1 goal)

The footballer scored one goal in his outfit's 4-2 win over Tanzania Prisons.

Vedastus Mwiambi - Mtibwa Sugar (1 goal)

In the game pitting Mtibwa Sugar against Namungo which ended in a 2-2 draw, the former's attackers were helped by the veteran defender as he scored to see to it Mtibwa Sugar notches one point.

Ibrahim Ame - Kinondoni Municipal Council FC (1 goal)

In the Kinondoni Municipal Council FC game against Mtibwa Sugar who won 2-1, Ame scored one goal for the former to boost his confidence after having unsettled periods at Mtibwa Sugar last season and previously at Simba SC.

Abdallah Khery - Azam FC (1 goal)

The ice cream makers' defender scored a goal in the game against Mtibwa Sugar and led his team to a hard-fought 4-3 victory after a tough second half that Mtibwa Sugar dominated the most.

World Cup fans see more active play from stoppages directive

DOHA, Qatar

ADDING more time at the end of World Cup games to compensate for stoppages has raised the average active playing time to 59 minutes, FIFA's head of refereeing said Wednesday.

Pierluigi Collina said FIFA was "quite happy (with the result) of games routinely extending from the 90 minutes of regulation to more than 100 in total. The ball is now actively in play for 55 to 67 minutes, the Italian official said.

Active playing time was as little as 52 minutes for some games at the 2018 World Cup when video review of referees' decisions debuted and some reviews took more than two minutes.

"People are here to watch matches and be entertained," Collina said in an interview filmed and distributed by FIFA. "It's like to attend a concert – you are happy and ask for an encore of the singer."

FIFA's directive to referees was a surprise trend early in the tournament in Qatar with more time clearly added to take account of goal celebrations.

"It takes quite long to celebrate a goal and for opponents it's less opportunity to play," said Collina, who worked at the 1998 and 2002 World Cups when referees routinely added about four extra minutes in total to games.

FIFA also wanted referees to add at least one minute for an injury delay and 30 seconds for each pause to make a substitution.

The averaged added time was more than 10 minutes after half of the 64 games were played through Monday, which is the first World Cup letting teams make five substitutions.

The average has also been skewed, Collina said, by the second game of the tournament when England beat Iran 6-2. More than 27 minutes were added because of injuries including a concussion sustained by the Iranian goalkeeper, a video review to award a penalty and eight goals scored.

In 2018 in Russia, stoppage time averaged 6½ minutes which would likely have risen by an extra minute if five substitutions had been allowed, he suggested.

"It is not that dramatic a change as could have been perceived after the match Iran-England which was at the very beginning of the competition," Collina said, "so maybe created some feeling that things were going in a direction which it is not."

AP

Tunisia coach faces questions about his future at World Cup

AL RAYYAN, Qatar

TUNISIA coach Jalel Kadri failed in his "personal mission" to get the national team through the group stage at the World Cup for the first time in its sixth attempt.

Now he's facing questions about whether he will stay in charge.

"I don't know why you insist that I resign. I have a contract that is based on objectives," Kadri said after his team beat defending champion France 1-0 on Wednesday. "The objective was not fulfilled but we still have some time before making a final decision. It's up to the Tunisian (soccer) federation to decide what happens now."

Tunisia started well enough in Qatar by drawing 0-0 with European Championship semifinalist Denmark, but the team missed some chances in a 1-0 loss to Australia.

"We were excellent against Denmark and we only failed in one half of a game against Australia," Kadri said. "We left with a lot of honor and we made our fans proud."

The victory over France was Tunisia's third win at a World Cup tournament. The first was against Mexico in 1978 and the second came against Panama four years ago in Russia, when Khazri also scored.

"We deserved to win. We beat the world champions. But there's still a bitter aftertaste because we're out," Khazri said. "We're disappointed not to qualify with four points. I think the Tunisian people can be proud of us."

Aside from Khazri, who scored two goals at the 2018 World Cup, the Tunisians didn't have much luck up front.

When they did create chances against Australia, they wasted them.

"That's the thing with soccer, you should only count on yourself," Khazri said. "We didn't do enough in the first two games, otherwise we'd be through."

