



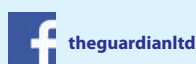
Survey: EA banks will remain cautious in lending to MSMEs

MARKET TRENDS What massive financing programmes means to agriculture in Tanzania page 14

Africa forum to showcase over \$50bn in bankable projects

Ecobank likely to pay dividends for FY2021, a first time since 2016

Page 13



+255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8466• PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2022

National Pg 4
EATV launches 'Star Woman' campaign



National Pg 6
Union for retired teachers



National Pg 7
PLWHA still face stigma - TACAIDS



'We are improving Dar port facilities'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has assured transport stakeholders using the port of Dar es Salaam that it is committed to further improving the port's infrastructures to attract more users within and outside the country.

Gabriel Migire, the permanent secretary Ministry of Works and Transport said at a stakeholders' meeting in Dar es Salaam that the government was monitoring developments in the transportation sector to lessen impediments that regional transporters experience when using the Dar es Salaam port.

"The government is keenly following up on challenges at the port," asserting that the ministry conducts regular meetings and takes action to resolve problems

TURN TO Page 2

Minister: Most Tanzanian students have left Ukraine

By Guardian Reporter

UNTIL Tuesday this week, most Tanzanian students had already crossed Ukrainian borders to enter Poland, Romania and Hungary, the government has declared.

Ambassador Liberata Mulumula, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, said yesterday that 38 students had successfully entered Poland and were granted a 55-day visa for staying in that country as they prepare to return home or go elsewhere.

Around 71 Tanzanian students had successfully crossed to Hungary with 11 of them already on their way home. One of the students remained in Hungary after being diagnosed with COVID-19 while others left Hungary to seek shelter with relatives in various countries.

Two other students crossed to Romania with one starting the journey back home, while another was in Denmark and one in Slovakia.

The minister affirmed that the government has directed Tanzanian embassy officials based in Sweden and Germany to set up border units to coordinate passage and assist Tanzanian students leaving Ukraine, who have been crossing to Poland and Hungary.

The minister had talks with an ad hoc committee of parents whose family members were studying at various colleges and universities in

TURN TO Page 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured with religious leaders after talks at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Focus on climate impacts action, VP tells employers

By Getrude Mbago

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango (pictured) has called on private sector firms to ensure they put up operational frameworks that will help strengthen environment conservation and the fight against negative impacts of climate change.

He issued this appeal yesterday during 4th Annual Leadership Conference 2022 organized by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO), to share expertise on diverse approaches in environmental and gender issues at workplaces.

Discussion centered on mainstreaming gender at work places as well as engaging women in climate action, where the VP's remarks were delivered by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson.

He commended ATE

and NHO for the good job they were doing in enhancing women's skills and confidence in leadership for the country's development.

Themed "Climate Governance: Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow," the conference also featured an awarding ceremony of the 7th Cohort graduates of the Female Future Program, where the theme for this year was aligned with Women's Day celebra-

tions for 2022, where women engagement in climate action and climate governance issues were uppermost.

The VP's speech underlined that the fight against climate change was a priority in the country, so the government has been taking measures to help reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

The government has

turned to Page 2

TURN TO Page 2

Zanzibar healing its past for a better future, says Othman

By Songwa wa Songwa, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR stands a better chance of positioning itself as a preferred investment and tourism destination if it heals the wounds inflicted by its history, revolving around bitter election disputes, Isles First Vice

President Othman Masoud Othman has declared. Addressing a media gathering at an event to commemorate his first year in office here yesterday, the vice president said that healing through reconciliation is what Zanzibar needs to ensure it arrives where it

wants to go. "There is a lot being done (by the government) to attract investors and build a stronger economy but these efforts can be derailed if we don't heal past wounds," he

TURN TO Page 2

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY
Advertisement of Winding-up Petition
Pursuant to Rule 99(1) of the Companies (Insolvency) Rules 2005

Misc. Commercial Cause No. 3 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

A Petition to wind up the above-named Company of:

Address:

presented on:

by:

Claiming to be a creditor of the Company, is fixed for orders at

On

At

(or as soon thereafter as the petition can be heard)
Any person intending to appear on the hearing of the Petition (whether to support it or to oppose it) must give notice of his intention to do so to the petitioner or his / its Advocate in accordance with Rule 104(1) of the Companies (Insolvency) Rules 2005 by 16:00 hours on the business day before the date of the hearing given above.

The Petitioner's Advocate is:

Dated 28th February, 2022.



9 770856 542009

Minister: Most Tanzanian students have left Ukraine

FROM PAGE 1

Ukraine, briefing the parents on interventions the government had taken to ensure safe passage of Tanzanians living in Ukraine, including students.

The government is keenly following the situation in the troubled country, working to ensure all Tanzanians move to safety, informing the committee that the ministry had raised the matter with the Russian embassy in Dar es Salaam.

While Russia is not yet in control of most Ukrainian territory it is relevant in facilitating the safe evacuation of Tanzanian students from Ukrainian cities, where they are still present at various universities.

The Russian embassy relayed information that students may leave the country through the Russian border with Ukraine as the route is safer compared to the other routes, the minister noted, urging parents to talk to their sons or daughters to remain calm as the government works to ensure they return home safely.

The minister allayed fears that nearly 160 students studying at universities in Sumy town in north east Ukraine near the Russian border were in danger, affirming that the ministry had directed them to remain at their colleges or universities for security reasons.

Their university administrations had promised to provide them with essential humanitarian needs such as food, shelter and medical treatment, while reports from India said the country had evacuated 600 Indians students in the city, where they were already facing food and water shortages.

Education minister Prof Adolph Mkenda told the parents that the government is looking into possibilities of assisting the students to continue learning at local universities.

Advocate John Choma, the chairman of the ad hoc parents' committee, acknowledged government efforts in rescuing Tanzanians living in Ukraine, urging his fellow parents to remain calm as the matter is worked upon.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-R) pictured at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi yesterday shortly after jetting into the Kenyan capital ready to represent President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Fifth UN Environment Assembly to be followed by a two-day special session, called UNEP@50, to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The special session will be held under the theme: "Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Photo: VPO.

Focus on climate impacts action, VP tells employers

FROM PAGE 1

been participating in various regional and global conferences and initiatives to obtain support for combating challenges of climate change impacts, the remarks noted, insisting that companies should have policies to conserve the environment as per country and regional agreements.

"The government alone cannot achieve that goal," he further remarked, noting that the negative impacts of climate change disproportionately affect women and girls locally and globally. So putting more efforts to reduce such impacts is a matter of paramount importance, he stated.

The government will accelerate efforts to ensure that women are engaged in issues of climate change including participation in decision making, the remarks pursued, noting that various studies show that climate change increases poverty and undermines efforts to bring about gender equality while the main victims of

these changes are women and children.

"It is clear that women and men are generally affected by these changes but there are differences in the way these changes affect women and men," the VP intoned.

United Nations agencies affirm that 80 percent of the people who are forced to relocate due to climate change are women, on account of their responsibilities as family caregivers that put them at greater risk from floods or droughts.

On the female future program, the VP commended ATE and NHO, emphasizing that Tanzania needs more women in top leadership to make greater strides in various development initiatives.

In recent years, women have proved that they are able to bring changes in public organizations and elsewhere, he stated, lamenting that many companies do not meet the 30 percent women presence in boards of directors and senior management positions.

The Speaker, in personal remarks, urged ATE to extend the training to leaders at the grassroots level including ward councilors, to build capacity to enable them to take the right sorts of actions in their areas by promoting gender equality and enhancing women representation in leadership and decision making.

She also urged women in higher leadership positions to invest their efforts at empowering and pulling up girl children in schools on how to become good leaders in future, applauding ATE for putting female parliamentarians put to training on the issue. The legislature was open to more ATE initiatives enabling MPs to raise their competence in the issues, she declared.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment) urged those graduating to make good use of the skills delivered to bring positive changes at workplaces and society.

To meet various development goals,

the government has initiated programs involving empowering women and advocating gender equality in formal and informal sector spheres, she said.

ATE executive director Suzane Ndomba said conference participants intended to come up with strategies on enhancing the inclusion of women in leadership positions in the corporate world. Another aspect is putting in place a knowledge base for best practices in that area, and how to increase the participation of women in leadership generally.

She commended various sponsors for supporting this important event, pointing out that women continue to face barriers to equal participation in environmental decision-making. More efforts and greater determination are needed to engage women in climate action, she emphasised.

Joyce Mgaya, the president of the 7th Cohort of the Female Future Program, said the team of experts will organise under ATE to plant 500,000 trees countrywide to help conserve

the environment and stem climate change challenges.

She appealed for more research on how the country can overcome challenges brought by climate change, pointing at the Female Future Programme as having given her more skills and confidence to deliver the best on the job and in other areas.

The programme has helped a number of women to address gaps of personal development for better productivity at the workplace, mentorship of female leaders within and outside the alumni forum, one of the key areas that the programme focuses upon, she said.

The Female Future programme, an initiative by ATE in partnership with NHO launched by then Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan in 2016 is still the most relevant and successful program shaping women in different institutions based at middle management to take up top positions and fill seats on various boards, the cohort leader added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses a meeting on the District Agricultural Development Plan in Dodoma city yesterday. Story on Page 3. Photo: PMO

'We are improving Dar port facilities'

FROM PAGE 1

encountered by transporters.

He praised efforts by the Zambian authorities for close cooperation with Tanzania in finding solutions to the recent drivers' strike at the Nakonde border, noting that it resulted in delayed delivery of goods to traders.

He appealed to the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to come up with operational methods facilitating the tracking of cargo brought in by trucks so that lorries don't spend too much time at the port in delivering their consignments.

"You should learn from your counterparts in other countries. We need to have a system that will ease vehicle congestion at the port, a system that will enable drivers to know exactly where to take their consignments,"

he specified.

Adam Mwenda, the chairman of the Tanzania Drivers Association, applauded the ministry for measures taken in resolving the drivers' strike at the Zambian border, underlining the need to work on accords between the two countries to ease port use problems.

Implementing those accords shall mutually benefit the governments and transporters as Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are among leading users of port facilities, he stated. Zambia is a major transit market served by Dar port, whose operations are conducted via the Dar es Salaam corridor, a multi-modal channel with road and rail facilities, stretching from the port to the Tunduma/Nakonde border post.

Zanzibar healing its past for a better future, says Othman

FROM PAGE 1

cautioned. The VP who is a leading member of ACT-Wazalendo said that forming the Government of National Unity (GNU) after the 2020 General Election entailed acceptance by the ruling party for release of 300 ACT-Wazalendo activists and sympathisers arrested during the chaotic polls, the formation of an independent body to investigate what transpired during the polls and reviewing the political and

electoral systems. "Only the first item has been fully implemented so far," he stated, underlining that reviewing political and electoral system is essential because current structures make the president too powerful.

During the 2015 elections for instance, the president became part of the conflict, he stated, airing the view that the president and vice president should be moderators in electoral situations.

He said there is an ongoing

process to heal the Isles political life and a team of representatives from his party and CCM has prepared a list of to-do items including the formation of a commission to oversee implementation of terms of working together in the ONU.

Other tasks for the commission would be engendering trust and confidence building, review of the electoral system, the formation of a truth and reconciliation commission along with reviewing of the administrative and justice system, he elaborated.

In pursuing GNU objectives, the office of the First Vice President is tasked with challenging areas namely Aids control, environmental protection, control of drug trafficking and supervising the welfare of people with disabilities.

In that capacity he has conducted tours of the five regions in Unguja and Pemba islands and realized that a lot needs to be done in all areas, he stated, having earlier affirmed that Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi is overly cooperative,

thus raising hopes that issues of concern raised by ACT-Wazalendo stand a strong chance of being resolved. Masoud was sworn in last year following the death of the veteran Zanzibar opposition leader Seif Sharif Hamad, the second time a government of national unity is formed in the series of highly-disputed elections.

Not one election has been without major complaints from the opposition since the reintroduction of the multiparty system in 1992 and the first such polls in

1995, where the Zanzibar opposition was the main block of the Civic United Front (CUF). It was ridden with strife and as it broke into two, the main faction in the Isles fused with ACT-Wazalendo and retained its position in Isles politics, readying for the 2020 polls, where its Isles presidential Maalim Seif was adamant about misconduct in the polls and disputed the results, but accepted a format to form a government of national unity, instead of spending another decade in the doldrums.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) opens the annual leadership conference of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

President's visits to foreign lands a huge success-Finance minister

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has said that a recent visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to Europe and United Arab Emirates (UAE) has enabled Tanzania to sign 42 contracts worth more than 19trn/-.

Dr Nchemba made the remarks in Dar es Salaam while speaking via zoom and broadcast live on various social media outlets while explaining the benefits of the visits to France, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates.

He said that while in France and Belgium, President Samia witnessed the signing of six agreements worth 1.77trn/- and 36 other projects worth 17.35 trn/-, signed in Dubai, UAE.

The minister said the agreements included various strategic projects including the construction of the fifth-phase of the Dar es Salaam bus rapid transit at the tune of Euros 178 million, the agricultural sector through the Agricultural Bank (Euros 81 million), and a support of Euros 425 million from the European

Union Commission for financing various development projects.

According to Dr Nchemba, the 36 Memorandum of Understanding signed in Dubai during the trade and investment conference, comprising 12 documents signed between ministries and government institutions and various investors in the public and private sectors and another 23 documents were signed between private Tanzanian companies and private foreign companies.

He said that the projects that will be implemented from the funds which are concessional loans and grants will generate about 200,000 jobs over the next four years will have many benefits including increasing government tax base and improving the lives of citizens.

The debate also involved some ministers, including the Minister for Industry and Trade Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Energy January Makamba and other heads of public institutions who directly benefited from the agreements signed in the trip from both sides of the Union-Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

Government inaugurates DADPs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday launched District Agricultural Development Plan (DADP) through which local government authorities (LGAs) are responsible for promoting agricultural development as part of Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP).

DADPs are mini-ASDP-II, which take the unique characteristics, challenges, and opportunities particular to each district/LGA and then propose a plan for optimizing the available opportunities. Successful implementation of ASDP-II requires necessary and sufficient plans and capabilities.

Speaking while officiating at the launch yesterday, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa noted that Tanzania is endowed with massive agricultural land but only half is fully used, calling on LGAs to see how jointly they can work with various stakeholders to exploit the potentiality.

He said many farmers in the country lack the technical knowledge on improved agriculture just like fellow livestock keepers and those involved in fisheries.

He added that while there is high drive towards industrialisation, without improved agricultural production there could be no proper industrialisation, stating the need to review industrial policy in line with agricultural production.

"LGAs should set aside area for agriculture, livestock and fisheries in line with the government efforts to have in place sustainable agriculture in the country," he said.

The PM expressed disappointment with the ever escalating livestock problems in the country, calling on the ministry responsible to take action immediately.

He was also concerned about inadequate market for agricultural produce, saying the ministries have not done a lot to help farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen.

Majaliwa said the authorities should focus much on climate change and look for areas suitable for irrigation farming since rainy seasons have changed drastically.

He thanked various stakeholders like private sector, development partner, among others working with the government to improve agricultural production. The PM specifically applauded the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) for the good work it is doing in the country.

AGRA has been supporting the government in a project titled the "Strengthening Coordination of ASDP-II in the Local Government Authorities" (SCALGA) since November 2019.

AGRA awarded the \$680,000 project to President's Office, Regional Administrative and Local Government (PO-RALG) to support the implementation of ASDP-II in the local governments' authorities (LGAs).

The motivation for the project was the need to address some of the weaknesses that were noted from the implementation of ASDP-I and hence improve on the delivery of ASDP-II.

It focused in 30 LGAs spread in 12 regions in the mainland and the main interventions for the project implemented included preparation

of quality district agricultural development plans (DADPs) for the LGAs supported under the project.

Others were resource mobilisation to crowd-in agricultural investments for the implementation of the DADPs, formation of value chain-based stakeholder platforms at the LGAs to strengthen coordination of the agricultural actors operating in the LGAs, foster synergy among the actors, and avoid duplication of efforts.

At the same time, it focused on development of monitoring and evaluation framework and plans for the individual LGAs supported in the project.

The aim here was to avail tools for monitoring the progress of DADPs implementation, and to establish a system for result measurement, learning and accountability.

Some of the outputs of the project include having in place system for development of quality DADPs with necessary and sufficient analytics, strong consultation mechanism with key actors.

It also has database of lessons from past and current agricultural development initiatives, and capacity to populate and utilize it, approaches and concept notes for attracting investment and financing for the implementation of DADPs.

It has helped create partnership platforms that are value-chain based been established for coordinating agricultural stakeholders at the LGAs level as well as improved mechanism for monitoring and evaluation, learning and accountability at LGA levels through the monitoring and evaluation framework and plans.

Mwinyi expresses satisfaction over preparations for coming population and housing census

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has expressed his satisfaction with preparations for the coming Population and Housing Census, saying it will make the exercise a success.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks when he met and held talks with Commissioner for Population and Housing Census ambassador Mohammed Haji Hamza who went to State House in Zanzibar to brief the president on the preparations of the exercise.

The Isles president said the revolutionary government of Zanzibar was ready to support the exercise for the

best interest of the country, commending the employment system for the exercise saying it will help to overcome complaints which emerged after the same exercise some years ago.

Ambassador Hamza commended President Dr Mwinyi for the supervision and directives he has been offering saying the exercise has been conducted in an organised manner.

He said the demonstration census was important to the efficiency of the exercise saying it has shown the preparedness of the people of Zanzibar.

He said the exercise to prepare centres to count people has been completed in Zanzibar while in Tanzania mainland

the exercise is going on in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

He said the result of the demonstration census is for internal use as it is used to test the preparedness of those conducting it as well as materials to be used.

Ambassador Haji hailed the government for sensitizing the public on the importance of the exercise using various speeches which they issued to the public.

He said his office was now recruiting data analysts and other specialists to facilitate success of the exercise saying the process will involve regional commissioners and district commissioners.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (5th-L) has a word with Bhoke Mussa (to her left) at an event held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The latter is said to have "retired" from practising female genital mutilation and is now engaged in horticulture in the city. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
RFQ NO. 5074

Purchase of Computers and Accessories
Due Date and Time for Receipt of Offers: Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 5:00 PM EAT

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 45 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites submission of quotations from eligible suppliers for supply of computers and accessories.

Interested eligible bidders may request for a complete set of bidding documents from the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the email address provided in this advert.

All proposals must be delivered to the email address provided in this advert by **Wednesday 16 March 2022, 5:00 PM EAT**.

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. Late proposals, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director,
Jhpiego Tanzania.
Plot No. 72, Block 45B, Victoria Area, New Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 756 888 388

'STAR WOMAN' LAUNCHED AT EATV IN DAR



IPP Media public relations manager Nancy Mwanyika (3rd-R, foreground) leads her EATV colleagues in a chant during the launch of 'Star Woman' at the TV station's studios in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. All photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Tanzania Breweries Limited marketing director Doreen Tumureebire (L) speaks at the event.



Janeth Mahawanga (L), a Dar es Salaam Special Seats legislator, makes remarks.



It's time for Maznat Limited director Maza Sinare (L) to make a few comments.



Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni municipal HIV and Aids coordinator Rhobi Matare (L) addresses the audience.



Brendansia Kileo (L), United Bank of Africa's head of marketing and corporate communication, also attended the occasion.



These women from Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni municipality also graced the launch.



Presenters of EATV's Dadas programme pose for a group photo at the event.

Morogoro Municipal Council outlines plan to fund its priorities appropriately

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Municipal Council has placed priorities in the health sector by allocating 300m/- to ensure six dispensaries that were under construction are completed to reduce congestion of patients at Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital.

Morogoro Municipality Director, ally Machela made the remarks when answering the spot questions from Councillors at the council's ordinary meeting convened here yesterday.

Machela said construction work on the six dispensaries started several years ago from the council's internal revenues but stalled for various reasons including financial constraints.

He said the earlier plan was to start with the issue of education and by January 31 this year Hon Councillors supervised well education projects including the construction of 96 classrooms.

The director added that more funds will be provided at any time to finalise the construction of the remaining 16 classrooms.

Machela said after completing classrooms construction via Covid-19 funds, currently the council has started making great improvement of the health sector.

He said in the implementation thereof, the council will spend 300m/- to finish

construction work to the six dispensaries which could be inaugurated early next month and start providing services to the people.

He mentioned the dispensaries as those at Sina, Sultan Area, Tungi, Mgaza-Mindu and Kihonda Maghorofani.

He also assured councillors that as budget allows, great refurbishment will be made in various dispensaries including that in Kilakala Ward that will also see the building of a laboratory.

For his part, Kilakala Ward Councillor, Marco Kanga, appealed to the director to allocate funds for the expansion of its dispensary including the building of a laboratory to enable ward residents get better health services.

Some councillors also complained for wanton arrests and detention of people without basic reason, whereas the Municipal Mayor, Pascal Kihanga said he will refer the complaints to the Area Commissioner who is also the chairman of the District's Defence and Security Committee.

Another issue raised in the meeting was the drop of council revenues according to the report of the Minister for regional administration and local government to which the director admitted as true saying it ranked last among the 80 councils countrywide.



Biharamulo district commissioner Kemilembe Lwota distributes free robusta coffee seedlings to farmers yesterday. The seedlings were produced by JJAD Kagera Farmers (T) under Tanzania Coffee Board sponsorship. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Involve local people in selecting VETA courses'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OMARY Kipanga, Education, Science and Technology deputy minister has called on the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) to involve local people in regard to the preparation of various courses to benefit their areas.

Kipanga made the remarks

yesterday during his inspection of various VETA colleges being built in Chemba and Bahi districts at a cost of 2.2bn/- each.

