



National Pg 3

'Exports of raw hides and skins increasing'



National Pg 4

Africa urged to reinforce health systems



National Pg 5

Primary schools to gain from UK programme



Govt to employ 32,000 teachers, health workers

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government is set to announce 32,000 employment opportunities next week in education and health sectors.

Jenista Mhagama (pictured), the Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), told the National Assembly yesterday that the government intends to employ 44,000 civil servants during the current financial year, noting that the government prioritizes allocating more servants in health and education as they face serious shortages in staffing.

The job openings will be formally set out next week, as to the number and places where they will be assigned, she said, responding to legislators who wanted to know the government's plans to end the shortage of workers in specific sectors.

The MPs asserted that most of the newly built schools and health facilities have limited numbers of staff, which impinges on their service provision capacity.

Aloyce Kamamba (Buyungu) had earlier demanded from deputy minister David Silinde (President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Governments)

TURN TO PAGE 2

PM cautions traders on unfair price hikes



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents estimates of his office for financial year 2022/2023 in the on-going Budget meeting of the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. He asked for approval of 148,892,553,000/- for recurrent and development expenditure needs. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday expressed concern over unjustified price hikes for some essential commodities including fuel, construction materials and agricultural inputs, unnecessarily increasing the cost of living.

He vowed that the government would take action to control business people from inflating prices of goods, exploiting exceptional demand during the fasting month, and citing petroleum products price hike as excuses.

The measures include proper enforcement of the Fair Competition Act, 2003 meant to promote and protect effective competition in trade and protect consumers from unfair and misleading market conduct.

Tabling budget proposals for the 2022/2023 financial year in the National Assembly, the premier said the government was alternative sources for specific commodities and setting up oversight of initial crop markets and auctions.

The government has instructed manufacturers of various goods and suppliers of essential commodities to mark down prices where they have been unreasonably hiked.

"Business people should not take advantage of the holy month of Ramadan

'Complete data protection bill'

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to fast-track the tabling of a bill for privacy and protection of data.

She issued this directive when launching an emergency transport mobile application floated by Vodacom (T), a major service

In agriculture around 350,000 famers are connected nationwide, with 63,000 being cotton farmers

provider, meant to speed up obtaining commercial transport for expectant mothers.

The president said the government is working on build the foundation for quality healthcare services, where technology is a vital tool for service rollout as a whole.

"We're now improving infrastructure and other facilities to ensure we cut down maternal deaths further while improving the provision of services at lower levels, she stated.

For the last three years the maternity transport app, set up in partnership with Touch Foundation and the regional health management team (RHMT) in Shinyanga, has worked to address delays that contribute to maternal and neonatal emergencies, officials said.

The president referred to plans to employ more than 30,000 civil servants mainly in the health sector, while purchasing ambulances

TURN TO PAGE 2

Ministry discounts fears over fuel supply

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has allayed fears over fuel scarcity in the wake of the recent rise in fuel prices set out by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) saying there was enough stock to cater for current level of needs.

Energy minister January Makamba declared at a press conference yesterday that the fuel in reserve tanks, filling stations and the tonnage being disembarked at the Dar es Salaam Port will suffice for existing consumer needs.

The deputy Energy permanent secretary Kheri Mahimbali, petroleum commissioner Michael Mjinja and officials from the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC) were in attendance, as the minister declared that there was no

TURN TO PAGE 2



Energy minister January Makamba (gesturing) converses with leaders of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC) at his Dar es Salaam office yesterday. To his left is Energy ministry deputy permanent secretary Kheri Abdul Mahimbali and to his right is petrol and gas commissioner in the ministry, Michael Mjinja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PMO plans to spend 148.8bn/- in the 2022/2023 financial year, with 101.3bn/- meant for recurrent expenditure and 47.5bn/- for development projects

to increase prices of various goods including food. Traders must sell their goods at comparable prices on the basis of real costs of importation, production and distribution," he stated, vowing stringent measures against traders violating pricing directives.

He told MPs he had directed the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to form a committee of experts to monitor trends in the country's commodities market, which in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) shall evaluate prices trend for imported and locally manufactured goods.

He said the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) registered 294 new projects taking up \$8.04bn (18.58trn/-) in the past year, compared to projects estimated at \$51bn recorded in fiscal 2020/2021, with the projects being projected to create 62,301 direct and indirect jobs.

He said the government continues to improve the business and investment climate to attract more investors as well as reviewing policies and regulations governing investments, with around 1.6m hectares of land set aside for investment purposes.

He similarly noted that Tanzania received 922,692 tourists in 2021, an increase of 48.6 per cent from 620,867 country the previous

TURN TO PAGE 2





Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks with a College of Business Education delegation led by its board chairman, Prof Wineaster Saria Anderson, at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: State House

PM cautions traders on unfair price hikes

FROM PAGE 1

year. The number of domestic tourists reached 788,933 in 2021 (40.2 per cent increase) from 562,549 local visitors to various national parks in 2020.

He said the increase in numbers of tourists boosted tourism revenues to \$1.25bn in 2021 compared to \$714.59m recorded in 2020, a 76 per cent increase.

Before the pandemic occurred the tourism industry's contribution to the

gross domestic product (GDP) was 17.6 per cent and forestry took 3.5 per cent, he asserted, highlighting that Tanzania received 9,845,774 COVID-19 vaccine doses up to the end of February.

About 5,426,840 doses equivalent to 55 per cent had been distributed, with 2,664,373 people fully vaccinated, he stated, urging people everywhere to go for the jabs to protect themselves from being infected with COVID-19.

The government in collaboration

with international agencies was pursuing efforts to control new infections, he stated, casting glance at the forthcoming Population and Housing Census. A pilot project conducted in 13 regions last August was a success, with census preparations having reached 76 per cent.

During the past year, the government conducted a survey on employment challenges, with findings showing that unemployment among the youth

decreased from 10.3 per cent in 2014 to nine per cent in 2021.

Agriculture has continued to provide employment for the majority of the people, where 63 per cent of agro-sector workforce is drawn from the youth.

The PMO plans to spend 148.8bn/- in the 2022/2023 financial year, with 101.3bn/- meant for recurrent expenditure and 47.5bn/- for development projects.



Iringa district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo leads Defence and Security committee members in following up on prices of basic commodities in markets during the ongoing Holy month of Ramadan. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin.

Singida Region to get two honey-processing factories

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

BEEKEEPERS in Itigi district Singida region have been trained on modern beekeeping practices to enable them to add value to their honey products.

The training which was coordinated by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF TIER II) is part of the government efforts to transform the beekeeping sector in the area by beekeepers to venture into modern beekeeping practices.

Opening the training, director of administration and Human Resources in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Edward Nkembo said through the training beekeepers are likely to produce quality honey that meets the set market standards.

He said the training conducted by the Small Industries Development

Organisation (SIDO) through the EIF TIER II project was meant to enhance productivity and add value to honey products. He said such capacity building trainings are also provided to small scale entrepreneurs engaging in beekeeping and horticultural products from Singida and Kigoma regions as well as vegetable and seaweed farmers in Mara, Simiyu and Zanzibar.

"The government through this project will also construct two honey processing plants at Mwamagembe and Itigi wards in Itigi district. We are also going to assist beekeepers to acquire modern bee hives through their formed groups," he added.

Earlier, Natasha Ngowi, coordinator of the EIF TIER II project from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment said the capacity building

training will enhance the capacity of beekeepers as well as the quality of processed honey products to enable them secure market locally and internationally.

"Beekeeping is likely to improve the welfare of farmers and their families. We are working to further improve the sub-sector to eliminate poverty amongst women and youth," said the officials.

She said the EIF TIER II is implemented by the government under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It will be implemented in three years in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

SIDO manager in Singida Region, Agness Yesaya said the organisation has been working to enhance the capacity

of beekeepers through provision of training and value addition. She said they also assist farmers in accessing packaging materials as well as markets.

Itigi District vice chairman, Jonathan Dulle said: "We are thankful to the government for constructing the honey processing factories at a cost of 150m/-. The factories will be a solution to beekeepers who have been struggling to improve the quality of the products."

Dulle said the project will contribute into increased revenue collections in Itigi through the various levies and taxes to be paid by farmers,

It is estimated that Tanzania has about 9.2 million honeybee colonies where production potential of bee products is about 138,000 metric tonnes of honey and 9,200 tonnes of beeswax per annum.

'Complete data protection bill'

FROM PAGE 1

of same quality as those used by dispensaries, in setting up the service network to cut down maternal deaths.

The application involves ringing a toll-free number to connect to a network official who links the call to free emergency transport service providers for an ambulance if one is available, or a registered service provider linked to the network.

The driver is rapidly paid via the Vodacom mobile money transfer, with officials underlining a reduction of maternal mortality in the Lake Zone regions by 27-per cent over the past three months where this application was being used in a trial phase.

The minister, Nape Nnauye said information and communication technology presently contributes about five.6per cent in the gross domestic product (GDP), knotting that the scheduled Data Privacy Act will facilitate security of the internet for users.

Health minister Umyy Mwalimu said the mobile service provider was

preparing a roll out of the networking application to cover 14 regions, with universal coverage expected to involve other stakeholders, officials indicated.

Festo Ndugane, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) said this maternity transport initiative first touched a few districts in Shinyanga Region and was later scaled up in the whole region.

Sitholizwe Mdlalose, the firm's chief executive, said the company was committed to ensure no one remains behind in rural internet connectivity and in obtaining the services that connectivity facilitates.

He said currently seven million people can now pay bills and other services through its mobile transfer platform, while in education the Vodacom foundation has connected 500 schools to the internet. It intends to reach out to 1,500 schools across the country by 2025, he stated

In agriculture around 350,000 famers are connected countrywide, with 63,000 being cotton farmers, he added.

Ministry discounts fears on fuel supply

FROM PAGE 1

need for panic as the oil importation system guarantees fuel supplies for a long time.

At the start of this month there was a 118,594,024 litres petrol tonnage in fuel reserves catering for 27 days, along with 116,486,705 litres of diesel enough for 19 days. About 6,823,710 litres of kerosene to last for 108 days was also in reserve, plus jet fuel tonnage of 12,841,822 litres lasting for 35 days, he explained.

Docking ships arriving at the port of Dar es Salaam disposed of 86,256,000 litres of diesel, which, put alongside the tonnage available at the start of this month, makes the country have 202,742,705 litres of diesel enough for 33 days.

There was also 71,385,300 litres of petrol on recently docking ships, enabling a tonnage of 189,979,324 litres, enough for 37 days.

On the basis of completed bids, fuel will continue to be received until June, expected to meet the country's needs until the end of July, while monthly tenders are underway with the next tender slated for the end of this month, the minister indicated.

Fuel prices in the global market in the one year period to February 2022, has seen rises of 62 per cent to 64per cent for petrol and diesel respectively. Petrol was sold at \$561.74 per tonne earlier and rose to \$911.94, a 62 percent rise, while diesel earlier sold at \$503.73 per tonne, rising to \$826.14 per tonne in February 2022, an increase of 64 percent.

Kerosene sold at \$504.21 per tonne early last year, rising to \$826.35 per tonne a year later, a 64 percent increase.

The ongoing Russo-Ukraine war was a major cause to the rapid rise in world market oil prices as Europe and the United States imposed sanctions on Russia, ordinarily accounting for about 10 percent of oil on sale globally.

Oil prices began to rise in January 2022 with visible risks of war and supply disruptions, intensifying when the war began, he explained.

Orlando da Costa, the chairman of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC) said the country has enough fuel and there was nothing to worry about in that regard. The current fuel price was still low compared to price rises in neighboring countries, he added.

Dr Mwinyi commends CBE on setting up of college campus

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended the College of Business Education (CBE) initiative to build a campus in Isles, saying the move will greatly assist students who were forced to pursue such education in Tanzania mainland.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks today at the State House in Zanzibar when he held talks with the leadership of the College of Business Education (CBE) board chairman Prof. Wineaster Sania Anderson.

He said that his government is ready to offer greater cooperation in ensuring that the college builds its campus in Zanzibar as the decision is good and requires cooperation.

Dr Mwinyi commended the college's commitment to training even Form Two graduates who have failed to pursue higher education, stressing:

"The move of educating these young people to pursue higher education are among the goals and strategies set by the government."

According to him, the government is developing its strategies to strengthen vocational college education to ensure that young people who fail to pursue higher education also receive life skills education in those colleges in Zanzibar.

Earlier, Prof Anderson said the CBE process to find a site for the construction of the college has been done and commended the good cooperation they have received from Zanzibar government.

He also stated that the steps to be taken by the leadership through the United Republic of Tanzania in its budget on the process of starting the construction which will be in three phases and are expected to cost 10.12bn/-.

Govt to employ 32,000 teachers, health workers

FROM PAGE 1

explanation on government plans to allocate staff to health facilities in Kakonko District, Kigoma Region.

He said the government was aware of the shortage of staff in various sectors including health and education, with plans underway to employ new servants in the two sectors following

the construction of a number of health facilities and schools.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the government employed 2,726 new staff in various cadres in the health sector, with Kakonko district being allocated 24 servants for various health centers.

So far, around 7,600 health workers have been employed in the 2021/2022 financial year, he added.



Mbarali District Commissioner in Mbeya Region Reuben Mfune launches residential post codes at Relini Street yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Guardian Reporter

Rostam Aziz becomes new owner of TIGO and ZANTEL

A CONSORTIUM led by Rostam Aziz and Axian Telecom has closed the acquisition of Millicom's merged entity MIC Tanzania Public Limited Company (Tigo and Zantel).

The transaction brings approximately 14 million mobile customers to Axian Telecom and accelerates the development of the group in Africa which now operates in eight markets.

Axian Telecom consortium's ambitious growth plan includes significant investment in Tanzania over the next five years to strengthen the network coverage and quality of service of the merged entity MIC Tanzania plc.

"With the acquisition of MIC Tanzania plc, Axian Telecom begins a new chapter in the United Republic of Tanzania. We're delighted to start this exciting journey with our colleagues here and I believe together we will achieve great things and contribute to shaping the digital future of the country. We express our gratitude to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary government of Zanzibar for helping us bring this transaction home, and look forward to continuing to work alongside them," said Hassanein Hiridjee, Axian Telecom chairman.

The Axian Telecom consortium has set four key priorities in Tanzania, which include support the digital transformation of the country with the deployment of cutting-edge technologies and services benefiting Tanzanian consumers and businesses alike.

The consortium has access to major

backbones and submarine cables in the region that will bring about faster connections between Tanzanians and elsewhere and extend access to affordable mobile services and drive digital inclusion through significant investment in telecom infrastructure.

The consortium plans to provide Tanzanian customers with improved network coverage and quality, notably via 4G network.

It also intend to accelerate financial inclusion, capitalizing on the success of the merged entity's mobile financial services to further develop bespoke services that meet Tanzanian customers' needs.

The consortium will also ensure the merged entity benefits from its expertise in delivering world-class mobile financial services in other countries as well as develop and nurture talent.

The consortium intends to foster employees' career development and establish a strong focus on mobility, agility, and training and shared knowledge for the employees of the merged entity MIC Tanzania plc.

The consortium consists of Axian Telecom and Rostam Aziz, the well-known businessman and entrepreneur who has a lifelong career in telecommunications and played a key role in the development of the telecom sector in Tanzania.

Aziz, as incoming chairman of MIC Tanzania plc, is expected to provide valuable strategic guidance and stewardship to the company and the

wider telecommunications ecosystem in Tanzania.

"When we began our telecoms adventure more than twenty years ago, the issue was connectivity. We were pioneers in building mobile coverage, especially in rural areas, that so many of my fellow Tanzanians now enjoy.

Looking forward together with Axian Telecom, we will push the boundaries of digital inclusion while zooming in on specific customer solutions for Tanzanian people and businesses," said Rostam Aziz, chairman MIC Tanzania plc.

Axian Telecom's hugely successful bond issue, completed in February 2022, marks the first-time use of an escrow structure for a private company operating in Africa and reflects Tanzania's reputation as an investment destination of choice. The bond's success sends a clear signal to all markets that international investors are open to investment opportunities in Tanzania and more broadly in Africa. Axian Telecom is unlocking new pathways for the continent's private sector to mobilize investments that improve the everyday lives of the communities it serves.

Leveraging on its expertise notably in deploying state of the art technologies such as 5G networks and developing successful mobile financial services, AXIAN Telecom ambitions to energize the telecommunications ecosystem in Tanzania with a focus on ensuring a better experience for the customers.

'Tanzania's export of raw hides, skins has increased'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

TANZANIA'S export of raw hides and skins has increased from 513,201 kilogrammes in 2015/2016 to 7,370,533 kilos in 2020/2021, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said the government has taken measures to

encourage value addition and attract local and foreign investors in the leather industry.

Ulega was responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Halima Mdee (CHADEMA) who was concerned that stakeholders in the leather sector have been complaining over high export levies.

The legislator wanted to know the

government plans to provide relief to exporters of raw hides and skins because most of the factories have been closed.

The deputy minister said decisions to impose the 80 per cent export levy on n raw hides and skins and 10 per cent on wet blue exports was meant to encourage value addition by local industries.

"Countries within the East African Community (EAC) agreed to impose the export levies to protect local firms and enhance productivity in the leather industry. The decision was meant to ensure reliable availability of raw materials to local factories manufacturing leather products," said Ulega.

The 80 per cent export levy on the

products is equivalent to US \$ 0.52 per kilogramme, stated Ulega, adding that there are no levies charged on finished leather exported to various countries.

He however said that most of the produced raw hides and skins are exported to different countries including Nigeria and Ghana. He said efforts are ongoing to ensure collection

of raw hides and skins produced in rural areas.

Data from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries indicates that Tanzania has 33.4 million cattle, 21.3 million goats and 5.65 million sheep, more than 1.85 million pigs, 47.4 million indigenous poultry and other non-conventional species such as donkeys and rabbits.








GRANTS FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF COVID-19-RELEVANT MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany are jointly supporting the "COVID-19-relevant Medical and Pharmaceutical Products" (CMPP) Component.

The CMPP Component is now calling for project proposals from private companies, state-owned companies and institutions (including universities and research centres) located in the SADC region. These project proposals shall increase local production capacity of affordable and innovative COVID-19 relevant medical and pharmaceutical products. Specifically for this call, these project proposals shall focus on any of the following: (i) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccine administration (e.g. syringes, needles, plasters, gloves); (ii) items relevant for COVID-19 vaccination management (e.g. cold chain equipment, dry ice, vaccine carriers, deep freezers, vaccination monitoring tools); and (iii) items relevant for COVID-19 clinical management (antivirals such as molnupiravir, COVID-19 tests, dexamethasone, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flasks, nasal cannula; (iv) items/machinery relevant for COVID-19 vaccine production (e.g. production machinery, adjuvants, stabilisers, preservatives, vials, stoppers, packaging). The CMPP Component will allocate grants ranging from EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000 to selected eligible proposals. Eligible companies and institutions are expected to finance at least 25% of the project's total costs and to complete the project within twelve months, which must be reflected in the proposal. The detailed call for proposal, which has a link to the application form, can be found on the SADC website: <https://tinyurl.com/SADCSIPSCall2>. The submission of applications deadline is 25th of April 2022 18:00hrs (Botswana time).


CMPP Component is part of the joint action "Support towards Industrialization and the Productive Sectors in the SADC region (SIPS)." It is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by the SADC Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



COMMEMORATION





07 April 2022

THE LATE SHEIKH ABEID AMANI KARUME

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) join Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council, and Tanzanians in commemorating **50** years of the First President of Zanzibar **The Late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume.**

Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania

tcra_tanzania

TCB offers Mbagala residents 7.2billion/- in a year, says CEO

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Commercial Bank (TCB) Mbagala's branch has recorded a robust performance in its one year of operations that had greatly supported the bank's zeal for inclusive finance and serving underserved market segments.

Speaking at the official launch yesterday at Rangi Tatu in Chalambe Ward in Dar es Salaam, acting Chief Executive Officer Moses Manyatta said major operational milestones of the outlet had included extending loans worth 7.2bn/-.

Manyatta told the event's chief guest, who was Temeke District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo that the financial inclusion investment had directly benefited thousands of residents in the area, including 564 borrowers.

"Since its opening in January last year, the TCB Mbagala branch had performed superbly and posted robust growth that had included mobilisation of 4bn/- in customers' deposits," he said.

According to him, another notable achievement of the branch has been recording one of TCB's lowest non-performing loans (NPLs) ratios of less than one per cent.

"The good thing about Mbagala borrowers is timely repayment of loans, which they do promptly at over 99 per cent and make them eligible for more TCB lending," Manyatta pointed out.

He told DC Jokate after she inaugurated the newest outlet in the TCB stable that they have now upped presence in Dar es Salaam to 20 branches of which eight are in Temeke District.

The bank now boasts of an extensive network of 85 branches across the country, which makes it one of the most highly competitive banks in the market. These are supported by over 3,000 agents and more than 80 ATMs, including the 300 that belongs to the 20 Umoja Switch banks.

Manyatta said the government's

decision to consolidate the bank's operations by merging it with other state owned lenders to form a national commercial bank has paid off handsomely.

"The consolidation has made us one of the biggest banks in the country in terms of growth and profitability. The size of our balance sheet topped 1.2trn/- in total assets last year and we were number five in profit making among the 55 banks doing business in Tanzania," Manyatta said.

"In 2021, TCB's profit before tax was 19.4bn/- whereas the loans we extended to various borrowers amounted to 718bn/- with total deposits reaching about 850bn/-," he added.

DC Jokate lauded the bank for championing financial inclusion for all saying it was in line with the government's aspiration to make life better for all through affordable banking services and innovative solutions like the Tabasamu account for women.

She said the official launching of the branch should spur growth of commercial and other economic activities in Mbagala. According to her, the development accords residents in the area the opportunity to prosper individually and meaningfully contribute to national development efforts.

"The government will do all it takes to support TCB deliver accordingly in Mbagala but you should also ensure your services are readily available and you educate people on financial matters. Most importantly, TCB should consider the issue of high interest rates as well as think of coming up with innovative solution packages that take into account local fiscal and market conditions," the DC emphasized.