Meanwhile, the French soccer federation is filing a complaint with FIFA over Antoine Griezmann's disallowed goal at the end of a 1-0 loss to Tunisia at the World Cup on Wednesday.

Griezmann drilled in a low shot in the eighth and final minute of stoppage time at Education City Stadium. Referee Matthew Conger ruled out the equalizer following a video review.

The FFF's statement overnight Thursday said the goal was "unfairly refused" but did not elaborate, amid reports it focused on the fact Conger restarted the match then blew the final whistle – after which he consulted VAR and ruled out Griezmann's goal.

AP

Brazil rotates squad, Cameroon fights for World Cup survival

DOHA, Qatar

STILL without Neymar and already secured in the round of 16, Brazil will use its last group game at the World Cup to give playing time to its reserves.

Coach Tite was expected to make changes in every position for Brazil's match against Cameroon today, when a draw will be enough to give the five-time champions first place in Group G.

The game means more to Cameroon, which needs a win to keep its hopes of advancing alive. And that may not even be enough depending on the result of the other group game between Switzerland and Serbia.

Brazil has six points, three more than Switzerland and five more than both Cameroon and Serbia.

Cameroon is trying to advance past the group stage for the first time since its run to the quarterfinals in 1990, when a squad led by striker Roger Milla was eliminated by England in extra time in the tournament in the United States. Cameroon did not qualify for the tournament in Russia four years ago.

The Africans, who opened in Qatar with a loss to Switzerland and then drew with Serbia, theoretically are catching a break for the final group game because of all the changes expected in the Brazil squad.

Tite planned to use

only reserve players, starting with Ederson replacing Alisson in goal. Veteran Dani Alves was among those coming into the defense, while Fabinho was set to play in the midfield. Antony and Gabriel Martinelli were expected to be added to the attack.

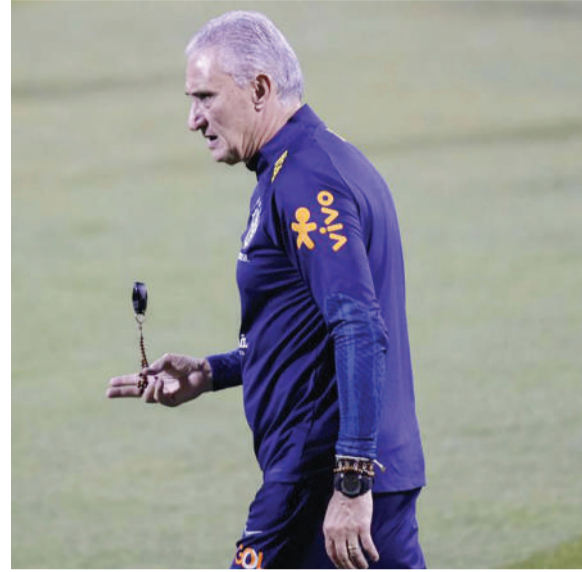
Tite wanted to try to give playing time to all seven players who were yet to appear at the tournament.

"Tite had already told us after the game against Switzerland that he intended to make changes in the lineup," midfielder Fabinho said. "He said he wanted everyone to play and we are happy with that decision."

Star forward Neymar, right back Danilo and left back Alex Sandro were not available because of injuries. Neymar was still treating his right ankle injury and it remained unclear when he would return.

Rotating the squad could be important because if Brazil wins the group, its game in the round of 16 will be Monday, only three days after the match against Cameroon. Brazil defeated Serbia 2-0 and Switzerland 1-0 in its first two games, when it didn't concede a single attempt on target.

The 39-year-old Alves could become the oldest Brazilian to play at a World Cup, ahead of the 38-year-old Thiago Silva, who is Brazil's captain in Qatar. Alves' last game at a World Cup was in the round of 16 of the 2014 tournament in Brazil. The right back was in-



Brazil's head coach Tite attends a training session at the Grand Hamad stadium in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022. Brazil will face Cameroon in a group G World Cup soccer match on Dec. 2. (AP Photo)

jured ahead of the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Brazil is trying to win its World Cup group for the 11th straight time. It may finish first even with a loss depending on the other group match. Brazil is unbeaten in its last 17 group games, with 14 wins and three draws. It has lost only one of its last 29 group matches, against Norway in 1998 in France.