He said the colleges are among 25 colleges being built by the authority in various districts in the country and that the government has decided to refer technical education issues in the areas.

"We are bringing a VETA college here but those who know technical education needs are the people here, hence even the courses needed here, the residents know them, and they should sit together and come up with the decision on the nature of the courses," he said.

"Our policy at the moment is to build at least one VETA col-

lege in each district and we began with 29 districts and four of them have already been built and the other 25 were being built via 'force account' system at an average of 1.6bn/- per college.

"We have received 20bn/- from the Covid-19 Fund for the completion of the remaining 25 colleges, while an extra 8bn/-

has been provided for the purchase of furniture and other equipment," he said.

He added that the intention of the government policy is that by June this year, students' enrolment should start in regard to Chemba VETA College.

For their part, Chemba District Commissioner, Simon Chacha and his counterpart

for Bahi District Mwanahamisi Munkunda said they will make sure the government intention in regard to the construction of the colleges in the area is attained.

Bahi Member of Parliament, Kenneth Nollo said the colleges have big capacities in changing the lives of the residents and added that there was still much

to do in making sure they produce many graduates.

Earlier, the head of VETA colleges in Dodoma Region, Stanislaus Ntbara said 300 students will be enrolled in six long term fields after the completion of construction work and in future they expect to enroll between 250 and 400 students each year.



Jovin Rwegasira (L), a physician with Mbeya District's Igawilo Hospital, attends to Mbeya district commissioner Dr Rashid Chuachua. The latter was donating blood at Sangu Secondary School yesterday under an initiative organised by the Tanzania Reconciliation Committee. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Establishment of e-Mrejesho helps govt move faster on people's complaints

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, Xavier Daudi has said the establishment of the e-Mrejesho electronic system has enabled the government to receive and work on 239,196 complaints filed by Tanzanians to various public institutions.

Daudi made the observation in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the opening of a four days training on the use of e-Mrejesho to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) officers from regional secretariats, local governments, ministries, public agencies and its departments in the eastern zone which includes Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara regions.

He said the ministry will continue to provide training to complaints officers as well as those in the ICT department in all public institutions countrywide. He said the aim is to enable them to receive public complaints and be able to work on them accordingly.

The PS noted that the e-Mrejesho system has enhanced transparency, accountability and cooperation between executives. He said through the system state leaders can easily receive complaints as well as suggestions and work on them.

"In case of delayed response on a certain submitted query, the system allows executives in specific agencies and institutions to take appropriate measures timely," said the deputy PS.

He said the system is easy to use and allows officers to access it whenever they are through their mobile phones. He said for the system to benefit more Tanzanians, government officers must ensure timely response to each of the submitted queries.

The Ministry's Director of the Ethics Development Department, Leila Mavika said they previously used methods of submitting complaints were not efficient resulting in loss of data. He said the previous methods were contributing to delayed response, thus affecting service provision and decision making.

She said before the establishment of e-Mrejesho systems, most citizens were finding it difficult to submit and follow-up on their complaints. He said the new system has enhanced accountability and improve services provision.

Zanzibar out to recapture glory of coconut farming

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said it is determined to restore the glory of coconut crop in which the Isles were once leading alongside producing coconut oil.

The remarks were made by the Acting Trade and Industrial Development minis-

ter, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui when clarifying the answer to a question posed by Mfenesini Member of House of Representatives, Machano Othman Said who wanted to know about strategies to restore the glory of the coconut crop.

Mazrui said these efforts are needed to make Zanzibar famous in the cultivation of

spices crops so as to make them more commercial. He said the Ministry of Agriculture has begun making efforts in mobilising farmers to grow the type of tall coconut (African Tall) seedlings that live very long lives.

He mentioned the efforts as including last year's tree planting event when more than 2,000 coconut seedlings were planted in

various areas including the Donge Valley in North Unguja Region.

Zanzibar in the 1960s was leading in coconut and copra exports to the Indian sub-continent and Arab countries for making coconut oil.

Tanzania also is ranked as eleventh biggest producer of coconut producing about

530 000 tonnes per year (FAOSTAT, 2015).

The coconut production is mainly based along the coastal of the eastern part of Tanzania (NBS, 2012). Tanzania is Africa's biggest producers of coconuts and tenth in the world. But recently production has declined and it is now being forced to import them from neighbouring countries.

Retired teachers urged to join association for ease follow-up on pensions

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

RETIRED teachers have been called on to join their association that will help them in following up various issues including their pensions.

The call was made here yesterday by the chairman of Retired Teachers Association (UWAWA) in Babati district, Sixbert Geay soon after their meeting that involved retired teachers from Dodoma and Manyara regions.

"The association is a very basic one and if retired teachers join it, it will help in demanding for their basic rights," added Geay.

He added that their aim is to see retired teachers have an organ to represent them to get their rights without much ado soon after they retire.

For his part, Rasul Mshana, said the association has a big contribution for retired teachers, hence it is important that they join.

He said when they were working they had an organ to represent them, but after retiring they are supposed to join together in the association to discuss about their problems.

For his part, James Ngewe, one among retired teachers, said they have learnt a lot of things from their fellows in Babati District hence they have every reason to emulate them by having a robust association.



Fatma Ramadhan Mandoba, a Special Seats Member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, contributes to debate yesterday in the House, which is in session at Chukwani in Zanzibar. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

'Psychological education highly needed for young people'

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

PSYCHOLOGICAL education is highly needed for young people under the age of 25 who are more vulnerable in dealing with stress and depression, psychologists have suggested.

Dr Heriel Mfangavo, chairman of the Tanzania Association for Counselors and Psychotherapists (TACP), made the suggestion yesterday when speaking during training for young people from three

wards of Mbabulo, Ihanu and Luhunga in Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

He said that psychologically affected young people if not treated can take bad decisions including suicide.

The specialist cited the example of girls who became pregnant as a result of rape or incest. Apart from the girls, he also said that there are young people who have been abused in the family.

Dr Mfangavo also said another

group in need of psychological support is people with disabilities who are living with mental stress and depression due to who they are. Dr Mfangavo suggested the need for counselors who will be working on the Mufindi Youth Agency (YAM) project in Mufindi district in Iringa region to identify the challenges that cause stress in the community of people with disabilities and seek solutions.

He said given the magnitude of the problem for these young peo-

ple and people with disabilities the training will be of great benefit to them and eliminate dependency.

He said that the YAM project is a great savior for the Mufindi community especially the areas that are surrounded by the project as it will help the community in need to live happier. "The issue of disability leads many people to live with stress and even get other mental problems," noting that some things have been the source of the community experiencing mental stress

such as rejection, isolation and relationship stigma.

According to him, poor economic situation is leading to people experiencing stress so through the training provided it is clear that society will reduce the problem of stress and even be able to do more effective activities.

Some of the training beneficiaries from poor families who dropped out of school due to various challenges including pregnancy have praised the Youth

Agency Mufindi (YAM) project for reaching out to them with mental health training and psychological support. For instance, Felix Kitunusa said the training was a great opportunity for them for they said that through this training they have become more self-aware and it is easier for them to engage in economic activities.

"We believe that through this training we have found redemption in our lives and the families we come from because without realiz-

ing it is difficult to figure out what to do," another participant Diana Ngongomi said.

They also said they hoped to be empowered to fulfill their dream. Mufindi Council under the Foxes Community Wildlife Conservation (FCWC) and YAM project through Finnish funding will be directed to Luhunga, Ihanu and Mbabulo wards that will benefit young people and children from the poorest families of more than 770 youth in 16 villages.



Mufindi district commissioner Saad Mtambule pictured yesterday having a word with vulnerable youths from Ihanu, Mbabulo and Luhunga wards who are attending a mental health workshop organised by Youth Agency Mufindi (YAM). Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

NHIF appeals for more education to motivate people to seek services

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

NATIONAL Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) Board of Directors has appealed to officials in various institutions, including religious institutions to assist in educating the people to join the fund to be certain of their health.

NHIF Board Chairman, Juma Muhimbi made the appeal here on Tuesday at the event for signing an agreement between the fund and Tanzania Association of Private Investors in Education (TAPIE) that aims to register students to the fund.

Students to be incorporated to the fund are those from primary, secondary and colleges owned by private individuals and religious institutions.

Muhimbi said so far only eight per cent of Tanzanians have joined the fund, the situation, he said shows little enthusiasm among the people.

He called upon officials in these institutions to mobilise the people, including their employees to join the fund in order to increase the number of NHIF beneficiaries.

"We all here have the responsibility to mobilise the people to increase the number of NHIF beneficiaries from the eight per cent now, we want to reach a place where every Tanzanian is covered by the fund," he said.

For his part, NHIF Director, Bernard Konga said due to the small number of people in the fund, they have begun various strategies to make sure they increase the number of beneficiaries, and that is why, he said, they were now investing in the middle class group - youth from primary and secondary schools.

For his part, TAPIE chairman, Mahmoud Mringo said the issue was not new to them hence they will make sure these join NHIF.

TAPIE Secretary, Mpoka Mwambusi said they agreed to the procedure to incorporate students to the fund because they believe the group is huge and is the nation's future.

Minister urges govt officials to mobilise people for World's Women Day event

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DR DOROTHY Gwajima, Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister has appealed to officials from the regional government, local council authorities and stakeholders to involve the people in their areas and mobilise them for the commemoration of World's Women Day on March 8.

Dr Gwajima mentioned one way that can as-

sist in mobilising the people as utilizing media outlets as these have great impact in mobilisation. She made the remarks in Tuesday at Kipunguni Ward in Dar es Salaam during her official inspection visit in Ilala District, and added that in this year's event each region will celebrate in its own.

"Match 8 is the apex of World Women day, it is essential for all officials from the regional government, local council authorities and

stakeholders to mobilise the people in their areas for the important event," she said.

She said the slogan for this year's event says, "The Generation of Gender Equality for Sustainable Development, Let's come out for Enumeration for the Census" and added that it is important to every Tanzanians.

"In this year's event there will be an evaluation in regard to the implementation of various policies, women empowerment, implementation of

the Beijing declaration, and generally bring about gender equality and accountability thereof," Dr Gwajima added.

She said the slogan also touches the issue of the Population and Housing Census slated for August 22 this year, adding that without knowing the country's population and the basic social services required, it will be difficult for the government to plan its development strategies.

Earlier, welcoming the minister, the Director

of Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Centre, Selemani Bishangazi said the centre has been fighting against gender based violence (GBV) in Kipunguni ward and the community has begun to transform itself. "The community in this ward hail from regions that practices women circumcision, we have made much efforts with assistance from TGNP and other stakeholders in seeing these unacceptable practices are reduced to the great extent," he said.



Iringa regional commissioner Queen Sendiga pictured in Iringa municipality yesterday opening training for tourism service providers and other stakeholders on ways to address Covid-19 in the tourism sector. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Police in Moshi embark on campaign to inspect passenger and school buses

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region has launched a campaign to inspect passenger and school buses in a move aimed at enhancing safety of pupils and reducing accidents.

The move comes at a time when private and public schools in the country have vehicles which carry pupils to and from school and carrying passengers upon completion of their main tasks.

Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Michael Deleli Stephen said they have opted to launch the campaign to combat road accidents.

The exercise, he explained, will be done in all seven districts of Kilimanjaro region namely Mwanga, Rombo, Same, Moshi rural, Moshi Municipal, Hai and Siha.

"We are to have more special patrols in all roads particularly main roads, and for safety

reasons, we have decided to inspect all commuter vehicles and school buses since last week when most of the students and pupils are at homes for a short vacation," he explained.

He added that, last year all vehicles that were found with mechanical problems were out of service, and released after undergoing mechanical services.

The RTO further cautioned all school bus owners to obey road safety regulations for safety transportation of their pupils and students.

The Kilimanjaro traffic chief further explained the exercise also aims at reducing road accidents, cautioning reckless drivers.

Apart from inspecting school buses she further explained, they also had a special meeting with the school buses' drivers and campaign students aiming at creating awareness on road regulations, road safety for sustainable road safety of the school children and other road uses.

Experts call for more support as Africa loses GDP to climate change

By Jenifer Gilla, Kigali

ENVIRONMENT experts have called on developed world to support more Africa's efforts in scaling down the climate change effects, which in turn retard significant growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

They made the call yesterday here on the sidelines of the ongoing Eighth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD8).

The discussion was on the partnerships for tools and capacities to integrate climate resilience in investments for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Senior environmental expert from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Linus Mofor noted that Africa stands as the most affected continent in terms of climate change, hence there is a need to increase more support on how to address climate change-related impacts.

He however, said that despite representing just 17 per cent of the world's population and emitting just 4 per cent of global pollution, Africa need to be supported in different ways.

"African economies are losing on average 5 per cent of GDP because of climate change, increasing up to 15 per cent in some countries," he said.

Mofor explained that African countries have shown great leadership on climate action but only two African countries have ratified the Paris Agreement with ambitious NDCs requiring up to \$3 trillion for implementation."

He underscored the need for significant investments to be made on African youth SMEs in order to turn them into successful and impactful global businesses that address climate change issues.

Prof Ken Strzelecki, Industrial Economics Inc, while introducing the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility (AFRI-RES) Tools and Capacity Development Programme emphasized that the issue on how to provide Africa with adequate tools and capacities to build an integral climate resilient Africa should be addressed with actions.

The meeting also included representatives from the African Union, the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group, who all noted that in the absence of global concerted action on keeping warming at below 1.5 degrees, African countries must be supported with the tools and capacities needed to integrate climate resilience in the huge investments needed to close development gaps.

AFRI-RES is a partnership between the Africa Union, African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Com-

mission for Africa (ECA), and the World Bank Group that was established with support from the Nordic Development Fund (NDF). It seeks to set up an Africa-based centre of technical competence and excellence to assist governments, planners and private developers in Africa to integrate climate change in project planning and design, thereby attracting funding from both development and climate finance sources.

TACAIDS links early deaths of PLWHA to stigmatisation

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) has linked the early deaths of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) with stigma within their societies.

This has resulted in the commission coming up with a one year strategic plan to end stigmatization within the community.

Speaking on Monday during celebrations to mark the national day without stigma, a representative from TACAIDS, Jumanne Isango said that 2013 statistics shows that stigma to PLWHA accounts for 28 per cent.

"About 28 in every 100 people showed stigma to PLWHA. The government has been working to end stigma to be able to achieve its targets of reducing HIV infections and control deaths caused by the disease through improvement of various services," he said.

Isango said the level of stigma between the communities continues to decrease whereas 2021 data indicates that only 6 in a 100 people stigmatize PLWHA.

He said plans are to organise workshops every month to educate people on the importance of ending stigma, and that the first workshop will be held in March 2021.

Ummu Nderiananga, Deputy Minister Prime Minister's office dealing with disabled people said it is not morally right to discriminate against people living with HIV/Aids as well as people with disabilities (PWDs). She said stigmatisation affects them physiologically and makes them feel not part of the society.

She said the government is ready to review some of its laws and policies that hinder efforts against stigmatisation.

"When we talk about out dated laws and traditional customs that affects women and girls with disabilities; we should also look at the laws and policies that leads to discrimination of the people when they get infected with HIV/Aids.

Programme Officer from (UNAIDS) Dr Grace Mallya said that some traditional customs contributes to increased discrimination within communities.

Abdul Mohamed who lives with HIV/Aids said: "I disclosed my HIV status to my family members in 2014. Since then they all stigmatised me and I was denied access to some important services including food. This affected my health because I had to stop using the lifesaving drugs for almost a year."

"It was only my grandfather who could take care of me and wash my clothes. My friends were also avoiding playing with me."



Simanjiro district commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera makes remarks yesterday after presenting 50.7 tonnes of maize, 27.6 tonnes of beans and 2,220 litres of cooking oil donated by World Vision Tanzania to several schools in Ruvu Remit Division. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Farmers appeal for 5bn/- funding to TCB to improve coffee production

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

JJAD Kagera Farmers (T) Company has assured the government of its ability to produce ten million of improved Robusta coffee seedlings annually appealing for a 5bn/- funding to the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) so that it buys the products.

The company's representative, Dr John Mbogoma made the

statement in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region yesterday during the distribution of robusta seedlings to farmers.

He said many banks and financial institutions have lowered their loans interest rates to enable companies to acquire loans for enhanced production of seedlings. He said they only want the government to assure them of a reliable market.

Dr Mbogoma said that it is im-

portant to look on how government and other coffee stakeholders can improve the lives of farmers in the region by offering them good coffee prices.

"Good prices will motivate others to engage in robusta farming thus improve coffee production in Kagera Region," he said, calling upon the government to put in place a ten years strategic plan to develop robusta coffee farming in Kagera.

He advised TCB to continue with its mission to register groups and private companies in seedlings production and that there should be a special fund for development of coffee farming.

He said contributors to the fund should be the government, district councils, coffee buyers, Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS), TCB and cooperative unions.

He advised the government to facilitate extension officers so that they can be able to visit farmers to ensure production of high quality coffee that can be sold at international markets.

He said if all efforts are done there would be positive results and coffee production will increase from the current 30,000 tonnes in 2021 to 58,750 tonnes in the 2025/2026 farming season. He said plans are to pro-

duce 233,750 tonnes of coffee annually by 2030.

Biharamulo District Commissioner, Kemilembe Lwota commended the company and TCB for efforts in improving robusta farming as most of the framers in Kagera depend on the crop to generate income.

To enhance the production of quality coffee, JJAD has signed a contract with the TCB for producing Robusta coffee seed-

lings, with technical assistance from the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TACRI).

One quality-coffee seedling has the capacity to produce 2.5 kilogrammes of coffee in a year. The company has drafted a long term and strategic plan aimed at producing 1.5 million coffee seedlings in the 2021/2022 financial year and three million seedlings in 2022/2023 year.

THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Future of broad human society intricately tied up with wildlife

NOTHING is easier in psychological terms than marking out the vast chasm separating humans from beasts and, for evident reasons, this mental picture is grossly inaccurate.

In poorer societies humans and some beasts share a household, and no family member can sleep soundly if the animals have had nothing to eat or have eaten too little.

When there is nothing for the animals to eat, what the humans are eating is also on its way to depletion. There is no escaping that reality, in which case marking World Wildlife Day each March 3 is really a moment of reflecting upon ourselves. The wildlife is the alibi, or business, troubling us.

On the whole, domestic beasts are the ones with which humans share lives, but the wildlife environment isn't all that far from the horizon.

Writing on the theme for World Wildlife Day 2022, an international executive says that tourism has the power to fight for nature.

Justin Francis, the CEO of Responsible Travel, explains in a message how he was happy to see that the theme of the 2022 UN World Wildlife Day, today, relates to ways to recover key species for their restoration in the ecosystem.

It isn't clear how far Tanzania is involved in the campaign tied up with this theme, but in the Middle East already rhinos are accommodated in private zoos, generated entirely from genetic engineering.

There was a time when there were rare spray toads on some waterfalls at Kihansi in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region - right inside Tanzania - when the hydroelectric power station was being put through the motions before implementation.

Scores upon scores of conservationists wanted to see the land remain intact so that the rare species lay protected.

With genetic engineering, some other conservation spot around the world could get scientists to rectify a few genes to enable the toads to live in altered environment.

Accordingly, they were dispatched to the United States and later returned, but perhaps just a few of them. Actual restoration implies the capacity to widen recovery of the species and enhance its adaptive ability.

Chroniclers say that on December 20, 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 3 - the day the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed in 1973 - as UN World Wildlife Day.

That it took a long 40 years from the date of signing the convention to the creation of a memorial day illustrates the challenges being faced, the making of steady progress demanding collective reflection from time to time.

Owing to its fairly vast store of flora and fauna, Tanzania has been hit by contrasting interests and somewhat checkered policy formulations in that area. A ready example is the 2016 order stopping trade in live animals, effectiveness of scores of traders.

Painful as such moments are bound to be, the public has generally entrusted public authorities with finding the best way out.

Perhaps the setting up of zoos ought to be encouraged so that entrepreneurs can supplement "official efforts" by breeding wild animals or birds of their choice or those in danger of extinction.