"The good thing about Mbagala borrowers is timely repayment of loans, which they do promptly at over 99 per cent and make them eligible for more TCB lending"



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (L) talks with International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions Operations Director Helle Englund Krarup. The discussion centred on how ICARS will facilitate projects to reduce the use of pesticides in poultry keeping in the country held in Dodoma recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) announcement of new fuel prices, Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC) has stated that the price for imported oil has increased by more than 40 per cent.

TAOMAC further said there has been shortage in obtaining oil for importing into the country from Gulf countries from where Tanzania buys its oil.

The remarks were made yesterday by TAOMAC managing director, Raphael Mgaya, in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on the fuel station in Tanzania.

Mgaya said since February 24 this year, when Russia invaded Ukraine,

TAOMAC: Fuel price rise due to oil shortage from Gulf countries

prices for oil imports had skyrocketed to more than 40 per cent, which had necessitated fuel prices to go up in the country.

"European countries that used to depend on Russia's fuel imports now compete with us to obtain oil from Gulf countries," he added.

He added that the situation has contributed to shortages of imported oil as Tanzania has to queue with European nations for the Gulf oil.

He added that the issue of oil price rise in Tanzania did not begin today, it began in July 2020 following the eruption of COVID-19 pandemic

and the Russo-Ukrainian war has exacerbated the situation.

"Our members order more than 65 per cent of the fuel and we have had discussions with government to make sure the companies continue to distribute oil and they have been incurring losses in doing so" said TAOMAC boss.

On Tuesday, EWURA's director general Gerald Maganga announced that beginning April 6, this year the prices for petrol imported via the port of Dar es Salaam will be 2,861/- per litre from 2,540/-, an increase of 321/-.

In regard to diesel the new price is 2,692/- up from 2,403/- per litre, an increase of 289/-. Kerosene has gone up from 2,403/- to 2,682/- an increase of 474/-.

Maganga said for the fuel imported via the port of Tanga the price will now be 2,848/- for petrol and 2,779/- for diesel, an increase of 285/- and 295/- per litre respectively.

He said for the fuel imported via Mtwara port, the new prices for will be 2,678/- and 2,811/- for petrol and diesel respectively.

He said this represents an increase of 100/- and 281 respectively.

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has called on African governments and civil society organisations to continue to work together to strengthen health systems resilience so as to fight and reduce the burden of non-communicable and infectious diseases.

WHO regional director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti made the call in a statement to commemorate the World Health Day.

She noted that NCDs are set to overtake communicable diseases, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional conditions combined, to become the leading cause of death by 2030.

Dr Moeti said governments, civil society, nongovernment organizations and communities need to work together, empowering one another to ensure the continued delivery of essential health services during future extreme events, while containing the growing incidence of environment- and lifestyle-related diseases.

"COVID-19, along with spiraling obesity, diabetes and hypertension rates, compounds the challenge,

WHO urges African govts, CSOs to team up to reinforce health systems

highlighting the urgency of a multi-sectoral response," she noted.

Dr Moeti said climate change is manifesting in increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent and severe extreme weather conditions. WHO estimates that more than 13 million annual deaths globally are due to avoidable environmental causes, including the climate crisis.

"With direct consequences for the key determinants of health, climate change is negatively impacting air and water quality, food security, and human habitat and shelter. The knock-on effect for the burden of heart and lung disease, stroke and cancer, among others, is evident from statistics that point to NCDs representing a growing proportion of Africa's disease burden," she noted.

She further noted that during the past two decades, most public health events have been climate-related, whether they were vector- or water-borne, transmitted from animals

to humans, or the result of natural disasters. For example, diarrhoea diseases are the third leading cause of disease and death in children younger than five in Africa, a significant proportion of which is preventable through safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation and hygiene.

However, one in every three Africans faces water scarcity, while about 400 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa alone lack basic access to drinking water. About 45 percent of all child deaths are also associated with malnutrition, which is known to be linked to diarrhoea.

In 2018, African health and environment ministers endorsed the 10-year Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, signed in 2008. This is a WHO-supported framework aimed at promoting government investment in addressing environmental problems that impact human health - such as air pollution, contamination of water sources, and ecosystem damage.



INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER FOR STAFF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the **HOLCIM** Group with its industrial operations based in Plot No.1 Songwe Industrial Area, Mbeya. **MCCL** now invites **SEALED BIDS** from eligible tenderers to provide **STAFF TRANSPORT SERVICE** to its sites. Eligible Bidders are required to submit 1- ORIGINAL bid document, properly enclosed in one sealed envelope marked **TENDER FOR PROVISION OF STAFF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE** and physically delivered to below address:

**TENDER COMMITTEE,
MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED,
PLOT NO 1, SONGWE INDUSTRIAL AREA
P.O. BOX 529, MBEYA,
TANZANIA
TEL: +255767737382**

At **MBEYA CEMENT CO LTD's RECEPTION** located in Mbeya as indicated in the above address.

Kindly request electronic Tender Documents via mcc.tender@lafarge.com, with subject **REQUEST FOR TENDER DOCUMENTS – STAFF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE**. All bidders are required to PAY Tender Fee amounting TZS 100,000/= to one of below bank account and copy of Original pay slip has to be attached when requesting tender document.

ACCOUNT NAME: MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

1. Stanbic Bank - Account no. 0140015051101
2. CRDB Bank - Account no. 0150065139500
3. NMB Bank - Account no. 62510014746

Payment Slip has to be sent to: mcc.tender@lafarge.com when requesting for tender documents.

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSION: 21st APRIL 2022, 04H00 PM.



Karume Institute of Science and Technology Zanzibar (KIST) student Simni Mbarouk (L) briefs science and innovation competition coordinators about irrigation system that operates for 12 hours using soil moisture levels in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



Mtwara District Commissioner Dunstan Kyobya (3rd R) and other officials receive a donation of cement bags from NBC branch manager Editha Mwakatobe (C) for Kambage primary school rehabilitation over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

COSTECH ensures country benefits more from science and technology

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has come up with a strategy for increasing the country's benefits in the areas of science, science technology and innovation.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently at a training to assess the media's position in the production and circulation of news on science, technology and innovation COSTECH acting director general, Dr Bugwesa Katala said the Commission aims to produce and circulate many more documents regarding achievements in various projects implemented in the country in order for the people to understand about great work being done for the national development.

He said COSTECH is a public institution and its main responsibility is to advise the government as well as to coordinate and develop science, technology and innovation in the country by preparing research agendas and other documents on how to provide guidance to researches and innovations in the country.

"We are here today to make sure we continue with the responsibility in circulating information on science, technology and innovation.

"Also the Commission has four directorates - the directorate of research development, directorate of knowledge management, the directorate for institutions services and the directorate for technology integration," he said.

Dr Bugwesa said that the Commission has sections that assist in the implementation of its activities, one of them being the National Fund for

Science and Technology (MTUSATE) whose main job is to sponsor research projects and innovations.

Acting Editor of HabariLeo newspaper, Mgaya Kingoba praised COSTECH for organising the training for editors as it has empowered them in understanding COSTECH's activities and added that it is an important stakeholder with great contribution to ensure the news is circulated without any problems.

For her part, Shinuna said, TBC News Editor also praised COSTECH, adding that, the training are more beneficial as it will enable the circulation in an easy language.

Before closure of the training, Dr Bugwesaid the training was organised by COSTECH through its Directorate of Knowledge Management (DKM) so as to come up with an inclusive strategy that will assist to enhance cooperation among themselves.



We are here today to make sure we continue with the responsibility in circulating information on science, technology and innovation

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Iringa DC and MC execute projects worth 93bn/- after Samia's one-year

IRINGA District Council and Iringa Municipal Council have implemented projects worth 93bn/- during the President Samia Suluhu Hassan's one-year in office.

District Commissioner Mohammed Moyo revealed when he met and held talks with elders and religious leaders from the district aimed at explaining to them the successes achieved during the period.

He said during the period the government has been able to provide more funds for the improvement of various services to the people of Iringa.

DC Moyo explained that the funds are aimed at improving services in the health, education, roads, water,

electricity, transportation, abattoir, Iringa Airport (formerly Nduli), Iringa DC headquarters as well as other funding in the community development sector.

He explained that in the health sector the successes include construction of hospitals, health centers and clinics, the education sector (primary and secondary) construction of classrooms and offices, teachers' houses and toilets, and the community development sector ten percent loan for women, youth and special needs groups.

Other sectors are water, construction of water infrastructure to provide services to the people, electricity (regional) construction of electricity infrastructure to provide electricity to citizens, business sector, construction of makeshift bandas of petty traders (machingas), transportation, completion of passenger building in Igumbilo bus stand.

Other construction activities include the construction of a modern Ngelewala abattoir (Iringa Municipality), the construction of the Iringa DC district

office, the road sector, the construction of bridges, culverts, roads, canals and the rehabilitation of rough road areas.

Speaking during a surprise visit to several markets in Iringa Municipality including the Central Market (Soko kuu) in Iringa, the Mashine Tatu Market and the new state-of-the-art Mlandege Market, DC Moyo noted that many traders have increased prices for their food products including cassava, potatoes and other foods popularly known as 'fitari' that are used during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Dr Mwinyi: Commemoration of Abeid Karume is opportunity to take leaf from Zanzibar history

By Guardian Reporter

THE procedure for organising a forum for the commemoration of the first President of Zanzibar and chairman of the Revolutionary Council the late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume is an opportunity to learn history, wisdom and patriotism of the Zanzibar Revolution's founder so that the present generation should be able to mobilise to volunteer for the country's development, like he did.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi made the remarks here yesterday in his speech while launching the Fourth Forum for Zanzibar's First President, late Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume at Mwalimu Nyerere University, Karume Campus at Bububu in Unguja.

Dr Mwinyi said 50 years have gone by since his death but from his great contribution to the development of Zanzibar and Tanzania in general, he will continue to be held in high esteem and remembered eternally as well as adhering to his vision. "We pray for him, May God provide for him a good place in Heaven and all other founders of the Revolution of January 12, 1964 that had brought liberty to Zanzibaris and the beginning of a long journey to development," said Dr Mwinyi.

He said late Sheikh Karume will continue to be remembered from his efforts, his philosophy and placed his revolution visions in deeds that "left a good heritage of patriotism especially to the youth who are the real builders of this nation."

Dr Mwinyi also used the occasion to praise the leadership and staff of the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial University for seeing the importance in organizing the forum in the commemoration of Sheikh Karume.

Dr Mwinyi also called on all forum participants to be attentive in listening and ultimately to contribute to the debate.

He also praised the University for seeing the importance to involve students in the issue including essays writing on the late Sheikh Karume. "Through this forum we will get time to remind ourselves about the philosophy and wisdom of our former leaders and pass them on to our youth who are tomorrow's depended labour force," he added.

For his part, the minister of State in the President's Office, Jamal Kassim Ali, on behalf of the Minister for Education and Vocational Training said that the time has come for having the memorabilia of the late Sheikh Karume that can be able to provide a wide interpretation of his life.

Earlier, the chairman of Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial University Board, Stephen Wassira said the university intends to prepare youth to become leaders, whose main aim is to provide education.

The University's Chancellor, Prof Shadrack Mwakalila used the occasion to provide the university's history since it was established on July 28 1961 and ultimately to be handed back to the government and for Zanzibar it began with 25 students in 2015 but now it has more than 2,300 students in various programmes.

Dr Nchemba calls upon stakeholders to unveil plans to boost dairy sector

By Guardian Reporter

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Finance and Planning minister has appealed to stakeholders in the country's livestock sector to help the government realise its aims in strengthening meat and dairy production for the country's economic growth.

Dr Nchemba made the appeal in Dodoma early this week when he met with the Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Mashimba Ndaki, experts from Finance and Planning and Livestock and Fisheries ministries as well as private meat and milk producers in

the country.

Dr Nchemba stressed that the livestock sector will contribute in increasing people's incomes, especially the youth, but also for producing meat and dairy products to be sold locally and for export.

He called upon the stakeholders to become teachers by leading and teaching the youth on quality livestock production for meat and milk as they have market networks, hence it would be easier for livestock keepers to access areas to sell their products.

The minister also called on the youth and stakeholders to grab opportunities obtained

in the farming, livestock and fishing sectors for employment instead of leaving the important sectors to elders alone and pledged that the government is ready to assist them to access to capital.




For his part, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, Mashimba Ndaki assured stakeholders who own meat and milk processing plants that the government is ready to work together with them to strengthen the livestock sector for the benefit of the country.

He said funds will be increased in the 2022.23 Budget for his ministry that will be directed to areas ready to increase

production to increase employment for the youth as well as producing goods for export.

For their part, livestock stakeholders who participated in the meeting advised the government to strengthen the livestock sector by investing in issues of priorities including animals breeding, strengthening of extension services, livestock health and the construction of infrastructures for livestock processing as well as finding reliable markets.

They also appealed to the government to review on levies and taxes for the livestock sector by reducing them to spur production in the sector to compete in the markets.

50TH

ANNIVERSARY OF LATE SHEIKH ABIED AMANI KARUME

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tanzania Commercial Bank join the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency, **Samia Suluhu Hassan** and President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency, **Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** and all Tanzanians to commemorate 50th death anniversary of the first President of Zanzibar, the late **Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume**.

Head office. PSSF Millenium Towers 2 , Bagamoyo Road , P.O.Box 9300, Dar es salaam Tanzania

Calls Center :
+255 787 669 977
+255 788 767 683
+255 658 767 683

Email Us:
info@tcbbank.co.tz,
callcentre@tcbbank.co.tz
Website: www.tcbbank.co.tz

@tanzaniacommercialbank

KJF in partnership with READ Tanzania launch new fully equipped library worth 13m/- at Makumbusho secondary school

By Guardian Reporter

THE Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) in partnership with READ Tanzania has launched a new fully equipped library worth 13m/- at Makumbusho secondary school, Kinondoni district in Dar es Salaam region.

The library is stocked with a total of 432 locally published books aimed to benefit the 1868 students currently at the school and those to come over the years.

READ Tanzania's executive director, Magdalena George said in a statement yesterday that: "KJF through READ, supports schools with libraries, ICT equipment and soft skills with the intention to empower both students and teachers to improve reading literacy and contribute to schools' performance. We are thankful for this partnership and look forward to making a positive impact together."

She said the organisation's core zeal is to support the government's efforts towards enabling provision of quality education in the country which include improving the learning environment in schools.

"READ Tanzania believes that the joy of reading should be for everyone, by creating a space that captures young people's imaginations and fosters a love of books. We work with Tanzanian volunteers from local universities to create safe, inspiring libraries in secondary schools across the country," she noted.

George added: "With support from KJF and stakeholders in the past seven years, a total of 63,582 books have been distributed to schools across Tanzania, 66 schools have received books, and 19 new libraries have been set up. A total of 43,978 secondary students have benefited in the following critical ways."

She said the organisation has also been empowering students in schools through READ literacy programmes, so they are able to fulfill their potential and future prospects.

"We have also enabled students to become independent readers, improving their self-esteem and self-confidence, through reading clubs as well as improved the student's language transition, who are beginning

to use Swahili and English by engaging in different reading activities such as buddy reading, reading games and quizzes," she explained.

Abdul Maulid, Dar es Salaam regional educational officer thanked KJF and READ Tanzania for supporting the school with an innovative library.

"We are so impressed with these supportive efforts. This renovation will help our students here to study comfortably in their extra time but also during practical and thus perform well in class and national exams," he said.

Yusuf Karimjee, the chairman of Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation said: "It has been so refreshing working with the READ Tanzania team at large. Their continuous drive and commitment towards helping young Tanzanians get better access to educational resources has been fundamental to our success, and they do so with so much enthusiasm and great energy which has certainly rubbed off on the KJF team. We look forward to more incredible milestones with them."

In addition to the above, KJF also provides educational scholarships, empowers reading and learning, supports local communities and healthcare infrastructure, advocates gender equality, promotes science, technology and social entrepreneurship and fosters wildlife conservation.



We are so impressed with these supportive efforts, This renovation will help our students here to study comfortably in their extra time but also during practical and thus perform well in class and national exams



Vicent Ibrahim a farmer from Kwedigole village at Kwediboma Ward in Kilindi District, Tanga Region demonstrates to fellow villagers after herders destroyed his crops. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A SPECIAL committee made up of 60 representatives from Sale, Loliondo, and Ngorongoro divisions has been formed to address the long-term land conflict in the precincts.

An official statement from the chairperson of traditional elders in Ngorongoro district, Metui Ole Shaudo, said that the committee involves all groups including, the elderly, women groups, the youth, pastoralists, and members of the local business community.

Also in the team are ward councilors, scholars, and other residents in the area.

"The committee was formed under supervision of the Ngorongoro district officials as well as the area Member of Parliament Emmanuel Lekishoni and community leaders," stated Ole

New team formed to address ongoing Maasai land conflict

Shaudo.

According to the statement, this time the new committee only wants to come up with a lasting solution to the ongoing controversies, especially the issue of the contested 1500 square kilometers of land mapped within Sale and Loliondo hills.

Among the tasks that the committee is supposed to be undertaking is collecting ideas, suggestions, and other contributions from all residents regarding the proper ways of solving conflicts and addressing controversies in Sale and Loliondo divisions.

The committee will also tackle

the issue of Ngorongoro Division in which the Conservation Area Authority is mapped and recent conflicts regarding displacement of native residents arose.

Many of the problems affecting residents of Ngorongoro, which is the largest district in Arusha Region, are related to land, water sources and Human-Wildlife conflicts, investors' invading areas belonging to native residents and some cultural clashes.

Many residents of Loliondo and Ngorongoro divisions are natives of the Serengeti.

They were forced to vacate from their original residences when the colonial government converted the Serengeti plains into a National Park back in the year 1958.

The mostly Maasai residents were relocated to the place which is now known as Loliondo Game Controlled Area and Ngorongoro Conservation Area under official agreement and contracts.

But even in their new settlements, the nomadic pastoralists have been facing invasion from aliens and threats of losing their lands, cattle and settlements.

Four million primary school pupils set to benefit from UK programme

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a,

Kibaha

AT least four million primary school pupils are set to benefit from UK programme dubbed; 'Shule Bora' aimed at improving quality, inclusiveness and safety learning for all.

The programme to be implemented from 2021 to 2027 is worth Euro 89 million (27bn/-) and will benefit nine regions across the country with technical assistance from Cambridge Education in partnership with Plan International, ADD International and International Rescue Committee.

Speaking at the launching ceremony earlier this week at Mkoani Primary School in Kibaha-Coast region Minister for Education, Science and Technology Adolf Mkenda said the investment intends to increase quality learning for all children including those with special educational needs and other challenges.

"This programme focuses on some issues including improving teaching by empowering teachers to create productive learning environment; every child can access schools that appropriate for their learning needs especially girls, children with disabilities and those living in deprived areas," said Mkenda.

He said the Shule Bora programme reflects the government intention to improve education.

According to him, reform and innovation will be tried and evaluated at local level and where appropriate proven best practices can be adopted across all primary schools in Dodoma, Katavi, Kigoma, Mara, Coast, Rukwa, Simiyu, Singida and Tanga region.

Vicky Ford, the UK's minister for Adrica, Latin America and Caribbean said: "Learning is a key to good life and to everything" she said. The launched

programme is the start of new phase in education between Tanzania and UK as a partnership which stands for 60 years since Independence.

This programme will address some of the greatest challenges facing schools, teachers and pupils."

The UK minister said Shule Bora will develop targeted, innovative activities to test, adapt and implement at scale quality, gender-transformative, disability-inclusive and safe to learn education approaches.

However, Mkoani Primary School Headteacher Ester Richard said her school has 35 pupils out of 885 pupils with special educational needs, including physical disabilities, mental disabilities, hearing impairments, visual and albinism some of these are severe disabilities that require close teaching and care.

"We're facing cross-cutting challenges that hinder the school and pupils from achieve intended education performance, it is our hope that through Shule Bora programme will assist in training more teachers on inclusion and will enable to have adequate strategies to identify children with learning difficulties," insisted head-teacher.



This programme will address some of the greatest challenges facing schools, teachers and pupils



Eden Twins Foundation chairperson Diana Mbena (R) presents a donation of food stuffs and other items to Selina Massawe (L) at Kinyerezi Kichangani in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Kagera

Dr Doto Biteko, Minerals minister has said the Minerals Inspection Committee of International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has a big responsibility in ensuring that minerals mined from member states spur peace in the region and not conflicts.

Dr Biteko made the observation Monday this week when opening the 20th conference of minerals inspection committee of International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) hosted by Tanzania in Bukoba, Kagera region.

"We want to see these minerals contribute in the enhancement of

Dr Biteko: Minerals from the Great Lakes region should enhance peace

peace in the Great Lakes region, not war and conflicts," he said.

ICGLR is made up of 12 countries including Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, DRC Congo, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

He stressed that Tanzania as the ICGLR member state will continue to make sure minerals mined in our countries do not sponsor crimes.

He explained that the conference is in fact a minerals follow up committee

for minerals produced in the Great Lake region whereby it has the responsibility to make follow ups so that the minerals from the areas they are mined to benefit the country of origin and enhance peace.

In regard to the committee's importance, he said tin mined in Kyerwa and other areas to be sold to foreign markets should have a certificate of authenticity of the place of origin.

He said if they do not have the document, they cannot penetrate the

foreign markets. On the other hand, Dr Biteko said, the conference is important to Tanzania especially to miners and stressed on them to conduct their activities by adhering to the laws and set procedures.

For his part, the ICGLR minerals inspection committee chairman, Fr, Dr David Luhaka said the conference aims in bringing together minerals inspectors from member states to discuss various issues that arise and needing elaboration.

TCJE to spend 84bn/- in next fiscal year to import tobacco farm inputs

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

Tanzania Cooperative Joint Enterprise Limited (TCJE) is set to spend \$36million (84bn/-) for the year 2022/2023 to import agricultural inputs for tobacco growers in the country.

In the past, importation of the tobacco farm inputs, and market sourcing was done by the Tanzania Tobacco Cooperative Apex Ltd (TTCA).