Cameroon endured a small crisis after its 3-3 draw with Serbia, with goalkeeper Andre Onana being sent home for disciplinary reasons after a dispute with coach Rigobert Song.

The Inter Milan goalkeeper was temporarily suspended from the team after a disagreement with Song over team tactics, which led to him being dropped from the match against Serbia and to be eventually sent home Monday.

Meanwhile, when Serbia plays Switzerland at

the World Cup on Friday, it will be a head-to-head elimination match to get into the knockout rounds.

The European rivals seemed destined for a win-and-advance final group stage match at 974 Stadium ever since the tournament draw in April placed them in Group G with heavily favored Brazil.

"We knew at the beginning of the tournament that the game against Serbia would be the final in this group," Swiss captain Granit Xhaka said after a 1-0 loss to Brazil on Monday.

That result sent Brazil to the round of 16 even before playing its last game against Cameroon, and left Switzerland in second place likely needing only a draw with Serbia to advance. Not that the Swiss plan on playing for a tie.

"I don't know a single team in the world that would go on the pitch

aiming for a 0-0. That's really dangerous," Swiss midfielder Djibril Sow said.

Still, Switzerland have a proven record of managing these situations in modern tournaments, advancing out of the group to the round of 16 at the past two World Cups and in the past two European Championships.

Serbia has not played a World Cup knockout match since becoming an independent nation, and a relative lack of tournament experience – playing at three of the four World Cups since 2010 but no Euros – perhaps showed in Qatar.

Leading Cameroon 3-1 on Monday after dominating the play either side of half-time, the Serbians lost control and conceded back-to-back goals quickly to draw the game.

The five goals Serbia has so far conceded is as many as the rest of the group combined, while Switzerland has let in just Casemiro's rising shot that was a late winning goal in Brazil's 1-0 win.

Switzerland could not force Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker into a save, but should have two fit creative threats restored Friday: Xherdan Shaqiri in a playmaker role and Noah Okafor, whose pace and direct play can be used late in games.

Shaqiri and Xhaka were key figures – with their goals and provocative celebrations – when the Swiss won this same fixture 2-1 at the

last World Cup. Shaqiri was born in Kosovo, the former Serbian province that declared independence in 2008. Serbia doesn't recognize Kosovo's independence and relations between the two countries remain tense. Xhaka's parents are originally from Kosovo and they are of Albanian heritage. His brother plays for Albania's national team.

That was a game in Russia that Serbian fans still remember ruefully for a penalty call not given for an apparent foul by two defenders on forward Aleksandar Mitrovi.

Mitrovi scored his first goal in Qatar against Cameroon, though a partnership with Dušan Vlahovi was not developed.

Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovi did not call on Vlahovi against Cameroon, after the Juventus forward lacked match sharpness from a recent groin injury when coming on late in the opening 2-0 loss against Brazil.

Barring an unlikely big win for Cameroon against Brazil on Friday, Switzerland and Serbia are playing for second place in the standings and a last-16 game next Tuesday against the Group H winner – likely to be Portugal.

That could suit either team. Serbia qualified to come to Qatar by winning in Lisbon to top their qualifying group, while the Swiss and Portuguese traded home wins in June in the UEFA Nations League.

Portugal looking to avoid Brazil by winning World Cup group

DOHA, Qatar

BACK-TO-BACK wins. Qualification with a game to spare. Cristiano Ronaldo already among the goal scorers. The group stage could hardly have gone any better for Portugal at the World Cup.

There's still one loose end to tie up.

Portugal needs a point in its last Group H match against South Korea today to guarantee finishing in first place. That might come with a perk – avoiding Brazil in the last 16.

"If we had to face each other, it would be a game between two great teams," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "But our wish, and Brazil's, is that we meet later on."

After the 2-0 win over Uruguay on Sunday, Santos said he wasn't planning to rest too many key players against South Korea. Ronaldo may be an exception.

Three games in nine days could prove to be too much for the 37-year-old striker, who hasn't played significant minutes this season for Manchester United – the English team which recently terminated its contract with Ronaldo after his explosive pre-World Cup interview blasting the club's manager, owners and even his teammates.