That would be different from, say, merely seeking to obtain an annual licence for a certain quota of exports of flora and fauna already in existence and often understandably feeling threatened.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

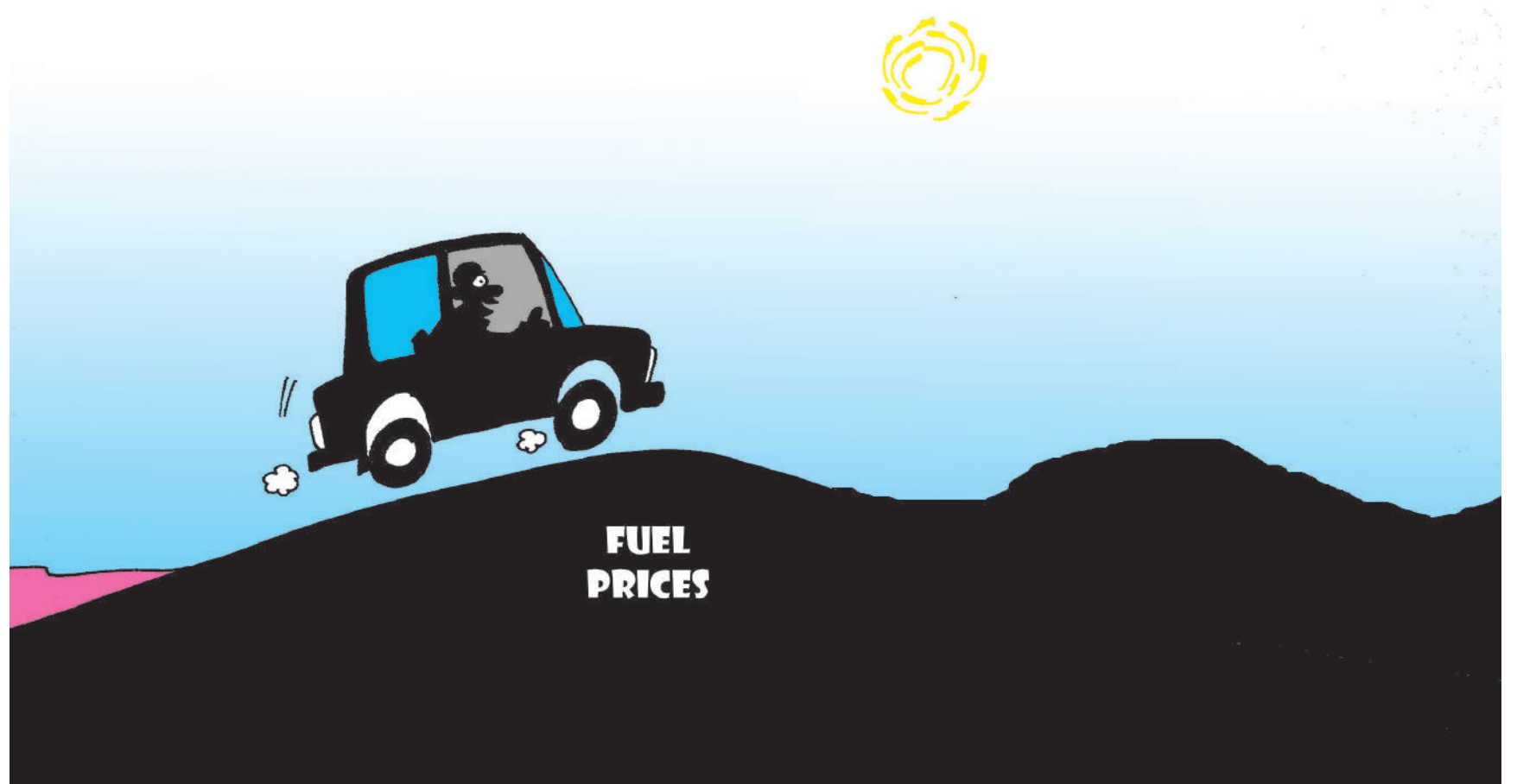
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Why journalism will increasingly move into two different worlds

By Alexandra Borchardt

SELLING journalism is no crime. In fact, only a few reporters and editors are ashamed of the fact that much of what they go great lengths to research, edit and produce can only be consumed for money.

After all, even bread is not for free. However, potential users who are stranded at paywalls (systems that prevent Internet users from accessing certain Web content without a paid subscription) at times make journalists feel like sleazy used car dealers.

"It's outrageous to make important information available to paying customers only," complain those who are turned away at the login.

Some even go further and argue that this promotes the division of society. Nikki Usher made this point in her book "News for the Rich, White, and Blue" that was published by Columbia University Press in 2021.

So, feeling attacked like this, who can blame journalists for getting a bit pathetic at times when talking about their craft?

They prefer to elaborate about enlightenment and democracy, about holding power to account and citizen service, rather than about user loyalty and business models.

The truth is, however, that without rapid progress in the commercialisation of their offerings, many publishers will not survive.

This is why the journalism of the future will most likely move into either one of two worlds. On the one hand, there will be the increasingly sophisticated world of commercial journalism.

Here highly professional providers offer their distinct audiences custom-fit, high-quality content, and user-friendly products that inspire them.

On the other, there will be the world of public service or non-profit journalism, which steps in where the market fails.

In this second world, journalism of the watchdog type will be created that only a few people are willing to pay for, or it will be about journalism that serves audiences which cannot - or refuse to - pay for news.

Democracy needs both worlds. So, instead of fuelling today's fights between public service and commercial media in tightening markets, it is about time for an honest discussion about this division of labour. Journalism would benefit from it - and so would citizens.

The highly professional world is currently emerging at a rapid pace. Most publishers have understood that only the sale of digital subscriptions, or at least memberships and other products, will secure their future.

These publishers are increasingly using experiments and meaningful data to figure out which customers or customer groups are most lucrative and how best to serve them.

The audiences-first focus is at the core of media innovation programmes like Table Stakes, in which close to 150 publishers in the US and Europe have already taken part (disclosure: the author of this is a coach in the Table Stakes Europe programme run by WAN-IFRA - the World Association of News Publishers).

A lot of great journalism is created this way. But decisive for gaining and retaining subscribers is individual customers' time spent on certain media.



An extensive German data-gathering project called Drive has revealed that this was the key metric for selling digital subscriptions, not the clout of individual stories or subject areas that "convert well".

This summer, the industry organisation INMA named Drive, which bundles data from more than a dozen regional publishers and is led by German Press Agency dpa, the world's "best news media innovation project".

However, focusing on "media time" means that many publishers won't be able to afford much journalism that doesn't zero in on lucrative audiences.

As resources become scarcer and scarcer, newsrooms must inevitably ignore target groups that promise little commercial success. They are better off making those they already serve even happier.

This may be an audience with a certain level of education, political lineage or background. News organisations like the New York Times and the Financial Times have long understood this.

Despite proclamations to the contrary, it is hardly worth many newsrooms' while to reflect the diversity of society in its entirety.

In a word, journalism with too much wastage is not worthwhile. To the contrary, this can even alienate their core clientele.

This is a sad truth and sounds reprehensible for journalism on a mission to safeguard democracy. But media companies with too little focus will sooner or later risk their existence.

This makes the role of public service media or non-profit offerings

all the more important. With public service media at least in the traditional European concept, every citizen has to pay the licence fee.

That's why the broadcasters have a mandate to reflect society in all its diversity and - this is important - meet all groups at eye-level. Unlike commercial publishers, they must remain impartial and use all formats necessary to reach users.

Public service media outlets have an obligation to go where the market of journalism fails. However, this also means that they have to make offerings for the mass market in order to not disappear into insignificance.

When some commercial publishers argue that public service broadcasters should retreat into niches, they don't understand market dynamics. Such fear of competition always demonstrates a lack of confidence in their own offerings.

To defy international platform or streaming monopolies, public service providers must cover the breadth. The commercial ones, on the other hand, should provide their audiences with so much added value that these are happy to pay for it.

Ideally, both sides should cooperate on new technologies, innovative services, or education, rather than antagonise each other.

But where precisely does on-profit journalism come into play? Complementary to public service news, there will also be a niche for non-profit news organisations, particularly in markets without strong public service media like the US.

These will establish themselves in areas where the market fails. An

example is The Texas Tribune, one of the most prominent non-profit US media companies.

This has focused on local political coverage. Readers typically don't like to pay for that, founder Evan Smith has argued. But when no one holds local politicians and administrators to account, it has been proven to hurt communities and their citizens. This is where funders who want to do good for society will be needed.

An open debate about the different journalism worlds would also enliven the discussion about trust in the media.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism in Oxford, the UK, recently published a study based on discussion forums with media executives from the US, the UK, Brazil and India.

What emerged was that newsrooms target their trust-building efforts at very different audiences. For some, it's about breadth, the aim being to win back those who have turned their backs on the public debate - an endeavour that is honourable, arduous and important, yet rarely successful commercially.

For the rest, it's about stable customer relationships - and thus depth. Nevertheless, building trust as a means to an end is not reprehensible. On the contrary, it safeguards the plurality of the media landscape and consequently democracy.

Alexandra Borchardt is columnist at Medieninsider.

Communications can ease impact of discrimination, but only just...

ACTIVISTS around the world on Tuesday (March 1) marked World Zero Discrimination Day, which can be said to be somewhat relaxed in its orientation, as it doesn't set out to foster activism on any specific sphere were discrimination is often exercised.

Online writers point out that the Day isn't directed at canvassing against discrimination on account of HIV and Aids or similar themes, but unavoidably it also reminds activists that there is work to be done in that direction as in any other.

It can be said that one needs to use the moment to focus on discrimination generally, if any exists in one's surroundings, and what to do there.

This year's memorial was marked with the UN agency against AIDS (UNAIDS) leading the charge in the effort to mentally confront discriminations.

This was implemented by focusing on the need to take action to end inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status or occupation, as well as disability, race, class, ethnicity and religion.

There are also certain forms of discrimination which in temporary situations that need to be resolved rather than normalised - for instance, in the face of the debilitating effects of drug use.

All the same, the theme is relevant here as well, what with the need to take note of the duty to help drug users instead of abandoning them.

When one starts confronting such situations, it quickly becomes clear that it is no longer a

matter of individual attitudes as such but rather in the way individual attitudes contribute to the shaping of public policy.

That is where the issue of communications comes in although, despite gains by global communications in generating the right sentiments when something wrong happens ignited by discrimination by individuals, UNAIDS has a rather sad story to tell.

The agency says that cases of discrimination and inequality continue to persist around the world.

It says inequality is growing for more than 70 per cent of the global population, chiefly arising from diminished fortunes and becoming more dependent on others, or on public agencies in numerous countries, which exacerbates the risk of discrimination.

That said, we still have plenty to be happy about in Tanzania, as we have generally had a relatively easy day in relation to current sources of acute discrimination, arising from plummeting fortunes in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To be sure, many people have lost family members and breadwinners while a range of individuals, particularly those in higher age groups survived but with vastly reduced abilities, as Covid-19 after effects linger on for long periods.

Meanwhile, HIV and AIDS are not done with and, in the vicinity of all this, part of the impact of climate change is the pushing of thousands further into destitution with livestock deaths, making them dependent on others.

United States sanctions four South African-based 'Isis financial facilitators'

By Caryn Dolley

ISIS members and associates in South Africa are playing an increasingly central role in facilitating the transfer of funds from the top of the Isis hierarchy to branches across Africa.

This is the alarming warning from the Office of Foreign Assets Control that falls under the US Department of the Treasury.

On Tuesday, 1 March 2022 it sanctioned four alleged Isis facilitators based in South Africa. This effectively means the four are blocked from doing business with the United States. A statement on the sanctions said Isis recently tried to expand its grip in Africa "through large-scale operations in areas where government control is limited".

"Isis branches in Africa rely on local fundraising schemes such as theft, extortion of local populations, and kidnapping for ransom, as well as financial support from the Isis hierarchy."

In November 2021 Daily Maverick reported that President Cyril Ramaphosa said Islamist insurgents who had been attacking countries such as Mozambique and Uganda could also make their way to South Africa.

On Tuesday, Farhad Hooper was among those identified by the US. In October 2018 Daily Maverick reported that Hooper was among those allegedly involved in a May 2018 Shi'a mosque attack in Verulam (or more precisely, the nearby village of Ottawa), KwaZulu-Natal, in which one person was killed and two others wounded, as well as attempted bombings around Durban.

Inside the community where terror struck

At the time Daily Maverick reported: "Police allege that Hooper was the ringleader of the gang and that his home was used as a 'training facility' for Isis-inspired acts of violence. It was also from Hooper's property that a kidnapped Tanzanian man was rescued after several weeks' imprisonment."

On Tuesday, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control released a statement mentioning Hooper, who was listed as a South African citizen based in KwaZulu-Natal. It alleged:

"Between 2017 and 2018, Farhad Hooper helped organize and begin the operations of a Durban, South Africa-based Isis cell.

"Hooper, who is the leader of the Durban-based Isis cell, has provided some of his known residential properties and vehicles registered in his name to sponsor the cell's meetings and operational activities.

"In his role, Hooper claimed to have recruited and trained cell members and was in contact with members of Isis-Democratic Republic of the Congo (Isis-DRC) and Isis supporters throughout South Africa."

The US alleged that "Hooper raised funds through kidnap-for-ransom operations and extortion of major businesses" and this resulted in more than R1-million for his Isis cell.

In 2018, South African authorities arrested Hooper



Abu Hurayra, thought to be the first South African jihadi in Syria, poses with an assault rifle.

along with his associates for their involvement in a plan to deploy improvised incendiary devices near a mosque and commercial and retail buildings," the US statement said.

However, in July 2020 in South Africa, it was

reported that the case – mainly focusing on the Verulam mosque incident – against Hooper and 11 other accused had been struck off the roll because further aspects of the investigations still needed to be completed.

On Tuesday, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control also listed three others, aside from Hooper, as being sanctioned. It alleged a second figure, Siraj Miller, led a Cape Town-based group of Isis supporters.

DM

China, US will draw experience, wisdom from history to keep bilateral relations on right track

By Zhong Sheng

THIS year marks the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Shanghai Communiqué between China and the U.S.

The document was released on Feb. 28, 1972 when then U.S. President Richard Nixon paid a historic visit to China. It ended the prolonged estrangement between China and the U.S. and started the process toward normalization of China-U.S. relations.

As the first joint communiqué between the two countries, the Shanghai Communiqué affirmed the one-China principle. It was followed by the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and the U.S. and the August 17 Joint Communiqué, which were issued in 1978 and 1982, respectively.

The one-China principle and the three joint communiqués remain the political foundation for China-U.S. relations. Over the past half century, the relationship between the two countries has made remarkable progress despite ups and downs, and they have both gained huge benefits from their cooperation.

However, in recent years, with an aim to contain China, some people in the U.S. have been trying to deny history and hyping the assertion that the U.S. policy of engagement with China has failed. Such practice mirrors Cold War mentality. It negates the history of China-U.S. relations, the achievements made by the two countries in the past 50 years, and the efforts made by the two peoples to promote China-U.S. relations.

The recovery and development of China-U.S. relations was one of the most important event in the development of international relations during the past 50 years, which has benefited the both the two countries and the rest of the world. What's the most important for the development of international relations over the next 50 years to come is that China and the U.S. must find a right way to get along with each other.

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Shanghai Communiqué offers an occasion for the two countries to draw experience and wisdom from history, and bring China-



Late Chairman Mao Zedong meets with then U.S. President Richard Nixon at Zhongnanhai, the central leadership compound in downtown Beijing, Feb. 21, 1972. (File photo)

U.S. relations back to the right track as soon as possible.

To continue upholding the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué, the two countries must advance with history and keep their relations on the right track.

Fifty years ago, the "historic handshake across the vastest ocean" astonished the world. However, China-U.S. relations have encountered adversity today. It is because some people in the U.S. are not willing to admit China's rapid development and take China as their major strategic competitor and even an imaginary enemy out of their biased understanding. Such per-

spective reflects their misjudgment in China's development philosophy, as well as their ignorance for the development of history.

To bring China-U.S. relations back to the right track, the U.S. must act with political wisdom and courage, understand China and China's development correctly, and abandon the Cold War mentality and zero-sum games targeting at China.

To continue upholding the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué, the two countries must properly manage their differences according to the principle of seeking common ground while putting aside differences.

In the Shanghai Communiqué, China and the U.S. admit that they have essential differences in social system, but it has not affected the development of their relations. The spirit of seeking common ground while putting aside differences reflected in the Shanghai Communiqué is especially of practical significance in today's situation.

Some people in the U.S. have intentionally underlined the ideological differences between China and the U.S. to provoke confrontation. Such practice ignored the fact that the common interests shared by the two countries are way bigger than their differences.

It is against the aspiration of the two peoples and the common interests of the world.

It's not a big deal that China and the U.S. have differences and issues. What's important is that they must manage these differences and issues through sincere communication, so as to prevent strategic misjudgment and avoid confrontation.

To continue upholding the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué, the two countries must deal with the Taiwan question according to the one-China principle.

The one-China principle, affirmed in the Shanghai Communiqué, was further confirmed and developed in the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and the August 17 Joint Communiqué.

At present, to contain China with the Taiwan question, the U.S. side has been trying to distort and hollow out the one-China principle, which has brought serious danger to both the stability in the Taiwan Strait and China-U.S. relations.

The reunification of China is an unstoppable trend. It will never be changed by any individual, any force or any country. The U.S. must fully recognize that the Taiwan question is highly sensitive, abide by the one-China principle and the three joint communiqués, and stop any practice that challenges the one-China principle or undermines the peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. It must also resolutely and firmly oppose "Taiwan Independence," and stop sending wrong signals to "Taiwan independence" forces.

People's Daily



Fifty years ago, the "historic handshake across the vastest ocean" astonished the world. However, China-U.S. relations have encountered adversity today. It is because some people in the U.S. are not willing to admit China's rapid development and take China as their major strategic competitor and even an imaginary enemy out of their biased understanding

How Russia lost its way in the fog of war: Lessons on strategy from Ukraine

BY GREG MILLS

MANY observers expected a rapid Ukrainian capitulation in the face of an overwhelming Russian invasion. It has not, however, gone quite that way, even though Ukraine is under considerable pressure.

Russian forces continue to attack through four axes – from Belarus to the north, Russia to the northeast and east, and from Crimea to the south – with the aim of taking control of major population centres, especially Kyiv and Kharkiv. Heavy armour, airborne special forces, decapitation and terror strikes, and sabotage elements are all being employed, as predicted.

But progress has been slower than anticipated, for several reasons.

The first of these is simply that war is hard, that a fog descends quickly to complicate matters. And Russia's military abilities, despite the use of nearly 200,000 combat troops in the invasion, seem limited – mediocre at best.

Its army is heavily reliant on conscripts and appears short on competence, the result of decades of neglect masked by effective propaganda. Russia has become a shell of a super-power militarily, economically and especially politically, despite its possession of nuclear weapons.

Such difficulties may have been compounded by a detached commander-in-chief who is leading from his dacha, cosseted by his former KGB comrades. Coupled with a notorious institutional hierarchical inflexibility, Russia battles to adapt any plan to changing circumstances. This is complicated by inevitable logistics challenges, which are likely only to worsen the farther Russian forces travel and the more congested routes become. This has made the taking of key airports imperative as supply depots.

It may be that the Russians have not yet committed the force levels they can, and when they do it's all over, but even this is subject to the logistics and complexity challenges outlined. Mass formations also make a tempting target, especially for drones, loitering and other munitions. And even if (when?) the Russians take Kyiv, they will probably have to fight a guerrilla war, which will be pricey and unpopular, as colonial wars against guerrillas invariably are. Afghanistan serves to remind both the West and Russia of this cost.

Another reason for the slower than expected progress is that the Ukrainians are fighting hard and are well led, from the top by the charismatic President Volodymyr Zelensky. Whereas the Russians might have (wrongly) expected a similar level of Ukrainian resistance as faced when capturing Crimea in 2014, those lessons appear to have been well learnt by Kyiv. As one British military specialist who has worked with the Ukrainians has noted, they "have a unique advantage in that they understand the Russian mindset and military approach whilst at the same time understanding the Western way of fighting".

They thus have a very good idea of what the Russians are going to do and when supported by Western intelligence this has had a material effect.

It has not stopped there. The Ukrainians (and their international network including the Anonymous collective) has out-hacked the Russians, so far at any rate, shutting down various Russian military and government websites. They even managed to reprogramme Russian TV to play the Ukrainian national anthem, forcing state channels to go off air in the Baltics and Black Sea region.

The West has stepped up to the plate in delivering the type of defensive support that Ukraine can best employ: anti-tank and air-defence missiles plus, it is presumed, intelligence sharing. The Russians have also so far comprehensively lost the diplomatic battle. It's not just that the Europeans have slapped unprecedented sanctions on Moscow and its oligarchs, but that support of its key ally, China, has wobbled, not least in the UN, while Kazakhstan's refusal to support Russia with troops has been complemented by condemnation by both other key Russian allies.

Perhaps most notable have been the disappointing effects – or application – of the Russians' much-vaunted "hybrid" or "non-linear" war plan.

Much was made of Russia fighting such an asymmetric war involving non-military and military elements, tipped by a prolonged period of political destabilisation. General Valery Gerasimov, Russia's Chief of the General Staff, wrote in 2013 of "a tendency toward blurring the lines between the states of war and peace. Wars are no longer declared and, having begun," he writes, "proceed according to an unfamiliar template". From this came what has been stamped the "Gerasimov



Demonstrators at a protest against the Russian invasion of Ukraine outside the Russian embassy in New York on Sunday, 27 February 2022. File photo

doctrine", a weave of military, technological, information, diplomatic, economic, cultural and other tactics to achieve strategic goals.

Alternatively termed a "chaos strategy", the idea behind it was that the Kremlin can avoid direct competition by splintering its opponents' cohesion and alliances in the grey area between peace and war, where politics and armed conflict overlap. The aim behind such division is to undermine its enemies politically, thus ensuring Russian regime survival. Hence the need for a narrative and supporting tactics (from military actions through business ties, sporting accomplishments and cyber-activities to diplomatic moves) to achieve these goals.

This approach recognises some important shifts in modern warfare as a result of the scale of information flows, and who controls that information. There are five billion internet users globally, the average user spending almost seven hours online each day. And nearly 60% of the global population uses social media, on which they spend nearly 2.5 hours each day. Given that social media tends to affirm viewpoints based on a selection of prior material and friendships, it can reinforce prejudices and divisions. Now the individual can challenge the state monopoly on information, with digital firepower, access to transnational networks and virtually no barriers to entry. But an overarching, reinforcing narrative can be shaped by government actions.

As David Patrikarakos notes, "Whereas in war as it is traditionally understood, information operations support military action on the battlefield, in Ukraine [in 2014] it became clear that military operations on the ground were supporting information operations on TV and in cyberspace." The idea behind today's operations – helped in part by a challenging of accepted norms, "truths" and standards within educational systems – is, Patrikarakos observes in War in 140 Characters, for Russia "to erode trust in all sources of truth, allowing for so-called fake news to infect real news" through its multiple sources of propaganda.

Establishing such a narrative is at the heart of modern warfare. And countering an unprecedented volume of information and the relative sophistication of its means is often particularly challenging for ponderous, sclerotic state bureaucracies.