TCJE vice chairman, Hamis Majogoro said that the formation of the coalition was due to the government's view of shortcomings in farmers after APEX's absence.

He said that the TCJE started operating during the agricultural season last year and added that in the 2022/2023 season it will officially start being used in the cultivation of tobacco crops.

Majogoro who is also the chairman of Kahama Cooperative Union Ltd (KACU 1995) said tobacco growers should expect successes from the association and that the price of the crop will not

be as stable as it was before.

He said that initially the company was competing in the supply of inputs to farmers, but in the meantime the situation will be different as the association will be importing agricultural inputs directly from the factory which will bring discount prices to farmers.

He further said that farmers will get fertiliser on time and at fixed prices that will be as stable as before and make tobacco growers to cultivate productive agriculture.

"We, as TCJE, have already secured warehouses for storing fertilizers in Dar es Salaam and have already paid for them to store the imported fertilizers," said Majogoro.

He said the merger would be importing fertiliser from the factory at the same time which would make it easier to get the load at a lower price than it was for small importers.

Commenting on the cotton, the vice-chairman said that in this agricultural season 2021/2022 KACU, will buy the crop in the three councils of Kahama

District, noting: "If there were any shortcomings in the purchase of cotton, they would be forced to buy in various parts of the country, but in this season farmers will have a good harvest and that farmers should be prepared to receive good prices."

TTCA is a national tobacco farmers' cooperative organization that was established and registered in June 1994 under the Cooperative Societies Act no.15 of 1991 with registration No 5497.

TTCA members were Songea Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Union Ltd (SAMCU), Western Zone Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union 1994 Ltd (WETCU), Kahama Cooperative Union Ltd (KACU 1995), Central Zone Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union 1995 Ltd (CETCU), Lake Tanganyika Tobacco and Coffee Cooperative Union 1995 Ltd (LATCU) Chunya Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union 2001 Ltd (CHUTCU), Kigoma Tobacco Cooperative Union Ltd (KTUCU) and Iringa Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Joint Enterprises Limited (ITCOJE).



Temeke District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (R) receives Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) customer card from the bank's acting Chief Executive Officer Moses Manyatta during the official launch of the TCB's Mbagala branch at Rangi Tatu Chalambe in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

Longido district herders told to stop using land customarily

LONGIDO district council chairperson in Arusha region, Simon Oitesoi has called on residents in the district to stop using land habitually, and instead they should have in place a procedure for formalizing part of their land to avert conflicts.

"I thank for the training we were given by Tanzania people and wildlife (TPW) but we must ask them to assist these 20 villages in formulating by-laws that will protect grazing areas," requested Oitesoi.

He said various projects implemented by stakeholders, the people of Longido will benefit if only they will agree to protect natural forests and wildlife environment, but

they will also benefit if the residents will improve their grazing areas for wildlife and livestock.

He also said both TPW and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have assisted in the supervision activities in the Lake Natron ecology, directing water from the forest to Matala residents. "They have refurbished the dam at Lesing'ita Village, in Mundarara Ward and constructed a new dam at Sinya ward in Enduiment division," he added.

He also called on all the people to work together with these stakeholders, by using experts from the council as

well as appealing to herders to stop shifting about in search of grazing for their animals.

Loshiro Alais, TPW grazing grounds project manager said the district depends on livestock by 95 per cent as it is the main source of income and economic growth for herders.

For his part, researcher and climate change expert, Alais Morindati said in many areas the national livestock policy requires herders to conduct their activities profitably y reducing their herds so as to fight the effects of climate change.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

SUA experts, ministry launch research on chicken vaccine

EXPERTS from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration their counterparts from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) have launched two projects for researching on alternative ways to treat chickens in order to control diseases and reduce the use of antibiotics that are unnecessary.

This was revealed here yesterday when experts from SUA and the Danish International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) met with the Deputy Livestock and Fisheries minister, Abdallah Ulega to explain to him on how the projects were being implemented in the country.

The projects' research leader from SUA, Prof Robinson Mdegela told the deputy minister that there have a big use of antibiotics in the poultry keeping as a way to fight chickens' diseases that involve poor vaccination methods and

non-adherence to modern poultry keeping resulting to many remnants of the drugs in the eggs and chicken meat.

"The effects in eating poultry products with these remnants include bacterial resistance as well as poultry keeper incurring great cost in buying drugs that could be avoided," said Prof Mdegela.

He added that due to these challenges experts from the ministry and SUA have come up with two documents on research projects on the possibility of employing cleanliness inside chicken pens and chicken vaccines as a way to control chicken disease and reduce the use of antibiotics.

For his part, the Deputy Livestock and Fisheries Minister Ulega praised the projects, saying they have come

at the right time whereby the ministry is in efforts of mobilising for modern poultry keeping to increase production that would ensure the country's food security.

He also thanked ICARS from Denmark for agreeing to sponsor the two projects for three years beginning May 2022 to May 2025 adding that the implementation of the projects will help in the reduction of effects to consumers from the use of the drugs as well as reduction to the poultry keepers operating costs.

ICARS director of operations, Helle Engslund Krarup thanked the government for allowing the two projects to be implemented in the country, saying they will make sure they are implemented with achievements.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Heritage Insurance Co

THE HERITAGE INSURANCE COMPANY TANZANIA LIMITED

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	2021 TShs'000	2020 TShs'000
Gross Premium Written	56,970,950	54,173,234
Insurance premium revenue	54,370,200	54,775,324
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(37,803,952)	(39,957,668)
Net insurance premium revenue	16,566,248	14,817,656
Investment income	2,759,189	2,391,482
Commission earned	5,690,844	6,419,599
Fair value (losses)/gains	(72,045)	83,597
Other income	178,368	51,493
Net income	25,320,863	23,763,827
Insurance claims	(27,131,259)	(6,761,711)
Insurance claims recovered from reinsurers	16,393,017	1,340,787
Net insurance claims	(10,738,242)	(5,420,924)
Operating expenses	(7,019,945)	(9,103,298)
Commission expense	(7,202,185)	(7,663,712)
Profit from operations	162,232	1,575,893
Finance cost	(13,879)	(29,110)
Profit before income tax	148,353	1,546,783
Income tax expense	(63,273)	(679,668)
Profit for the year	85,080	867,115
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	85,080	867,115

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021	2021 TShs'000	Restated 2020 TShs'000
ASSETS		
Property and equipment	398,264	713,681
Intangible assets	287,214	398,906
Equity investment at fair value through profit or loss (unquoted)	1,058,794	1,036,807
Deferred tax asset	1,269,577	778,199
Receivables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	2,447,874	3,137,035
Reinsurers' share of insurance liabilities	27,169,083	16,236,656
Deferred acquisition cost	2,248,282	2,051,648
Income tax recoverable	881,111	968,630
Other receivables*	1,893,842	2,108,226
Government securities at fair value through profit or loss	1,098,756	3,924,960
Government securities at amortised cost	487,383	-
Corporate bonds at fair value through profit or loss	-	153,101
Deposits with financial institutions	28,235,986	28,280,044
Cash and bank balances	3,118,236	2,034,106
Total assets	70,594,402	61,821,999
LIABILITIES		
Insurance contract liabilities	21,754,565	10,315,531
Unearned premiums and unexpired risk reserve	17,438,366	14,837,616
Lease liabilities	170,118	431,197
Creditors arising from direct insurance	256,300	333,393
Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements	8,720,791	7,923,703
Deferred acquisition income	2,007,903	1,636,726
Other payables*	4,362,740	10,545,294
Total liabilities	54,710,783	46,023,460
EQUITY		
Share capital	8,000,000	8,000,000
Contingency reserve	8,206,666	7,698,016
Retained earnings	(323,047)	100,523
Total equity	15,883,619	15,798,539
Total equity and liabilities	70,594,402	61,821,999

The financial statements on pages 19 to 77 were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 31st March 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

YOGESH M. MANEK CHAIRMAN
GODFREY KIOI DIRECTOR
MANASSEH KAWOLOKA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	Share Capital TShs'000	Contingency reserve TShs'000	Retained earnings TShs'000	Total TShs'000
Year ended 31 December 2021				
Balance at 1 January 2021	8,000,000	7,698,016	100,523	15,798,539
Total comprehensive income for the year				
Profit for the year	-	-	85,080	85,080
Other comprehensive income net of tax:	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year			85,080	85,080
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	508,650	(508,650)	-
Transactions with owners:				
Payment of dividend	-	-	-	-
Total transactions with owners		508,650	(508,650)	
Balance at 31 December 2021	8,000,000	8,206,666	(323,047)	15,883,619
Year ended 31 December 2020				
Balance at 1 January 2020	8,000,000	7,228,498	(297,074)	14,931,424
Total comprehensive income for the year				
Profit for the year	-	-	867,115	867,115
Other comprehensive income net of tax:	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year			867,115	867,115
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	469,518	(469,518)	-
Transactions with owners:				
Payment of dividend	-	-	-	-
Total transactions with owners		469,518	(469,518)	
Balance at 31 December 2020	8,000,000	7,698,016	100,523	15,798,539

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021	2021 TShs'000	Restated 2020 TShs'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from/(used in) operations	1,142,332	(3,431,893)
Tax paid	(467,132)	(972,837)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	675,200	(4,404,730)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of items of motor vehicles and equipment	(94,442)	(91,562)
Purchase of items of intangible assets	(14,071)	(18,565)
Proceeds from disposal of items of motor vehicles and equipment	-	7,415
Net cash used in investing activities	(108,513)	(102,712)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payment of lease liabilities	(308,219)	(303,573)
Dividends paid	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(308,219)	(303,573)
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	258,468	(4,811,015)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	15,770,127	20,581,142
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	16,028,595	15,770,127

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Stakeholders in consultative conference must grasp what government expects

DETAIL was the watchword as President Samia Suluhu Hassan officiated at the opening of a national consultative conference on justice and reconciliation involving numerous political actors in the capital on Tuesday, marred somewhat by the absence of the leading opposition party, and an allied group. There was all the same broad based representation among political parties, civic organizations and other stakeholders - apart from an array of regulatory agencies whose work the conference was pondering - for this to be an effective consultative exercise. Those who boycotted it said it was unlikely to register any instant results.

This criticism was largely justified in the sense that a number of preliminaries demanded by the main opposition party in particular had not been met. Still, compared to the situation even a few months back, there are plenty of encouraging developments, where - despite boycotting this consultative meeting - they have already given what looks like a principled position on conducting political activity in a positive way. It means abandoning constant insurrectionism and deal with obstacles to freedom soberly enough.

So the presence of otherwise of Chadema at the conference notwithstanding its public acknowledgement of what party leader Freeman Mbowe had agreed with President Samia after some frank discussion at the Magogoni State House - soon after he was freed from a potentially crippling court case relating to moves to foment unsavory events back towards the last general

elections. As they say, Rome wasn't built in a day, so the work of generating a minimum of trust between governing institutions and civic stakeholders including opposition parties is likely to take a while, as wheels move towards the next general elections.

Yet political observers should not deceive themselves that only more understanding is likely rather than less, as no one can predict what is the current trajectory, lying underneath the hustle and bustle of the political environment. It was evident from the fourth phase that convivial methods of governing with an occasional show of force was breaking down, as the political system was being overburdened with suspicions of graft and finally a nomination revolt. It would just be a matter of time before opposition caught up with CCM via a volatile critical mass arising from unsatisfied ambitions. The fifth phase government saw the writing on the wall, moving to close spaces on which political chaos was festering.

That is why a lot of political actors are likely to get their consultative choreography wrong as to what the government wishes to do in this context. They proceed from a 'self-evident' assumption among the hard line opposition that the fifth phase was a disaster, whereas to ruling party hardliners it was a welcome relief from destabilizing intra-CCM dissent and a ballooned opposition feeding on rivalries in the ruling party. President Samia wishes to tone down the hard line tactics of the fifth phase which made the ruling authorities immune to opposition inroads; the least the CCM leadership wants is an open door to chaos.

A new public health order is vital in Africa

AFRICA needs, and is ready for, nothing short of a new public health order, with systems better able to prepare for and respond to health threats.

Health, according to the World Health Organisation, is 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity'.

A variety of definitions have been used for different purposes over time. Health can be promoted by encouraging healthful activities, such as regular physical exercise and adequate sleep, and by reducing or avoiding unhealthy activities or situations, such as smoking or excessive stress.

Some factors affecting health are due to individual choices, such as whether to engage in a high-risk behaviour, while others are due to structural causes, such as whether the society is arranged in a way that makes it easier or harder for people to get necessary healthcare services. Still other factors are beyond both individual and group choices, such as genetic disorders.

The meaning of health has evolved over time. In keeping with the biomedical perspective, early definitions of health focused on the theme of the body's ability to function; health was seen as a state of normal function that could be disrupted from time to time by disease.

WHO proposed a definition that aimed higher, linking health to well-being, in terms of "physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity". Although this definition was welcomed by some as being innovative, it was also criticized for being vague and excessively broad and was not construed as measurable. For a long time, it was set aside as an impractical ideal, with most discussions of health returning to the practicality of the biomedical model.

Just as there was a shift from viewing disease as a state to thinking of it as a process, the same shift happened

in definitions of health. Again, the WHO played a leading role when it fostered the development of the health promotion movement in the 1980s. This brought in a new conception of health, not as a state, but in dynamic terms of resiliency, in other words, as "a resource for living".

In 1984, WHO revised the definition of health defined it as "the extent to which an individual or group is able to realize aspirations and satisfy needs and to change or cope with the environment. Health is a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive concept, emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities."

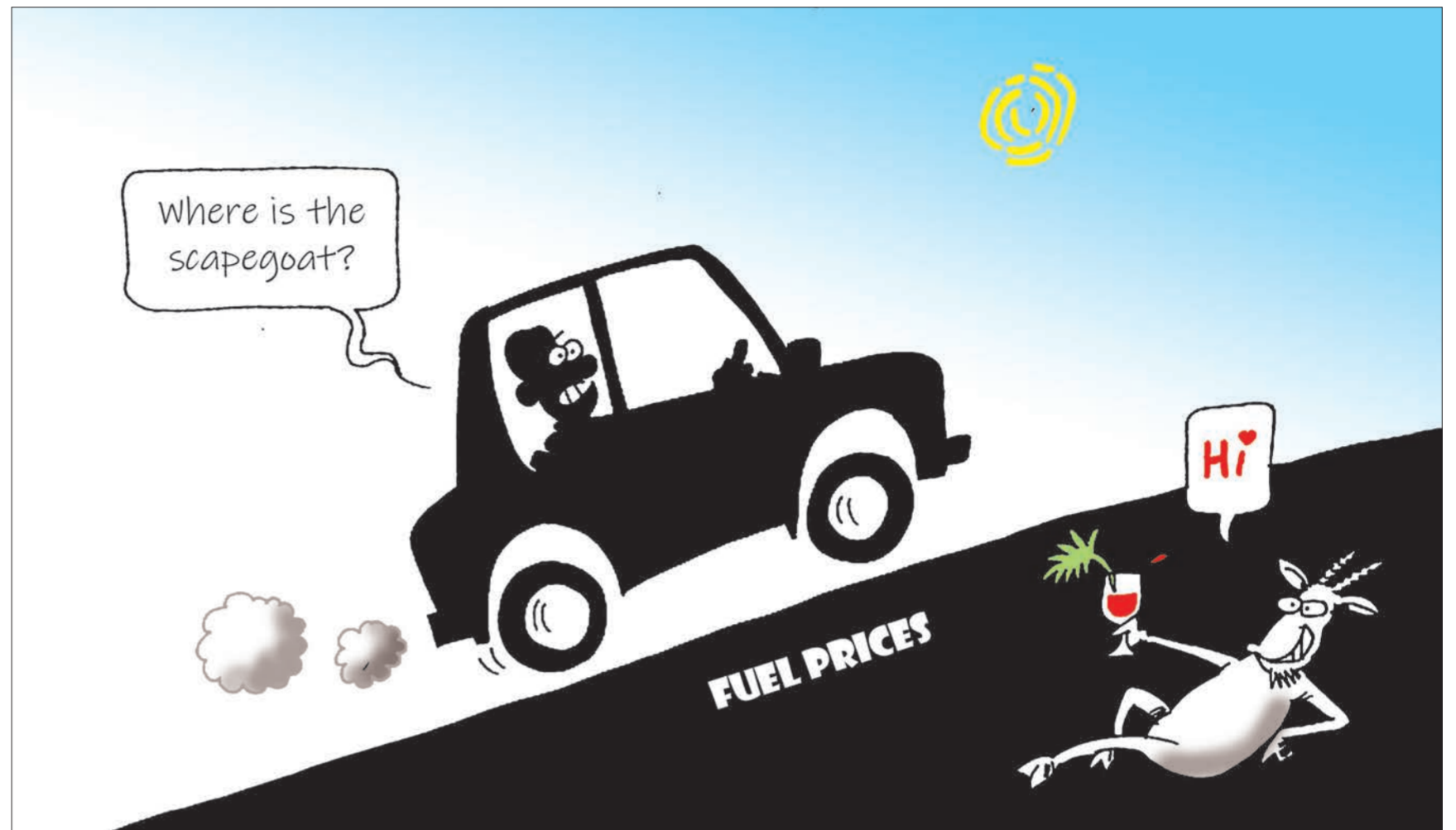
Systematic activities to prevent or cure health problems and promote good health in humans are undertaken by health care providers. Applications with regard to animal health are covered by the veterinary sciences.

According to the World Health Organisation, the main determinants of health include the social and economic environment, the physical environment, and the person's individual characteristics and behaviours.

The environment is often cited as an important factor influencing the health status of individuals. A number of health issues are common around the globe. Disease is one of the most common. Among communicable diseases, both viral and bacterial, AIDS/HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria are the most common, causing millions of deaths every year.

Another health issue that causes death or contributes to other health problems is malnutrition, especially among children. Bodily injuries are also a common health issue worldwide.

Lifestyle choices are contributing factors to poor health in many cases. These include smoking cigarettes, and can also include a poor diet, whether it is overeating or an overly restrictive diet. Inactivity can also contribute to health issues and also a lack of sleep, excessive alcohol consumption, and neglect of oral hygiene.



Stop putting the cart before the horse

By Special Correspondent

THIS government has been running on a long precarious and displeasing list of mysteriously unresolved deaths and nothing much has been done to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The national investigating authority most often put the cart before the horse, thereby compromising the rule of law by stating far before the investigation is ever concluded; that there was no foul play.

Of late, angry callers on several radio phone-in-talk-shows, most of their voices choked with emotion and disdainfulness while responding to Liberia National Police (LNP) Spokesman H. Moses Carter in the mysterious death of Princess Cooper. The investigation is ongoing at its much early state, conceding that in that case (Princess Cooper's) there was no foul played while at the same time paradoxically informing the public that the Ministry of Justice has ordered two Liberian Pathologists to perform an autopsy on her body to find out the cause of death along with another body (Melvin Togba).

The many angry emotional callers

regarding to what led to Princess Cooper's mysterious death, also sounded a warning to LNP's spokesman Carter to immediately desist from engaging in such pronouncement that uprightly compromises the prime objective of the serious happening before the result is ever established from the investigation which often results into a dead-end and then surrounded by reluctance.

They further cited numerous cases in which according to them, LNP's spokesman Carter allegedly pre-emptively concluded that there was no foul played; thereby results ended vaguely.

They cited the case of the missing three boys at the St Moses Funeral Parlors, the death of Miss Odell Sherman and many others whose results were struck down due to the no foul played statement while the investigation was still ongoing.

The emotionally charged callers also questioned the wisdom and significance of an autopsy when LNP's spokesman Carter ruled out no foul played? They also questioned why the close circuit television camera was not taken into custody since it would play a pivotal role and is cardinal to the unfolding trend in the investigation of

the mysterious death of Princess; they wondered suspiciously.

At the same time they (callers) pointed out that they're following Princess' case very keenly, despite LNP's spokesman's premature conclusion that there was no foul played; what the autopsy's result will say and that spokesman Carter must stop embarrassing alleged murder cases by being the last in such matter until it is concluded.

The callers angrily indicated that such premature half-baked statement of no foul play from the strike of any imagination is definitely a gross and toxic recipe completely imbued repressively with lethal elements that are inimical to the rule of law and the butcher of unhampered justice.

Liberians are dying mysteriously and the results from investigations are most often questionable. This has created a grim controversy that at one time, the deaths of two auditors of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) was rated boyfriend and girlfriend affairs, while Princess Cooper's mysterious death, before calling for an autopsy moreover reached a conclusion of an investigation by terming it as no foul play.

Monday, March 28, 2022 a group

of angry Liberians (both men and women) launched a protest at the ELWA junction chanting "we want justice, let the killings stop", and branded the day Black Monday while another group was present at the Capitol to present a petition to the lawmakers relating to the mysterious deaths in the country with emphasis on Princess Cooper and Melvin Togba.

At this juncture, we join the many concerned Liberians to urge the government to move radically and be very robust in getting under the skin of the mysterious killings and bring the would-be perpetrators to book while ensuring security for all like in the day of the late Angel Togba, where the court was very busy, politicians on their toes, suspects arrested, prosecuted and sentenced and justice was given a bed of roses of fairness. How many more Liberians must die mysteriously before the government realizes the urgency of the pathetic menace?

We believe that all Liberians must be protected under the law. With such death taking place, it puts fear in the minds of everyone, especially foreigners. One foreigner may be moved to say: "if you can kill your own citizen, then how much about me? Enough is enough."

Unsustainable agricultural supply chains are eroding our forests

By Achille Djeagou Tchhoffo

RESHAPING investment away from deforestation is tough - but these changes could help

The true extent of illegal operations in the forest sector is difficult to ascertain with precision.

What is known is that large-scale agriculture and forestry operations are responsible for more than 70 per cent of deforestation.

Those include timber cutting, cattle raising and feed production, pulp and paper production, and the use of bioenergy or biofuels made from unsustainable sources. Land speculation is also a problem.

Deforestation, primarily in tropical regions, is responsible for approximately 5 billion tons of CO2 emissions annually, accounting for nearly 15 per cent of global CO2 emissions in 2020.