Ronaldo missed team training on Wednesday, instead completing a session in the gym, and there's a chance he is

saved for the last 16. That would give the likes of Gonçalo Ramos or Andre Silva a rare chance to start up front.

Also set to be missing are center back Danilo Pereira, who broke three ribs in training last week, and left back Nuno Mendes, who was substituted in the first half against Uruguay because of a muscle injury.

If selected, playmaker Bruno Fernandes will look to continue his strong form that has seen him score two goals – one of them contested by Ronaldo against Uruguay – and set up two others. South Korea needs a win as well as a favor in the other game taking place concurrently, between Ghana and Uruguay, to join Portugal in advancing from the group.

A win for Ghana, which is in second place on three points – three behind Portugal and two clear of South Korea and Uruguay, means the South Koreans cannot qualify whatever their result at Education City Stadium outside Doha.

Son Heung-min has yet to score at the tournament for South Korea, which followed a 0-0 draw against Uruguay with a wild 3-2 loss to Ghana. Son, though, doesn't seem to be too affected by wearing a protective mask after sustaining multiple fractures around his left eye in a challenge while playing for Tottenham in the Champions League.

Meanwhile, Ghana

and Uruguay meet at the World Cup on Friday in a repeat of one of the tournament's most contentious games.

"It was a really, really long time ago," Ghana coach Otto Addo said.

Maybe so, but to many Ghanaians the quarter-final defeat to Uruguay in the 2010 World Cup is still a raw and painful memory.

Uruguay striker Luis Suarez's deliberate handball on the goal-line at the end of extra time denied Ghana a certain goal and a place in history as the first African team to reach the semis. Suarez was sent off for the handball but celebrated wildly on the sidelines when Asamoah Gyan hit the resulting penalty off the crossbar. Uruguay won the ensuing penalty shootout.

To make it worse, Suarez boasted after the 2010 game: "Truth is, it was worth it."

Twelve years later, Ghana now has a chance to settle the score. By beating Uruguay in their final Group H match, Ghana would advance to the round of 16, while knocking Uruguay out of the tournament.

Though the match in Al Wakrah has been circled as one to watch ever since the World Cup draw was made in April, Addo tried his best to cast it as a "normal game."

"I'm not really thinking about revenge," he said, adding he remembered watching Ghana's agonizing loss on TV in 2010. "But it's 12 years ago and now it's a different match with a different approach. So I don't see it as a revenge."

Ghana, which squeezed out a thrilling 3-2 win over South Korea in its last game, must win again in Al Wakrah to be certain of going past the group stage for

the first time since 2010. A draw could also be enough depending on the result of South Korea vs. Portugal.

Captain Andre Ayew is the only Ghana player in Qatar who was on the 2010 squad.

Uruguay has a handful, including the 35-year-old Suarez, who is playing what's likely his farewell World Cup before winding down a career that saw him celebrated as one of the best forwards in the world at one point. He won the Copa America with Uruguay and Spanish league titles and a Champions League trophy with Barcelona.

Suarez also carved out a reputation as one of the game's most controversial characters and has also been punished three times for biting opponents, including a four-month ban for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini on the

shoulder at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Suarez started Uruguay's 0-0 draw with South Korea in Qatar but was left on the bench for the 2-0 loss to Portugal, which left Uruguay bottom of the group.

