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IFC pledges more support to Tanzania

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE International Finance Corporation has pledged continued support to Tanzania's efforts to address the development challenges facing the country.

Visiting IFC managing director Makhtar Diop made the pledge here yesterday, saying the government has outlined core areas of cooperation with his agency, noting that it will dispatch a special mission to the country "soon" to work on the details.

Diop said that during talks with President Samia Suluhu Hassan earlier yesterday, the head of state appealed for IFC support particularly as relates

to empowering the private sector, blue economy initiatives and women's participation in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as boosting the health sector, chiefly the pharmaceuticals sub-sector.

Addressing a press conference, he said his US-based World Bank Group member organisation, an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries, was committed to working with the Tanzanian government and would consider how best to cooperate in the

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan bids farewell to visiting International Finance Cooperation managing director Makhtar Diop after talks at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on are Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula (L) and her Finance and Planning counterpart, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba. Photo: State House

Nyerere's works to be digitised for benefit of future generations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday launched a programme to mark Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's 100th birthday and make his history available for future generations, including scholars and tourists.

The landmark celebration is scheduled for his Butiama village birthplace in Butiama District, Mara Region, on April 13 - the date he was born in 1922.

The fete, which is dubbed 'Mwl. Nyerere@100' and is being coordinated by the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, is primarily aimed at identifying new strategies to honour Mwalimu Nyerere's works, life and philosophy in the next ten years.

Unlike the normal annual marking of his anniversary each October 14, when he died in a London hospital in 1999, the new plan entails the showcasing of many aspects including details on the houses he occupied in various parts of the country, his speeches and the people he worked with at various levels.

One of the proposals to the organising committee having a day devoted solely to marking a Nyerere Day different from the current arrangement where the day is also the culmination of the annual countrywide Uhuru Torch Race.

Speaking here during the launch of the programme, Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro said that plans are under way to keep all speeches of Nyerere and other documents in digital format for the benefit of future generations.

He said that there are people outside the country suggesting that Tanzania has not done enough in celebrating the life of its founding president, and hence the need to

appropriately document and showcase in as much detail as possible all activities related to Mwalimu Nyerere.

Dr Ndumbaro said new details about the life of Nyerere would help expand Tanzania's tourism, adding that there are tourists following up the lives of prominent people by visiting where they lived, worked or carried out their activities.

There is already a committee charged with the responsibility of identifying new ways of celebrating Mwalimu Nyerere in a manner that will help keep his history for the good of the current generation and posterity, he noted.

"Therefore, I urge any member of the

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Mwinyi fires Zanzibar Labour commissioner, 4 other officials

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has sacked the Isles' Labour Commissioner and four other top government officials.

This is according to a statement released yesterday by the Zanzibar State House but without giving the reasons for firing Fatma Iddi Ali, who was also responsible for the economics and investment dockets in the Zanzibar President's Office.

The statement said that President Mwinyi had also sacked the Director of Public Service in the Isles' Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Omar Ali Omar.



President Mwinyi has also relieved Salum Ubwa Nassor of his duties as Trustee Officer in the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports in Pemba

Another official relieved of his duties is Suleiman Yahya Ame, Director of the Institute of Education in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

"President Mwinyi has also relieved Salum Ubwa Nassor of his duties as Trustee Officer in the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports in Pemba," reads the statement in part.

It adds that also sacked is Nasima Haji Chaum, who was Director of the Department of Gender and Children in the Isles' Ministry Health, Social Welfare, Elderly and Children.

President Mwinyi has on several occasions

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Mark Elliott (2nd-L), MasterCard's division president for Sub-Saharan Africa, presses button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to pick a winner for the fifth draw of NMB Bank Plc's 'Mastabata Kivyako-vyako' raffle. With him (from-L): NMB Bank's chief executive officer Ruth Zaipuna, chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi and senior card business manager Manfrey Kayala. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Money laundering, other laws for amendment to bar terror financing

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

A bill seeking to amend the Anti-Money Laundering Act was tabled for first reading in the National Assembly here yesterday in changes meant to alter five other related laws.

It is aimed at strengthening prevention and prohibition of money laundering as well as terrorism financing.

Proposed amendments to other laws relate to the Bank of Tanzania Act, Cap. 197, the Capital Markets and Securities Act, Cap. 79, the Insurance Act, Cap. 394, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, Cap. 254, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Cap. 19 and the Proceeds of Crimes Act, Cap. 256.

The bill proposes that the principal Act is amended by deleting the long title and substituting for it the following: "An Act to make better provisions for the prevention and prohibition of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, to provide for the disclosure of information on money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation financing, to establish a Financial Intelligence

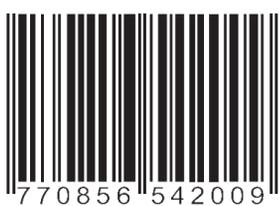
Unit (FIU) and the National Multi-Disciplinary Committee on Anti-Money Laundering, Counter Terrorist Financing and Counter Proliferation Financing and to provide for matters related thereto."

It also recommends that the Act is amended in section 2(2) by adding the words "Counter Terrorist Financing and Counter Proliferation Financing" immediately after the words "money laundering".

It further proposes amendments to section 8 for the purpose of adding representatives from the National Prosecution Office, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Zanzibar, Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority, the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority, the Commission for National Coordination and Drugs Control Zanzibar, to members of the National Anti-Money Laundering Multi-Disciplinary Committee.