Contrary to Russia winning international support for its plight and armed choice – in essence, an explanation for Russia's invasion of Ukraine – in achieving psychological dominance of the enemy, Russia has been

systematically and quickly diplomatically outmanoeuvred and encircled, both by the West and the Ukrainians. The invasion of Ukraine has been largely a conventional war, 1970s style, albeit one with some cyber and media elements, though this has been merely a modern technique to deliver old-style propaganda and disinformation and misinformation effects. The military difficulties encountered early on have forced a change of Russian tactics, including the use of terror missile strikes on Ukrainian civilians.

It's not that the Russians did not try to run a hybrid campaign; it's the failure of just such a campaign that resulted in the invasion. What started off as a media assault to change "the reality in Europe", says Marek Madej of the University of Warsaw, now has, as a direct result of the failure of this indirect approach, become a war to occupy Kyiv.

This much may have been inevitable given Russian President Vladimir Putin's highly centralised system of power, the homogeneous composition of the higher echelons drawn, like the Russian president, from the security service, and his belief that Russia's security and prosperity do not lie in accommodation with the West. To the contrary, as Russia moves from an authoritarian to an increasingly totalitarian system of government, "it sees the world in Darwinian terms, as a struggle for survival", says Marek Menkiszak of the Polish Centre for Eastern Studies, a think tank in the prime minister's office.

In this way, this is not a war about Ukraine per se, but rather about the leadership of a powerful country that believes it can unilaterally dictate through force and undermine the principles of international relations and law. The West has quickly realised that if not confronted, others could be emboldened to do the same.

In contrast to Russia's debilitating challenges, Western credibility has been enhanced by the role of its intelligence agencies, which correctly reported on the concentration and intentions of the Russian forces and then, nearly to the hour, predicted the invasion. This involved much more than satellite imagery, flights and drones, but also the analysis of other movements including blood banks and specialist equipment needed in the event of an actual invasion.

As the former British foreign secretary Malcolm Rifkind has noted, "Just as impressive as the technical and professional brilliance of MI6, GCHQ and their American counterparts was the political decision to broadcast these

intelligence discoveries and not keep them for purely internal consumption. Normally, intelligence agencies are opposed to letting the adversary know what they have discovered."

The West has learnt "vital lessons", he writes, as to "how to dominate the information space and use intelligence in creative ways". By contrast, the Russians look a bit silly – or at least duplicitous – given routine statements by Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, among others, that Western warnings about the imminent invasion were "pure fantasy".

The West's response, analysts believe, would have shocked the elites around Putin who saw Nato and the Europeans as weak, easily corrupted, distracted by the pandemic, inwardly focused and fascinated with China in the case of the Biden administration, and short-termist in their outlook.

There are several other immediate strategic takeaways of which Africa should take note.

One is to realise the necessity of regional partnerships beyond the rhetorical, both as a means of preventing war and, when that fails, ensuring materiel support.

The contemporary shift from letting your fighting do the talking to letting your talking do the fighting requires careful understanding of the effect to be achieved, the techniques (including media and diplomatic, governmental and non-governmental) available and the message to be delivered. In sum, there is a need to look strong, in control and steadily moving towards your stated objectives. Few African countries have managed to portray this convincingly, instead routinely reverting to appropriating the narrative of others without the credible means to deliver this.

Another lesson is to trust the West more (again). The ignominious fall of Kabul predictably led to questions about the reliability of the West as an ally. To an extent, these concerns were amplified in the run-up to the Ukraine invasion. On both Afghanistan and Ukraine, it is the West that had been warning for ages of the outcome but their policy regardless seemingly stayed fixed. In the case of Ukraine,

Nato embarked on all the steps that gave Kyiv the ability to fight alongside the defence body but none of the protections of membership, a realist policy dressed up as a liberal one.

Then, remarkably, it sprung into action, culminating most recently in Germany's commitment to spend 2% of its GDP on defence, an extra €100-billion that not even former President Donald Trump could bully Berlin into.

The West has now re-earned some respect: for one, the Europeans and their allies have rapidly imposed previously unthinkable sanctions on the Russian regime; they could do the same to other despots, and there are a few in Africa. Or, donors might more carefully calibrate aid to the type of domestic political system. The West has also shown it has substantial enabling power but only if there are willing local partners. A key indicator of this willingness lies in whether African governments will stand up for democracy elsewhere and not only act in their own immediate interest.

This resurgence is bad news for dictators and may assist in reversing the slide to authoritarianism under way since the mid-2000s. Arresting this democratic recession is of critical importance to governance and growth in Africa. According to Freedom House's latest report, today only about 20% of the world's population lives in countries classified as "free", down from 46% in 2005, while just 9% of Sub-Saharan African people live in such free conditions.

Finally, the Ukrainian-Russian conflict inevitably emphasises the importance of a win-win outcome to this, as other conflicts. "Of course, we want peace, we want to meet, we want for the war to end," Zelensky has said, recognising the need for a political solution. Ukraine has until now shown how to turn a losing military hand into a more-or-less winning one.

Yet, for Putin, there is little option currently but to double down on the military option. He has to demonstrate, however unrealistic this ambition is, that Ukraine will not be permitted to decouple from Russia and demonstrate a successful alternative under a different system. If this were to happen, according to Menkiszak, "there is basically no reason in the future why Russia would not follow Ukraine". So, he cannot back down.

In this scenario, for all of Moscow's challenges, failing a dramatic Russian military reversal, at the very least it looks as if Ukraine will be cut in two as the northern and southern advances link up and the Ukrainians in the east are surrounded. This would create some sort of failed or frozen but effectively dismembered state, where an insurgency against Russia would ensue, no doubt supported by those in the region who have experienced Russian totalitarianism first-hand and in living memory. With his financial avenues to the West cut off – at least only partially, since Europe would have to find a different energy source soon – Putin would have to strategically realign with China, seeking to complement his resource wealth with the demography of the People's Republic.

DM

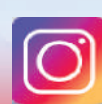
CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Samia's one year: TFRA upbeat on increasing fertiliser production amid skyrocketing global prices

By Guardian Reporter

SKYROCKETING of fertilizer prices in the global market has made the cost of the key farm inputs to double if not triple in the country. This has been paralyzing efforts made by the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) for many years towards increasing the number of farmers using fertilizer in their farms to boost crop production in the country.

Currently, there is an increased use of fertilizer from 296,036 tonnes to 476,870 tonnes between 2016/17 and 2020/21 years.

But, this cropping season, the fertilizer sub-sector is facing a number of challenges including price hike in the country's outlets due to the rise in prices in the world market.

The government however made a number of efforts to ensure that fertilizer prices are resolved quickly and farmers get quality farm inputs at a cost-effective price and on time.

For almost one-year, the Six-Phase government, under President Samia Suluhu Hassan continued to stimulate the industrial economy and strengthen communication and relations with neighboring and foreign countries in various ways including visiting and promoting investment opportunities available in the country in various fertilizer sectors including.

Among the countries she has visited are Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Mozambique, France and Belgium, and many others and announced investment opportunities available in the country where the Burundi-based Intracom fertilizer factory is currently setting up a 400bn/- fertilizer factory in Nala area on

the outskirts of Dodoma capital city.

Once completed, the new factory is expected to produce 600,000 tonnes of fertilizer and 300,000 tonnes of lime fertilizer per year.

The establishment of Intracom fertilizer factory in Dodoma is the result of President Samia's visit to Burundi last year, and this is one of the achievements of the Sixth Phase Government which will address challenges facing the fertilizer sub-sector in the country and will reduce the cost of the commodity to farmers.

Samia also directed the factory to ensure that production commences in the 2021/2022 season to address the challenge of high prices for imported fertilizer. And this is due to the fact that 90 per cent of fertilizer in Tanzania is imported.

In ensuring that the fertilizer meets its quality before reaching to farmers, TFRA has begun construction of the International Fertilizer Laboratory in Agriculture III Veterinary area, Dar es Salaam.

TFRA executive director, Dr Stephan Ngailo explained that the construction of the factory is supervised by the Arusha Technical College (ATC) as a contractor and is done through a "force account" which will be completed by May 2022. Completed construction will cost 1bn / -.

Dr Ngailo says the presence of the laboratory will help in speeding up the rapid acquisition of analytical results of samples of fertilizers and fertilizers that meet the standards allowed to enter the market on time and farmers meet their needs.

He further says during the one-year term of President Samia, the authority has been given the go-ahead to increase the number of staff, making



TFRA construction site of the International Fertilizer Laboratory in Agriculture III in Dar es Salaam

the authority 100 percent of the staff needed.

"This number of staff has facilitated the establishment of the Tanzania Central Government and Health Workers Union (TUGHE), TFRA Branch," he says.

The TFRA chief also stated that the strengthening of the Northern Regional Office (Arusha), Southern Highlands (Mbeya), Lake Zone (Mwanza), and Central (Tabora) that has enabled the TFRA to provide services in a timely manner in areas where stakeholders are not required to follow such services at the authority's headquarters or executives from headquarters to provide services in those areas.

"This has reduced costs and time on the part of the authority as well as stakeholders," he says.

Between July and December 2021, the authority through its regional headquarters and offices trained 2,483 fer-

tilizer dealers in Songwe (182), Rukwa (46), Katavi (40), Mbeya (228), Ruvuma (222), Njombe (262), Iringa (169), Arusha (77), Kilimanjaro (78), Tanga (60), Manyara (26), Mtwara (160), Lindi (175) and Morogoro (758).

The number of trainees trained during the period is 98% of the 2,521 trainees trained in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

"To us, this success is due to the increasing skilled workforce and co-operation in the discharge of responsibilities between regional staff and headquarters," he adds.

To provide customer service electronically with these achievements, the government has empowered the authorities to strengthen service delivery by establishing a Fertilizer Information System (FIS) which has improved customer service delivery, by providing fertilizer dealer registration and licensing, fertilizer issuance and import permits and fertilizer registra-

tion.

Since its introduction in March 2021, the system has increased efficiency and reduced the burden of providing and accessing services provided by the authority.

TFRA's information and statistics manager, Robert Mtendamema says the FIS system has been liberating for fertilizer stakeholders as they now have access to services much faster than before the system existed.

"Obtaining fertilizer dealers' licenses using the system takes less than 24 hours compared to 3 to 7 days before the system," says Mtendamema.

Despite the presence of fertilizer factories in Dodoma, the government through TFRA has continued to promote local fertilizer production by providing education as well as showcasing small producer solutions to capital challenges by bringing them together with financial institutions

and agency lending facilities to the entrepreneurs in the country.

TFRA specialists have recently camped in Arusha and provided training for small producers of Northern Region Fertilizer where such producers were brought together by experts from the Organization (SIDO), EFTA, PASS, CRDB bank and NMB bank to build their capacity on how to consolidate their investment together and to receive professional advice on capital issues.

At the training session, TFRA's acting manager for domestic production and environment, Stephenson Ngoda notes that increasing domestic production of fertilizer is the national agenda.

He uses the opportunity to inspire producers to increase production of fertilizers with acceptable standards which will meet the needs of the country and identify the resources for those productions that are available in the country.

Tanzania continues to be one of the leading countries in Africa increasing fertilizer use annually to meet the requirements of the Maputo Declaration (The Maputo Declaration 2003) to increase fertilizer use in sub-Saharan Africa (SADC) region of at least 50 kg of nutrients per hectare.

Commenting on the achievements in fertilizer control over the one-year term of President Samia, TFRA's acting director of regulatory services, Gerod Nganilevanu says In 2020/21 and 2021/2022, a total of 2,521 traders have been trained on fertilizer handling and storage in the regions of Dar es Salaam, Coast, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Morogoro, Tanga, Singida, Dodoma, Tabora, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Geita, Kagera, Ruvuma, Njombe, Iringa, Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, and Songwe, as well as 293 students from the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI)-Ukiriguru (Mwanza).

He says that the number is an increase of 64.4 per cent of the number of 1,534 traders trained in 2019/2020.

Namtumbo DC rejects procurement officer for delaying purchase of requirements

By Guardian Correspondent,

Namtumbo

NAMTUMBO District Council in Ruvuma region has rejected procurement officer for delays in purchasing requirements for construction projects.

Speaking when making the

decision, Chairman for the council Juma Pandu said the officer should be transferred to another district.

Pandu said the decision was reached by the district council after complaining of the tendency for a long time without any changes.

Earlier, the Namtumbo dis-

trict Commissioner Dr Julius Kenneth Ningu directed the ward councilors in the district to stand firm especially in administering the purchasing of materials for construction.

"I have conducted a tour of inspecting projects such as toilets and classrooms in the entire Namtumbo district and

most of the complaints were directed at the department of procurement.

In reaction to the saga the procurement officer Samson Manjale said he expected such decisions due to his stance on various issues especially when some councilors wanted to be awarded tenders to construct

health centres and classrooms in various streets of the district but they were denied due to lack of expertise.

Manjale said complaining about the procurement department was baseless saying his office is not responsible for writing proposals.

"Head of dispensaries which

are implementing the projects are the one responsible for writing the proposals saying the process passes through various processes.

Manjale said the move to transfer him from the district was raised by the district council after denying them some key projects to construct schools,

classrooms and toilets.

In another development, the District Health Officer For Namtumbo Lucia Kafumu has been given grace period of probation for poor performance and that he should use the period to improve matters in his office.



Former President Jakaya Kikwete, who is also an AGRA Board Member holds the book- How Integration Enhances the Competitiveness of Agribusinesses and Smallholder Farming Systems in Dodoma recently.

'Quick technology adoption core in transforming country's agriculture'

By Guardian Reporter

THERE is need to replicate the fast rate of technology adaptation in initiatives supported by the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA) that is led by Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) in Tanzania to enable more smallholder farmers move from survival to thriving.

Former President Jakaya Kikwete made the call at the end of a recent week-long whirlwind field tour of numerous PIATA initiatives across seven regions in Tanzania's southern, western, and central zones.

Kikwete, who is also an AGRA Board Member said: "Areas with high adoption of technology like Katavi had more produce, more processors, and more robust market activities, leading to a clear sustainable path in the agriculture value chain."

Implementation of PIATA between 2017 and 2021 using the consortia model that combined support from government, private sector and development partners, led to sustainable gains in the agriculture sector.

Together with Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde and a cross-section of public sector, private sector and civil society actors, Kikwete witnessed first-hand agricultural enterprises changing the face of the rural areas and regional townships.

The tour witnessed fast agriculture development, including agro-industrialization. While overcoming emerging challenges from the local, regional and global business environment, homegrown enterprises have made significant progress. They include farmers' organizations, agro-dealers, aggregators, processors and innovative exporters, changing the way agriculture business is done in Tanzania.

The success of the PIATA initiative lies in stakeholders, including smallholder farmers organizations working together as consortia, whose collective efforts in selected areas provided more gains for all parties involved, rather than working individually. The success also highlighted the need to implement flagship projects, bringing together diverse consortiums to take agriculture to the next level.

AGRA, with other stakeholders, supported the government in developing Tanzania Agro-Industries De-

velopment Flagship (TAIDF) in 2020, characterized by promoting local agro-processing for the domestic and export markets.

PIATA's consortium model involved a selected group of organizations and businesses working together to ensure critical components for agricultural transformation, including seed, fertilizer, agro-dealership, extension, markets, and agri-finance, work to benefit all in a locality.

Mavunde, appreciated contribution of all stakeholders involved in the agriculture value chain making a difference to improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers. He also thanked Kikwete for his commitment and energy during the tour. He pledged the government's commitment to address emerging challenges, working with the private sector and all stakeholders, to improve the business environment for more viable agriculture development, including growth of agro-industrialization.

The Deputy Minister called for the scaling up of the PIATA initiative to cover more regions, noting that the development partners' support has led to more produce and improved livelihoods. PIATA's partners include Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Mastercard Foundation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development were also key contributors.

During the implementation of PIATA, productivity (metric ton/hectare) of two key staples - maize and beans - increased by 230% (from an average of 1 metric tonne per hectare to 4 metric tonnes per hectare) and 100% (average of 0.7 metric tonne per hectare to 1.4 metric tonnes per hectare) respectively in Kigoma, Kagera, Katavi, and Rukwa regions, playing a role in cementing Tanzania's status as the regional food powerhouse.

Ministry of Agriculture data shows that in 2020/21 Tanzania exported over 118,398 metric tonnes of maize, with Kenya as the primary market. In the same period, rice exports amounted to 232,909 metric tonnes. Uganda was the primary export market.

African governments urged to support plastic pollution solutions

NAIROBI

ENVIRONMENTAL experts gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, have urged African governments to take advantage of 'circular plastic opportunities' to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stop environmental degradation. They were speaking to IPS on the sidelines of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

The key approach to a circular economy for developing countries in Africa and elsewhere, according to experts, should focus on addressing plastic pollution by reducing the discharge of plastics into the environment by covering all stages of the plastic life cycle. Plastic waste would be reduced through restorative and regenerative projects using the material without allowing leakage into the natural environment.

Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), outlined critical steps on halting plastic pollution, stopping harmful chemicals in agriculture, and deploying nature to find sustainable development solutions by 2024.

"Ambitious action to beat plastic pollution should track the lifespan of plastic products - from source to sea - should be legally binding, accompanied by support to developing countries, backed by financing mechanisms, tracked by strong monitoring mechanisms, and incentivizing all stakeholders - including the private sector," Andersen said.

The main challenge is how countries should move towards a more

circular economy that benefits from reducing environmental pressure. Scientists stress the need for most African governments to strengthen the science and knowledge base on plastic pollution and improve their policies.

Mohammed Abdelraouf, chair of Scientific and Technological Community Major Group UNEP, told IPS that while there are many solutions to plastic pollution, research should complement these efforts by developing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

"It is important for governments to make decisions that stimulate innovations," he said.

According to the draft resolution being debated at UNEA, signatories to an internationally legally binding agreement would commit to reducing plastic pollution across the entire lifecycle of plastics, from preventive measures in the upstream part of the lifecycle to downstream ones addressing waste management. Rwanda and Peru drew up the resolution.

For a smooth implementation and compliance by stakeholders, the UN agency in charge of environmental protection is engaged with stakeholders, including governments, the business community, researchers, and civil society. The engagement aims to understand priorities, challenges, what's needed to foster a plastics circular economy that works for industry, economies and meets environmental and social objectives.

Experts describe private sector support as crucial in managing plastic waste. Some business community members will benefit during implementation from grant financing to



Negotiators at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi. African countries have been encouraged to adopt circular plastic policies which will lower greenhouse emissions.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 237 00--

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

3 LETTERS: ART, APE, RID
 4 LETTERS: MOOT, DIET, SURE, OVEN, NETA, WAGE, PAID
 5 LETTERS: AROMA, TEASE, DAILY, ASANA, EVADE
 6 LETTERS: ASMARA, ASCEND, KARATE, DENTAL, TYRIAN
 7 LETTERS: FARANGA,
 8 LETTERS: AGRARIAN
 10 LETTERS: MADAGASCAR

CLUES: Across
 1 Selling of black Africans
 5 one of the two branches of Islam
 7 consumed
 8 a male honey-bee
 10 a pen for pigs
 11 Masai warrior
 13 greater, further
 15 total number of points made in a game
 17 slaughterhouse
 19 a way of acting
 20 citrus fruit

Down:
 1 neither very good nor very bad
 2 sharp-tasting or sour
 3 a thick cord made of twisted fibres
 4 to give as a gift to charity
 6 an expanse of land
 7 molluscs having wormlike bodies and spiral protective shell
 9 Chief city of Sri Lanka
 12 soft, delicate
 14 to go or come in
 16 to adhere, to be attached
 17 short for amplifier
 18 fuss or difficulty

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS:
 B O U N D A R I E S
 A E A L
 C A F E A G A I N
 N A B O D E T
 P L U N G E S E
 L R S
 S O O N E L E C T
 W D A A
 L E G A L E S E G
 I D E M S E
 T T A B O O S R

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 S O U T H E R N E R
 I P E N D A
 C R O W P A N D A
 K N E P A L U
 C H O R E A
 S A M E W
 S N A P A G R E E
 G E R A
 U S E R B E
 N W O N D E R L

By Magezi: 0755429240 fehnmagezi@gmail.com

encourage the move towards the circular economy.

With different industries across the plastic value chain now facing a shifting dynamic, Andersen noted that company shareholders and consumers are increasingly paying attention to the pollution challenges arising from their investments and purchasing decisions.

For example, one waste management initiative has supported public-private investment projects in three African countries, including Algeria, Ethiopia, and Rwanda, to advance sustainable waste management and the circular economy.

Margaret Munene, a Kenyan woman entrepreneur and chair of Business and Industry Major Group of UNEP, told delegates that the successful reduction of plastic pollution requires testing solutions.

"The private sector remains critical to creating innovative and technological solutions to address plastic waste," she said.

Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment, Espen Barth Eide, has initiated a project to identify requirements and options for designing a science-policy interface. The project aims to develop different proposals on how to create the interface to operate as effectively as possible, especially for developing countries.

"Plastic pollution has grown into an epidemic of its own. Paradoxically, plastics are among the most long-lasting products we humans have made - and frequently, we still

just throw it away. Plastic is a product that can be used again, and then over and over again, if we move it into a circular economy. I am convinced that the time has come for a legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution," Eide said.

Bérangère Abba, French Secretary of State in charge of Biodiversity is convinced that for increased recycling of plastic waste to be legally enforceable, it is important to negotiate to bring contentious parties together to address emissions.

"There is still a need to have an independent science-policy interface that would help monitor the progress and priorities of this ambitious goal dedicated to enabling a circular economy for plastics," she told IPS.

Beyond plastics, experts say other major interventions needed concern the design of buildings that make efficient use of limited materials and use building processes that are less energy-intensive to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stop environmental degradation.