Separate from the role of tropical deforestation as a major CO2 emission source, forests hold a vast wealth of biodiversity that sustains local and global economies and absorbs and stores billions of tons of CO2 from the atmosphere each year that would otherwise add to global warming and ocean acidification.

Without this carbon sink, we would already be experiencing the runaway climate change that we are now aiming

to avert.

However, rather than investing in the preservation of tropical forests, private investment is largely directed toward forest conversion for commodity production, or land speculation based on commodity production value.

The resulting deforestation ultimately leads to well-documented economic impacts, as well as human rights impacts on local communities and indigenous peoples.

Efforts to restrict imports of commodities linked with deforestation have expanded during the past decade. These include the European Union's Timber Regulation and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan, the high-profile Lacey Act enforcement actions in the United States, and laws to combat illegal timber imports in Japan, China, South Korea, and Australia.

However, less progress has been made on the underlying structural and political challenges that handicap efforts to decouple food production from deforestation and forest degradation, and that are characterized by a heavily inter-related set of market and regulatory challenges in producer and consumer countries.

Conventional agricultural commodity markets have failed to establish norms with respect to environmental and social impacts of production, a failure further enabled

by lack of demand for 'deforestation free' products from emerging markets like China, India, and the Middle East and North Africa.

In producer countries, the absence of robust enforcement, prosecution, and punishment for flagrant illegal practices - including impunity for illegal deforestation and its financing, acceptance of prevalent corruption, and subsidies that incentivize forest conversion - are enabling rapid land speculation and forest loss.

In importing countries in the EU, and in the US and UK, import policies requiring proof of sustainability or zero-deforestation in production systems do not typically capture challenges related to deforestation legally authorized by producer countries, and lag in other major importing countries, such as China and India.

The proportion of key import markets moving towards sustainable practices is currently small and we risk the further emergence of 'two-tier' supply chains, where supply chain companies exposed to sustainability-linked risk relocate their procurement away from the deforestation frontier, with the 'risky' supply being absorbed by companies selling into markets with less focus on sustainability.

This disincentivizes action to end the expansion of active deforestation

frontiers on the part of leading companies and ultimately results in little to no reduction in threat to forest areas. Finding opportunities to recognize and reward interventions and action in high-risk areas is therefore crucial.

Some leading companies like Nestle have made newly plausible implementation commitments to deliver on deforestation-free commitments much earlier than 2030. But these are exceptions, and their examples will not automatically leverage the whole sector without substantial new investment to accelerate the field.

Some of the ways deforestation can be tackled include scaling up support for free, open access platforms that link up deforestation alerts with supply chains and provide enhanced information on indirect suppliers and smallholder farmers.

This, along with support for consumer advocacy for industry transformation towards sustainable sourcing for major impact commodities in key underserved markets like Brazil, Korea, Japan, China, and India could strengthen demand for deforestation-free products.

Achille Djeagou Tchhoffo is the Congo Basin technical assistant for the World Resources Institute's Open Timber Portal.

Technology in agriculture vital to avoiding impact of climate

By Correspondent Daniel Sembery

WITH extreme weather patterns the new normal amid increasing population, food security emerges on top of many countries' priority list as it is to do with survival of humanity.

In these challenging circumstances, communities and countries that maintain centuries-old ways of food production find themselves on shaky grounds while those that embrace technology stand a better chance of avoiding the mother of embarrassments—self-inflicted hunger.

Against this backdrop, the government and other key stakeholders in the agriculture sector have been urged to invest in technology so as to get sustainable productivity as a way of mitigating risks posed by climate changes.

Dr Winfred Mbugu, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Civil and Water Resources Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) says short of that, we have to prepare for the worst.

He spoke recently in Tanga Region during a close out ceremony of the Global Challenges Research Fund Programme, Agricultural and Food System Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy (GCRF-AFRICAP) project.

He said that the quantity and quality of food produced seem to depend on the ex-

tent of technological transformation.

"Increased productivity and overall production are linked to agricultural land expansion, both cropland and pastureland," he said.

Mbugu further noted that technological transformation results in increases of approximately 700 per cent in crop production and over 200 per cent in livestock production.

There is higher production with high technology, high climate risks (over 1500 per cent crops and 300 per cent in livestock), mostly due to reduced crop diversity, prioritisation of higher-yielding crops, possibly at the expense of resilience to climate risks, he said.

According to him, high climate risks lead to reduced diversity, technological transformation and deployment namely crop breeding, irrigation, soil health and nutrients and water management, management of crop pest and diseases and post-harvest transformation as well storage which all contribute to compensating the reduced diversity caused by high climate risks.

On resilience and adaptation, Mbugu said that these are achieved under the high technology in low climate scenario but not in the other three scenarios.

"If technological transformation leads to increased homogenization of cropping systems, crop pest and disease (CPD)-induced crop yield losses could be 32 per cent yield loss due to CPD because of climate plus 2 to

5 per cent yield loss due to reduced pest suppression under homogenized agriculture," he said.

"There could also be an additional 13 per cent and more crop yield loss due to novel pests and diseases, like acute invasive species - such as fall army worm - could have a devastating impact on production leading to 60 to 100 per cent of yield losses."

He said that in order for this to materialize, appropriate policy mechanisms would be required such as the implementation of existing policies, which could be revised to cope with the advancements in food systems technologies.

By 2050, Tanzania's agri-food systems generally, but specifically the crop and livestock production will continue to emit polluting greenhouse gases (GHGs) across all the scenarios modelled in the integrated future estimator for emissions and diets (iFEED), he said.

"Despite contribution to increased production, consequences will be their environmentally polluting impact. The balancing effects soil carbon capture evidenced through the increases in soil organic matter contents (SOC) which occurs in all the scenarios," he said.

"The application of improved technology-based farming approaches including using climate resilient crop varieties that require fewer chemical fertilizers is an approach to consider."

He added that use of agro-ecological farming practices such as conservation agri-

culture, agro-forestry, mixed or intercropping and the effective management of soil health can all contribute to the soil organic matter contents (SOC) increase and therefore, balance the GHG emissions.

On nutrition security, he said that it is not achieved across all nutrients in any of the scenarios without significantly increased reliance on international trade optimised for nutrition security.

Technological transformation would have a much more significant impact on nutrition outcomes than does climate risk. The approaches that may be considered in addressing the projected nutritional shortcomings in Tanzania in 2050 include the promotion of diversification in domestic farming systems with emphasis on cultivating bio-fortified nutritious crops and food distribution domestically (moving food from regions of surplus of nutritious food to regions of deficit).

In a speech read on behalf by Senior consultant Head of Commissioned Research Department at the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Vivian Kazi, ESRF Executive Director Dr Tausi Kida said that the project which came to an end has provided evidence-based policies in agriculture and food production, built a self-sustaining community of climate-smart policy makers and advisors, and catalysed implementation of progressive policies based on cutting-edge science.

She noted that the project aligned itself to several na-

tional agricultural development policy frameworks such as Agriculture Sector Development Programmes (ASDP), Agriculture Climate Resilience Plans as well as Climate Smart Agriculture Programme.

According to Kida, the purpose of the workshop in Tanga among other things, was for ESRF and GCRF-AFRICAP project's team of researchers to communicate and share the project results including policy recommendations that will have a greater effect on reducing the impacts of climate change to the most vulnerable in society.

For example, retaining a diverse household agricultural and food security strategy like combining new improved climate-smart and traditional agricultural technologies, cash and subsistent food crops, to achieve livelihood resilience and food security among smallholder farming households in the contexts of high climate uncertainty.

GCRF-AFRICAP which was implemented in four countries namely Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa was sought to establish academic partnership between UK and

African research and policy institutions and develop capacity in climate smart agriculture and food systems.

The project aimed at supporting agriculture and food systems in sub-Saharan Africa to become more productive, sustainable and resilient to climate change.

The programme was driven by the aim to build capacity, to develop and demonstrate, nationally-owned Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-compliant agri-food development pathways that can be productive, sustainable and climate-smart.

The programme was funded by the UK government's Global Challenges Research Fund and was led by the University of Leeds and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANPAN) from South Africa. In Tanzania, GCRF-AFRICAP was co-ordinated by ESRF.

One focus of GCRF-AFRICAP was to identify agronomic and agro-ecological factors determining maize food loss, food safety, food security and nutrition and health outcomes of the populations that consume maize as a staple food.

The implementation of the GCRF-

AFRICAP project was done through multi-country working Tanzanian stakeholders namely ESRF, the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

Others were SUA, Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI)- Mlingano and Seriani centres, Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA) in Muheza and Lushoto districts.

Pili Mnyema, Tanga Regional Administrative Secretary, who was the guest of honour said that the project has provided an opportunity for the government, the private sector, civil society, media, the academia and the farming communities to deeply reflect on the future of agriculture sector and food systems in the wave of climate change.

"The government continues to promote and advocate for the development of sustainable, productive and climate-smart agriculture systems to meet different food security and economic development needs. The government has considered the climate threat seriously," she said.



Vivian Kazi, Senior Consultant and Head of Commissioned Research Department at ESRF, speaks during a close out ceremony of GCRF-AFRICAP project in Tanga Region recently. Photo/Daniel Sembery

Government, manufacturers need to find common ground on ETS

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) system has been marred by controversy since the rollout of its first phase by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in January 2019. While the taxman maintains that this is the way to go for effective revenue collection, manufacturers on the other hand have their reservations, terming it unjustifiably costly hence bad for business.

It is obvious that when there are high costs of industrial production, definitely the prices of manufactured goods go up and business normally don't carry the burden, they push it to the final consumer.

The current disagreement or rather complaints by manufacturers need to be resolved urgently so that they pay their due share of taxes without compromising on the quality of goods they bring in the market.

Manufacturers of excitable goods in the country say they experience hardships to accomplish final products mainly due to high costs that range from imported raw materials, levies as well as taxes imposed on manufactured goods, claiming that ETS eats nearly half of what they pay in excise duty.

But ETS system was intended to replace paper stamps as it uses advanced digital coding technology and is printed

Alphayo Kidata (L), TRA Commissioner General maintains that ETS is the most precise and effective way of revenue collection while manufacturers on the other hand say the system is a huge burden to them. File photo



or affixed directly on the product packaging of excisable goods to avoid tax evasion.

Although the government says this is meant to increase revenues collection, on the other hand, manufacturers lament that since the system was rolled out for the first time, it has become a bottleneck to their business operations.

Statistics made available by Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) show that charges paid directly to the foreign supplier of the technology used in the country are exorbitant but with little or no added value to local producers.

The numbers indicate that for the last three years during the trading period ending January 2022, manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and tobacco paid some 199bn/ (US\$ 86.6 million) in total to the supplier of the technology.

Speaking in separate interviews with this writer, the industrialists have asked the gov-

ernment to consider reducing high costs at this time when TRA is finalizing tender processes for the new suppliers of ETS technology which is to be used for another five years starting from next 2022/23 financial year.

Mark Ocitti, Managing Director of Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) said at a recent meeting with TRA board of directors who toured brewer's factory in Dar es Salaam that the annual cost of ETS to the company was equivalent to 10 per cent of its total excise tax paid to the government.

"Although the alcohol industry has not had excise increase for three years now, the reality is the costs of purchasing ETS since the introduction of the system three years ago has seen us pay high excise taxes," he said.

He also reported that the system is unreasonably expensive and its cost has affected their production, eating into their ability to employ, invest in infrastructure and sell their products at low prices in the market.

Michal Bachan, Chief Executive Officer of Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC), said his factory saw a 400 per cent increase in the cost of stamps from US\$ 4.77 per 1,000 stamps to US\$ 20.

"In the past three years, TCC has paid more than US\$ 15.7 million to the current ETS service provider, significantly reducing not only the net profit but also government corporate tax revenues," he said.

Comparing with what is being charged in the European countries for instance, he said the average cost of ETS on cigarettes was only US\$ 1.6 for 1,000 stamps.

He called on the government to ensure that ETS prices are significantly lowered to improve the business climate for investing in Tanzania and reduce the burden that impacts negatively on manufacturers' cost of operation.

Managing Director of Coca-Cola Kwanza, Unguu Sulay said ETS costs borne by his firm

in the past two years have been equal to 39 per cent of the excise duty paid to the government.

He laments that his company pays more to buy ETS stamps than what pension funds receive in monthly deductions from their workers' salaries.

But speaking recently in a meeting with the Tanzania Editor's Forum (TEF), Alphayo Kidata, TRA Commissioner General indicated that cutting down the cost of ETS was not an option for now.

"It is impractical to implement the proposed idea by CTI to let the authority reduce the ETS costs on manufactured goods by 75 per cent because the price charged reflects the process it takes to process the stamps," he said.

Further, Kidata defended the electronic taxing system saying that digital tax stamps have so far increased revenue collection at different percentages on specified goods falling under ETS taxation.

Egypt's tourism hit by Ukraine crisis

Cairo, Egypt

Tourism to Egypt's GDP is as vital as the Nile to its people. After Egypt's tourism sector began to recover following the Russian plane crash in 2015. Then COVID hit, and now the Ukrainian war shot a bullet through its heart.

The protracted Russian conflict with Ukraine threatens several tourist destinations that rely on Russian visitors. Turkey, Uzbekistan, the UAE, Tajikistan, Armenia, Greece, Egypt, Kazakhstan, and Cyprus are among the top 25 countries for outbound Russian tourism by flight capacity, according to Mabrian Technologies, an intelligence platform for the tourism industry.

Egypt's economy is also heavily reliant on tourism from Russia and Ukraine, with the two countries accounting for roughly one-third of all visitors each year. In 2015, Russia imposed a slew of punitive measures against Egypt in the tourism sector, wreaking havoc on the industry and its workers.

Due to the suspension of Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian flights, the decline has become very apparent recently, especially in Sharm El-Sheikh, where occupancy rates are less than 35 percent, compared to 40 to 45 percent in Hurghada, according to industry insiders.

Egypt's Travel & Tourism sector's contribution to the nation's GDP fell from \$32 billion (8.8%) in 2019 to \$14.4 billion (3.8%) just 12 months later, in 2020.

Egypt member of parliament Hany Allassal stressed that the opening of new tourism markets would help mitigate the effects of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which harms the global and Egyptian tourism sectors.



Egypt once again faces the prospect of a poor tourism season due to the Ukraine crisis. The region accounts for about six million tourists each year. Credit: Hisham Ailam/IPS

"Russian tourism amounted to roughly 3.2 million Russian tourists in 2015, and it was anticipated to reach approximately 400,000 Russian tourists per month before the outbreak of war, whilst Ukrainian tourism amounted to roughly 3 million Ukrainian tourists in 2021," Allassal

said.

"The impact of the Ukraine crisis on Egypt's tourism cannot be overlooked, especially in Sharm El Sheikh and Hurghada," Faten Ibrahim, a tour guide, told IPS.

In comparison to beach tourism, which accounts for about 90% of

Egypt's total revenue from this sector, cultural tourism accounts for less than 5% of total revenue.

"We experienced a difficult period of stagnation with the emergence of COVID-19, specifically from March 2020 to March 2021. Since then, most workers in the tourism sector have

worked for half the salary," Ibrahim says.

"I can measure the impact of the absence of Russian and Ukrainian tourism on museums and historic sites through my daily work, as the number of tourists visiting these sites has nearly halved," she adds.

Ibrahim, who has worked in the tourism industry for 28 years, points out that the situation significantly improved in October and November of last year, but the emergence of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus in December resulted in large cancellations of reservations, so the situation worsened dramatically in January.

According to WTTC research, COVID-19 sparks a 55% collapse in the sector's contribution to Egypt's GDP. The travel and tourism sector is also a major employer in the country, with a workforce of 1.25 million.

In 2017, the total contribution to the GDP was 374.6 billion EGP. It was forecast to contribute approximately 601 billion EGP to the Egyptian economy by 2028.

Amr El-Kady, the head of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB), says that the Egyptian authorities are assisting stranded tourists from Russia and Ukraine, either to stay safe or return to their homes, in collaboration with the private sector.

"We're going through a difficult time, but we're handling it impressively," El-kady tells IPS.

"It is a powerful propaganda campaign for Egypt, emphasizing that it is not only a tourist destination but also a country that looks out for its visitors in difficult times."

He explains that the (ETPB) is currently working to open new tourism markets, particularly in Germany, England, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Switzerland, following the lifting of travel restrictions to Egypt.

Perils of hunger, food insecurity in Southern Africa- challenges and opportunities

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa

Food systems are under severe stress around the world now. The thresholds of tolerance are already exceeding limits with millions facing acute food and water scarcity throughout all continents. Over a quarter of Africa's population are facing hunger and food insecurity. Conflict, droughts, flooding, rising unemployment, inequality, economic crises, and the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic have been ravaging the Continent on an unprecedented scale.

In Southern Africa, the food systems are heavily dependent on traditional small holder farmers who are mostly women and old men and is largely reliant on rainfed agriculture which is highly vulnerable to climate change. These are compounded by very high youth unemployment and unfortunately the youth are not interested in working in agriculture in its current form.

Evidence points out that more than 50 million people are acutely food

insecure, mostly women and children with 36 million of them in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and 4. Weather extremes that disrupted recent growing seasons are again wreaking havoc. The last quarter of 2021 was one of the driest for 40 years in southern Madagascar, southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, southern Angola, Namibia and most of Malawi. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the world's biggest hunger emergency, home to Africa's largest population of IDPs and biggest source of refugees, a staggering 26 million children, women and men are acutely food insecure. The impact of the worst drought in four decades in Southern Angola has left 1.6 million in misery and destitution. In Mozambique 1.9 million are experiencing hunger and acute food needs. These statistics are based on the field assessments of international partners.

Rural and urban populations are equally affected. In Zimbabwe, severe poverty and food insecurity has increased in urban areas representing 2.4 million people or 42 percent of

the urban population. There is an increase in internally displaced people within the region. In February this year we have witnessed how recurrent powerful storms have battered coastal areas on Madagascar and Mozambique causing dozens of fatalities, forcing hundred of thousands people from their homes, knocking out power and crippling other infrastructure. Added to these is recurring levels of acute and chronic malnutrition among children.

It has dawned upon us that there is a global food crises and supply chains are badly affected throughout continents. There is an awareness that food systems are interconnected between sectors- i.e, directly linked to energy supply (fuel, fertilizer), health, education, economy, water shortages, infrastructure, social services, climate adaptation and transportation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are challenged.

To address this unprecedented alarming situation, where needs are competing, this imperative must be addressed with focus on every continent equally. In the Southern

Africa region we require immediate support to help the exhausted communities.

National governments are central to country both in humanitarian and development spheres. The best way is to support the government plans. This is the time to revisit and realign priorities with clearly defined goals. Strong political will and leadership are required. A combination of both international and national assistance should focus on supporting government priorities. Resources, both national and international are necessary. Impact can be better when international organizations, including UN agencies, regional financial and development institutions, together with NGOs commit to support national priorities with enhanced coordination and collaboration.

With a multi-dimensional and targeted approach gains can be achieved. The Southern Africa Development Agency (SADC) plays an important role both regionally and extending to the Continent. In this context, the African Union (AU) Heads

of state has endorsed the outcomes of the Third Africa Rural Development Forum (ARDF-3) in Kinshasa held in January this year recognizing the imperative for a multi-dimensional and a holistic food systems approach. The Region is endowed with vast lands and water resources for agriculture and other natural resources. With urgent investments good gains can be realized in the immediate term in food production. In the medium to longer term, with climate adaptation and support to resilience building activities, there is hope for recovery and stability.

Prosperity and progress will show their full faces when the dignity of women, children and the youth, together with other vulnerable is recognized and accorded due place in the society. Development will be meaningful when their roles are accommodated into every activity. The future generation needs to be well nourished, preserved in an integrated and inclusive way.

Advocacy and a holistic engagement are the requirements to address

hunger, food insecurity and nutrition with the provision of evidence based data and information in the Southern Africa region. Technical support to data collection and analysis through the use of latest technologies and tools will ensure evidence driven decision making. Strong political will can help formulate appropriate policies and programs that create conducive environment for development. Innovative solutions can be developed through South South collaboration building on good practices and with the support of development partners.

There is certainly hope in overcoming the current situation in the region by strengthening the nexus between humanitarian and development. To attain results a "Culture of Cooperation" must be forged.

Dr. Menghestab Haile, is the Regional Director for the Southern Africa Region for the UN World Food Programme. With a background in meteorology, Dr. Haile has been integrating climate and weather analysis into food security systems in many parts of the world.

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 UMJUAYYO 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

Zantel's mobile money agents in Tanga advised to be trustworthy

By Guardian Reporter

A Telecommunication company, Zantel through digital money platform Ezypesa has called upon its service providers in Tanga region to be trustworthy when executing their day-to-day activities to ensure quality customer service.

Zantel's head of financial risk management Benadetha Mwasakabeto made the call during a capacity building workshop to their agents in Tanga Region.

The official said the company has closed down shops after some of their agents engage in illegal activities and practices that are against rules of the business.

"We're here to remind you to provide your services and you comply with the laws of the country, but on the part of the customers we do not allow an agent to do registration on behalf of the customer rather a customer should register themselves using their national ID number," Benadetha said, adding: "Once we feel there are wrong transactions from our agents we normally take them to internal disciplinary organs and close their services."

Firm's operations manager Salum Haji said that in keeping



Zantel's head of financial services Moses Alphonse, introduces Ezypesa service agents in Tanga region.

up with the laws of the country on the company's operations, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the laws and regulations are followed in serving the customers as to avoid various penalties and disturbances that may arise.

The manager also urged all agents not to engage in acts of giving or receiving bribes but instead to be at the forefront and join efforts to fight and report such wrongdoings.

Some of the agents have asked the

company to continue establishing its services to rural areas where there has been unavailability of the service considering the number of people who are found in such areas and their need to the service.

"In the environment that most of us

come from there is still a high need of this service, there are people who need Ezypesa service and it is not there yet so they are missing out," she said.

Dar resident wins IST car in 'Tesa Kimilionea' promotion

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania Plc has handed over a Toyota IST car to the first grand winner of 'Tesa Kimilionea' promotion Mchita Yusuf Mchita of Mbagala suburb in Dar es Salaam.