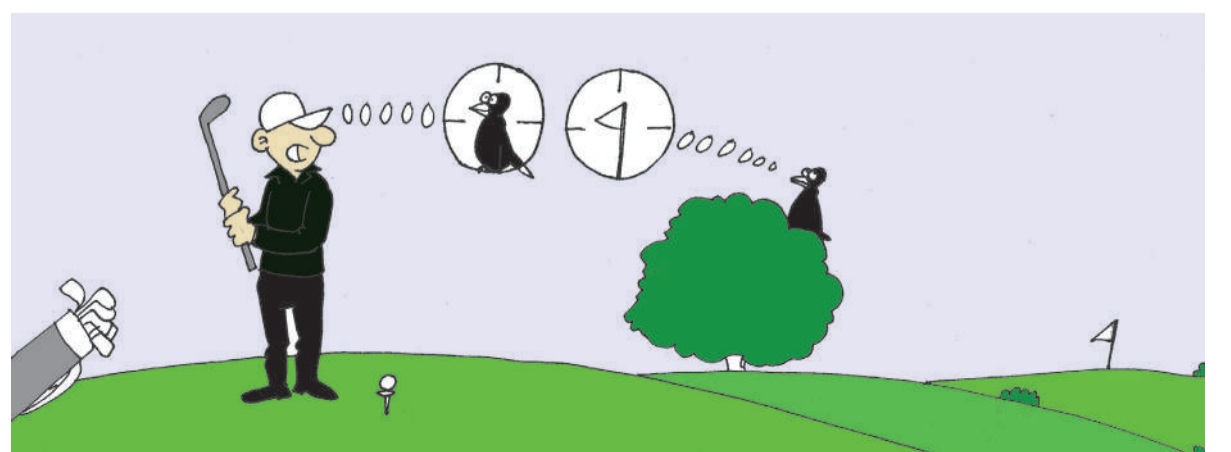
Uruguay must now beat Ghana and hope South Korea doesn't beat Portugal to extend its stay at the World Cup and Suarez's international career for at least one more game. Goal difference will decide it if Uruguay and South Korea both win.

Stoking it up just a little, Suarez said the 2010 game against Ghana does still mean something.

"We are going to put our lives and soul into this match," Suarez said. "Ghana is a good team but we know them, we have beaten them before and we know how to beat them again."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Brazil rotates squad,
Cameroon fights for World
Cup survival**

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EATV
TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
11:55 MPYA
12:00 Mperampera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 5SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mperampera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bango Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrica
RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Arusha now scouts open spaces for constructing basketball courts

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA has a problem namely the metropolitan city hardly seems to have any public basketball court despite the popularity of the sport in the precinct.

Even worse, poor urban planning and invasion of open spaces among real estate developers in Arusha, means there are no vacant grounds on which to establish the playing courts.

The Chairperson of the Arusha Regional Basketball Association (ARBA) Jackob Gibbons noted they are negotiating with local authorities to see the possibility of getting permanent grounds for the purpose.

"At the moment we are compelled to use basketball courts that belong or are operated by parastatals, schools, colleges, and other educational institutions," Gibbons pointed out.

He noted that it is high time that Arusha gets public basketball grounds without restrictions, limits, or boundaries.

"We want places where people can enter freely without being asked at the gates," he said.

"It is our wish that basketball should be played in every street in Arusha, which means we need various venues for the sport," ARBA Chairperson stated.

According to Gibbons, basketball is a game targeting the youths and for the youngsters to be comfortable they need to be practicing near their homes.

"Arusha is the only place in Tanzania where the youth get incubated into basketball sports from tender ages," Gibbons noted.

However, he disclosed that parents normally do not want their children to venture far from their houses or homes to practice or play basketball.

In Arusha, the Soweto grounds and Kijenge courts owned by the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC) are the major venues used for basketball games and exercise.

Arusha is the epicenter of basketball tournaments in Tanzania with better response and participation among the local youths, thus ARBA wants to maintain this coveted status.

There are two organizations currently dealing with basketball promotion in Arusha, 'Pamoja' and 'Mtaani' basketball.

Kagera Sugar, Ihefu SC seek to build on winning momentum in NBC Premier League



Ihefu SC's players participate in a warm-up session before participating in a recent 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash against Dodoma Jiji FC that took place at Highland Estates Stadium, Mbarali in Mbeya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF IHEFU SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KAGERA Sugar will look to continue their upturn in form when they entertain Ihefu SC at Kaitaba Stadium this afternoon.

They have won back-to-back games for the first time this season and target three on the bounce.

A 1-0 victory away to Tanzania Prisons was followed by another 1-0 win against Mtwara Sugar on Monday.

Kagera Sugar has only lost one of their last five league games. As it stands, they sit just six points adrift of fourth position, a scenario that highlights the rewards on offer for

a strong December festive period.

Kagera Sugar's strong defensive record recently in the league could end up continuing considering the fact the visitors have only scored 11 goals throughout the campaign.

The defense should certainly remain untouched too, with Laurent Alfred and Abdallah Mfuko enjoying success as the default centre-back partnership in recent weeks.