Official estimates show that Africa is the second most populous continent globally, and its urban population is expected to nearly triple by 2050 to 1.34 billion.

It's estimated that between 60% and 80% of the built environment needed by 2050 to support this growing population has yet to be laid.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DJ SHOW 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAWKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)



Thursday 3 March 2022

Survey: EA banks will remain cautious in lending to MSMEs

By Guardian Reporter

MICRO, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa will find it harder to obtain loans, as banks are positioning themselves to remain cautious on lending during post Covid-19 pandemic recovery, the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Banking in Africa survey, 2021 has revealed.

This comes as there is a widespread perception among banks that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) lack bankable projects.

This may also be explained by MSMEs' lack of technical knowledge and formal financial statements and documentation as they are essential parts of loan applications for many banks.

The survey findings say quality and reliability of these statements vary across countries and firms, given MSMEs often lack the necessary technical knowledge to prepare the kind of sound financial statements needed for successful loan applications.

The survey findings shows credit demand in the sub-region is also expected to increase, but banks loans will be tight, as the main factors constraining credit supply to MSMEs are a lack of acceptable collateral and poor credit history, with a lack of bankable projects being additional constraint for SMEs.

About four out of ten of survey's responding banks highlighted poor credit history as a major constraint on access to finance for SMEs.

However, the responses of the banks when asked about planned changes to credit standards in post Covid-19 pandemic recovery suggest that, they may not be ready to fully accommodate an increase in demand.

In Tanzania, MSMEs contribute to 27 percent of the GDP, employing more than 5.2 million people.

However, majority of MSMEs experience limited access to finance and effective use of financial products and services as major barriers to growth, according to Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT).

According to a 2017 study conducted by the University of Dodoma in the Tanzanian capital, banks and microfinance corporations have enough liquidity to offer Small and Medium Enterprises loans.

Although East African banks expected to relax credit standards relative to 2020 (when standards were tightened by over 60 percent, and eased by below 20 percent of survey respondents), they do not project a major loosening.

According to the survey, East Africa has a total of 199 banks and the third lowest banking sector concentration of Africa's sub-regions, as measured by the weighted average of the share of assets held



A small business owner in Africa. Lack of access to credits has remained a major challenge among African micro, small and medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

by the largest banks.

This relatively high level of competition is driven by Kenya and Tanzania, which have relatively low market concentration and large numbers of banks.

By contrast, Burundi, Djibouti and Ethiopia are concentrated markets, each with a small number of banks.

Kenya has the highest share of credit to GDP, at 27 percent, which is above the African average (25 percent).

Conversely, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda have credit to GDP ratios below 15 percent.

In addition, while average credit growth is close to 12 percent in nominal terms at the sub-regional level, the most recent figures for credit growth (2020) also show divergent trends.

Specifically, Burundi, Ethiopia and Rwanda posted annual growth close to 20 percent, whereas credit expanded by 10 percent or less in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and even decreased in Djibouti.

Despite this recent solid credit growth, loan-to-deposit ratios still stand below 100 percent in all countries but Rwanda.

This indicates that the risks of overheating are limited and that it may be difficult to expand access to finance in the wake of the crisis.

"The proportion of banks expecting to ease their credit standards over the next 12 months (35 percent) is only marginally higher than the proportion expecting to tighten them (28 percent), implying that the impact of the COVID-19 shock on lending conditions will be relatively long term," says the survey findings.

The sub-regional capital ratio stands at close to 19 percent, with only Djibouti reporting an aggregate ratio below 15 percent.

In some countries (such as Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda), total capital accounts for over 20 percent of risk-weighted assets.

In mid-2020, according to the survey findings, the ratio of NPLs to total credit was over 10 percent in Djibouti, Burundi and Kenya, but 5 percent or less in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda.

Construction and agriculture, particularly in the countries most affected by

droughts and locust plagues, are the sectors with the highest share of NPLs.

However, the findings also imply that more structural policy measures might be needed to improve credit supply to companies, particularly MSMEs.

"This need will likely be even stronger if the impact of COVID-19 exacerbates these constraints at the firm level," it says.

The EIB Banking in Africa survey, 2021 did not reveal that banks have a higher propensity to lend to corporates than to MSMEs, but bank loans to corporate clients tend to have significantly longer tenors.

The vast majority of responding banks reported serving both market segments.

However, while almost two-thirds of banks (61 percent) reported a relatively long average maturity (over two years) on corporate lending, only around 45 percent reported average tenors of this duration for SME clients.

Although these data do not address whether SMEs actually apply for longer-term loans, they do suggest that access to longer tenors could be restricted for MSMEs.

Africa forum to showcase over \$50bn in bankable projects

ABIDJAN

THE Africa Investment Forum will host virtual boardroom sessions, a key component of the Africa Investment Forum market days, next month, following a postponement late last year, representatives of the initiative announced on Thursday.

The boardrooms will be held virtually from 15th to 17th March this year to discuss and advance deals in the 2021 pipeline.

The third edition of the Africa Investment Forum was due to be held in hybrid format in Abidjan in December 2021 but was postponed owing to the emergence of the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus.

Forty-five deals worth \$57.4 billion have been curated for the boardroom discussions.

The announcement of the March event followed a meeting of the founding partners of the Africa Investment Forum, a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary platform that advances private and public-private-partnership projects to bankability, raises capital, and accelerates deals to financial closure.

In an open session, the Africa Investment Forum provided progress updates and previewed five deals.

These included: an investment to develop over 220 km of electric transmission lines under a long term public private partnership agreement; a project with a ten-year goal to roll out broadband infrastructure to over 800,000 residential and small business customers; and a project for the establishment of a biomedical and pharmaceutical hub.

The 45 boardroom deals are projected to create a total of 3.8 million jobs, both direct



Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund

and indirect; of these, one million jobs will go to African women and women entrepreneurs, and another one million to youth.

Following the presentation, Africa Investment Forum Senior Director Chinelo Anohu said, "there's an energized commitment to push the Africa Investment Forum forward."

She said that in addition to investments, the Africa Investment Forum was working to support an enabling environment across African countries. "Good policies make good investments," she said.

The 160 participants in the meeting, representing investors and project preparation organizations, included Sarah Whitten of the United States Trade and Development Agency, Preeti Sinha, the Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund, and Omar Ezzat of the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance.

The presentation was part of a two-day meeting of the Africa Investment Forum's founding partners.

Earlier on Thursday, heads of the founding partners met to discuss developments and strategic areas of focus over the coming year.

The eight founding partners are: the African Development Bank, which is also the host; Africa 50; the Africa Finance Corporation; the African Export-Import Bank; the Development Bank of Southern Africa; the Trade and Development Bank; the European Investment Bank; and the Islamic Development Bank.

African Development Bank President Akinwumi A. Adesina stressed the importance of prioritizing Africa's health care security and health sovereignty, based on three pil-

lars: building quality healthcare infrastructure; developing the continent's pharmaceutical industry; and increasing the capacity of vaccine manufacturing.

Adesina said he expected many of the Africa Investment Forum founding partners to play a role in the Alliance for Green Infrastructure initiative of the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank, the African Union Commission and AUDA NEPAD.

The partnership, which was announced February 18 during the EU-AU Summit, will raise up to \$500 million of early-stage project development and project preparation capital to catalyze bankable, greener infrastructure projects at scale and speed.

The Bank chief commended the heads of partners for coming together swiftly in 2020 to launch a unified response to Covid-19, which was announced during the last founding partners meeting.

"Going forward, we need to work more closely together to accelerate the pace of investments in infrastructure," Adesina urged.

Alain Ebobissé, head of Africa 50, cited the acceleration of capital flight during the pandemic and reiterated the need to galvanize domestic resource mobilization.

Other topics of discussion included the role of the African Continental Free Trade Area in developing regional markets and Africa's energy transition.

The Africa Investment Forum has brought 10 deals with a value of \$3.1 billion to closure, and currently has 136 deals with a total value of \$87.52 billion in its portfolio.

Ecobank likely to pay dividends for FY2021, a first time since 2016

LAGOS

THE Pan-African banking group Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) may pay its shareholders dividends for FY2021. The bank's Board proposed last February 28 that \$40 million be paid.

Although the amount will not offset five years without dividend, it is sufficient to ensure solid growth for Ecobank shares.

\$40 million in dividends means \$0.16 per share, which is CFA90, N66.6, or 1.08 Ghana Cedi. For Nigerian and Ghanaian investors, this represents 5.5 times and 8.3 times, respectively, the most recent value of the Ecobank shares they hold.

For those on the Abidjan Regional Securities Exchange (BRVM), it is 4.5 times the value of Ecobank shares at the close of trading yesterday February 28.

This is in addition to the cumulative gain of 49.5% (at the end of February 2022) for WAEMU investors who hold ETI shares since early 2021.

As a reminder, Ecobank only distributed dividends twice over the past 9 years, and the last time was in 2016.

This situation, which affected all investors and mainly small ones, led to the reduction of the bank's market value by half.

ETI Board's proposal may seem modest, given the bank's audited 2021 financial net income of \$396 million, or its cash position, which, although declining, still reached \$3.1 billion at the end of last year.

But when the proposed dividend is compared with the overall accounting result, which takes into account (potential) foreign exchange losses of \$294 million, its net accounting result is only \$55 million.

The proposed dividend, therefore, represents 72 percent of the profit that Ecobank is certain to have secured.

In a recent interview with Agence Ecofin, Ayo Adepoju, the group's financial director, explained the reasons for this long period without dividends. "We first wanted to repair the foundations of our group, which from a strategic point of view took us between 2016 and 2018. Secondly, we were faced with new regulations in terms of capital, with a transition from Basel 2 to Basel 3."

He added, "so we had to conserve our resources to adapt to the regulator's requirements," he said, stressing that "there was also the covid-19 pandemic. It seemed normal for many companies around the world to be conservative in terms of shareholder returns. So, we may not have distributed dividends, but the company is much stronger than in 2016."

End

On the Nigerian Stock Exchange, the Ecobank stock increased by 5.8% yesterday. On the BRVM, it is up 11.1% since the beginning of 2022, after having improved by 38.4% throughout 2021. However, we should expect a new bull run, driven by short-term investors looking for quick margins.



Customer lined up at one of the Ecobank branches in West Africa

What massive financing programmes mean to agriculture sector in Tanzania

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

AGRICULTURE in Tanzania is expected to undergo major transformation, after sector recorded tremendous financing programmes from both local and foreign sources.

The sector which contribute nearly a third of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and employing six out of ten Tanzanians is still facing number of challenges including financing in the whole of its value chain.

Conventional banks and financial institutions have been shunning away to issue credits to agriculture in accordance to its demands, due to risks associated with the sector including natural calamities such as drought and pests.

The Bank of Tanzania reports show lending to agriculture has remained minimal compared with other sectors of the economy, including trade or manufacturing, with unimpressive annual credit growth to the sector.

The recent report shows the contraction trends of credit growth to agriculture during six months from July to December 2021, ranging from 5 to 15 percent.

Apart from lack of access to financing, the sector is also facing the impact of climate change, of which according to the Agriculture Census Survey 2018/19 accounts for 18 percent of all challenges facing farmers.

However, during the last half of 2021, there have been a number of banks which scaled up their lending programs to agriculture sector's value chain.

With only Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) being established purposely to serve the sector, other conventional banks including NMB, NBC, CRDB, TCB and Equity Bank have also number of products for agriculture.

Stakeholders in the sector said the current financing is so selective to certain number of agricultural activities, as financial institutions and banks have remained cautious to lend more due to risks associated.

Smallholders in rural areas, accounting for the large share of farmers in Tanzania have continued to operate without financing, which has caused low yields and incomes.

However, a week ago, TADB secured EUR 80 million sovereign loan from the French Development Agency (AFD) to facilitate access to finance for the Tanzanian agricultural sector.

The AFD Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rémy Rioux during a signing ceremony that was witnessed by



During the last half of 2021, there have been a number of banks which scaled up their lending programs to agriculture sector's value chain.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan said the partnership with TADB will make it possible to reach and include the largest possible number of stakeholders in the agricultural sector, targeting women and young people in particular, while promoting smart agricultural.

During the recent Expo Dubai, the Ministry of Agriculture inked three more deals geared towards boosting the sector's productivity and efficiency.

Speaking to this paper yesterday, Audax Rukonge the Executive Director at Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum (ANSAF) commend Government's efforts in financing agriculture sector.

Lukonge however, advised that the biggest percentage of funds secured should be channeled to supporting production right at grassroots level.

He noted that the biggest players in the agriculture are producers but surprisingly a lot of efforts are focused on creating value addition in terms of branding, packaging and processing rather than emphasizing on increasing production.

"The development of the agriculture sector has been challenged by finance constraints for a very long time. The securing of additional financing is good news to us and it's my hope that this money will be used to develop the agriculture production value chain," he said.

He noted agriculture yield is still too low, urging that more efforts should be taken not only to ensure food security, but boosting agricultural sector's contribution to the economy particularly exports.

"We should move away from taking food security as an indicator to agricultural development. We need to look at the sector's

contribution in a broader sense in terms of job creation, GDP and agricultural exports. That way we can come to a conclusion if the sector is really making strides or not," he stressed.

Efforts to get comment from the Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe and the Permanent Secretary Andrew Massawe were futile, but Hudson Kamoga the Head of Government Communication Unit at Ministry of Agriculture when contacted declined to give comment on the matter on protocol grounds.

Agriculture remains central to Tanzania's industrialization and a source of livelihood for approximately 65 percent of the population and indirectly to a further 15 percent within related value chain functions such as traders, transporters and processors.

According to the 13th Tanzania Economic Update released by the World Bank under the theme, 'Realizing the Potential of Agriculture for Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction,' last year the authors underscored the importance of having supportive public policies and spending which crowds in more private investments needed to catalyze a nascent agriculture transformation.

The report emphasized the sector's centrality, by virtue of its size and spread, to the achievement of both higher and more inclusive overall growth, emphasizing, "this will remain so for decades to come," and recommending several actions that the government needs to consider in order to make the most of the opportunities in the sector.

Tanzania now focuses on increasing the agriculture sector growth rate to 6.1 percent in 2025/2026 from 5.0 percent recorded in

2019/2020 and increase the percentage share of its export earnings to 19 percent in 2025/2026 from 13.0 percent recorded in 2019/2020

The Third National Five Year Development Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26, integrates multiple, linked objectives of building a strong, competitive economy, through industrializing and exporting more value-added products.

According to the 2019/20 National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA) findings number of agricultural households engaged in main agricultural activities increased from 5.8 million in 2007/08 to 7.8 million in 2019/2020.

The number of agricultural households involved in "Crops only" has increased from 3.5 million in 2007/08 to 5.1 million in 2019/20 equivalent to 45.7 percent.

Similar trend has been observed for households engaged in "Crops and Livestock", whereby there was an increase of 14.1 percent.

On the other hand, "Pastoralists" trend shows the decrease from 3,917 in 2007/08 to 1,465 households in 2019/20 equivalent to 62.6 percent.

Maize, paddy and sorghum were the major cereal crops grown in Tanzania during the 2019/20 agricultural year while the main oil seeds and nuts grown in Tanzania during the 2019/20 agricultural year were groundnuts, sunflower, sesame and oil palm.

The main cash crops grown in Tanzania during 2019/20 agricultural year were coffee, tea, cloves, cashew nuts and cotton. Total production of cash crops was 875,025 tons of which cashew nuts was leading with a total of 391,119 tons followed by cotton with 331,524 tons and coffee 82,478 tons

The Census results show that 76% of the total cultivated area of 13.8 million hectares was planted with local seeds, 29% with improved seeds, while 2.5% with both local and improved seeds.

During the 2019/20 agricultural year, 2.8 million hectares, which is equivalent to 20.1 percent of total cultivated area was applied with fertilizers, of which 2.7 million hectares were in Mainland Tanzania and 40,020 hectares in Tanzania Zanzibar.

The survey results showed that most smallholder farmers faced different constraints during the 2019/20 agricultural year with major constraints reported being climate change (such as drought, floods), cost of inputs, access to land, low prices of agricultural produce, pests and diseases, availability of inputs and soil fertility.



BOA Bank appoints Nehemiah Mchechu new board chairman

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Bank of Africa yesterday announced the appointment of Nehemiah Mchechu as the new Chairperson of its Board of Directors replacing Dr. Nyamajeje Weggogo, who passed away in November last year.

A statement released by the bank said Mchechu brings to the bank invaluable experience, knowledge and unique skills set with core competencies in leadership development, education, finance, banking, planning and general management.

Mchechu (pictured) is currently the Executive Chairman of Amboni Group of companies, a holding that has investment interests in various economic sectors such as real estates, agriculture, education and tourism.

Prior to that, Mchechu served as the Director General of the National Housing Corporation (NHC) from March 2010 to June 2018.

He boasts a banking experience of over a decade, having worked with three international banks that include Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania and in his last role he was a Head of Global Markets and Co-Head Wholesale Banking, Citibank and Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited.

He also worked as Managing Director CBA Bank in Tanzania being the youngest CEO within the Banking sector in East Africa then and played a significant part in transformation and restructuring the bank into a profit making entity one year.

Mchechu previously served as Chairman of Serengeti Breweries and of a local bank in Tanzania.

He is a board member of East African Breweries (EABL), TANZANIA Mortgage and Refinancing Company (TMRC) and Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) among other corporate institutions.

"The Board of Directors looks forward to Mchechu's stewardship in taking the bank to the next level in accordance with its strategic intents to maintain its competitiveness as it continues to excel in its services and product offerings in accordance with the Government policy of achieving economic development and financial inclusion in the country," a statement said.

BANKING & FINANCE

Now Dun & Bradstreet Credit Bureau reports available in Kiswahili

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dun & Bradstreet Credit Bureau Tanzania Limited has announced that credit information reports and its user interface, used by its subscribers will now be available in Kiswahili to make it easier for customers to read and understand.

Dun & Bradstreet Credit Bureau Tanzania is one of the lead institutions that collect and collate demographic and credit information on individuals and commercial entities from various sources and disseminates such information to its subscribers.

The data is then shared in the form of Credit Information Reports (CIRs), used to facilitate Lenders to assess the creditworthiness and historical repayment behaviour of a borrower.

Announcing the launch of the Kiswahili version of the D&B User Interface and Credit Information Reports in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dun & Bradstreet's General Manager for Tanzania, Junaid Malik said: "We have reached a big milestone today that proves our continuous commitment to serve our clients with the best of services."

Malik said that availing such crucial information in Kiswahili makes it more widely understood and will be used by lenders and borrowers to their best advantage.

Malik added that Kiswahili is the primary language of Tanzanians, thus making the reports available to the people in their local language is meaningful, easy to understand and will encourage more borrowers to manage their creditworthiness effectively.

"While our credit information reports become easier to access and understand, they remain a powerful tool for decision making. The information includes credit repayment information and Credit Scores, Likelihood Indicators, and MNO Data," he added

According to him, the reports also provide a visual description of an individuals' credit status and their ability to recover from negative situations financially. The reports also contain predictive, intuitive, and continuously updated information for Lenders and Borrowers.

The reports contain a robust Credit Score based on a cluster risk framework and tailor-made for the current population and environment.

The Bank of Tanzania regulates Dun & Bradstreet Credit Bureau Tanzania under Regulations 2012 (Credit Reference Bureau Act).

Analyst: US bank exposure to Russia minimal

WASHINGTON

US banks are auditing their exposures to Russia as sanctions imposed on the country raise questions about the global implications of essentially locking Russia out of international financing.

But the relative size of Russia, as well as the country's limited dealings with US firms, should contain the risk from a potential economic collapse, according to RBC Capital Markets Managing Director Gerard Cassidy.

"The exposure is minimal," said Cassidy, who watches the large cap US banks.

With Russian banks - and the country's central bank - locked out of the global banking system, some are questioning the ripple effects of the possible collapse of a G20 nation's economy.

The country is already reeling from the sanctions, with the Russian ruble devaluing over 25 percent against the US dollar.

On Monday, Citigroup said it was exposed to about \$10 billion in loans, government debt, and other assets linked to Russia. The company has over \$2 trillion in total assets.

"Citi continues to monitor the current Russia-Ukraine geopolitical situation and economic conditions and will mitigate its exposures and risks as appropriate," the bank said in its annual filing disclosing the exposure.

Annual filings for JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America did not list Russia as a top 20 international market by exposure. Wells Fargo, a more domestically focused business than the other



three large banks, did not mention Russia in its annual filing either.

But there are forms of indirect risk to Russia that have folded into the financial stability conversation as of late.

Over the weekend, Western nations announced a number of measures against Russia.

In addition to partially cutting off the country from a critical global financial network known as SWIFT, the United States said it would be blocking transactions with the Central Bank of Russia in a move to prevent the country from defending its currency.

As the Russian ruble tumbled, the country's central bank responded by doubling its interest rate (from 9.5 percent to 20 percent).

Lines outside of Russian banks are raising concerns about a run on financial giants like Sberbank and VTB, both

targeted by US sanctions.

Citizens wait in front of the entrance of a branch of the Russian Sberbank in the center of Zagreb on February 28, 2022. - Citizens rushed to the bank in an attempt to retrieve their money following last week's Russian attack on Ukraine.

The ruble collapsed against the dollar and the euro on the Moscow Stock Exchange on February 28, 2022, as the West punished Moscow with harsh new sanctions over the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin raged against the West as he convened a meeting with officials including central bank chief Elvira Nabiullina and the CEO of Russia's largest lender Sberbank, German Gref, to address what the Kremlin called a new

But Kenneth Rogoff, former chief economist for the International Mon-

etary Fund, noted that a faltering Russian economy likely would not spill over into a financial crisis in the United States. "The fact is, Russia is very important in energy markets but it's a midget in the global economy and Ukraine is even smaller," Rogoff told Yahoo Finance Monday. By GDP, Russia is the 11th largest economy in the world, according to the World Bank (as of 2020).