'Tesa Kimilionea' is a three month promotion enables Airtel customers and agents to win cash prizes of 100,000/-, 1,000,000/- and grand prize of 10,000,000/- or a new brand IST car when they make any transactions through Airtel Money.

Airtel Tanzania Plc public relations manager Jackson Mmbando applauded the lucky winner for being the first customer to win the grand prize of the new Toyota IST car of the ongoing 'Tesa Kimilionea' promotion.

"This promotion is for both our customers and agents who do any transactions through our Airtel Money services," Mmbando said.

Mchita also praised Airtel Tanzania after being handed his Toyota IST car, stating: "I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Airtel for coming up with innovative products and services that meet our daily living standards. These are the products and services that have led me to being a winner of this Toyota IST car. It is true that customers or agents do not need to register in order to enter into the draw. What I was doing is just transactions and received call informing me that I'm a winner of new car."

"I call upon other Airtel customers to continue using Airtel Money services and can win either a cash prize or a car just like me," said Mchite.

Lucky winners of the grand promotion are Abdallah Said Kilumbaki, a Kilwa Masoko resident who has won a Toyota IST car and Stella Mwaseba, a Yombo Vituka resident in Dar es Salaam who has won a cash prize of 10,000,000/-.

The winners of 1,000,000/- cash prize are Masoud Issah who is a Mwanza resident and Gerald John Nteza from Kilombero district, Morogoro region.



Airtel Money director Isack Nchunda (C) hands over ignition key to the first grand winner of 'Tesa Kimilionea' Mchita Yusuf Mchita (L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The three month promotion enables Airtel customers and agents to win various prizes including cash prizes of 100,000/-, 1m/-, and grand prize of 10m/- or a new brand IST car when they make transactions through Airtel Money. Right is the company's public relations manager Jackson Mmbando. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

EAC to commemorate 28 years of genocide against the Tutsi

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in collaboration with various stakeholders is set to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda tomorrow at the EAC headquarters in Arusha.

In a statement, the EAC said various stakeholders are expected at the commemoration including the authorities in Arusha and Moshi, the Rwandan community, the embassy of Rwanda in Tanzania, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tri-

bunals (IRMCT), the Pan African Human Rights Court, and the religious denominations based in Arusha, the representatives of students from high schools and universities of the Arusha region and EAC staff.

Themed: "Remember-Unite-Renew", this year's commemoration is an occasion to pay tribute to the more than one million innocent lives lost through the heinous extermination of Tutsis in Rwanda 28 years ago.

Under the above theme, this year's commemoration focuses mainly on the legacy of strength, resilience, and

unity that the new generation is called upon to sustain as well as safeguarding the strides Rwanda has been able to make over the past 28 years and carry forward the vision for Rwanda's transformation.

Since the 20th commemoration in April 2014, EAC has taken a commendable route to supporting genocide survivors and recognizing genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda as a crime against humanity, first by building a genocide monument in the EAC gardens which was inaugurated by Heads of State and further by set-

ting apart the 7th of April every year on the EAC calendar as a special day to commemorate the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The EAC Secretariat takes this opportunity to invite everyone to join the Government and people of Rwanda to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi by standing against genocide denial and its ideology and recognising the incredible bravery of those who rescued others during the genocide at great risk to themselves and their families.

JKCI boss calls on all Tanzanians to go for vaccination against Covid-19

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIANS have been called to come in big numbers for vaccination against COVID-19 since the country has the ability to bring drugs and all medical devices imported.

The remarks were given at the weekend by the managing director of Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), Prof Mohammed Janabi, adding that Tanzanians have no reason to be afraid of the vaccination against COVID-19.

"The country is capable to control imported drugs, and that is why they are safe, hence the issue of infertility and other side effects attributed to the vaccine are nonexistent," said Prof Janabi.

He said the claims and others attributed to the vaccine have no scientific proof, and added that in case a person wants to prove the vaccine can cause infertility, there must be proof on a vaccinated person and tries to be impregnated within the first, second or third year and that the issue must be closely followed up individually.

"I do not know who has been able to identify or predict the claimed defects in a very short time. I know there are people who say that normally vaccines take a long time to be manufactured, true, but I will explain," he added.

He said covid-19 took a very short time to be produced for use instead of 10 to 20 years, but this is due manufacturing approaches of the said vaccine.

"But in regard to covid-19 vaccine, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and all its relative committees spent a short time on the vaccine due to emergency," he said adding: "Another reason for its being produced in a short time there were trials for similar vaccines before 2019."

Prof Janabi said the vaccines were working well and that there was a time he suspected signs of colds but after being vaccinated the colds went away and that he was now normal.

"There are also other people who say that after vaccination they can still be infected with the disease. It is true, you can be infected, the only difference is that the one who was vaccinated will not even be admitted to hospital and is protected from death," Prof Janabi said.

He also said there some doctors and nurses who have not been vaccinated adding they these are also human beings just like others and that the disease is a new one, hence every person, doctors included have that fear.

"In the circumstances the main thing to understand is that the country has the capacity to control everything imported including vaccines by making sure they are safe for human use," he added.

He said the institution he leads has vaccinated many public figures, and many have been going for the second dose.

"The disease is dangerous I therefore call upon all Tanzanians to go for vaccination, but I also advise for more education to be provided on the disease to enable the community get the correct information.



Thursday 7 April 2022

Banking credits to private sector, govt up 24.5 pc in February

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Credit extended to the private sector and Central Government by the banking system, grew by 24.5 per cent in February 2022, compared with 6.9 per cent registered during the same period last year.

According to the latest Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Monthly Economic Review for March, 2022, the strong private sector credit growth was high at 11.9 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent in February 2021, attributable to improving business conditions from adverse effects of COVID-19, coupled with supportive monetary and fiscal policies.

"Much of the growth was absorbed by mining, micro, small and medium enterprises (personal loan); trade and manufacturing activities," the report said.

The report noted that personal loans accounted for the largest share of outstanding private sector credit, followed by trade, manufacturing and agriculture.

It noted that interest rate charged by banks on loans remained virtually unchanged, at 16.2 per cent in February 2022 compared with 16.3 per cent and 16.6 per cent in the preceding month and February 2021, respectively.

The report said negotiated lending rate, interest rate charged on loans to prime customers, averaged 13.9 per cent compared with 13.6 per cent in the preceding month and 13.9 per cent February 2021.

"A few banks, however, have reduced lending rates particularly to agriculture," it added.

Interest rate on deposits also remained unchanged, at 7.02 per cent in February 2022 compared with 6.79 per cent and 6.8 per cent in the preceding month and February 2021, respectively.

Negotiated deposits rate grew to 9.74 per cent from 9.92 per cent and 9.50 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, money market interest rates remained low and stable, consistent with the monetary policy stance according to the report.

The government securities market recorded notable oversubscriptions and yields decreased across the maturity spectrum.

"The foreign exchange market was vibrant and the exchange rate remained stable," the report added.

In a related development, the Central Bank during February, 2022 continued to conduct reverse repurchase agreements (reverse repo) with banks, in line with the prevailing monetary policy stance.

"Repos worth 135.8bn/- were auctioned, compared with 261.9bn/- auctioned in the preceding month. During the month, reverse repos worth 259.3bn/- matured. The Reverse repo rate remained at single digit at 6.2 per cent, up from 5.37 percent registered in January 2022," according to the report.



Bank of Tanzania Headquarters

Digital banking transformation requires speed and scalability

By Jim Marous

TO be future-ready, financial institutions need to be resilient. This includes having the ability to make decisions quickly, rapidly pivot during times of change, and be able to scale capacity to accommodate increases in demand with minimal impact to operations.

To achieve this, organizations must be able to create collaborations with outside providers that can support both speed and scale.

Modern technologies can enable speed and scalability, but technology doesn't necessarily result in the ability to be resilient. This requires executive management support and strategic priorities that allow the technology to be deployed correctly.

In other words, people are still at the core of successful digital banking transformation. That said, technologies like cloud computing, data management, advanced analytics, machine learning, and cybersecurity can't be ignored.

To succeed, banks and credit unions must be able to digitally transform their organizations - constantly and quickly - to evolve business processes and operations that will improve customer experiences and reduce costs.

Leadership needs the ability to exploit emerging business opportunities in an instant to deliver differentiated solutions at the pace the consumer demands.



By avoiding long decision cycles and traditional long-term implementation calendars, financial institutions can identify innovation gaps more quickly and get full value from tech investments over longer periods.

More importantly, by hyper-charging an organization's capacity to change, building blocks are created for process redesign and modular technology deployments that can

stay on the cutting edge.

According to McKinsey research, "In the past, when companies witnessed rising levels of uncertainty and volatility in their industry, a perfectly rational strategic response was to observe for a little while - letting others incur the costs of experimentation - and then move as the dust settled. Such an approach represented a bet on the company's ability to 'out-

execute' competitors."

This strategy is sub-optimal in a world that changes quickly. In fact, McKinsey found that revenue growth for the fastest organizations is nearly twice that of companies that "played it safe" with average reactions to digital competition.

The reasons provided were that first movers and the very fastest followers develop a learning advantage, have access to early market growth, and can produce better margins. In fact, there is additional research that suggests that being late in adopting a digital business model is as bad as not starting the process.

When the right digital banking infrastructure is in place, and a financial institution has the culture and systems to leverage the capabilities it enables, it is possible to repurpose the infrastructure to meet unexpected demands and marketplace changes quickly. This includes maximizing a remote workforce and reimagining what banking can be in the future.

Most importantly, a digital banking infrastructure that is built for speed and scale also can create powerful customer experiences, digitizing the entire customer journey.

Customers do not want digital versions of the manual, bureaucratic processes they had in the past. They want innovative products, insightful recommendations, and multichannel engagement in real-time.

FinTech firm Flutterwave debuts in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM

AFRICAN FinTech Flutterwave has won approval from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to launch its service in the East African nation, the San Francisco-headquartered company announced recently.

Flutterwave said it will open offices in Dar, the largest city and financial hub of Tanzania, to drive digital payments by enabling merchants and customers to trade through its platform.

eCommerce transaction value in Tanzania is expected to reach \$907 million by the close of 2022 as the number of customers is projected to exceed 14 million by 2025, according to Statista.

BoT has implemented regulations designed to see the growth of the payments ecosystem to realize these goals.

Flutterwave said its introduction in Tanzania will fuel the country's goal to boost digital commerce, with flexible, seamless, and affordable payment services.

The company's expansion to Tanzania comes one month after it closed a \$250 million Series D funding round, topping the startup's value to an estimated \$3 billion.

Flutterwave's latest backers include B Capital Group, and with participation from Alta Park Capital, Whale Rock Capital and Lux Capital, among others.

Several investors who participated in previous rounds included Glynn Capital, Avenir Growth, Tiger Global, Green Visor Capital and Salesforce Ventures.

Last fall, Flutterwave acquired Disha, a Nigerian platform that allows digital creators to curate and receive payments from their content and portfolios worldwide.

The news couldn't have come at a better time for Disha. In 2021, the company announced it was closing.

Under the terms of the deal, Disha will continue to operate as a separate brand, but its 20,000 users can earn value for their digital content using Flutterwave's payouts and collections features.

Mwalimu Bank launches lending product for education

By Guardian Reporter

MWALIMU Commercial Bank PLC has launched a special scheme to help parents and students access loans for timely payment of fees for children.

Speaking at the launching ceremony yesterday head of Business development and marketing Leticia Ndongole said the bank has seen that timely payment of tuition fees among students was a challenge among parents.

The new programme dubbed 'Ada Chap Chap' was a result of views from teachers who form the majority of the bank's customers according to Ndongole who added that the bank expected to spend 77m/- by the end of 2022 in the

initiative.

"Despite the efforts to improve the learning environment such as construction of classes and other, still there are challenges which need to be looked at which in total constitute quality," she said.

She called for the formulation of special system to help views of teachers from lower levels are heard to facilitate the improvement of education in the country.

Through the initiative the bank enters into an agreement with education institutions to pay fees on behalf of parents to be repaid in one year via monthly deductions.

"The loans are aimed to help students concentrate on their education instead

of thinking of how to pay fees.

Heads of education institutions who attended the launching ceremony hailed the bank for the gesture saying this will end woes they undergo in informing parents to pay fees.

Among the learning institutions which have entered into the agreements included Eagle High School-Bagamoyo, City College of Health and Allied Sciences, Goba (Mount Ukombozi) and Covenant Institute of Accountancy and Technology.

Others include Covenant Financial Consultants for accountants to acquire CPA and Institute Heavy Equipment and Technology based at Kijitonyama.



Mwalimu Commercial Bank branch

Copper leader Congo's addition to EAC lures Ecobank

KINSHASA

ECOBANK Transnational Inc., a pan-African lender with operations in 35 countries, sees fresh opportunities in the Democratic Republic of Congo after the nation joined the East African trading bloc last month.

The mineral-rich country became the East African Community's seventh member after heads of state agreed to its request to join the group, which has a common market enabling free movement of goods, people, labor, services and capital. The other participants are Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The DRC brings the total number of people covered by the bloc to about 267 million and overall GDP to \$250 billion.

"We need to grow our business in the DRC," Ecobank Group Chief Executive Officer Ade Ayeyemi said in an interview. It's "a large market with close to 100 million people."

The East African community now stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and the bank "needs to see how we can scale up our business in that market," he said.

Ecobank will be looking to replicate the success of other lenders who have tapped the business potential in the DRC, where only one in four people aged 15 years and above own a bank or mobile-money account, according to the World Bank's latest data from 2017.

Two years ago, Kenyan rival Equity Group Holdings acquired a Congolese lender to create the country's second-biggest bank, more than doubling loans



and quadrupling deposits in the process. The Nairobi-based lender is aiming for return on equity of as much as 20% from its unit in Africa's top copper producer.

Founded in 1985, Togo-based Ecobank was focused on West Africa and central Africa for more than 20 years before expanding outside its core region. That included starting a presence in the DRC and opening branches in Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, and in each of the bloc's five other markets.

Kenya's banking regulator locked Ecobank's local unit out of its currency market for five days last month, making

it the second lender to be penalized for failing to comply with rules aimed at stamping out money laundering and the financing of terrorism. "It was an unfortunate incident, an oversight that shouldn't repeat itself," Ayeyemi said. "We've put enough controls and training to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Ecobank has a strategic alliance with Johannesburg-based Nedbank Group Ltd., its biggest shareholder with a 21% stake, enabling the lender to offer clients wealth products from its South African partner.

While Ecobank expects revenue

growth to slow to 1% to 3% this year as a devaluation of local currencies pushes up its costs, the group aims to more than double its wealth business within the next five years.

"The middle class in Africa is growing and therefore wealth management becomes one of the things they would look up to," he said. That represents an opportunity for African lenders, according to Ayeyemi.

"Otherwise, a large number of the ultrarich are getting their wealth management solutions outside Africa."



Kenya's banks want re-introduction of mobile money transfers charges

NAIROBI

SOME of Kenya's top banks –Equity Bank, Absa Kenya and KCB Group –have urged the Central Bank of Kenya to consider reinstating fees for transfers between banks and mobile money wallets.

The banks said this has become necessary, following heavy investments they've made recently to upgrade their digital technology in order to meet up with growing transaction demands.

"Banks have invested a lot and if you look at the transaction throughput, it is up 50 percent to 500 million transactions on our digital channels last year. This requires a lot of investment in terms of throughput, back-end and system processing," Business Daily quoted KCB Group's Chief Executive Officer Joshua Oigara to have said.

Similarly, the CEO of Absa Kenya, Jeremy Awori, said "we saw the volume of transactions shoot up whether it was M-Pesa or bank-to-bank. When you are investing in a mobile platform, it is based on a return. The thing that is causing a little worry is that if it stays for long, we are going to see the innovation and services coming out of the platform reduce."

Business Insider Africa understands that Kenyan banks used to charge between \$0.260 (Sh30) and \$1.71 (Sh197) per transaction.

However, when COVID-19 hit the East African country, Kenyan authorities waived fees on bank to mobile phone transactions, as part of its palliative measures to ease the economic burden caused by the pandemic.

Consequently, many Kenyans, including a lot of small and medium sized businesses, began using mobile transfer services in a bid to take advantage of the waived fees. Unfortunately, while banks' digital transaction volume increased dramatically, the revenue they generated from this channel dropped significantly.

By ending of 2020, Kenyan banks made efforts to have the transfer fees reinstated. However, the Central Bank of Kenya rejected their call, only reinstating fees for transfers on transactions linked to savings and credit cooperative organisations in April 2021.

The implication of this, therefore, is that between March 2020 and now, majority of the banks in Kenya have had to invest heavily to upgrade their digital technology infrastructure, performed huge volumes of transactions on these channels and earned no fees.

Banks face numerous risks from Ukraine war

GEVEVA

SWITZERLAND'S financial authority examines the impact of the conflict on banks but sees no threat to financial market stability.

Switzerland's Financial Market Supervisory Authority (Finma) does not see a widespread threat to the country's financial markets from the war in Ukraine although the conflict does pose «accentuated risks» for individual institutions, it indicated in a report released during its annual

media conference.

Finma CEO Urban Angehrn summarized the findings from the report, saying it was keeping a "watchful eye" on the risks.

"This conflict poses numerous risks for the Swiss financial sector, and accentuated risks for individual institutions. We currently take the view that the conflict does not constitute a wide-scale threat to the Swiss financial market," Angehrn said.

He indicated that Finma is taking a close look at identifying

concentration risks and the possibility of contagion resulting from the conflict by evaluating to what degree institutions and the services they provide are exposed to it.

As part of that, the regulator looked at potential liquidity and capital resource issues, as well as how banks managed the enhanced international sanctions regime against Russia and any related operational risks.

"These include outstanding loans to Russian debtors or di-

rect investments in Russian securities. The Lombard loan or derivatives business with either Russian underlying value or with potentially sanctioned Russian counterparties can also be problematic. There is a danger here of banks not being able to withdraw from these transactions and also not being able to change margins," Angehrn said.

Finma has received many questions related to sanctions, particularly related to their enforcement and interpretation.

"Dealing with them is by no means new for the institutions, but the scale and complexity have increased sharply," he indicated.

He also said the Swiss financial institutions needed to remain vigilant against the threat of cyber-attack as a result of the war although there were currently no signs of any widespread or systemic attempts on the finance hub's technical infrastructure.

THE BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE CREDIT RATINGS TO BANKS AND CUSTOMERS

By Kelvin Mkwawa

IN an ideal world, everyone would have enough money to take care of their needs. However, in reality, most of us need to borrow money to meet our needs and life goals. There are many places that you can borrow from: friends, family members, street shark loaners, street lenders, and banks.

The majority of people depend on banks when they want to borrow. Whenever you apply for a loan from a bank, your credit rating is checked. Banks and financial institutions are using credit rating agencies to check your credit rating.

A credit rating agency is an organization that evaluates the creditworthiness of an individual or company who wishes to borrow money or apply for a line of credit in the bank.

You might ask yourself what is a credit rating? A credit rating is an assessment of the borrower that determines whether the borrower will be able to pay the loan/credit on time, as per the loan agreement.

Needless to say, a good credit rating depicts a good history of paying loans on time in the past. This credit rating influences the bank's decision of approving your loan application at a considerate rate of interest.

In Tanzania, we have only two credit rating agencies which I believe are too few to serve more than 50+ commercial banks that we currently have: CreditInfo Tanzania and Dun & Bradstreet. Credit rating agencies are known as Credit Reference Bureaus.

Credit rating agencies in Tanzania started in 2013, only seven years ago with CreditInfo Tanzania starting in June 2013 as the first licensed and operational credit reference bureau in Tanzania. I believe that to improve the performance of the banking sector, stimulate economic development, and address the problem of information asymmetries, we need more than two credit rating agencies in the country.

HOW STANDARD & POOR'S SEES THEM		
BANKS	Credit rating	Outlook
Barclays	AA	Under review
HSBC	A+	Under review
HSBC	AA	Stable
Lloyds TSB	AA	Under review
RBS NatWest	AA	Stable
FOREIGN BANKS		
Allied Irish	A+	Stable
Anglo Irish	A	Negative
Banco Santander (Abbey, A&L)	AA	Stable
Bank of Ireland (Post Office)	A+	Stable
Citigroup (Egg)	AA-	Under review
First Bank of Nigeria	BB-	Stable
ICI	BBB-	Stable
ING	AA	Stable
BUILDING SOCIETIES		
Britannia	A-	Stable
Chelsea	A*	Stable
Coventry	A*	Stable
Nationwide	A*	Stable
Newcastle	A*	Stable
Principality	A*	Stable
Skipton	A*	Stable
West Bromwich	A*	Stable
Yorkshire	A	Negative

*Fitch rating, S&P does not provide a rating

Therefore, the banks and financial institutions regulator needs to do more to improve the business environment for credit bureaus to operate and attract more credit rating agencies in the country.

At the consumer level, the agency's ratings are used by banks to determine the risk premium to be charged on loans. A poor credit rating shows that the loan has a higher risk premium, and this prompts an increase in the interest charged to individuals and entities with a low credit rating. A good credit rating allows borrowers to easily borrow money from the bank at a lower interest rate.

Meanwhile, at the corporate level, companies planning to issue debt security must find a rating agency to rate their debt or the companies who want to borrow, must have at

least an acceptable credit rating to be approved.

Having effective credit rating agencies is vital for the health of the banking and financial industry, as they assess the creditworthiness of governments, corporations, banks and other entities that wish to raise funds by issuing debt. There are many benefits of having effective credit rating agencies to both banks, consumers and the state of the country's economy. In this article, I will share a few:

Better Investment Decision for Banks – It is worth noting that no bank would like to give money to a risky customer. With the credit rating, the bank gets an idea about the creditworthiness of the borrower (an individual or company) and the risk factor attached to them. By evaluating credit rating reports, a bank can make a better lending decision. In addition, credit ratings enable the bank to save time and effort in analyzing the financial strength of a borrower. This is because the bank can depend on credit rating reports done by a credit agency when making a lending decision. Like any human situation, the credit rating agencies cannot be said to be perfect so it is very important to point out that a bank shouldn't depend 100% on the credit rating report. The bank should maintain its internal process and procedures and do its due diligence when it's making a lending decision. However, the credit rating report helps to simplify the job for the bank.