At the other end of the field, it will likely be Anuary Jabir, Meshack Mwamita, and Mbaraka Yusuph that

attempt to fire Kagera Sugar toward three points.

Jabir will lead the line and will be looking to add to the four goals he has scored so far this season.

Mwamita who has found the back of the net in back-to-back victories will seek to prove he has finally rediscovered the goal-scoring form that prompted Kagera Sugar to sign him from Gwambina FC.

As for the visitors, Ihefu SC, they are yet to win away from home this season, recording six defeats and one

draw from their seven matches on the road.

More important for the squad coached by Juma Mwambusi, confidence should not be an issue after Ihefu SC's impressive victory over Yanga.

Ihefu SC caused a major shock by defeating Yanga in their last outing and will be desperate to put one behind Kagera Sugar to move out of the relegation zone. His team must build on that result.

Ihefu's line will again be led by Jafari Kibaya, who has enjoyed a good start to the season since arriving from Mtwara Sugar, netting three goals thus far.

In Mwambusi's preferred 3-4-3 set-up, the footballer should be flanked by Joseph Mahundi and Peter Mwaly-anzi.

Elsewhere, Samwel Onditi, Never Tigere, and Raphael Loth will again partner up in the engine room, while Lenny Kisu and Juma Nyoso remain a mainstay in the back four, likely lining up alongside Nicholas Wadada and Hassan Mwasipili.

In head-to-head stats, this will be the third top-flight league meeting of Kagera Sugar and Ihefu SC.

The teams last met in the league in the 2020/21 season, with Ihefu SC claiming a 2-1 home victory in Mbarali in December 2020 thanks to goals netted by Joseph Kinyozi and Issa Ally, while the return game in Bukoba in June 2021 ended in a goalless stalemate.

Singida Big Stars in NBC Premier League top four spot battle with Namungo FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Big Stars will chase a third straight win in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League when they host Namungo FC at Liti Stadium this afternoon, with kick-off scheduled for 4 pm.

The hosts racked up a second successive victory in the league when they defeated Ruvu Shooting 1-0 away from home last weekend courtesy of a second-half strike by goal-getter Frank Zacharia.

Singida Big Stars will move six points clear of top-four spots rivals with a win while Namungo FC will go level on points with their hosts if they emerge victorious.

Dutch gaffer Hans van der Pluijm's men have claimed 14 points from six home matches this season to maintain an unbeaten run as hosts so far.

Barring two draws here, they have a perfect winning record and one of these draws came against Simba SC as well.

Their last result as hosts was a 1-0 win over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in late November. They are currently placed fourth in the table, with only Simba SC, Azam FC, and Yanga ahead of them.

They will hope forwards Meddie Kagere and Amissi Tambwe don goal-scoring boots but must equally do well at the back to keep Namungo FC attackers at bay.

Metacha Mnata operates as a dependable goalkeeper behind the composed defense with five clean sheets so far.

Meanwhile, Namungo has lacked



Singida Big Stars' footballers jubilate when their teammate netted a goal in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash that took place in Singida. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA BIG STARS

consistency in the 2022/23 campaign and has won just once in their last five attempts in the league, contributing to their current

position.

The Lindi side's head coach Honour Janza will be hoping to arrest this conflicting run of results this

afternoon, with the opportunity to rise as high as fifth in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League with a victory over Singida Big Stars.

Namungo picked up their first win since late September when they defeated Dodoma Jiji 1-0 away from home on November 26. Defender Abdulrazack Mohamed scored the all-important goal in the second half.

They have claimed seven points from as many away matches this season. Aside from their win over Dodoma Jiji, they have also beaten Ihefu on the road this season.

Former Simba SC winger Shiza Kichuya will be among the key players to watch for the visitors while Reliants Lusajo, whose scoring instinct has made him Namungo's top goal-scorer for the past two league seasons, is set to become the squad's dependable attacker in the clash.

The towering goal-getter tops Namungo FC scoring charts again with six strikes so far this campaign and will be looking to add to his tally.

In head-to-head terms, this will be the first-ever top-flight league meeting of Singida Big Stars and Namungo.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

BASICALLY, WHAT IS HISTORY?



DÉJÀ VU!