But some have raised concerns about a Lehman Brothers-like global event, where the failure of a large bank triggers a global financial crisis.

Sberbank and VTB together have about \$750 billion in total assets and have foreign arms across central and eastern Europe.

Zoltan Pozsar at Credit Suisse wrote over the weekend that as Russia and its banks scramble to find US dollars, firms around the world may face substantial settlement risk.

"Banks' inability to make payments due to their exclusion from SWIFT is the same as Lehman's inability to make payments due to its clearing bank's unwillingness to send payments on its behalf. History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes," Pozsar wrote.

Cassidy said that even in the event of substantial global financial stress, the US banks should be able to weather the storm.

"The global financial conditions are much much stronger today than they were pre-Lehman," Cassidy told Yahoo Finance Monday. "Here in the United States our American banking system has over two times the amount of capital liquidity following the financial crisis."

Crypto not alternative to SWIFT for sanctioned Russian banks

MOSCOW

BITCOIN, Ether, and other digital currencies have enjoyed a renaissance lately, thanks to Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine.

Ever since sanctioned Russian banks lost access to a global system of financial plumbing lenders use to facilitate cross-border transactions, known as SWIFT, investors speculate the pariah state may switch to distributed ledger technologies, the same that underpin crypto-assets, to conduct their daily business.

As Ethereum founder Vitalik Buterin can attest, Russians are already crypto-savvy with the country ranked 18th worldwide in terms of overall adoption.

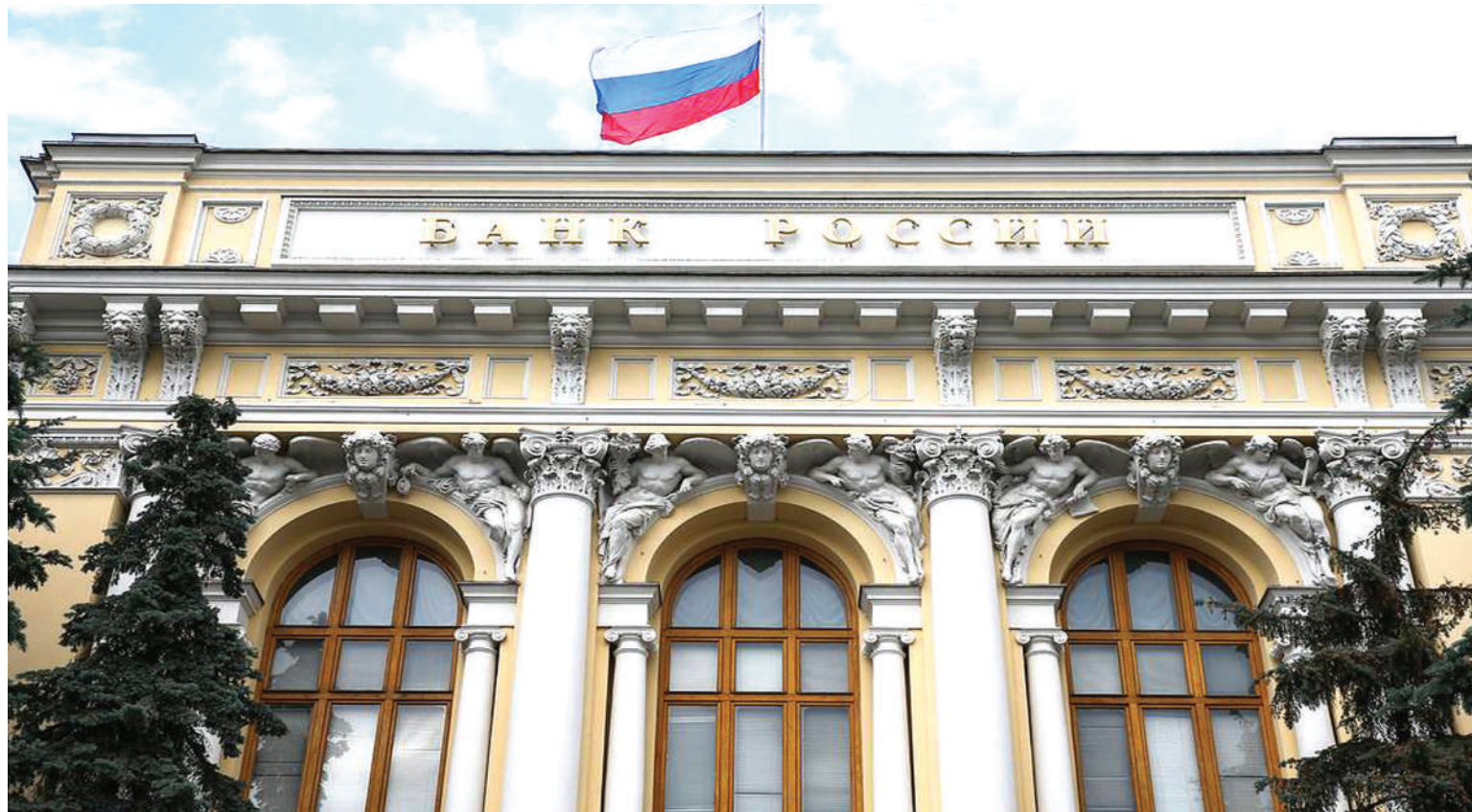
Moreover the very purpose of decentralized finance is to eliminate gatekeepers like governments from unilaterally exercising control. When changes need to be made to blockchain protocol used to record transactions, the overall community decides collectively.

Both Elizabeth Warren, a member of the Senate Banking Committee, and Ukraine's deputy prime minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, warned over the past two days about the risk of sanctions being defanged. "I'm asking all major crypto exchanges to block addresses of Russian users," he wrote on Twitter, only to be rejected by cryptocurrency exchanges Binance and Kraken.

While oligarchs may be able to quickly stash their wealth in a digital wallet, experts say this is no solution for Russia's businesses at large.

The theory of operating in the face of sanctions by shifting over to crypto runs quickly into limitations when confronted with reality. Size may in fact be a disadvantage in this regard as large multinationals generating billions in revenue would not be able to efficiently make the switch.

It is one thing for an individual to convert their savings from rubles into Bitcoin; attempting to run an entire economy on it day in and day out



Russia Central Bank headquarters in Moscow

is a different matter entirely.

"There simply isn't enough global [crypto] liquidity to support Russia's needs," wrote Asheesh Birla, senior vice president of product for Ripple, the world's third-largest digital currency.

SWIFT's network, after all, connects more than 11,000 institutions and 4 billion accounts over 200 countries worldwide with the goal of instant, frictionless transactions.

Every day it processes on average 42 million financial messages that facilitate transfers of

money, with traffic increasing 11 percent last year. That kind of scale and efficiency cannot be replicated, even with today's decentralized financial technology.

Birla estimates Russia conducts nearly \$50 billion in foreign exchange transactions every day, roughly equal to the entire value of all Bitcoin transactions worldwide even when volumes hit peak levels: "Russia's needs would encompass BTC and more!"

Since these all leave data fingerprints, they would not necessarily be well suited for escaping

sanctions regimes, either.

One of the main reasons why a major Bitcoin heist in 2016 resulted in two recent headline-making arrests was the suspects' inability to easily launder the stolen money and conceal its origin.

Caroline Malcolm, head of international policy at distributed ledger research firm Chainalysis, told CoinDesk her company can flag suspicious payments, alerting either governments or industry customers immediately so they can take countermeasures.

"We've seen that in the past with sanctions, you've got examples where wallet addresses have been named as sanctioned entities," said Malcolm.

That isn't to say the U.S. government takes the issue lightly. Treasury officials in October argued the underlying approach to sanctions needed to be adapted to the emergence of new actors like cybercriminals and the overall increase in financial market complexity.

"Technological innovations such as digital currencies, alternative payment platforms, and new ways of hiding cross-border transactions all potentially reduce the efficacy of American sanctions," it wrote in an annual review. "These technologies offer malign actors opportunities to hold and transfer funds outside the traditional dollar-based financial system."

Another issue is the high transaction costs, known as "gas fees" on the Ethereum blockchain. The infrastructure is not yet capable of handling the kind of business an entire country would need, likely leading to a spike in costs as demand for processing outstrips computational power.

Daniel Webber, chief executive of FXC Intelligence, a financial data company specializing in international payments, argues new blockchains such as Solana are being developed to handle higher volumes, scale efficiently, and reduce transaction costs. But it will take time before Russia's financial system and its industry is, both from a cost and technology perspective, willing and able to switch to crypto.

"The longer SWIFT sanctions last and the more banks they involve, the more demand will be created to solve some of the current limitations for crypto and blockchains," Webber wrote to Fortune.

So while some small businesses and the self-employed may have needs negligible enough in size to continue operating, there is scant evidence this would be possible on the scale Russia needs anytime soon.

Ukraine central bank announces its system is still operating fine

KIEV

THE Ukrainian banking system has been running smoothly and banks have been replenishing cash when they can, Reuters reported Tuesday, citing Kyrylo Shevchenko, the central bank governor.

Shevchenko said online banking was running fine and non-cash transfers were still operating, including to the army.

PYMNTS has written about the conflict in Ukraine, which was invaded by Russia last week. One report said the U.K. had plans to pass legislation designed to stop laundering of dirty money, which had been used to support the war from Russian president Vladimir Putin's end.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the UK was standing with Ukraine and its democracy, and wrote that there will be "nowhere left to hide" for the wealthy people linked to Putin and his regime.

"More kleptocrats will be hit with restrictions in the coming weeks," she said. "Nothing is off the table."

The bill will reportedly make it so overseas companies who control property and land in the U.K. must register with the government.

The measure was originally introduced in 2018 to stop the £100 billion (\$133.3 billion) in illegal financing that the UK Crime Agency estimates has been moving through the country every year.

Switzerland has also recently broken its usual neutrality, freezing all the Russian assets in the country. The move was intended to adopt the West's sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine invasion, according to a Sunday (Feb. 28) press release.

Four of the seven members of the country's Federal Council also wanted to extend the financial sanctions to include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, effectively immediately.

The country said it was reaffirming "its solidarity with Ukraine and its people" in doing so, adding that it also planned to deliver relief supplies for those who have fled to Poland.

The statement added that the defense of peace and security, along with respect for international law, were among the values the country wanted to promote.



Airtel Tanzania Limited public relations manager Jackson Mbando (2nd-R), Gaming Board of Tanzania representative Joram Jodeph (R) and Airtel brand manager Gilliai Rugumamu (L) click the laptop button at a raffle to find the winner of "Tesa Kimilionea na Airtel" promotional campaign. Standing is Airtel Tanzania services manager Hellen Lyimo. PHOTO CORRESPONDENT; JUMANE JUMA



Ukraine Central Bank headquarters in Kiev

BANKING & FINANCE



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui (L), presents a medal to Simba Group chairman Jitesh Jayantilal Ladwa to honour the company's business cooperation with France. The event was held recently at the ambassador's residence in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO CORRESPONDENT; JUMANE JUMA

WORLD

India back to normal life, 2 years after world's biggest lockdown

JERUSALEM

ALMOST two years after India went into the world's biggest lockdown to slow the spread of COVID-19, students headed back to school in Maharashtra state on Wednesday, a sign of normal life resuming as infection rates fall.

India's daily coronavirus infections rose by less than 10,000 for a third straight day on Wednesday, a level last seen in late December before the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, data from the health ministry showed.

Last week, Maharashtra state minister Aaditya Thackeray said schools in the state's largest city, Mumbai, would resume pre-COVID-19 attendance, reinstating all activities in view of declining cases.

"Essentially it is more to do with the kind of severity India has seen, both amongst adults and children infected with the Omicron variant," said Uma Chandra Mouli Natchu, a professor of infectious diseases at St John's Re-

search Institute in Bengaluru.

"It appears the disease is significantly milder for both vaccinated individuals as well as for children, even if they are unvaccinated," Natchu said.

India has fully vaccinated more than 765 million of its 940 million adult population and about 28 million teenagers aged 15-18, but has not started vaccinating children younger than 15.

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat, bazaars were back in full swing after a long hiatus.

Patrons streamed in to enjoy dinner and late-night snacks following the lifting of a curfew last week at Ahmedabad's popular Manek Chowk, a market that transforms into a hawkler centre after dusk.

Similar signs of life resuming its normal pace abound across the country. Roads and trains are once again congested as people return to offices, movie theatres are reporting a surge in foot traffic, and in the city of Gurugram near the capital, New Delhi, restaurants and



Students walk to attend classes as their school reopened after a gap of nearly one year due to the coronavirus pandemic in Srinagar yesterday AFP)

gaming parlours are packed.

Indonesia

Indonesia has extended the shelf life of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine to nine months, as nearly six million doses it received in donations approached their expiration dates, a health ministry spokesperson told Reuters on Tuesday.

The decision underscores the challenges many developing countries face in their slow inoculation campaigns, as vaccines donated by wealthy countries arrive with a relatively short shelf life of just a few months or weeks.

Indonesia, which reported record daily infections in mid-February due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19, has fully vaccinated about 53 percent of its population of 270 million. That compares with more than 70 percent in richer nations.

Siti Nadia Tarmizi, a health ministry spokesperson, told Reuters it had six million doses of

vaccines set to expire at the end of February, but only 200,000 of them had expired after it extended the shelf life of the AstraZeneca shot to nine months from six.

An AstraZeneca spokesperson said it supported the government's shelf-life extensions and that they "comply with the highest standards, in line with AstraZeneca's commitment to providing effective medicines of the highest quality."

The relatively short shelf life of AstraZeneca's vaccine is complicating the rollout to the world's poorest nations, according to officials and internal World Health Organization documents reviewed by Reuters last month.

Kurniasih Mufidayati, an Indonesian member of parliament overseeing health, called for the government to speed up vaccination on Monday.

Agencies

Macron poised to launch reelection bid

LONDON

FRANCE'S President Emmanuel Macron is expected to launch his reelection bid this week and join a race now overshadowed by the conflict in Ukraine.

Other presidential candidates have been campaigning for weeks already, and it is an open secret that Macron would eventually enter the race and bid to win a second five-year term. Legally, all candidacies for the presidential election must be registered by Friday.

Recent opinion polls have shown that the centrist Macron, who became France's youngest president in 2017, is likely to come out on top in the first round of voting on April 10.

The outcome of a runoff vote two weeks later, however, is less clear as potential candidates from far-right parties who have dominated the early stages of the campaign would present stronger opposition, reported Agence France-Press.

Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour are vying for votes from the extreme right, followed by conservative candidate Valerie Pécresse. Polls show Jean-Luc Mélenchon as the most popular candidate from the far-left.

Macron's campaign will focus on a few key policy ideas, sources told Reuters.

"Everything is ready for the first 15 days following the announcement of his candidacy: first campaign trip, which meeting, which media and themes," a government source said.

"We will focus on three or four major policy proposals on issues such as rebuilding France, a new social contract. The idea is not just to prolong his mandate but to surprise, propose, shake things up."

Ukraine shadow

The source added that Macron would take part in a campaign rally in Marseille, another in Paris and a third one in western France.

The race has been shaken by the crisis in Ukraine, and the main candidates have come under attack over previous pro-Russia stances, reported The Guardian.

It said Russia's attack is expected to be a key issue in the presidential race political debate.

Le Pen and Zemmour have been criticized for trying to distance themselves from previous pro-Kremlin comments.

The paper noted that Le Pen obtained a loan from a Russian bank in 2014 to fund her 2017 campaign and made a high-profile visit to Russia at the time when she praised President Vladimir Putin. She issued a statement last week calling Russia's moves in Ukraine unjustified, and said they must be condemned "without ambiguity".

Previously, Zemmour had suggested that "Putin is not an aggressor", but was instead "being treated aggressively by the international community", noted AFP. Last week, Zemmour said he "condemned without reservation" what he called Russia's "unjustifiable" military intervention.

Hard-left candidate Mélenchon condemned the Russian military operation "as an extremely serious act of war" and "an unacceptable violation of the principles of international law".

Pécresse said the crisis in Ukraine was "a turning point" in the presidential campaign because it had allowed "masks to fall", noted The Guardian.

Food stocks in Sudan could run out in one month - UN

KHARTOUM

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Monday warned that food stocks in Sudan could run out in one month because of a severe funding shortfall.

"Limited resources have been prioritized to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable people in Sudan are met but even with this prioritization exercise, food stocks and cash are expected to run out starting April across the country," Eddie Rowe, WFP representative and country director in Sudan, said in a press release.

"A major funding shortfall of \$285 million for the next six months (March-August 2022) is jeopardizing operations and lives," he said, adding "without new funds, WFP may have no choice but to make further cuts and the impact could be devastating."

The WFP is running general food assistance program for around 362,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan's Darfur region using cash-based transfers.

Biden outlines plan to tackle surging inflation in State of Union address

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday night outlined a plan to tackle the persistently high inflation in his first State of the Union address, touting the administration's economic achievements and pushing his economic agenda.

Noting that his top priority was getting prices under control, the U.S. president laid out a four-point plan: making more products in America, reducing everyday costs, promoting fair competition to lower prices and eliminating barriers to good-paying jobs for workers.

"With all the bright spots in our economy, record job growth and higher wages, too many families are struggling to keep up with the bills," Biden said in his speech to a joint session of Congress. "Inflation is robbing them of the gains they might otherwise feel."

The president's remarks came as stubbornly high inflation in the country is eroding businesses' profit margins and households' purchasing power, casting shadow over growth prospects.

According to data released by the Commerce Department on Friday, personal consumption expenditures (PCE), the U.S. Federal Reserve's preferred inflation

gauge, rose 6.1 percent annually in January, the fastest annual pace in four decades.

Economists at the Wells Fargo Securities said in a recent analysis that they expected the core PCE deflator, which is currently up 5.2 percent year over year, to still be up 4.1 percent in the fourth quarter -- well above the Fed's target and most recent estimates. In his speech, Biden touted the 1.9-trillion-dollar COVID-19 relief plan and the infrastructure law, arguing that the administration's efforts had led to a strong job market and robust economic recovery.

The State of the Union address came at a time when debt as a share of the economy is on track to surpass record levels within a decade.

Biden blamed the previous administration for ballooning the deficit "with tax cuts for the very wealthy and corporations," and renewed his push for a reform in the tax system.

"The one thing all Americans agree on is that the tax system



U.S. President Joe Biden

is not fair. We have to fix it," he said. "I'm not looking to punish anyone. But let's make sure corporations and the wealthiest Americans start paying their fair share."

Biden also reiterated key points in his economic agenda, urging Congress to pass legislations to create a national comprehensive paid family and medical leave programme and raise the mini-

mum wage to 15 dollars an hour, and to allow every worker to organize or join a union and bargain collectively with their employer.

Xinhua

Yemeni govt welcomes new UNSC arms embargo on Houthi militia

ADEN

THE Yemeni government and several other Arab countries on Tuesday welcomed the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution that imposed an arms embargo on the Houthi militia in Yemen as an entity.

The Houthi militia currently controls the capital Sanaa and most key northern provinces of the Arab world's poorest country.

On Monday, UNSC Resolution 2624, which was adopted with 11 votes in

favor and four abstentions, decides that the Houthis as an entity shall be subject to the arms embargo contained in its previous Resolution 2216 of 2015. Resolution 2216 and other later ones targeted individuals from the Houthi group for arms embargo, not the group as an entity.

The latest resolution condemns the continued supply of weapons and components to Yemen in violation of the targeted arms embargo established in Resolution 2216 as a se-

rious threat to peace and stability in Yemen and the region.

It strongly condemns the cross-border attacks by the Houthis, including attacks on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and demands the immediate cessation of such attacks.

In a press statement, the Saudi-backed Yemeni government said the "significant constructive move" is set to curb the Houthis' violations and threats to the maritime shipping lines' safety in

the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and to pressure the Houthis to abandon the course of the war. The Yemeni government also reiterated the UN-led peace process as the only single way to reach fair and sustainable peace in Yemen.

The Houthis did not officially comment on the contents of the resolution. The UNSC resolution was met with positive reactions and responses from a number of regional countries including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain,

Jordan and Egypt. Earlier in the day, Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi received the U.S. Envoy for Yemen Timothy Lenderking and the UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg in his temporary office in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh.

The Yemeni president highly praised the envoys' efforts to achieve peace the Yemeni people are desperately waiting for. "We're peace-seekers.

We have made huge sacrifices and offered significant concessions to

stop bloodshed, establish security and stability that maintain Yemen's unity, security and stability," Hadi said. Yemen has been mired in a civil war since the Houthi militia overran much of the country militarily and seized all northern provinces, including the capital Sanaa, in 2014. Saudi Arabia has been leading an Arab military coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 to support the government of Hadi after Houthis forced him into exile.

Xinhua

Libyan parliament approves new government

TRIPOLI

THE Libyan House of Representatives, or parliament, on Tuesday granted confidence to a new government to replace the current Government of National Unity led by Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah.

"The House of Representatives unanimously granted confidence to the new government, with a majority of 92 votes," the parliament spokesperson Abdullah Blehig said in a statement.

The 101-seat Libyan parliament withdrew confidence from Dbeibah's gov-

ernment in September last year and kept it as a caretaker government. On Feb 10, it unanimously voted to appoint Fathi Bashagha, former interior minister, as the new prime minister.

But Dbeibah (pictured) vowed his government will remain in office until an elected government is established. On Feb 21, he announced a plan to hold general elections in June.

Dbeibah's government also accused the House of Representatives of approving the new government "without achieving quorum" during the session, vowing its continued work to prepare



for the elections.