Efficiency in the Credit Markets – Credit rating agencies improve efficiency and transparency in the credit market by helping to reduce the knowledge gap between borrowers and lenders (banks). The knowledge gap I am referring to is the borrower's creditworthiness. Although the lender may be able to correctly characterize potential borrowers most of the time, there is still a chance of misjudging the borrower or internal staff colluding with the borrower to issue unwarranted loans, so by combining credit ratings and the bank's analysis, the bank can determine more accurately the creditworthiness of the borrower. Usage of multiple approaches (internal analysis and credit bureau agencies),

will enable the bank to be more confident about their lending decisions hence the banks will be able to set up loan interest rates that truly reflect the riskiness of the borrower. And this should ensure superior allocation of the limited credit which results in more net profits for the banks.

Determination of Interest Rate – Every bank offers a loan at a particular range of interest rates based on the market's conditions and subject to changes in line with money market conditions. One of the major factors that determine the rate of interest on a loan is the credit history of a borrower which is obtained through a credit rating report. The higher the credit rating of a borrower, the lower the loan's interest rate for the borrower. The interest rate on the loan is very important to the borrower since it has a big impact on the cost the borrower is paying for borrowing the money (loan). A lower interest rate on a loan is easier to repay than a higher interest rate because there is less interest added on top of the loan amount.

To summarize, I shared that banks and financial institutions are using credit rating agencies to check the credit ratings of loan applicants (potential borrowers) to determine their creditworthiness. With the credit rating, the bank gets an idea about the creditworthiness of an individual or company (borrower) and the risk factor attached to them, hence enabling a bank to make a better lending decision.

Also, we have seen other benefits of having effective credit rating agencies for both the banks (financial institutions) and consumers. Credit rating agencies improve efficiency and transparency in the credit markets by helping to reduce the knowledge gap between borrowers and lenders (banks) and helping to promote fairness in lending by playing a huge role in determining the correct interest rate charged on loans.

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

Stanbic Bank signs Sh1bn insurance for SME loans

NAIROBI

STANBIC Bank Kenya has signed an agreement with the African Guarantee Fund (AGF) to insure the lender against defaults in loans worth Sh1 billion to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The guarantee scheme will be in place for a renewable period of five years and will see the bank provide loans of up to Sh3 million to a single borrower.

Loan guarantee deals, which are becoming

more popular in Kenya, seek to encourage banks to lend more to SMEs, which are deemed riskier with the benefit of sharing potential losses with the providers of credit insurance.

"SMEs contribute more than 30 percent of Kenya's GDP, and close to 50 percent of new jobs created annually, and therefore, our partnership with the African Guarantee Fund is a significant milestone in contributing towards accelerating their growth," said Florence Wanja, the head of commercial

clients at Stanbic.

The loans will be issued to SMEs, women-owned businesses, and firms in the energy sector. The guarantee will be available as Stanbic issues the loans and it will be capped at an aggregate of Sh1 billion.

In addition to loans, the partnership will also see clients receive technical capacity building.

"Many Kenyan SMEs struggle to access financing due to their perceived higher risk, which has further deteriorated during the

Covid-19 pandemic," said Frank Adjagba, the director of business development at AGF.

"Reducing this risk will help these businesses access financing required for growth."

AGF charges banks a fee of between 1.5 percent to three percent for the risk guarantee.

Lending to SMEs has traditionally been seen as presenting more risk of default compared to lending to large, established private firms and government-owned institutions.

This has seen some banks opt to insure

some or all of their SME loan portfolios. Recent disclosures have, however, shown that large firms are now the main source of growth in defaults in the banking sector.

AGF says it has so far unlocked financing worth \$200 million (Sh23 billion) in Kenya, benefitting more than 4,000 businesses.

The fund announced in 2019 that it was ready to provide guarantees of \$170 million (Sh19.3 billion) to Kenyan banks to support their lending to SMEs.

Traditional banks tap into the lifestyle market segment after digital disruptions

JOHANNESBURG

NEW market entrants in the banking sector include TymeBank, which has garnered more than 4.5 million customers since its launch just three years ago in February 2019, and the innovative Bank Zero, headed by former FNB chief executive Michael Jordaan.

Bank Zero offers both individual and business clients zero fees on transactions and zero monthly fees.

However, you will pay R2 for till point withdrawals at Spar, Checkers and Pick n Pay and R9 per R1,000 when you make a withdrawal from an ATM. To keep costs low, Bank Zero is fully digital, with no physical branches or ATM network.

Spot Money, which is an open banking service originating from the old Virgin Money, also offers zero monthly and transaction fees.

FNB, part of the second-biggest banking group in the country (FirstRand), this week launched its lifestyle banking options - a comprehensive range of new lifestyle solutions and partnerships that are designed to help you beyond financial services.

Jacques Celliers, chief executive of FNB, says the bank is shifting into high gear to offer customers exponential help.

"As South Africa's largest provider of transactional banking services, we are acutely aware of the areas where our customers spend the majority of their money. As a result, our new solutions and partnerships are informed by a combination of our big data and analytical capabilities, which enables us to meet our customers' needs.

"By providing integrated solutions and low-cost devices for accessing education, security, entertainment and staying connected, we help customers manage their money and lifestyles more effectively. We continue to expand our solutions beyond financial services, building on the success of lifestyle offerings such as navv, fuel rewards and eBucks Travel, as well as FNB Connect," says Raj Mankjee, FNB retail chief executive.

In the last month, Discovery Bank launched Vitality Travel, a fully integrated travel booking service offering discounts and simplified trip management.

"The comprehensive travel offering is the world's first shared-value travel platform which channels behavioural savings into the greatest possible savings on flights, holiday accommodation, car hire and holiday packages," says Hylton Kallner, chief executive of Discovery Bank.

The Vitality Travel platform allows you to easily compare travel prices across the market and access discounts from a wide range of travel partners. The catch is that you have to be a member of Discovery Bank.

The FNB Lifestyle Solutions, on the other hand, are being thrown open to the wider public, although the hope is, of course, to see clients either switching to FNB or entering the banked market through its offerings.



BOA Bank Tanzania board chairman Nehemia Mchechu (left) shakes hand with the bank managing director Adam Mihayo as he was leaving the bank's headquarters premises in Dar es Salaam after his introduction. Mr Mchechu, who also doubles as the director general of National Housing Corporation (NHC) was recently appointed to chair the bank's board. (PHOTO/ A CORRESPONDENT)



The British Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Vicky Ford (2nd from left) looks at the production of spirits products which is run by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) women staff only. PHOTO/ COURTESY



NMB Bank chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi (left) explains to President Samia Suluhu Hassan when she visited the bank's pavilion during the handing over of working equipment to agricultural extension officers in Dodoma this week. The President was accompanied by Prime Minister Majaliwa Kassim Majaliwa (PHOTO/ NMB)

Wall Street banks could lose billions in Russia

WASHINGTON

THE conflict in Ukraine has caused many of Wall Street's biggest banks to begin winding down their business in Russia, but they could still face billions of dollars in losses as they reduce exposure and divest from Russian firms amid a barrage of Western sanctions.

While it will likely be a drawn-out process for banks to unwind their operations in Russia, some firms have higher exposure than

others—meaning greater potential losses if borrowers default on a payment—but for most, Russian investments still represent a small portion of cumulative assets.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon said in an annual shareholder letter on Monday that the bank was "not worried" about direct exposure to Russia, though he admitted, "We could still lose about \$1 billion over time."

Citigroup will be among the most impacted on Wall Street, however, with total exposure to

Russia amounting to almost \$10 billion at the end of 2021—and the bank could lose nearly half of that in a worst-case scenario, it said last month.

Goldman Sachs, meanwhile, has said that it had Russian credit exposure of around \$650 million by the end of 2021, but losses from divested assets should be "immaterial," sources told Reuters last month.

Deutsche Bank has around \$1.5 billion of exposure in Russia, while Credit Suisse, which previously re-

ported credit exposure of around \$1.7 billion, has more recently disclosed tens of billions of dollars managed for Russian clients which may be at risk.

European banks may be harder hit by having more vulnerability to declining Russian assets, but most U.S. banks have little exposure to Russian markets in the first place, having already scaled back operations substantially following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Big Number \$121 billion.



WORLD

Russia takes measures over hostile actions

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree that scraps simplified visa rules for officials and journalists from so-called unfriendly countries.

According to the decree, officials and journalists from some European Union countries as well as those from Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein will no longer be able to apply for visas to Russia through a simplified procedure. The decree took effect on Monday.

The state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported that Putin's decree ends visa-free entry for EU citizens who hold diplomatic passports.

Putin has also instructed the Foreign Ministry to decide on imposing entry bans on foreigners or stateless people who "commit unfriendly acts" against Russia, with the action including legal entities, the agency reported.

Russia's list of unfriendly countries includes those in the European Union, the United States, Britain, Canada and Ukraine, among others. The

list was expanded after the West levied punishing sanctions on Moscow.

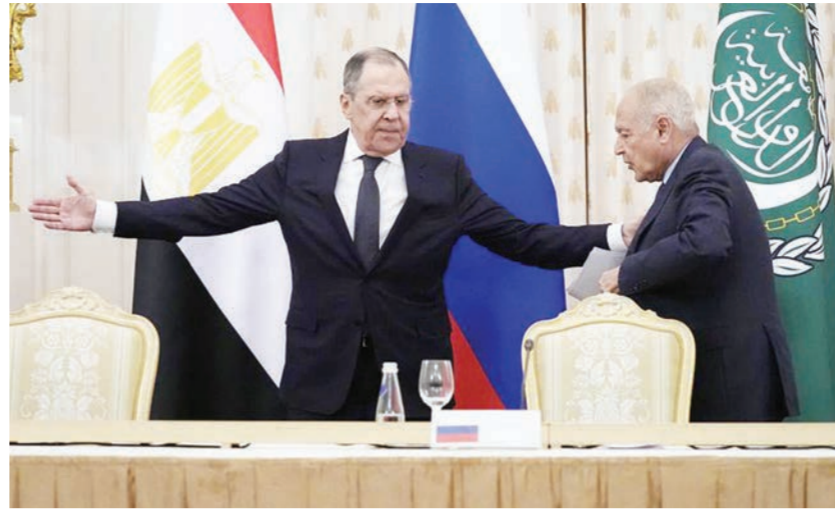
Amid the country's conflict with Ukraine, more Russian diplomats are being expelled by Western countries.

Mediation efforts

On the diplomatic front, some Arab countries have expressed a willingness to mediate between Russia and Ukraine, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said at a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

Foreign ministers of Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Jordan and Sudan met on Monday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, secretary-general of the Arab League, also joined the meeting. The ministers were due to travel to Poland on Tuesday for talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

Russia has removed about two-thirds of the troops it had around Kyiv, mostly sent back to Belarus with plans to redeploy elsewhere in Ukraine, a senior Pentagon official said on Monday.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (left) welcomes Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit in Moscow on Monday. AP

"They have about a third left of the forces that they had arrayed against Kyiv," the official said on grounds of anonymity.

The Russian military has said it is now focusing its efforts on the eastern Donbass region.

Serhii Haidai, chair of the Lugansk regional military administration, said the situation in the Lugansk region in eastern Ukraine is "difficult amid heavy Russian bombardment on Tuesday.

In a call with Kuleba, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres discussed the humanitarian situation in Bucha, a town on the outskirts of Kyiv.

Ukrainian prosecutors said at least 400 bodies have been recovered so far as a result of "the killing by Russian troops".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday it has become harder for his country to negotiate with Russia since Kyiv became aware of "the killings", according to CGTN.

According to Russian state news agency TASS, the United States plans to hold a session of the UN General Assembly on Russia's participation in the UN Human Rights Council as soon as Thursday.

Russia has rejected claims that its army was behind atrocities against civilians in Bucha amid widespread international outrage, claiming the footage was staged following Russian forces' retreat from the area.

Russian officials including Lavrov have repeated claims that the footage from Bucha was staged possibly with Western involvement.

French poll: Macron to beat Le Pen but Le Pen gains ground

PARIS/SPEZET

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron would beat Marine Le Pen in the country's presidential election later this month, though Le Pen has gained ground in recent weeks, showed an Ipsos Sopra Steria Cevipof poll for Le Monde newspaper.

The poll showed Macron would lead in the first round of votes on April 10, with 26.5 percent versus 21.5 percent for Le Pen in second place. Those figures compared to 28 percent for Macron and 17.5 percent for Le Pen in the last poll conducted March 21-24, said Ipsos Sopra Steria Cevipof.

Macron would then beat Le Pen in the second round run-off vote on April 24 by 54 percent to 46 percent.

Strolling around a small town in northwestern France, beaming to crowds shouting "Macron President!", Macron sought to revive a lackluster campaign whose increasingly uncertain outcome rattled markets on Tuesday.

With Le Pen's ratings boosted by months of canvassing small constituencies, the 44-year old president, who has only started campaigning, spent hours talking with voters in the Brittany town of Spezet's main square, taking selfies amid cheers and a handful of boos.

"You can count on me ... on my determination. I will, in the coming days and weeks seek out, one by one, the confidence of our compatriots, to (have the mandate to continue) to act in the years to come for our country, for Europe," he said.

Macron easily beat Le Pen five years ago with two-thirds of the vote in the second round. But though polls see both qualifying this time too for the April 24 runoff, they put Macron's lead at just 3 to 6 points - the former being within the margin of error.

France's benchmark CAC-40 index abruptly lost ground on Tuesday, with traders citing election nerves, while the spread between French and German 10-year government bonds stood at its widest in two years.

"Markets woke up on Le Pen," said Jerome Legras, head of research at Axiom Alternative Investments.

Softening Le Pen's image

Since her 2017 defeat, Le Pen has patiently worked on softening her image, striving to appear as a potential leader rather than a radical anti-system opponent.

Polls show this has worked on a growing number of voters, with a survey saying the once vilified candidate has become the second most-liked politician in the country.

The candidacy of Eric Zemmour, who is even further to the right than Le Pen, has, by contrast, helped Le Pen appear more palatable to voters.

"I always try to have the most reasonable view possible, and one that defends the interest of France," she told France Inter radio.

Le Pen has continued to improve on her pre-first round polling, at 23 percent versus Macron's 27 percent, two polls showed on Tuesday.

South Sudan launches public consultation to pave way for truth, reconciliation

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan peace monitors on Tuesday welcomed the launch of public consultations to pave the way for the start of truth, reconciliation and healing process under the 2018 revitalized peace deal.

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) said the launch of the consultations demonstrates positive progress after months of delays by the parties.

"This public consultation process has been eagerly awaited by the public. Unfortunately, it has experienced delays due to funding and other constraints. It is encouraging to see this process finally take off despite these obstacles," Charles Tai Gituai, Chairperson of RJMEC said in a statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The official launch of the consultation was attended by President Salva Kiir, First Vice President Riek Machar, and three other Vice Presidents and many other South Sudanese dignitaries and members of the regional and international diplomatic corps.

Gituai hailed the technical committee for the measures it has put in place in a bid to ensure that these public consultation processes be undertaken, aligned with international human rights standards, and best practices.

The official expressed hope that the technical committee will undertake the process in a manner that gives opportunity to the men, women, girls and boys of South Sudan to meaningfully participate and give their honest views about the kind of Commission.

Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) they wish to see established. The latest development follows the recent agreement among the parties to share the ratios within the unified army command structure after having disagreed. Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Government (SPLM-IG) under President Kiir will have 60 percent of the positions, while SPLM/A-In Opposition led by First Vice President Machar and other opposi-

China desires de-escalation, resolution of conflict in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS

CHINA is strongly committed to de-escalating and ending the conflict in Ukraine as soon as possible, an envoy said on Tuesday.

"De-escalation and putting an early end to the conflict in Ukraine is the earnest expectation of the international community and the strong desire of China," China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun told the UN Security Council's briefing on Ukraine.

Zhang (pictured) said that the Russian Federation and Ukraine have had rounds of negotiations and China welcomes the two sides to stick to the general direction of peace negotiations, overcome difficulties and differences, and continue to build conditions for a comprehensive settlement of the crisis.

"The international community should create favorable conditions and environment for negotiations between the two sides, open up space for political settlement, and should not set up obstacles for peace, let alone add fuel to the fire in aggravation of confrontations. Every effort should be made to prevent the escalation of the local conflict," Zhang said.

Speaking of the humanitarian issue, Zhang said that China attaches great importance to this issue in Ukraine and supports all initiatives and measures conducive to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

"As the conflict continues, we call on the parties to abide by international humanitarian law, protect the safety of civilians and civilian facilities, minimize civilian casualties, ensure safe and smooth humanitarian corridors for evacuees and humanitarian assistance, and guarantee the basic rights of women, children, and wounded and detained fighters. Humanitarian issues should not be politicized," he said.

On the protection of civilians, the ambassador said that "civilians should be spared of any forms of violence in armed conflicts."

"Attacks against civilians are unacceptable and should not occur," he said, noting that "the reports and images of civilian deaths in Bucha are deeply disturbing."

"The relevant circumstances and specific causes of the incident should be verified and established. Any accusations should be based on facts. Before the full picture is clear, all sides should exercise re-



straint and avoid unfounded accusations," he stressed.

Echoing the views of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Zhang said that "the spillover effects of the Ukraine crisis is having a major impact on the world, developing countries in particular."

Referring to sanctions imposed, the ambassador said that "sanctions are not an effective means to solve the problem, but will instead accelerate the spillover of the crisis, and bring new and complex problems."

"Today, with the deep development of globalization and the closely linked community of mankind, the implementation of all-dimensional and indiscriminate sanc-

tions is tantamount to politicizing, instrumentalizing and weaponizing the world economy, triggering a serious crisis in the fields of global economy and trade, finance, energy, food, industrial chain, and supply chain, endangering decades of development gains of the international community, and making people of all countries pay a hefty price," he said.

Zhang underscored the fact that the vast number of developing countries are not parties to the conflict, and should not be involved in this confrontation, let alone be forced to bear the consequences of geopolitical conflicts and great power competition.

"The world's major economies should be responsible for managing the risk of spillover of the crisis, and maintaining the stability of global markets and the momentum of global economic recovery," said the envoy.

Talking about sovereignty and territorial integrity, Zhang said that more than 30 years after the end of the Cold War, such a geopolitical tragedy taking place in Europe now "deserves our profound reflection."

"The sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, and small- and medi-

um-sized countries should not be pushed to the forefront of confrontation between great powers. All countries have the right to decide their foreign policy independently, and should not be forced to take sides," he said.

"The security of all countries is indivisible, and the security of one country cannot be achieved at the expense of the security of others. We call upon the United States, NATO, and the European Union to engage in comprehensive dialogues with Russia to face head on their differences accumulated over the years, find solutions to the problem, and promote the building of a balanced, effective and sustainable regional security framework," added the ambassador.

Zhang pointed out that on the issue of Ukraine, China does not seek geopolitical self-interest.

"It is not our mindset to watch the situation indifferently from the side line, let alone do anything to add fuel to the fire. There is only one goal we sincerely look forward to, and that is peace. China will continue to promote peace talks and play a constructive and responsible role in helping resolve the crisis in Ukraine," he concluded.

Xinhua

Somali leaders urged to embrace consensus to complete electoral process

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S international partners Tuesday called on leaders to embrace dialogue and consensus in the final push to complete the electoral process.

The partners including the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations among other Western nations said they are encouraged that more than 91 percent of the House of the People seats have now been chosen.

"We trust that this represents

unstoppable momentum to complete the remaining seats very soon," the partners said in a joint statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. Only two regional states - Hirshabelle and Jubaland - have yet to complete the electoral process for the House of the People.

The partners called on the leaders to prioritize the necessary dialogue and consultations to conclude the electoral arrangements - particularly in Jubaland - to ensure the communities concerned are repre-

sented in the next Parliament. With the focus now turning to the convening of parliament in Mogadishu and election of the parliamentary speakers and then the national president, the partners urged the political leaders to ensure that these processes reflect wide consensus. This, they said, is especially important for decisions on the location, security protocols, and anti-corruption measures for parliament's election-related meetings.

"It is vital that arrangements for this final stage of the elec-

toral process enjoy strong endorsement across the political spectrum and deliver a result that all accept as legitimate," the partners said ahead of the exercise slated for April 14.

The partners urged that preparations for an April 14 swearing-in proceed at pace even as work continues to resolve other outstanding issues and complete the remaining seats in Hirshabelle and Jubaland.

The partners said completion of the electoral process will then allow Somalia to address other urgent national priorities,

China's new Long-March 6 carrier rocket completes maiden flight

A modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket with solid strap-on boosters blasted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi province at 5:50 p.m., March 29.

The rocket, on its maiden flight, sent two satellites, Pujiang 2 and Tiankun 2, into planned orbits. It was the 412th mission of the Long March rocket series.

The modified version is a new member of and further enriches China's new-generation carrier rocket family. The launch also marked the first mission carried out at the Launch Area 9A of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, China's first intelligent launch area.

The modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket is about 50 me-

ters in length. It can produce a lift-off thrust of 7,230 kN with a takeoff weight of about 530 tonnes. It's capable of sending a payload of at least four tonnes to a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 700 kilometers. The rocket is competitive both in its performance and cost.

As the first hybrid carrier rocket, the modified version of the Long March-6 gives full play to the advantages of liquid-fueled boosters - high performance and long working hours, as well as those of solid-fueled boosters, including high thrust, high reliability and easy maintenance. It will significantly enhance China's capability in entering, exploiting and explor-

ing space.

An expert noted that booster combinations of this carrier rocket can be diverse, thus meeting the needs of intensive launches of multiple types of satellites.

As the first intelligent launch area in China, the Launch Area 9A of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center gets rid of traditional models for launch missions. It can be left unattended four hours before a rocket blasts off, and all the operations are controlled remotely by an intelligent launch system, which largely improves launch efficiency, as well as the stability and safety of the launch command system.

The employment of the Launch Area

9A is of significant importance for further streamlining launch process, improving launch efficiency, and enhancing launch stability and safety. At the newly-built launch area, solid-fueled boosters can be directly installed and the launch area also enables rapid launches of the modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket with preparations of only 14 days. It will meet the highly frequent launch requirement to the medium and low orbit satellites.

It is learned that the Pujiang 2 satellite will complete scientific experiments and land resources surveys, and the Tiankun 2 is assigned with experiments on space environment detection technology.

People's Daily



A modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket blasts off on March 29 from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi province.

India rocked by inflation as fuel prices rise daily

NEW DELHI

INDIA has been witnessing inflation as prices of fuels, vegetables, fruits, edible oils and cereals have all skyrocketed.

Petrol and diesel prices have witnessed a continuous rise for over two weeks since March 22, as the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was recently hiked by 250 Indian rupees (around 3.2 U.S. dollars) to 2,253

Indian Rupees (29.6 U.S. dollars). On March 22, the price of domestic LPG gas cylinders increased by 50 Indian rupees (65 U.S. cents).

The steep rise in diesel and petrol prices has led to an increase in the prices of vegetables and other food articles, as transportation prices have gone up significantly.

Between March 22 and April 5, fuel prices were raised by 9.20 Indian Rupees (12 U.S. cents) per liter across the four metro cities in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

On Tuesday, petrol price in Delhi stood at 104.61 Indian rupees (1.37 U.S. dollars) per liter while diesel was available at 95.87 Indian rupees (1.26 U.S. dollars) per liter.

In Mumbai, petrol was retailed at rupees 119.67 (1.57 U.S. dollars), while diesel cost rupees 103.92 (1.36 U.S. dollars) per liter. However, Minister of Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said in the parliament that fuel prices hiked in India are one-tenth of prices hiked in other countries including the United States, Canada, Germany and Britain. The annual

inflation rate in the country accelerated for the fifth straight month to 6.07 percent in February, the highest since June 2021, and above the market forecasts of 5.93 percent.

Inflation figures for March 2022 will be announced later this month. Food inflation increased to 5.85 percent, the highest reading since November 2020, with the cost of oils and fats (16.44 percent), meat and fish (7.45 percent), and vegetables (6.13 percent) recording the biggest rises.

Reacting to the inflationary trend, chief economist at credit rating agency ICRA Aditi Nayar was quoted as saying, "Led by food and beverages, clothing and footwear, and housing, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation inched up to an eight-month high 6.

1 percent in February 2022, similar to our forecast (6.2 percent), and uncomfortably above the upper threshold of the MPC's 2-6 percent medium term target range." In a bid to compensate for the price rise, the federal government last week approved an additional 3 percent Dearness Allowance (DA) to central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to the pensioners with effect from Jan.

Following the central government's announcement, most state governments too announced similar hikes in the DA for their employees, which is given to government employees to meet the rise in inflation.

Agencies

ROK cabinet clears way for presidential Blue House move

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea's cabinet approved nearly \$30 million yesterday to help president-elect Yoon Suk-yeol move the presidential office and residence from the traditional Blue House, clearing the way for a plan initially criticized by the current administration as rushed and a threat to national security.

Yoon, breaking with tradition, plans to move the presidential office from the Blue House to the defense ministry compound, a step estimated to cost \$40 million ultimately.

Elected in a tight vote on March 9, the conservative Yoon has called the Blue House a symbol of an "imperial presidency" and said he wanted to make the move immediately after his inauguration on May 10.

The administration of incumbent President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who was barred from running again by term limits, initially raised concerns about the plan to move the presidential office, requiring the relocation of the defense ministry in a matter of weeks. It said a rushed move could "create a security vacuum and confusion" at a time of tensions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

But Moon later called on his cabinet to approve the needed funds, and on Wednesday the panel set aside 36 billion won (\$29.5 million) in reserve government funds for the initial costs. Additional funding will be discussed later, the government said.

Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum, who presided over the cabinet meeting, said the decision was made to ensure a "smooth government transition without a security vacuum".

Residents and environmentalists protested Wednesday outside the current defense ministry compound, saying a rushed move could derail a project to establish a national park at a former US military base in the neighborhood, and cause traffic congestion, Yonhap news agency reported.

Yonhap also cited an unnamed official as saying the defense ministry had started preparations for its relocation to a nearby building.

Peru's Castillo lifts Lima curfew after widespread defiance

LIMA

PERUVIAN President Pedro Castillo on Tuesday afternoon lifted a curfew order following widespread defiance on the streets, as protests spiraled against rising fuel and fertilizer prices triggered by the Ukraine conflict.

"I must announce that from this moment on we are going to cancel the curfew order," Castillo said in a meeting with Congress. "We now call on the Peruvian people to keep calm."

Castillo issued a sudden curfew mandate minutes before midnight on Monday, ordering Lima residents to stay at home between 2 am and 11:59 pm in an attempt to curb nationwide protests over surging prices.

But the curfew triggered a fresh crisis for the Castillo administration, with thousands of people taking to the street to defy the curfew. He cut the curfew short just after 5 pm local time.

The new protests on Tuesday added to a broader crisis that started a week ago in Peru over mounting inflation, which rattled Castillo just days after he survived an impeachment trial.

Western sanctions on Russia have cut supply of oil and fertilizers, hurting fragile emerging economies like Peru. Like many countries, Peru was battling high inflation before the war started, but the conflict has accelerated a surge in the price of food, fuel and other essential items. Peru's March inflation at 1.48 percent was the highest in 26 years.

Castillo rose to power last year with overwhelming support from Peru's rural population, but rising prices have led that same group to stage the most significant protests so far in his administration.

Castillo's popularity has waned quickly and now hovers at around 25 percent. He has survived two impeachment attempts and cycled through an unprecedented number of Cabinet members in his eight-month administration.

The lockdown order stunned many Limenos, as residents of the capital are known, who took to the streets to defy what they saw as a violation of their civil liberties.

The government has repeatedly said, without providing evidence, that the curfew was necessary to avoid looting. **Agencies**

Blinken's Mideast tour unlikely to contribute to regional peace

CAIRO

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent Mideast tour, which was aimed at addressing U.S. allies' concerns before reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, enlisting regional countries' support for sanctions against Russia and strengthening Israel's relations with Arab countries, is unlikely to contribute to the region's long-term stability and peace, analysts have said.

The willingness of the United States to seek long-term peace and stability in the Middle East remains doubtful, as maintaining animosity among Mideast countries and dividing the region serve U.S. interests both economically and strategically, analysts have argued.

The revival of the Iran nuclear pact, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is currently the top priority of the United States in the Middle East, according to analysts.

By reaching an agreement with Iran, Washington hopes to limit Iran's nuclear capability as well as the development of other sectors such as defense and economy, while pumping more Iranian oil into the international market to meet the demands of European consumers, who have cut Russian gas supplies, said Lu Jin, a research fellow with the Institute of West-Asian and African Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

An important goal of Blinken's Mideast tour was to address the concerns of Israel, a close U.S. ally and an arch enemy of Iran, who worries that easing sanctions will bolster the Islamic republic militarily and economically, added Lu.

During Blinken's visit to Israel, where he took part in a two-day conference with the participation of foreign ministers from Israel and four Arab states, namely, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Morocco and Egypt, the top U.S. diplomat vowed that his country will continue to work together with its allies to confront "common security challenges and threats, including those

from Iran and its proxies." Despite Blinken's remarks, Israel would maintain its posture against Iran, since Iran remains the most powerful country in the Middle East region to challenge Israel, analysts said, adding Blinken's visit to Israel is mostly symbolic rather than substantive and will have little impact on the improvement of ties between Israel and Iran.

"The U.S. is eager to press Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other Gulf oil-producing countries to increase their production capacity in order to relieve the European Union's burden of high energy costs and the bloc's reliance on Russia's energy supply," said Ma Xiaolin, dean of the Mediterranean Institute at Zhejiang International Studies University.

The Gulf Arab states, primarily Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have largely stayed put despite Washington's repeated calls for increased oil output. Senior officials from both countries have pledged to follow the plan for progressively increasing oil production as adopted by the OPEC+, of which Russia is a member.

While meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi of the UAE Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to Morocco, Blinken told the UAE leader that Washington is determined to help the Gulf state fend off attacks from the Iran-backed Houthi militia in Yemen, apparently in response to the UAE's concerns about the declining U.S. commitment to the region's security.

The top U.S. diplomat revealed in Algeria, the last leg of his Mideast tour, that energy was not a focus of his talks with the UAE leader, even though Washington wanted Gulf nations to increase production to temper soaring crude prices, which are partially caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

One day after Blinken left the Middle East, the OPEC+ only agreed on a modest oil output increase, ignoring Western pressure to significantly increase production.

After the OPEC+ refused to bend, the United States opted to tap its strategic reserves to keep prices from rising too



high.

The message was that Blinken's Mideast tour did not bridge the rift between Washington and its Gulf allies, and that his goal of uniting the stance against Russia had obviously failed, said analysts.

"For the time being, it's very difficult for the United States to seek Mideast countries' support for sanctions against Russia, because it might hurt their interests," said Li Weijian, vice president of the Chinese Association of Middle East Studies and researcher at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

Given what the United States has done in the Middle East, countries in the region have learned lessons from the past and begun to pursue an independent foreign policy, he said, adding Russia's growing influence in the region makes siding with the United States now an "unwise choice."

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has hailed the conference of foreign ministers between Israel and four Arab countries as "making history," as it marks the first time that Israel hosts a meeting with Arab foreign ministers.

However, the absence of Jordan, which made peace with Israel in 1994 but did not join the conference, shows that the Palestinian issue is not forgotten.

On the day of the Israeli conference, Jordan's King Abdullah arrived in Ramallah for the first time in years to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "Arab normalization meetings are nothing but an illusion and a free reward for Israel unless the occupation ends," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh reportedly

told his Cabinet on the day of the conference.

Although the reconciliation between Israel and some Arab countries is supposed to ease some tensions in the Middle East, it could also further marginalize the Palestinian issue, said Wu Bingbing, director of the Center for Middle East Studies at Peking University.

"Closer relations between Israel and several Arab countries will help the United States transfer its commitment to ensure their security partially through a regional arrangement including Israel, who is happy to do so because the move will improve its own security situation," said Wu.

If the conference between Israeli and Arab foreign ministers is successful in becoming an annual regional forum, it will have a long-term impact on the Middle East and may provoke moves from Turkey, Iran, and other countries, said Li, the researcher at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. He emphasized that the conference's impact must be assessed further because it is still unclear whether it would serve as a long-term mechanism.

However, the Palestinian issue will remain as a sensitive one for Arab countries for a long time to come, and the United States, which tries hard to portray itself as a peace-maker in the Middle East, has done little to address the root cause of the issue as illustrated by Blinken's reiteration of Washington's "ironclad commitment" to Israel, analysts observed.

Xinhua

Xiong'an New Area a mirror of future China

XIONGAN New Area, a national-level new area in north China's Hebei province and a national model of high-quality development, is believed to be a mirror of the future China.

On April 1, 2017, China announced plans to establish Xiong'an New Area in Hebei province, making it another new area of national significance following the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in south China's Guangdong province and Pudong New Area in east China's Shanghai.

Over the past five years, China has advanced the construction of Xiong'an New Area according to high standards and quality requirements, making constant new progress in the construction and continuously bringing new looks to it.

Today, as the top-level design and the master plan for the new area are gradually turned into realities and the construction of the new area proceeds at full throttle, a great city begins to take shape.

More than 200 projects are slated to enter the construction period in Xiong'an New Area this year, with the total investment estimated to exceed 700 billion yuan (\$110 billion). In February this year, the new area kicked off a good number of projects scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2022, including 43 key projects worth of 60.1 billion yuan, among which 16 are major ones with an investment of more than one billion yuan.

Construction of the first batch of projects designed to serve China's centrally-administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which is a part of the plan to shift Beijing's functions nonessential to its role as the capital to Xiong'an New Area, as well as three industrial park projects of China's three major tele-



Construction of the Rongxi Zone of Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei province, is in full swing, June 20, 2021. File photo

com operators, namely China Telecom, China Mobile, and China Unicom, has been comprehensively set in motion.

Major landmark projects for public service facilities in the new area, including sports center and library, have also commenced construction.

In fact, except for some basic projects and temporary buildings for essential needs, no construction task was carried out during the first more than two years since the official announcement of the establishment of Xiong'an New Area.

During that period, more than 1,000 experts from home and abroad, over 200 teams, and over 2,500 professional technicians worked tirelessly to formulate a master plan for the new city, finally drawing up a grand blueprint for the new area, which is considered a national project of millennial significance.

The blueprint has been implemented thoroughly. Xiong'an New Area will be historical heritage Chinese people leave for the future generations, according to Chinese President Xi Jinping, who stressed the necessity to adhere to the ideas of "global vision, international stand-

ards, distinctive Chinese features, and future-oriented goals" in the construction of the new area so as to develop it into a demonstration zone of innovation-driven development.

Xiong'an New Area is believed to be a national pace-setter of high-quality development. The new area has introduced strict regulations on the styles and features of the area and its landmarks. It has made clear that there will be no outlandish building, skyscraper, or glass curtain wall in the area. "Urban diseases", such as "overhead spider webs" formed by unsightly power lines and telecommunications cables and "road zippers" caused by repeated replacement of buried pipes, are all expected to be solved in Xiong'an New Area by well-designed underground pipe gallery.

In the long term, the new area will be able to sustain a population of two million to 2.5 million and be equipped with high-quality resources in education and health.

"According to our plans for the new area, all of the government-funded new construction projects and large public buildings in the area will meet the three-star standard (the

highest in China) of green buildings, and a 15-minute radius community life circle will be built here," said Wang Zhigang, deputy head of the planning and construction bureau of Xiong'an New Area.

"We have been strictly implementing relevant high standards and quality requirements," he added.

Xiong'an New Area has been known as an eco-friendly city. During the past five years, the area has planted 454,000 mu (about 30,267 hectares) of trees, including more than 23 million trees of economic value, fruit trees, and ornamental trees, increasing the local forest coverage rate from 11 percent to 32 percent.

With parks, tree belts, and forests located within 300 meters, 1,000 meters, and 3,000 meters, respectively, from residential communities, Xiong'an New Area is turning the idyllic urban scenery and life that urbanites yearn for into a reality.

Driven by the innovative idea of factoryless production, the phase I project of the first integrated waste treatment facility in Xiong'an New Area has built an underground waste treatment system and turned the above-ground part of the facility

into a country park. By making sure the whole process of waste treatment is handled underground, the facility has reduced its impact on people in the surrounding areas to the greatest possible extent.

Xiong'an New Area is also a city featuring extensive application of artificial intelligence (AI). The new area is expected to build China's first urban intelligent infrastructure platform consisting of urban computing center, platform of Internet of Things (IoT), network of video monitoring systems, and City Information Modeling (CIM) platform.

Urban computing center serves as the "brain" that performs the computing and storage functions for various smart administration systems of the area; IoT platform and network of video monitoring systems, which are to Xiong'an New Area as "nerves" are to human body, are responsible for the management of IoT devices and video monitoring devices; and CIM platform is the digital twin of the new area.

Whenever a building is erected in the new area, a digital building with the same features is created on the digital platform of the area. Even the slightest change to the area, such as the replacement of a street lamp, can be simultaneously reflected on the digital platform. It's believed that Xiong'an New Area will truly march toward a new stage of "digital twin cities".

The new era calls for high-quality urban development models and governance ideas. The Xiong'an New Area will be built into a "city of the future," and its construction process demonstrates a systematic exploration of a new urban development paradigm. China's futuristic city urban practices can contribute a holistic "Chinese solution" to the world.

People's Daily



Amissi Tambwe

DTB FC attacker calls for protection of key footballers in 2021/22 Championship

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM'S Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC striker Amissi Tambwe has said many players playing in the Championship are desperate to achieve success.

The Burundian attacker revealed the performers are as a result unwittingly resorting to executing dirty tactics.

The footballer called for the protection of the showdown's key performers from referees due to pressure from defenders on the pitch.

Tambwe said some defenders play without regard to humanity, oblivious of the fact that every player is earning a living through his talent.

"You may meet a player who is playing so badly that you think he has an ill will, they have to grow up and realize they still have a long way to go to get where they need to be," Tambwe stressed.

The forward added: "I remember the match between DTB FC and Green Warriors FC, there was a player who deliber-

ately kicked me in the elbow."

Tambwe revealed: "It was just a failure by the footballer to realize that I have a family that depends on me, so, let them learn and stop this hooliganism."

He pointed out that DTB FC's match against Transit Camp FC, in which he was shown a red card, was to be reckoned with.

According to Tambwe, he was deliberately fouled by one of Transit Camp FC defenders, a situation that hurt him a lot and he decided to retaliate, an incident which brought about his dismissal.

The goal-getter apologized to his outfit's officials for the dismissal. The footballer pointed out: "I'm thankful they understood me even though I strongly urge the referees to protect me and other players who are on the receiving end of rough treatment."

The experienced forward that turned out for popular domestic outfits of Simba SC and Yanga in the past is the 2021/22 Championship's leading goal-getter with 14 goals.

Prime Minister hails Simba SC for achieving CAF Confederation Cup feat

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kassim Majaliwa, has congratulated Simba SC for successfully hoisting the country flag high in continental tournaments.

Simba SC sailed through this season's CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals, with the side pitted against South Africa's Orlando Pirates FC.

Majaliwa made the remarks in Parliament in Dodoma yesterday while delivering a speech on the government's review and direction and estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Prime Minister's Office and Parliamentary Office for the year 2022/2023.

In his address, Prime Minister took the opportunity to congratulate Simba SC, which is currently a competitor in the quarterfinals of the second tier of Africa's club competitions.

Majaliwa stated: "I would like to congratulate Simba Sports Club for hoisting our nation's flag high in CAF Confederation Cup."

"We have all witnessed the outfit continue to beat opponents and represent us well in the continental tournament," Prime Minister disclosed.

Simba SC has already been scheduled to confront Orlando Pirates in the quarterfinals following the stage draw that took place in Cairo on Tuesday.

The first leg fixture will be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 17 and the rematch will be played in Soweto, South Africa on April 24.

Prime Minister as well congratulated other clubs participating in the NBC Premier League and the Zanzibar Premier League for continuing to emphasize the importance of sports in the country.

Caravans Cricket Club wallops Aruti Aces Cricket Club in DC SiSi Cup Division A 50 Over tournament

By Guardian Reporter

AMAL Rajeevan put stellar displays at the crease as Caravans Cricket Club thrashed Aruti Aces Cricket Club by six wickets in the Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) SiSi Cup Division A 50 Over tournament match held recently.

Caravans Cricket Club has consequently extended its winning streak to three games after the club's emphatic victory over Aruti Aces Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club won the toss in the tie that took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club oval and elected to bat.

The side's cricketers were skittled for 129 runs in 35.1 overs, with some of the outfit's experienced performers putting below-par displays.

Even though Aruti Aces Cricket Club's opening pair made up of Jumanne Mohamed and Ankit Baghel had a decent 47-run partnership, Caravans Cricket Club's bowler Akhil Anil stepped up to keep the duo in check.

Baghel made his way back with 27 runs, the opener's efforts were boosted by fellow opener's 15 runs.

Although the duo was solid, the introduction of Anil disrupted the play and wickets kept falling at regular intervals.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club was restricted to 129 for all in 35.1



Caravans Cricket Club's Akhil Anil (R) receives the Man of the Match award from Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Chairman, Azim Thakur, shortly after the cricketer's squad took on Aruti Aces Cricket Club in the 2022 DC SiSi Cup Division A 50 Over tournament duel which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

overs. Anil (10-2-4-27) was the pick of Caravans Cricket Club's bowling unit.

The newly signed performer was ably assisted by Kassim Nassoro (10-1-2-29) and Jitin Pratap Singh (4.1-0-2-14).

The standout performers at the crease for Aruti Aces Cricket Club were Ankit Baghel who notched 27

runs (35 balls), and Salum Jumbe who scored 25 runs (50 balls).

Other key performers, Kibwana Salum and promising batsman Jaffary Kanyita, chipped in with two-digit figures, posting 19 runs and 16 runs respectively.

Mohammad Ali, deployed at middle-order, and Jeremiah Makanya

were four runs short of a two-digit figure.

In return, Caravans Cricket Club efficiently chased down the target in 25.5 overs with six wickets to spare.

Rajeevan was the stand-out performer at the crease with 49 runs not out (59), supported by the experienced Nandakishan Pottachira's 46 runs (46).

Pottachira brought Caravans Cricket Club's total to 13 runs short of the triple-digit figure once the cricketer made his way back after 16.2 overs.

Experienced cricketer Anoop Kumar, also the outfit's skipper, sought to make his presence felt, posting 15 runs.

Anil was presented with the Man of the Match award for his exceptional bowling performance, which was instrumental in Caravans Cricket Club's victory.

With this win, Caravans Cricket Club is sitting comfortably in the second position in the table with a game in hand, as the side is set to confront Aga Khan Sports Club.

The division's table-topper Pak Stars boast of a 1.4070 net run rate in five ties, having scored 837 runs and leaked 574 runs.

Third-placed Aruti Aces Cricket Club is still in contention for silverware, having notched a 0.6332 net run rate.

The club has registered victory in two clashes and loss in three outings, amassing 738 runs and leaking 628 runs.

Aga Khan Sports Club, Upanga Sports Club, and Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) have been placed fourth, fifth, and last respectively in the six-team tournament.



NBC Bank's Head of Products and Sales, Abel Kaseko (L), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the institution's campaign, known as 'Jaza Kibubu Tusepe', aiming to get 80 customers that will win tickets to watch a 2021/22 NBC Premier League duel pitting Simba SC against Yanga at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam later this month. Others are NBC Bank Sales Manager, Deogratius Kibodya (R), and the institution's Manager for Products and Sales, Dorothea Mabonye. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

NBC Bank set to offer tickets for Dar Derby

By Guardian Correspondent

THE NBC Bank has launched a campaign, known as 'Jaza Kibubu Tusepe', which will focus on the provision of education on financial matters that will be accompanied by new prizes for the institution's customers.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Abel Kaseko, the institution's Head of Products and Sales, stated the campaign will run for six months, noting NBC Bank customers will benefit from the campaign.