General elections in Libya had been

scheduled for Dec 24 last year, but were postponed indefinitely due to technical

and legal issues, according to the country's elections commission.

Meanwhile, Bashagha said his newly approved government would seek to achieve reconciliation and stability in the North African country, according to Bashagha's information office.

"The most important things we seek today is reconciliation, participation and stability, so that we can move to prosperity, well-being and development," Bashagha was quoted as saying by his information office in a speech.

"I am not here for retaliation. Instead, I came to build this country, which

needs everybody. I reach out to everybody, including the opponents, because I am responsible for serving all the Libyan people without exception," he added.

Bashagha also pledged his commitment to holding elections according to the roadmap approved in February by the House of Representatives, or the parliament, and expressed the hope to cooperate with the UN Support Mission in Libya in achieving reconciliation, holding elections, adopting a constitution, and unifying the state's institutions.

Wang urges Russia, Ukraine to find negotiated solution

BEIJING

CHINA'S fundamental position on the Ukraine issue is open, transparent and consistent, as the country always maintains that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday in a phone conversation with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

Wang said China called for Russia and Ukraine to find solutions to the problem through negotiations and supports all constructive international efforts conducive to the political settlement of the current crisis.

Wang said China deeply regrets that a conflict has broken out between Ukraine and Russia, and is extremely concerned about the harm to civilians, adding that the immediate priority is to try the utmost to defuse the situation and prevent the conflict from escalating or even getting out of control.

He emphasized the urgent need to prevent harm to civilians and the emergence of humanitarian crises and to ensure the safe and timely access of humanitarian aid.

Wang urged Ukraine to shoulder its due international responsibilities with regard to protecting the safety of Chinese citizens in Ukraine.

He said he hoped that Ukraine would take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens in the country and continue to provide protection and convenience for the evacuation of Chinese citizens.

Kuleba briefed Wang on the first round of talks between Ukraine and Russia, saying that Ukraine is open to a negotiated solution to the conflict and would remain calm and continue the negotiations.

Noting that China has played a constructive role on the Ukraine issue, Kuleba said Ukraine is willing to strengthen communication with China and looks forward to China's mediation in the realization of the cease-fire.

Kuleba also said Ukraine attaches great importance to China's concerns and is assisting the smooth evacuation of Chinese citizens, including students.

In another development, Russia's TASS news agency reported on Tuesday that the second round of Russia-Ukraine talks is planned for Wednesday, quoting a source on the Russian side.

The first round of Russia-Ukraine talks aimed at ending their conflict concluded with no immediate agreement on Monday. The talks, which lasted nearly five hours, took place in the Gomel region of Belarus, near the border with Ukraine.

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said on Tuesday that Russia will continue the special military operation in Ukraine until the achievement of its set purpose.

Interfax News Agency reported on Tuesday that Russia is planning to move troops from its Far East region closer to Europe.

The news agency quoted Russia's eastern military district as saying that Russian troops based in the country's Far East region will hold drills in Astrakhan province, which lies on the border between the European and Asian parts of Russia.

Meanwhile, a huge Russian military convoy was massing on the outskirts of Kyiv on Tuesday morning.

Satellite images showed the convoy of armored vehicles, tanks, towed artillery and other vehicles. The convoy is more than 65 kilometers long, stretching from near Antonov airport outside Kyiv to the town of Pryborsk.

Russian troops will carry out an attack on what they said was the infrastructure of Ukraine's intelligence services in Kyiv and urged residents living nearby to leave, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

Blasts were heard in the Ukrainian capital hours after the talks ended on Monday. A mushroom cloud erupted over eastern Kyiv as air raid sirens were sounded early on Tuesday.

Explosions were also reported in and around Brovary, on the outskirts of the capital.

Ukrainians set up checkpoints and blocked streets with piles of sandbags and tires as they waited to take on Russian soldiers.

In Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv, a government building was shelled by the Russian military on Tuesday morning.

Kharkiv's Mayor Igor Terekhov, quoted by Ukrainian media, said that Russian armored vehicles and tanks are "everywhere around the city".



Refugees from eastern Ukraine arrive at a train station in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, Feb 22, 2022. (XINHUA)

EU leader says conflict must end before discussion for Ukraine's accession

BRUSSELS

CONFLICT should end before Ukraine's application to join the European Union (EU) is discussed, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said here on Tuesday.

"Today, the European Union and Ukraine are already closer than ever before. There is still a long path ahead. We have to end this war."

And we should talk about the next steps," von der Leyen said when addressing the European Parliament plenary. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday signed an official appeal for the EU, asking for an accession of Ukraine via a new special procedure.

Xinhua

Russia says it controls Ukraine's Kherson, Biden closes US airspace

MOSCOW

A week after launching its invasion of Ukraine, Russia said its forces took control of the first sizable city yesterday, seizing Kherson, in the south, as fighting raged around the country and Western nations tightened an economic noose around Russia.

More than half a million Ukrainians have fled the fighting since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of his southern neighbour nearly a week ago.

Russian bombardments of Ukrainian cities continued, with video posted on social media showing heavily damaged buildings around the second city of Kharkiv.

"While he may make gains on the battlefield, he will pay a continuing high price over the long run," U.S. President Joe Biden said at his State of the Union address. Straying from the prepared text, Biden added "He has no idea what's coming." He did not elaborate.

The invaders' advances have been met with fierce resistance by Ukrainian forces and a miles-long Russian military convoy north of Kyiv has made little progress towards the capital.

In a video address on Wednesday, Zelenskiy said nearly 6,000 Russians had been killed in the first six days of Moscow's invasion, and that the Kremlin would not be able to take his country with bombs and air strikes.



Pro-Russian troops in the separatist-controlled settlement of Buhas (Bugas), as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in the Donetsk region, Ukraine on Tuesday. REUTERS

Biden further ratcheted up sanctions on Moscow, joining the European Union and Canada in banning Russian planes from U.S. airspace.

He also said the Justice Department would seek to seize the yachts, luxury apartments and private jets of wealthy Russians with ties to Putin.

U.S. lawmakers stood, applauded and roared, many of them waving Ukrainian flags and wearing the country's blue and yellow colours, as Biden delivered his address to the chamber of the House of Representatives.

Russian forces have taken control of Kherson, a city of nearly a quarter million people just north of Crimea, the peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014, a Russian defence ministry spokesperson said. Strategically located on the Dniepr river, the provincial capital was the biggest city to fall to Russian forces so far.

The southeast city of Mariupol had been under intense shelling since late Tuesday and was unable to evacuate wounded, according to its mayor.

A senior U.S. defense official said on Tuesday the invading force's advance on Kyiv has stalled due to logistics problems, including shortages of food and fuel, and some units appeared to have low morale.

'STOP BOMBING PEOPLE'

On Tuesday, Ukraine's leader called on Russia to stop bombarding civilians and resume talks.

"It's necessary to at least stop bombing people, just stop the bombing and then sit down at the negotiating table," Zelenskiy told Reuters and CNN in a joint interview

in a heavily guarded government compound in Kyiv.

At least 21 people were killed and 112 wounded in shelling in Kharkiv in the last 24 hours, regional governor Oleg Syneghubov said on Wednesday.

More than 450,000 people have fled Ukraine to Poland, and a further 113,000 to Romania.

The United Nations General Assembly is set to reprimand Russia on Wednesday and demand that Moscow stop fighting and withdraw its military forces. Putin ordered the "special military operation" last Thursday in a bid to disarm Ukraine, capture the "neo-Nazis" he says are running the democratic country of 44 million people and crush its hopes of closer ties to the West.

West of Kyiv, in the city of Zhytomyr, four people, including a child, were killed on Tuesday by a Russian cruise missile, a Ukrainian official said.

In Ukraine's largely Russian-speaking city of Donetsk, in territory controlled by Russian-backed separatists, authorities said three civilians had been killed by Ukrainian shelling.

Reuters was unable to confirm any of the reports of casualties.

Vastly outmatched by Russia's military, in terms of raw numbers and firepower, Ukraine's own air force is still flying and its air defences are still deemed to be viable - a fact that is baffling military experts.

WEAPONS AND SANCTIONS

Ukraine, which is not a member of NATO, has called on the U.S.-led military alliance to implement a no-fly zone over Ukraine - a request rejected by Wash-

ington, which fears stoking a direct conflict between the world's two biggest nuclear powers.

Washington and its allies have instead sent weapons to Kyiv.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said on Wednesday the country was set to receive Stinger and Javelin missiles from abroad, as well as another shipment of Turkish drones.

Several dozen Japanese men have answered a Ukrainian call for foreign volunteers to fight Russia's invasion, according to a media report yesterday. In Taiwan, the president, vice president and prime minister all pledged to donate their salaries to Ukraine relief efforts.

Isolating Russia diplomatically, the West's main strategy is shutting off Russia's economy from the global financial system, pushing international companies to halt sales, cut ties, and dump tens of billions of dollars' worth of investments.

Exxon Mobil joined other major Western energy companies including British BP PLC BPL and Shell RDSA.L in announcing it would quit oil-rich Russia over the invasion.

Apple Inc AAPLO stopped sales of iPhones and other products in Russia, and was making changes to its Maps app to protect civilians in Ukraine. Alphabet Inc's GOOGL Google dropped Russian state publishers from its news, and Ford Motor F.N. suspended operations in the country.

U.S. airplane manufacturer Boeing B.A.N said it was suspending parts, maintenance and technical support for Russian airlines.

Agencies

NATO chief stresses diplomatic efforts to solve Ukraine crisis

TALLINN

VISITING Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday stressed diplomatic efforts to solve the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

Stoltenberg made the remarks at a joint press conference with Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas and visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the Tapa Army Base in northern Estonia.

He called for an immediate stop of the war in Ukraine, pullout of Russian forces and the engaging of diplomatic efforts.

"Over the last weeks, in response to Russia's attacks on Ukraine, we have increased our defensive presence in the air, on land, and at sea," he noted.

There are "over 100 jets at high alert operating from 30 different locations and over 120 ships from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean," Stoltenberg said, adding that Britain, the United States and other allies are deploying thousands more troops to the eastern part of the alliance.

"For the first time in our history, we are deploying the NATO response force," said the NATO chief, who termed NATO as a defensive alliance that does not seek conflict with Russia.

The second round of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine could take place on Wednesday, the TASS news agency reported Tuesday citing sources.

The first round of the negotiations, which lasted about five hours, concluded on Monday in Belarus' Gomel region, with no clear breakthrough.

For his part, Johnson said that he wanted to be "crystal clear" that "we will



Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas (C), Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Jens Stoltenberg (R) and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson attend a joint press conference at the Tapa Army Base in northern Estonia, March 1, 2022. Visiting Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday stressed diplomatic efforts to solve the ongoing Ukraine crisis. Stoltenberg made the remarks at a joint press conference with Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas and visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the Tapa Army Base in northern Estonia. (Xinhua)

not fight Russian forces in Ukraine" and "our reinforcements, like the reinforcements here in Tapa, are firmly within the borders of NATO members."

On the number of reinforced troops, the British prime minister said "we will always keep things under review." He also termed the "no-fly zone" on Russian aircraft over Ukraine as a very big step that "simply is not on the agenda of any NATO country."

More than 900 members of the

Royal Welsh infantry regiment of the British Army and nearly 200 Danish troops together with their vehicles and equipment will be joining NATO Battlegroup Estonia at Tapa Army Base, the Estonian Public Broadcasting reported on Tuesday.

Estonian President Alar Karis met with Stoltenberg at Tallinn airport earlier on the day.

Stoltenberg also made a trip to Poland with a visit to Lask airbase on Tuesday.

Xinhua

Hungary supports Ukraine's bid for EU accession - FM

BUDAPEST

HUNGARY supports a request by eight European Union (EU) countries to begin membership talks with Ukraine, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said here on Tuesday.

"We urge the Brussels institutions to put this request of the eight presidents on the agenda, which Hungary also supports," Szijarto said in a video posted on his Facebook page.

"We expect Brussels to take this initiative very seriously," he added.

On Monday, eight European countries said in a joint declaration

that they would support Ukraine's immediate accession to the EU.

"Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia strongly believe that Ukraine deserves receiving an immediate EU accession perspective," the declaration said.

Romania also expressed support to the initiative on Tuesday, increasing the number of EU countries supporting Ukraine's appeal to 10.

The declaration was published after Ukrainian President Volody-

myr Zelensky on Monday signed an official appeal for Ukraine to join the EU, urging the bloc to grant Ukraine immediate accession via a new special procedure.

The issue has to be agreed by all of the bloc's 27 member countries, which failed to reach an agreement in the past over the issue of EU enlargement.

Asked about Ukraine's membership prospects before Zelensky's latest appeal, European Council President Charles Michel said there were "different opinions and sensitivities within the EU on enlargement."

Xinhua

Russia thanks India for balanced position on Ukraine crisis

NEW DELHI

RUSSIA is grateful to India for its balanced position on the crisis in Ukraine, and New Delhi understands its depth, Russian ambassador to New Delhi Denis Alipov said yesterday.

"We are strategic partners with India. We are grateful to India for its balanced position demonstrated at the UN. India understands the depth of this crisis (in Ukraine - TASS)." ANI news agency quotes the diplomat as saying.

On February 25, India abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution proposing to condemn Russia's actions in Ukraine. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, T. S. Tirumurti said that New Delhi believes that dialogue "is the only answer to resolve the differences."

Last week, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spoke on telephone with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the start of Moscow's special military operation in

Ukraine. The prime minister called for concerted efforts from all sides to return to the path of diplomatic negotiations and dialogue. The leaders agreed that their officials and diplomatic teams would continue to maintain regular contacts on issues of topical interest.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address on February 24 that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation in order to protect people "who have been suffering from abuse and genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years." The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported later that Russian troops were not delivering strikes against Ukrainian cities. It emphasized that Ukrainian military infrastructure was being destroyed by precision weapons. Civilians are not threatened, the Russian military assured.

Agencies



Russia's economy faces uphill battle, but has some degree of safety, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE Russian economy is current weathering a serious blow due to the new Western sanctions, but there is a margin of safety, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"The Russian economy is now facing serious pressure, and a serious blow, I would say. There is a margin of safety, there is potential, and there are plans. Tireless efforts are underway. We will stand our ground," he vowed. Speaking about special economic measures intro-

duced in Russia against the backdrop of new Western sanctions, Peskov explained that they were caused by "certain hostile actions that are trying to shake and undermine the integrity of our economy."

"Under these conditions, measures are being taken that will help minimize risks, consequences, and insure us against any shakeup of the economy," he said.

According to him, since these unfriendly measures are unprecedented, "in these conditions it is necessary to act firmly, wisely, and clearly."

Agencies

The
Guardian

SPORT



Dar es Salaam's Tuhanchane traditional dance group's artists, based at Kipunguni, perform the 'Li-tungu' dance of Mara as they welcomed the Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dorothy Gwajima, during the minister's visit to the Kipunguni Community Voice Institute Tuesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Taliss-IST outfit clinches now 2022 Swimming Championship silverware

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

TALISS-IST outfit swimmers have finished at the top of the first swimming championship held at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki's swimming pool in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Taliss-IST club collected 2,327 points to outshine the other eight clubs in the two-day championship.

Speaking after the competition, Taliss-IST outfit manager Hadija Shebe said they are very proud of the achievement in the competition thanks to the commitment from swimmers, parents, coaches, and stakeholders.

She said swimmers fought hard in the competition to finish impressively.

Hadija said it was not easy for her swimmers to emerge victorious due to the competitiveness shown by other clubs.

She explained that each club targeted the same achievement.

"It was not easy to collect such the maximum points, swimmers fought hard to make the club collect many points when comparing with others," Hadija stated.

It has inspired us and we are now focusing on other competitions according to Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) calendar," the official revealed.

The second place in points scoring was taken by Dar es Salaam Swimming Club after collecting 1,871 points while Bluefins sit in the third after garnering 947 points.

Mwanza Swimming Club (MSC) collected 703 points and was placed in the fourth spot while FK Blue Marlins scored 446 points and took the fifth spot.

Moshi's Leopard Sharks (UWCEA) scored 399 points to finish in the sixth position while Morogoro International School (MIS) Piranha collected 211 points to finish in the seventh spot.

Champion Rise Swimming Club placed in the eighth with 108 points. Zanzibar's Wahoo scored 66 points to finish ninth.

The swimmers competed in various events according to age categories for both boys and girls U-8, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14, 15 and older.

The swimmers competed in five swimming styles namely Butterfly, Individual Medley, Freestyle, Backstroke, and Breaststroke.

The swimmers also competed in both relay and mixed relay that aimed to spice the competition which had 105 disciplines.

Hadija also commended all clubs for competing in the championship that was sponsored by Jubilee Insurance, Azam, Pepsi, Auric Air, Dolphin Tours and Safari Ltd, Burger 53, Easy Buy, Dar Youth Club, and Knight Support.

Russia excluded from more sports as sanctions mount

GENEVA

MORE and more sports are following the appeal of the International Olympic Committee and banning Russian athletes from competing in the wake of the country's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia was barred from competing in international ice skating, skiing, basketball, track and some tennis events Tuesday, a day after being kicked out of soccer competitions and hockey – Vladimir Putin's favorite team sport. The decisions follow the IOC's request to international sports federations to keep Russian athletes out of events they organize.

The International Skating Union, the body that runs the sport around the world, said no athletes from Russia or Belarus "shall be invited or allowed to participate" in events until further notice.

Belarus has been a key ally of Russia in its attack on Ukraine.

The world figure skating championships are scheduled for later this month in Montpellier, France. The ISU decision means Olympic champion Anna Shcherbakova and 15-year-old teammate Kamila Valieva, who was the focus of a still-unresolved doping dispute at last month's Winter Olympics, will be excluded from the competition.

The sports restrictions have drawn sharp criticism from Russia.

"Our country has always adhered to the principle that sport is beyond politics, but we are constantly drawn into the politics, because they understand the importance of sport in the lives of our Russian people," Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko, who was stripped of an IOC honor for organizing the 2014 Sochi Olympics, said Tuesday at a Sports Ministry meeting.

Russian and Belarusian tennis players including top-ranked Daniil Medvedev, who is Russian, can

play on the ATP and WTA tours, but without national flags, and at the Grand Slams. The countries are barred from team competitions like the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup until further notice. Russian players won both last year and are already qualified for this year's finals as defending champions.

In Norway, Russian cross-country skiers – who won 11 medals at the Beijing Olympics – were heading home after being excluded from competition by the International Ski Federation, known as FIS.

The decision came after a three-day standoff with Norwegian ski officials, who said they would refuse to let Russians and Belarusians race if FIS maintained its previous policy of allowing them to compete as neutral athletes.

"Firstly, I am glad that FIS has taken this decision," said Norwegian ski federation president Erik Røste, who also sits on the governing body's ruling council. "Then I have to be honest and say it has taken too long."

The FIS position shifted Tuesday morning after its president, Johan Eliasson, took part in a conference call hosted by the IOC with the governing bodies of Olympic sports.

In track and field, Russia has been suspended since 2015 for doping violations but allowed to compete as "Authorized Neutral Athletes." On Tuesday, the sport moved to a blanket ban on Russia and Belarus.

The governing body of track is run by Sebastian Coe. As an athlete, Coe defied calls to boycott the 1980 Moscow Olympics because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and won a gold medal in the 1,500 meters.

AP

Tanzania likely to get FIFA suspension

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

LAST week, the world soccer governing body (FIFA) announced a ban on Kenya and Zimbabwe from participating in the game internationally after the two countries' governments intervened in football matters.

In Kenya, the government has removed the elected Football Kenya Federation leadership and set up an ad hoc committee on various allegations of corruption.

The country's public has agreed with the move saying at first no country is losing now; the national team is not in competition as well as the clubs.

In Zimbabwe the situation is similar. Officials are accused of corruption and sexual harassment and the government has seen fit to clean up the game. Pundits in the country had several opinions regarding the issue.

My main answer was only one; we do not have strong football institutions that can hold officials accountable when they have problems or allegations of misconduct.

When the situation prevails, the leaders do things their way as the only tool that can hold them accountable is a general assembly which if the number is as small as the current TFF, it is easy to play with them.

The Kenya Football Federation (FKF) officials have been widely accused of aggravating the situation after the country returned from the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Egypt.

Officials took money from the government claiming they were going to serve the team for accommodation and other things while in Egypt.

Later it was reported that the team was serviced by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for accommodation and other matters.

Since then, neither the FKF general assembly nor any other body has questioned the allegations and officials have continued enjoying the national cake.

It came at a time when the media began to question the reasons for either FIFA or CAF opting out of intervening and holding officials accountable.

And even Ahmad Ahmad's



Tanzania Football Federation president Wallace Karia.

bribe presented to the presidents of football associations who wrote letters of support for him even before the election was announced, was not questioned.

In such a situation, the government must intervene and take action because the owners do not see the problem as a waste of money; countless and they do embezzlement of that expensive money.

The situation is different for FIFA itself in that it has an ethics committee that is divided into two. One is for investigation and the other is for prosecution.

Investigations revealed that former federation president Sepp Blatter had approved a \$1 million fine from UEFA president Michel Platini in a controversial case and was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Blatter's allegations would have been presented at a FIFA summit, he would have said.

We have an Ethics Committee but you do not see it having that power. Every day it punishes people outside the TFF leadership.

Does that mean there is no leader with serious suspicions? No referee with serious corruption allegations?

No club leader with serious corruption allegations? Is it true that only people outside the TFF officials are the ones who make mistakes every day?

We need a high level of civility to the extent that the Ethics Committee convenes a case against the TFF president and interrogates him about certain allegations of misconduct. But for now, let us not expect anything like that.