Kaseko said education will be provided alongside awards during

the campaign.

He said the bank's 80 customers would win tickets to watch this season's NBC Premier League clash between age-old rivals, Simba SC and Yanga, to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam later this month.

Dorothea Mabonye, NBC Bank's Product Manager for Private Clients, revealed a customer that is to deposit cash totaling 300,000/- from yesterday until April 24 will get a chance to win a ticket to watch the tie.

Dorothea said that 50 NBC Bank customers from various regions in the country will be awarded tickets

to attend the match.

The anxiously awaited tie will take place on April 30, with Dorothea hinting the bank will foot food and accommodation costs for winners while they are in the city.

The official noted that 30 customers from Dar es Salaam will be awarded VIP tickets to the game.

The official moreover noted there will be tickets to be won by five customers that will land a trip to Qatar to watch the 2022 World Cup finals in December.

Dorothea said there will be the first group of winners of the trip to Qatar that are to deposit 1m/- on their accounts from yesterday to

September.

"The second group will comprise our customers who will deposit the amount of 7m/- in their accounts starting today to September," the official noted.

"This group will have two winners who will be awarded travel tickets for the trip to Qatar, accommodation, food, and drinks, and watch matches in the World Cup finals. These winners will receive the finals' round-robin tickets," Dorothea disclosed.

The official moreover called on Tanzanians to open accounts at the bank to benefit from the campaign.

Aubameyang: Barcelona's free gift who keeps on giving

BARCELONA

"A GIFT from heaven," was how Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez described the arrival of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and the striker, discarded by Arsenal, has certainly delivered.

It is hard to think of a more significant January acquisition than Aubameyang, given his impact on Barca's immediate and long-term future.

By the end of the season, Aubameyang's goals could be the biggest factor in Barcelona finishing in La Liga's top four, an achievement that could prove transformative.

He has scored nine goals in 12 games so far, including a hat-trick against Valencia and two against Real Madrid.

Missing out on the Champions League next season would have derailed Barcelona's financial recovery and destabilised the entire project under Xavi, who looks an astute appointment now but was unproven when he took his first major coaching job in November.

Barcelona's fortunes have turned around so dramatically that they now have two chances to qualify for the Champions League.

They could finish in the top four in La Liga, where they are second after overhauling Sevilla on Sunday, or they could win the Europa League where they are clear favourites.

They face Frankfurt on Thursday in the first leg of the quarter-finals, with the winner to face Lyon or West Ham in the last four.

The 32-year-old Aubameyang's departure from Arsenal mid-season continues to cause debate in England, with some questioning Mikel Arteta's decision to let the striker leave for free, particularly given the team's struggles to score goals.

Many say the wisdom of that move will depend entirely on whether Arsenal finish in the Premier League's top four and qualify for the Champions League for the first time since the 2016-17 season.

"I think (the problem) was just with him and after he made this decision, I can't tell you much, he wasn't happy and that's it. I was not very happy, I was very calm and that's it," Aubameyang said in February of Arteta.

Perhaps more to the point is that in January, Arsenal and Barcelona had very different priorities.

While Arteta was nurturing and protecting a young Arsenal team for the future, Barcelona wanted to patch together a short-term squad capable of averting impending financial disaster.

Aubameyang's disciplinary problems, age and lack of fitness meant he no longer fitted in with Arteta's long-term vision.

- 'A privilege to have him' -

But his goals, talent and ego made him the perfect fit for a Barcelona side desperately in need of a quick fix.

"Auba has been a gift from heaven," said Xavi.

"He is a player who is positive, has taken very well to the dressing room, he adapts very well to the needs of the team, he scores. It is a privilege to have him and he will contribute a lot to us."

AFP

West Ham host Lyon as European run recalls memories of halcyon days

LONDON

WEST Ham United host Lyon in the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final on Thursday with the Hammers' run in continental competition bringing back memories of the club's halcyon days.

They have not seen a European quarter-final in the east end of London since 1981, when second-division West Ham lost to eventual winners Dinamo Tbilisi in the last eight of the Cup Winners Cup.

Their best years came before that, with Bobby Moore captaining the team to victory in the 1965 Cup Winners Cup and a side featuring Frank Lampard senior reaching the final of the same tournament in 1976.

On that occasion they lost to a brilliant Anderlecht team, but returning to another European final is now the dream, almost half a century later.

After ousting record six-time winners Sevilla in the last round, a meeting with Lyon will hold no fears for David Moyes's men, who are sixth in the Premier League.

"It's very exciting. I've been here a long time and seen the lows of relegation battles to being in the quarter-final of the Europa League," Aaron Cresswell told the club's website.

"That's what we want as a club, we want progression and as players we want to play in those competitions against the best players in the world. It's fantastic."

Lyon have a fantastic recent pedigree in Europe, reaching the Champions League semi-finals in 2020 and the last four of the Europa League in 2017.

They knocked out Porto in the last round, but it is hard to know what the true face of Peter Bosz's side is just now -- they lie in mid-table in Ligue 1.

Lyon are missing gifted midfielder Maxence Caqueret due to injury but anything is possible for them if the likes of Lucas Paqueta and Houssem Auar perform to the best of their ability.

- Resurgent Barcelona -

Whoever wins that tie -- the second leg will be played next week -- will face Eintracht Frankfurt or a resurgent Barcelona in the semi-finals.

The Catalans must now be seen as the favourites to win the Europa League as they head to Germany on a run of 13 games unbeaten.

AFP

Foden foils Simeone's Atletico master class ahead of Man City's pivotal week

MANCHESTER, England

FOR nearly 70 minutes, Atletico Madrid put on a Diego Simeone master class at the Etihad Stadium. And then Phil Foden came on.

The 21-year-old England midfielder was introduced in the 68th minute, and less than 90 seconds later Manchester City were 1-0 in front and on their way to securing a perfect start to a 10-day period that might end up defining their season.

It's Liverpool on Sunday in the Premier League, followed by the return leg in Madrid next Tuesday, then the FA Cup semifinal with Liverpool at Wembley on Saturday. In just 20 minutes here, Foden made his case to start them all.

He was the difference in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg so much so that when the final whistle went, the goal scorer, Kevin De Bruyne, went straight over to offer a hug and a handshake. Had Foden stayed on the bench, City might not have found a way through Simeone's rigid game plan and would be heading to Spain next week with the tie on a

knife edge.

"A difficult game against a tough opponent, it's so difficult to find gaps," Guardiola said afterward. "They defend so well, so compact and so deep and we need the talent like Phil has shown in small spaces. They can punish you on the counterattack because they are top, top players. Phil has a special quality. His reception is always forward and he has the composure to make an assist for Kevin."

"It's a good result, unfortunately at the end we had one or two more chances, but 1-0 to go to Madrid is good. Honestly, I was not expecting to win 3-0 or 4-1."

Games against Atletico are, by Simeone's design, often decided by fine margins, but Foden is good enough to thread a pinpoint pass through the tightest of spaces.

"We tried to keep it tight, use the counterattack. They didn't get a shot on target in the first half, but we couldn't hurt them either," Simeone said after the match. "In the second half we had some more dangerous counterattacks, then they scored. A very



Phil Foden)

tactical game, both [coaches] looking with what he has to try to go through."

Guardiola and Simeone wore the same long black coat on the touchline to guard against the Manchester rain, but their footballing styles could not have been more different. For long periods Atletico's red and white shirts were entrenched in two lines in front of Jan Oblak's goal, while Guardiola spent most of the first half telling John Stones -- his centre-back -- to push higher up the pitch. After 20 minutes, City had recorded 80% possession, although Guardiola seemed well aware of the threat lurking within the Spanish champions'

low block.

Anytime Atletico sprung out the traps, even if it was from the edge of their own penalty area, Guardiola crouched down in his technical area bracing himself for the worst. Twice in the opening five minutes, Atletico tried to play into the space behind Nathan Ake, deputising at left-back in the reshuffle that saw Joao Cancelo moved to right-back to compensate for Kyle Walker's absence through suspension. But Atleti's threat going forward was limited all night.

Speaking at his news conference on Monday, Guardiola appeared to bristle at the notion that Atletico are a team primarily focused

on defending. However, there was little in the first half to suggest otherwise. Simeone's side went in at half-time without having a shot at Ederson or even a corner. It might not be football to drool over, but Atletico have turned defending into an art form, and with two thirds of the game gone, City's best chance was an Aymeric Laporte header from a corner.

"They are very good," added Guardiola. "They have been many years together. We created very few things. They are very good at many things, and they have the patience and time to defend for long periods of time. It is not easy to face a team with a lot of experience in this tournament. We will go there to score and try and win again."

Appreciate Simeone's style or not, very few do manage to do that at the Etihad these days. City had failed to score in only one of their 28 previous Champions League home games under Guardiola, but it was only when Foden came on -- introduced alongside Jack Grealish and Gabriel Jesus -- that they looked likely to

make it one in 29. Almost immediately he picked up the ball in a tight space on the edge of the box, drew five Atletico defenders toward him and lifted his head to slip a pass through to De Bruyne. It was one of two outstanding moments of quality in the game, the other coming from Foden again when he danced his way down the byline to create another chance for De Bruyne.

"We thought he'd start, he's very dynamic, very quick, powerful in finishing off moves," Simeone said about Foden. "He came on in the second half. Any of the three that came on have good characteristics. I like to watch Manchester play, the patience they have to play."

The Atleti striker, Joao Felix, is regularly talked about as a future Ballon d'Or winner, but Foden -- a year younger -- deserves to be mentioned in the same conversation. Carry on influencing the biggest games and it won't be long before he's at the centre of it. He should get another chance against Liverpool on Sunday as City's season reaches a critical stage. One down, three to go.

Forget winter issues and Barca fan boos: Just sit back and enjoy Dembele's form

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

IT says something remarkable that despite Pedri scoring an outrageously luscious winner against Sevilla and his coach, Xavi Hernandez, drenching the 19-year-old with adoring superlatives after the final whistle, Ousmane Dembele was, by a huge distance, Barcelona's man of the match on Sunday night.

Bluntly put, the controversial, often difficult to comprehend (and previously injury prone), World Cup-winning France winger gave a textbook display not only of how to leave your opponents' legs in a knotty twist, but of how to drive a title-hunting team to victory over a brilliantly organised and stubborn opponent.

Dembele set up big -- and I mean mega-big -- scoring chances for Frenkie de Jong, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Ferran Torres (three times), Ronald Araujo, Gerard Pique, bounced a shot about an inch over the bar and then gave that assist/pass for Pedri's glorious winner. In case you've not seen the match, those chances almost all required good -- or excellent -- saves from Sevilla goalkeeper Alex Bono plus, in Pique's case, led to a header off the crossbar. Then there were the appealing "extras."

To be kind for a minute, Dembele has seemingly long been confused about what "tracking back" might mean and completely repulsed by the idea that defensive teamwork might possibly apply to him. No longer, it seems.

Throughout Sunday's match, Dembele put in a decent shift to make sure that Dani Alves' right-back position didn't get swamped and then, in the second half, he barged two Sevilla opponents

into touch while winning the ball to restart a Barcelona surge. Those moments brought a guttural roar of approval from the 76,000-strong crowd (average attendance this season: 52,000), meaning he'd conquered a rival far more stubborn and potentially threatening than auxiliary Sevilla left-back Karim

Rekik. The fact is, Dembele's situation is one of the most remarkable turnarounds in a love-hate football relationship I can recall -- never mind his controversial four previous seasons with the Camp Nou club.

It was fewer than three months ago that Barcelona asked him to find a new club in the January transfer market. It was on Feb. 7 (when Dembele didn't even play in the 4-2 home win over Atletico Madrid) that Xavi had to beg the fans: "Please don't whistle and boo Ousmane. I understand that there are fans who are angry and hurt, but now that the market is closed, we can't shoot ourselves in the foot. He's back in our squad and available for selection."

The reference was to the fact that Dembele's agent and advisers were making it very tough indeed for Barcelona to renew his contract, which ends in June, on reasonable terms. The 24-year-old was already marked as a "failure" by big sections of that club's fan base and the booing/jeering during the Atleti win was merely when Dembele's name was read out by the stadium announcer and when he trotted out to warm up.

That was just two months ago. Wouldn't you imagine that when Xavi asks, Xavi gets? Not only is he one of the best, most successful footballers in the club's 123-year history, but he's beloved and occupies the elevated position of "sav-

our" as their manager. So, the fans obeyed -- right?

Wrong. A mere 10 days later, the ear-piercing whistling was startling when Dembele came on against Napoli after an hour, the Blaugrana desperately seeking a winner to take to Southern Italy. With a couple of thousand Neapolitans and a handful of neutrals in the 73,000+ crowd, it felt like 70,000 Barcelona fans were combining to say "get out of our team!" It rattled the senses of a neutral onlooker; to be the object of that must be a pitiful experience. However, Dembele played brilliantly, nearly turning the match and, gradually, reducing the vituperative volume. "That's it now, you've whistled him: you didn't listen to what I asked you. But that's enough," were Xavi's postmatch words, at which point a magical catharsis took place.

The crowd, on the manager's say-so and nothing more, decided to give Dembele a second chance. Simultaneously, the Norman-born prodigy decided to take that chance with both hands and, being ambidextrous, both feet too.

Get ready for a "surprise."

Thanks to a combination of hamstring and knee

problems as well as issues of being "out of favour," Dembele has started a mere 11 times in all competitions this season. A horrendous stat. He's only been on a pitch competitively 22 times. (By comparison: Barcelona have played 42 matches in season 2021/22.) Since the "Eureka!" moment, when Xavi decided he needed Dembele's frustrating but brilliant attacking play, the France international erupted into form and confidence, and the crowd decided to "pardon" him. He has started five of the past seven LaLiga matches and since Valencia away on Feb. 20, has produced eight assists and a goal.

Frankly, if his teammates had been half awake on Sunday, Dembele's assist total would have swollen by three or four. As it is, not having played any club football until November and only racking up 846 LaLiga minutes, 13th-best in Barcelona's appearance list, he's got the league's second-highest assist total (10) just behind countryman, Karim Benzema.

When Dembele left the pitch in the 90th minute against Sevilla, a great team he'd tormented all night, he received an uproarious standing ovation -- in that moment, the parish was suddenly the Prince

of Camp Nou.

Just as a little aside, part of Xavi's method to get his team playing the precise brand of football he's fervent about has involved a huge amount of video tuition with the entire squad since the 42-year-old took over in November. Far beyond showing rival teams or direct opponents in video packages to instruct his players what he requires of them, he, and his staff, will regularly conduct video montages of 15 or 20 "actions" they've put together to analyse and "mark" each of their own players.

If you caught Xavi in a good day in a quiet corner, he might admit to you that, for example, Pedri's actions/decisions are "90% OK, 10% KO" and that the midfielder would lead the entire squad in approval ratings for percentage of "correct decisions made" anywhere on the pitch. Every single player gets his "OK/KO" percentage split... for good or bad. Continuous assessment aimed at continuous professional development.

The Catalan just might admit that for Dembele, it's very often "10% OK, but 90% chaos!"

One of the things that's brought the entire, volatile situation to this point -- with Dembele suddenly enjoying some of the best

form of his career; PSG and Bayern very keen on taking him on a free; Barcelona's team utterly transformed when he plays; the Camp Nou back on his side; and nobody with the faintest idea whether he will stay or leave in the summer -- is Xavi's patience. He demands rigor, detailed precision, accuracy and mental order from everyone else in his squad ... but not Dembele. Not yet.

Xavi's staff will tell you the reason: the 10% you get from Dembele wins you matches. It helps, too, that Xavi has gutted the medical, fitness and rehab departments at Barcelona. Suddenly Dembele is, for the moment at least, robust. The inside view (which is to say Xavi's) is that Dembele trains superbly, is liked among the squad, and he also categorically wants to sign a new contract with Barcelona. Especially this version of the club. However, the off-the-pitch difficulty is whether the accountants at Camp Nou, who admittedly have a €1.3 billion debt to reduce, and the players' advisers can see their way to helping Dembele stay where he wants to be.

In the meantime, the rest of us must simply sit back and enjoy the exhilarating sight of a wondrous talent finally hitting his potential.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Forget winter issues and Barca fan boos: Just sit back and enjoy Dembele's form

PAGE 19

Simba SC plots Coastal Union downfall



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam early this week to shape up for the NBC Premier League and CAF Confederation Cup fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

The situation is giving soccer lovers a glimpse of how today's game will be a mountain to climb for the Tanga-based team.

Coastal Union has had a string of poor results after parting ways with head coach Melis Medo who had signed a year-long contract at the start of the season.

The American citizen has left due to tensions within the club.

Medo's reigns have been taken by former coach Juma Mgunda who was earlier the Technical Director of the 1988 Mainland Premier League champions.

Coastal Union has won five matches, lost six, and notched draws seven times in 18 matches to collect 21 points.

Simba has won 11 games, drawn four, and suffered defeat twice, notching 37 points.

Coach Martin has further been named the NBC Premier League's Best Coach for March after guiding the outfit to winning all matches in the month, with its

The midfielder, Clatous Chama, that turns out for the club has been named Best Player of the month.

After the match, Simba SC will travel to Kilimanjaro for the side's game in hand against Polisi Tanzania and the former will later travel to Geita to face Geita Gold FC.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC will come up against Coastal Union in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League tie at the Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga today, with the former out to reduce its points gap with the top flight's table topper, Yanga.

The Msimbazi Street side is heading back into the NBC Premier League after qualifying for the quarterfinals of the CAF Confederation Cup, walloping Niger's Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale 4-0 in one of the fixtures which culminated group stage.

The NBC Premier League defending champions are 11 points

adrift of Yanga before the top flight's yesterday matches with the former having one game in hand against Polisi Tanzania.

Today's match is a reminder of the first round after Simba had settled for a stalemate with Coastal Union at the former's home turf, Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco Martín, said that they did not have much preparation for the game due to the tight schedule of home league and CAF Confederation Cup

matches so they have to work hard to beat that excuse.

The tactician noted: "We didn't have much time to prepare for the game but at the end of the day we have to fight to get good results and reduce the points gap, our goal is to win every game and that is Simba SC's goal until the end of the season."

"All players are fit except for John Bocco and Hassan Dilunga who are out with injuries but all the players are fit and ready to serve Simba in tomorrow's game (Today)."

Last season Simba SC hammered Coastal Union 7-0 at home but this season will be harder and easier said than done to repeat the scoreline.

This season has had Simba lacking the quality and effectiveness the club put to show last season

Simba SC will approach today's game having won four matches in a row out of the last five, with Coastal Union losing three times, posting one draw and one win.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hills
13:00 Msozi Kitiiani (r)
13:30 Koli Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurosa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC opts for tricky approach in 2021/22 Premier League clash

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THERE is an ancient saying that for a person to defeat his opponent in either sports or battle there is a need for him to deploy skills and knowledge to be out of his opponent's target and block all loopholes for sabotage.

In Tanga there is a prominent saying for soccer fans if a club travels to Tanga through high way and turns up at Segera junction heading to the city, such side ought to get prepared for defeat.

Simba SC was for that matter out to avoid all forms of sabotage in the side's NBC Premier League match against Coastal Union to be held in Tanga today.

The Msimbazi Street squad is inadvertently seeking to walk in age-old rival Yanga's footsteps to garner the victory.

The tricks used by Simba were also used by Yanga this season when the latter went to Tanga to take on Coastal Union.

Yanga had stopped at the side's branch at Segera for a few minutes, the outfit's information officer Hassan Bumbuli and other leaders went to sign the visitors' book but players did not come out for the alleged lack of security.

Yanga players had not traveled by road aiming at avoiding sabotage and the match ended with the squad commanding a 2-0 victory.

The Premier League defending champion's journey to Tanga has happened to be tricky and full of anonymity, with confusing information having been availed to leaders of the club's branches in the region.

Earlier, Simba's branches leaders who were tasked with welcoming the squad and providing security for it were informed the squad will not travel by bus.

The leaders were informed the side would take a flight to the region due to fatigue after featuring in a CAF Confederation Cup group stage tie against Niger's Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale in Dar es Salaam last week.

Later in the afternoon, the branches' leaders were informed the outfit was on the way to Tanga by bus.

"There was information from Simba SC headquarters stating the team would take flight but later in the afternoon we were informed the team is traveling by bus," Akida Lutika, the Wekundu wa Bonde Kaya Branch's Chairman, noted.

Simba's bus arrived at Muheza in the evening and stopped for a while, with the team's information officer Ahmed Ally briefly greeting the branches' members and speaking to them.

"Some players are observing fasting so we are hurrying to Tanga to break the fast, but all in all, we need your support," Ally noted.



Coastal Union FC's players appreciate the side's fans after the completion of its 2021/22 NBC Premier League duel against Simba SC which took place in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

Coastal Union out to stun Simba SC in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

DESPITE Coastal Union missing two midfielders in its NBC Premier League tie against Simba SC to be played in Tanga today, the former is determined to showcase stellar performance in the fixture.

The hosts appealed to all soccer fans regardless of their fanaticism to arrive early at Mkwakwani Stadium to watch the clash.

Coastal Union will miss the services of defensive midfielder Mtenje Juma and

wide midfielder Abdul Suleiman due to injuries the footballers sustained.

Juma is out for at least one month due to having a fracture of his leg when Coastal Union confronted Azam FC in the top fight clash that took place in Dar es Salaam.

The defensive midfielder will be missing the third match, he also missed his squad's ties against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Ruvu Shooting.

Suleiman is also sidelined by an injury despite doing training, the outfit's head

coach Juma Mgunda did not include the midfielder in today's match plans.

Coastal Union's spokesperson Miraji Wandi revealed the information on Wednesday morning after the squad finished the morning training session in Tanga.

"We are not worried by the fixture despite facing a prominent opponent, all fans should come as early as possible at Mkwakwani Stadium to see how Coastal Union proves its worth in the tie," he dis-

closed.

He added: "I want to assure you Coastal Union has many good players starting with goalkeepers, fullbacks, midfielders, and strikers."

"There is more than one competent player in every position because we have registered more than 30 players".

In the first leg between Simba and Coastal Union played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the game ended in a 0-0 draw.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