Perhaps what we can rely on is government intervention when allegations of corruption arise, as was the case in the previous regime, which eventually ended in a coup.

What was happening in Zimbabwe and Kenya had already happened, but Leodegar Tenga's administration laid the groundwork for the government's intervention in football.

But I see signs of those foundations being removed, a situation

that could lead the country to go backward.

I have seen the elders of Yanga have started asking President Samia Suluhu to intervene, but some soccer enthusiasts have ridiculed them. The controversy of these issues always starts slowly.

Today the penalties are like memorization no matter what an individual has done wrong, the penalty is a ban on engaging in football for five years, even if the offense is done for the first time.

Congratulations to Yanga spokesman Haji Manara and the outfit's information officer Hassan Bumbuli for avoiding the five-year suspension on their first allegations.

Not all convicted murderers are sentenced to death. The courts consider several factors before making such a judgment.

Do those who are said to be lying deserve such severe punishment?

Do we want to punish them to correct their deeds or do we want to expel them from football?

Former Yanga forward Sarpong signs three-month contract with AS Kigali

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

FORMER Yanga forward, Ghanaian Michael Sarpong, has returned to the Rwandan Premier League after leaving the top-flight in 2020.

The lanky striker has returned to the Rwandan Premier League after two years, as the footballer sealed a two-year deal with Saudi Arabia's second-tier side Al Nahda last year.

The forward signed a three-month deal with AS Kigali after having a short stint with the Saudi Arabian second-tier team.

The goal-getter revealed that he signed a short-term deal with the Kigali City-sponsored club as he wants to be active until the next transfer window after canceling his contract in Saudi Arabia.

Sarpong noted: "I left my club in Saudi Arabia because of salary issues, the club had a financial problem so I canceled my contract and can't be home until June without playing. That is why I came here."

"I have a couple of options in summer but want to play and be active until then."

Sarpong attained cult status in Rwandan football during the 2018/2019 season as his 16 league goals propelled Rayon Sports to the league title.

He left for Yanga in 2020 after his contract with Rayon Sports was terminated.

Rayon Sports FC released the Ghanaian over indiscipline after the player publicly criticized his employer saying he does not deserve to run the club.

Sarpong who was into the second and final year of his contract with Rayon Sports was dismissed after he criticized the club's president, Sadat Munyakazi, during an interview with local radio, Royal FM.

Previously Sarpong voiced his disappointment after the club told its players they would have to forgo their salaries until football activities resume as the club starves off financial crisis during the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"He (club's president) doesn't deserve this great club. This great club deserves someone mature, who can speak to his players," Sar-



Michael Sarpong

pong revealed.

"I don't think that now even the players want him to be where he is. I don't think the players want him now. I don't think that."

Michael Sarpong moved to Rayon Sports in September 2010 from Ghana's Dreams FC and immediately hit the ground running scoring 16

goals in his first season as the club claimed the national league.

In his search for green pastures, Sarpong went for trials with China's League One outfit, Changchun Yatai FC, but he did not complete his move as the club signed the Nigerian, Aaron Olanare, instead.

Charity regulator looks into Abramovich's plan for Chelsea

LONDON

ROMAN Abramovich's attempt to shift the "stewardship and care" of Chelsea to the Premier League club's foundation has sparked the trustees to report the move to the British body overseeing charities.

The unexpected announcement from the Chelsea owner, which lacked full clarity, was issued on Saturday following calls for him to be targeted by British sanctions regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine and to sell the club.

The Charity Commission, which regulates the Chelsea Foundation, has received a "serious incident report" from its trustees amid concerns about how Abramovich's plan can be enacted.

The foundation's chairman is Bruce Buck, who has also chaired Chelsea for most of the 19 years the Russian oligarch has owned the west London club. Beyond women's team manager Emma Hayes and director of finance Paul Ramos, the trustees with more separation from the club are British Olympic Association chairman Hugh Robertson, lawyer John Devine and anti-discrimination leader Piara Powar, the executive director of the FARE network.

The Charity Commission is seeking further information from them about the running of the club and the foundation.

"We have contacted the charity seeking information," the commission said, "and, in line with our guidance, the charity has also made a report to the commission."

Chris Bryant, a legislator in Britain's opposition Labour Party, has been urging Abramovich to sell Chelsea over the last week. Bryant accused Abramovich in the House of Commons last week of having "links to the Russian state and his public association with corrupt activity and practices."

In a fresh intervention on Abramovich on Tuesday, Bryant told Parliament: "I think he's terrified of being sanctioned, which is why he's already going to sell his home tomorrow, and sell another flat as well. My anxiety is that we are taking too long about these things."

Bryant also raised concerns about another Premier League club, Everton, which had funding via spon-

sorship from a company owned by Alisher Usmanov, the Russian metals tycoon who has been sanctioned by the European Union.

"Everton should certainly be cutting ties with him already," Bryant said.

British Home Secretary Priti Patel responded by saying that broadly "there is a lot of detailed work taking place on sanctions."

Abramovich has provided no indication that he is going to sell Chelsea, nor what exactly it means to be giving "stewardship and care" of the club to trustees who he said are "in the best position to look after the interests of the club, players, staff, and fans."

The trustees have not publicly accepted Abramovich's plan. Chelsea itself has also issued no comment, beyond remarks from manager Thomas Tuchel that indicated little difference to the running of the club led by director Marina Granovskaia, a long-standing associate of Abramovich, and technical director Petr Cech, the former goalkeeper.

"We try to be calm here, we are calm in the center of a storm, of some noise around us that we cannot control and we are not responsible for," Tuchel said during a heated news conference. "For me as a coach and in charge of the first team that decision (by Abramovich) does not change too much the daily business."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was challenged on Tuesday during a visit to Poland about Abramovich.

"You are talking about more sanctions prime minister," said Daria Kaleniuk, executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Centre, a Ukrainian civil society organization, "but Roman Abramovich is not sanctioned, he's in London, his children are not in the bombardments, his children are there in London."

There was no specific response by Johnson.

Abramovich has yet to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin for launching the invasion of Ukraine.

"Every right thinking person should denounce what Putin has done," British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said when asked about Abramovich.

AP

Manchester United's manager search 'thorough' - director

LONDON

MANCHESTER United's search for a new manager will be "thorough," according to football director John Murtough, with the new man tasked with returning the club to top of domestic and European football.

United are looking for their next permanent manager after placing Ralf Rangnick in charge until the end of the season following the dismissal of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in November.

Mauricio Pochettino and Erik ten Hag are favourites for the role but Murtough has promised an extensive search to ensure the appointment of the right candidate as the club look to end a trophy drought that stretches back to 2017.

"We are now conducting a thorough process for the appointment of a new permanent manager who will take charge this summer, with the objective to get us back to challenging for those domestic and European titles," Murtough said.

"We saw improved results under interim manager Ralf Rangnick, following a run in the October and early November period that had seen the departure of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as manager.

"We know that consistency is key as we strive for a top-four finish this season. I want to reiterate however that this is not the ultimate objective for Manchester United, and everyone at the club is focused on challenging for the top trophies."

Meanwhile, Darren Fletcher, appointed as technical director to work alongside Murtough, has clarified his role at United after questions about why the midfielder has taken an active role in train-

ing sessions and on match days.

Technical directors traditionally distance themselves from the day-to-day running of the team but Fletcher has consistently been seen alongside Rangnick on the touchline during games.

"With Ralf and his staff coming in, and Michael [Carrick] and Kieran [McKenna] choosing to move on, we had a quick transition process, so part of my role has been to assist with that, both on the training pitch and during games," he said.

"I guess that's been the most visible part for me this season, but that's really an addition to my overall technical director role.

"Probably the key part of the role is taking a holistic view of the path for players from our academy to our first team. That pipeline of academy talent is a massive part of who we are as a club."

New CEO Richard Arnold added: "Everyone associated with Manchester United should have belief in the opportunities that lie ahead of us, both on the pitch and in the way we engage and serve our fans.

"We have a clear vision and we are implementing a strategy to win with an empowered leadership team to drive that forward. We will foster a culture of excellence through a world-class football environment, while strengthening the role of fans at the heart of the club and harnessing the power of Manchester United to make a positive impact on people, the environment and society.

"All of this will be supported by a sustainable operating model that ensures the club is strong for the present and secure for the future."

(Agencies)

FIFA suspends Russia from World Cup, all soccer competitions: What it means, how it works

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

ON Monday, FIFA announced that it was indefinitely suspending Russian representative teams (men's and women's). (In a joint statement, UEFA announced they were removing club sides from all competitions.) This means Russia will almost certainly not be participating in the Qatar World Cup in November. The previous day, FIFA had condemned the "use of force by Russia in its invasion of Ukraine."

In many ways, this is an unprecedented move by the game's governing body. Here's a Q&A to better understand the decisions and its implications.

Q: Russia were due to play in the men's World Cup playoffs later this month and the women's Euros in July. Is there any way back?

A: For the men, almost certainly not. Their playoff game against Poland was scheduled for March 24; they would need to be reinstated by FIFA. That won't happen unless they reach a peace deal and reconcile with all those countries, including Poland, who have said they'll boycott any match against them. (The World Cup draw to determine the eight groups is scheduled for April 1 in Doha, Qatar.)

The women's Euros is a bit different in the sense that it's four months away. You hope and pray there's enough time for the war to end and a resolution to be reached, but right now, it feels like a remote possibility.

Q: Why do you call this unprecedented? Haven't countries been suspended from FIFA before?

A: FIFA suspends members all the time. Just last week, they suspended Kenya and Zimbabwe for government interference. Last year, it was Chad and Pakistan for the same reasons.

Usually it happens because of government interference, corruption or financial irregularities. Sometimes it can happen for doping or sporting corruption (like this famous case involving Chile in 1989). But to suspend a member nation for political reasons is very rare. It happened to Yugoslavia in 1992 at the height of the civil war and to South Africa in 1961 because of the country's apartheid policy and insistence on fielding all-white teams. But there are key aspects that make this different.

Q: Such as?

A: First off, the speed of the decision. The invasion of Ukraine began less than a week ago. More significantly, in both the above cases, FIFA acted after resolutions from the United Nations. In 1992, Yugoslavia was sent home the day after a United Nations resolution imposing sanctions for atrocities committed in Bosnia. They were replaced in the European Championships by Denmark, who would go on to win the tournament. South Africa's ban, which would last more than four decades, came after a U.N. resolution in 1960 calling on the government to abandon policies of apartheid and racial discrimination.

This time, there has been no United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the invasion.

Q: How come?

A: Because Russia is one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and therefore can veto any decision. So the resolution that was introduced, demanding that Russia withdraw immediately from Ukraine, was effectively vetoed.

Q: Why does this matter?

A: FIFA is a sporting organisation, not a political one. It's one thing to ban a country for political reasons when you're backed by the U.N. It's quite another when you're not and you have to answer to your 211 members, some of whom might feel differently about it than many of those in the West who wanted Russia out straightaway.

It's worth remembering that while Russia was the only one of the 15 Security Council members to vote against the resolution, another three abstained: India, China and the United Arab Emirates. That's a sizable chunk of the world's population right there.

Q: Is that why they didn't suspend them on Sunday, instead issuing that somewhat tame provisional statement to simply ban Russian teams from playing on home soil, without an anthem or flags and calling themselves "Football Union of Russia"?

A: Pretty much. But here, it's worth remembering what we're talking about when we talk about FIFA.



FIFA president Gianni Infantino watches as Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) touches the World Cup trophy during the Russia 2018 World Cup final football match between France and Croatia in Moscow in this July 15, 2018 file photo. (Agencies)

While it can seem at times like a monolith run by an all-powerful president like Gianni Infantino, on this occasion it's not as if he made the decision personally. It was taken by something called the FIFA Bureau, which is a fancy way of saying a Zoom meeting between Infantino and the presidents of the six confederations: UEFA, CONMEBOL, CONCACAF, AFC, CAF and OFC.

Some of those present wanted to suspend Russia straightaway, adding a conditional road map for readmission, like withdrawal from Ukraine and a peace deal. Others were more cautious.

Q: Why? Because they didn't have the "safety blanket" of a U.N. resolution to back them up?

A: Partly yes, but also because these are all elected officials and they answer to their members.

Like I said, not everybody felt as strongly about banning Russia as many NATO countries do. Some folks feel that there's a double standard at play. After all, FIFA didn't ban the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Poland and the rest of the "coalition of the willing" when they invaded Iraq in 2003 without an explicit authorisation from the U.N. Nor did they sanction Saudi Arabia when they bombed Yemen in 2015.

FIFA and the confederations wanted to make sure they had enough public support. And most likely, they knew they were going to get it, but they had to go through a process.

Q: What does that mean?

A: They wanted more member associations to come out in the open in support of a ban, and that happened almost immediately. Poland -- Russia's first opponents in the World Cup playoffs -- said they would refuse to play against Russia. So too did Sweden and the Czech Republic, followed by

more than a dozen others, which enabled FIFA to say they basically had no choice: It was either exclude Russia or a bunch of other countries.

They got further support on Monday when the International Olympic Committee issued its own statement, requesting that Russia be banned. Now, the IOC isn't the U.N., but it's a major global organisation. At that point, the FIFA Bureau felt empowered to proceed from a legal perspective as well.

Q: How so?

A: Because Russia can appeal FIFA's decision by taking their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. It's an independent body, and in the past, it has gone against major sporting organizations, like it did when it overturned Manchester City's ban for violating Financial Fair Play.

Russia have a good record there. When the World Anti-Doping Agency banned Russia for four years for failing to comply with regulations, CAS reduced it to two years. And just last month, at the Winter Olympics, it upheld Russia's decision to lift the provisional suspension on figure skater Kamila Valieva. So FIFA wanted to make its ban as legally watertight as possible.

Q: Is this ban fair toward Russian athletes? They're not the ones waging war ...

A: Some people feel that way and it's why, even when Russia were banned from the Olympics, the athletes were still allowed to compete as individuals. But it's important to note that the ban is on Russian institutions, not athletes. Russian players who compete in other countries -- like Atlanta forward Aleksei Miranchuk, who scored on Monday night against Sampdoria, but did not celebrate -- are free to play.

Historically, there was a sense that sports and politics should always re-

main staunchly separate. This goes way back to Olympic Games in ancient Greece when, so the story goes, they'd actually suspend wars to compete in Olympiads. But folks figured out long ago that sports are excellent propaganda tools for governments, and the line has become blurred.

In 1973, the Soviet Union boycotted a World Cup playoff game against Chile because of human rights violations by the government of Augusto Pinochet. In 1976, 28 African countries boycotted the Montreal Olympics after the IOC refused to kick out New Zealand, whose rugby team had toured South Africa in violation of a worldwide boycott. A number of Western countries boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics after the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. The list goes on and on.

More broadly, I think we've become more comfortable with our sporting institutions taking positions that in the past were deemed as "political" or "taking sides" and therefore unacceptable, whether it's taking a knee before kick-off in the NFL, or the Premier League, or MLB moving its All-Star Game from Georgia in response to a new voting law, or the NBA moving its All-Star Game out of North Carolina because of its objection to a law that limits anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people in the state.

We've come a long way from 1968, when Tommie Smith and John Carlos were expelled from the Olympics for having the temerity to raise their black-gloved fists into the Mexico City sky. Which is why it won't be surprising if we continue to see protests against Russia and solidarity with Ukraine until peace returns -- and that includes during the World Cup qualification playoffs and the women's European Championships.



FIFA's actions against Russia seemed slow to some observers, but they are significant for the speed at which the decision was made, as well as acting before any resolution from the United Nations. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

FIFA suspends Russia from World Cup, all soccer competitions: What it means, how it works

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Coastal Union's game plan worked, says coach Lazaro

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

COASTAL Union's interim head coach, Joseph Lazaro, says his game plan in their NBC Premier League clash against Azam FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, worked and hailed his charges for executing it.

The Tanga-based side on Tuesday played away to Azam FC at Azam Complex and the game ended in a barren draw.

In an interview, Lazaro said the game plan was to pin opponents, defend and not give a chance to Azam FC players to penetrate his side.

He said he came up with that game plan considering the results which his side has been recording in the past games.

Lazaro said he was pleased with how his defense was recovering after Azam FC players launched counterattacks.

"The game plan was that we should not give room to Azam FC players, I'm happy that my charges executed the plan diligently, I have come up with that plan knowing that if we will draw today the morale in the camp will be high, the self-belief in players will come back," Lazaro revealed.

"Hopefully in our next game against KMC FC at the same venue my team will do well, the morale is now very high," he said.

Lazaro said ahead of the next match against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, apart from working on finishing, he will not alter the team's game plan.

"We had a good game against Azam FC, yes we made some mistakes which we will work on before meeting KMC FC," he said.

The Tuesday results saw Coastal Union move to 10th position with 18 points from 16 games.

Azam FC assistant coach John Matambala conceded that Coastal Union played the game intending to get a point.

"They came with a purpose of collecting a single point, I must hail them for sticking to their game plan, I must also hail my players for playing well only that our opponents were defense-minded and played with more energy, they were not opening up for us but we will work on the short-falls we saw," he said.

Azam FC, now in the third position with 25 points from 16 games, will face Polisi Tanzania at Azam Complex tomorrow.

Simba SC official points blame at weather for defeat in Morocco



Simba SC players participate in training in Morocco last weekend, shaping up for this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Group D encounter with RS Berkane that took place the same weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC Media and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, has blamed the difficult weather conditions in Morocco for their defeat to RS Berkane on Sunday night.

The Tanzanian representative lost 2-0, ending their unbeaten start in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage campaign.

First-half goals from Adama Ba and Charki El Bahri were enough for RS Berkane which has moved to six points, two ahead of erstwhile table-topping Simba SC who now drop to the second spot with four points.

In the second half, Simba SC came

back determined to get back into the game with the technical bench bringing in the speedy Bernard Morrison for Peter Banda but they still struggled to create chances and the closest they came was when skipper John Bocco rose to head from a freekick, but the ball bounced off the bottom of the post.

Speaking at the Julius Kambage Nyerere International Airport Dar es Salaam after the team arrived from Morocco on Tuesday afternoon, Ally said the cold weather made life difficult for Simba SC against RS Berkane.

"You can see how I am struggling to breathe here in this hot weather in

Dar es Salaam, this is how RS Berkane is likely to struggle in the return leg as we did in Morocco. It was cold, really cold."

"The Moroccan weather is really cold, playing there one needs to put up a strong fight. Breathing was difficult."

"You are used to the heat in Dar es Salaam because you live here but I am sure RS Berkane would undergo the same torture we did in Morocco as they will be coming from a cold-weather while it is hot here."

"You can tell they struggle away from the comforts of home. It is going to be tough for them playing on the

road." Simba SC is competing on three fronts and will return to action tomorrow evening against Biashara United in NBC Premier League encounter at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, before taking on Dodoma Jiji FC on Monday and then preparing for a reverse tie with RS Berkane scheduled for March 13 at the same venue.

The league defending champions are also chasing glory in the Federation Cup after securing a quarterfinal spot where they face Pamba while looking to qualify for the last eight in CAF Confederation Cup for the first time.

AT explains 2022 Commonwealth Games preparations delay



Female athletes battle it out in a recent National Athletics Championship which took place in Arusha.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has explained that a camp that was planned to start last Friday in Kilimanjaro was delayed for a few days to give room to local athletes to compete in the 2022 Kilimanjaro Marathon.

The Kilimanjaro Marathon took place in Moshi last Sun-

day and 15 national team athletes competed at the event.

Last week AT, through its information officer Stephen Rogath, said the 15 athletes will enter camp at Forest Training College (FITC) to prepare for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games which are slated for July 28 to August 8 in England.

However, the camp did not start on Friday AT with secre-

tary-general Jackson Ndaweka stating athletes asked the association to shift the camp to tomorrow.

"Our long-distance runners who competed at the just ended Kilimanjaro Marathon asked AT to allow them to compete at the marathon," Ndaweka noted.

"We accepted their request knowing that the Kilimanjaro Marathon is part of prepara-

tions for the Commonwealth Games, after the marathon, we gave them two days off and tomorrow we expect them in camp," the AT secretary-general pointed out.

The country will be represented by nine athletes, six males, and three females, but the association selected 15 athletes so that the coaches can have enough pool to select competent athletes.

The athletes who are to enter the camp today are Andrew Rhobi, Alphonce Simbu, Gabriel Geay, Failuna Abdi, Jackeline Sakilu, Faraja Lazaro, Fabian

Nelson, Josephat Gisemo, and Joseph Panga.

Others are Simon Merandya, Mohamed Charles, Ally Gulam, Winfrida Makenji, Marcelina Mbua, and Natalia Elisante.

The runners will be under head coach Suleiman Nyambui assisted by Kassim Saleh and Anthony Mwingereza.

In the previous interview, Rogath said AT settled for Nyambui due to his experience in athletics.

The former national athletics side's ace had moreover worked as head coach of Brunei national athletics team and

he is also a former AT secretary-general.

Luiza John is the national team manager, assisted by Oswald Reverian.

"We have selected the national athletics team which enters camp on Friday (tomorrow) at College of Forest in Kilimanjaro, we decided to enter camp early so as the coaches and athletes can have enough time to prepare for the Commonwealth Games."

"We want to send a team that can compete and not just makes numbers, we want medals at this year's commonwealth

games," he disclosed.

At the Commonwealth Games, the country will be represented by sportsmen and women from athletics, boxing, judo, swimming, and Para sports.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Birmingham 2022, will see 5,054 athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations participate in 283 events from 20 sports codes under the theme 'Games for All' in Birmingham.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW COME COUPLES CONSUME MORE FOOD THAN WHEN SINGLE?

SURVIVAL FOR FITTEST