"Section 9 is proposed to be amended by conferring upon the National Committee the responsibility of coordinating the national risk

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areas outlined.

Diop meanwhile applauded the government's efforts to rebuild the economy following the Covid-19-induced economic plunge, in part also ensuring that the country managed to keep inflation at below five per cent.

"These are not mean achievements considering the fact that many countries are yet to recover from the global shock due to the pandemic," he said.

He also explained that the government has outlined crucial areas of cooperation, noting that the empowerment of SMEs was decisive in bringing about development just as were inclusion plans under which women were also empowered.

He described the private sector as a key player in the development of any nation, saying that any plans to improve its contribution to the national economy was highly commendable.

"The private sector complements the government's efforts and is essential for social inclusion," he said.

Speaking at the same occasion,

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the IFC managing director was impressed with the government's plans to make Tanzania the medical hub for the region, thus strengthening existing health facilities to provide health services to neighbouring countries.

The minister, who had a brief talk with Diop, said the corporation had also expressed willingness to help in developing the infrastructure and energy sectors by supporting private sector participation in key projects.

He said that IFC would dispatch a special mission to the country for a deep look into the blue economy, including exploring how that would support the economy of both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar and create job opportunities for the youth.

"In our discussion, the IFC boss agreed with the government priorities aimed at improving economic growth as well as reducing poverty," he noted.

Dr Nchemba said one of the key areas of cooperation between Tanzania and IFC would be ways to support the private sector, especially with regard to the performance of SMEs.



Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (L), Zanzibar's Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender and Children minister, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday receiving from PharmAccess Foundation director Dr Heri Marwa medical equipment meant to support healthcare for mothers and children in Pemba Island's Kaskazini 'A' and Micheweni districts. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Money laundering, other laws for amendment to arrest terror financing

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assessment, ensuring that it is updated regularly and ensuring that its functions include advising the Governments on matters relating to proliferation financing," it reads.

The bill further proposes amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Cap. 423, where section 3 is amended by deleting and substituting certain definitions and providing definitions of new technical terms that are used in the Act and are commonly used in combating money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation financing.

"Sections 4 and 6 of the Act are proposed to be amended for the purpose of introducing the aspect of supervision of proliferation financing by FIU, requiring the FIU to collect and maintain statistics, cooperate with law enforcement agencies and exchange information with law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders."

Section 12 of the Act is proposed to be amended to distinguish between an offence of money laundering from the underlying predicate offence. The proposal intends to remove the necessity of a person to be convicted of the predicate offence for him to be convicted for money laundering offence.

Section 15 is proposed to be repealed and replaced in order to make it a requirement for conducting money laundering risk assessment at national and sectoral levels as well as at the individual reporting person's level.

Further, it proposes the adding of a new section 15A that sets the conditions for reporting a person's conduct of Customer Due Diligence measures. This provision also imposes a duty on reporting persons to identify politically exposed persons and the beneficial owners of companies and other legal arrangements when conducting Customer Due Diligence.

Sections 16, 18 and 19 are lined up for repealing and replacing in order to impose a requirement for every reporting person to establish and maintain records relevant for countering money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation financing such as information relating to domestic and international transactions and know your customer

files.

The provisions also impose a condition for reporting persons to establish and maintain internal policies, controls and procedures for combating money laundering and countering financing of terrorism and proliferation financing.

The internal controls include policies for screening and vetting persons engaged in the employment by the reporting person, capacity building of employees and anti-money laundering audit functions to test the systems.

The bill additionally proposes the adding of a new section 28D imposing a requirement for all law-enforcement agencies and other government bodies to keep and maintain comprehensive and updated statistics concerning money laundering, terrorism financing, proliferation financing, confiscation and seizures, mutual assistance, cases under investigation and decided cases.

Part III of the bill proposes consequential amendments to various laws, whereby Sub-Part (a), (b) and (c) propose to amend the Bank of Tanzania Act, Cap. 197, the Capital Markets and Securities Act, Cap. 79 and the Insurance Act, Cap. 394 for the purpose of facilitating the regulators to obtain information relating to money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation financing.



Sections 4 and 6 of the Act are proposed to be amended for the purpose of introducing the aspect of supervision of proliferation financing by FIU, requiring the FIU to collect and maintain statistics, cooperate with law enforcement agencies and exchange information with law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders

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demanding enhanced creativity and diligence in the public service, censuring some occupants of high public offices whom he said often wait for State House directives before performing as expected.

He has repeatedly vowed to take stern legal and disciplinary measures against thieves and embezzlers of public funds, citing the recently released report by the Zanzibar Controller and Auditor General as pointing to serious integrity and accountability problems

Mwinyi fires Zanzibar Labour commissioner, 4 other officials

in the public service.

President Mwinyi has time and again condemned embezzlement and misuse of public property, once citing to thefts of water supply equipment which disappeared from the hands of Zanzibar Water Authority's employees

entrusted with custody of the assets.

He has also pleaded with Zanzibar residents to support his administration's legal and disciplinary measures against dishonest employees, saying the measures taken were well-intentioned were not meant to vilify

anybody.

President Mwinyi has further repeatedly appealed to all Zanzibar public servants to embrace teamwork, creativity, integrity and accountability as a way of justifying their workplace presence.



Katavi Mining Company Limited officials give on-site explanation - in Katavi Region - on mining-related environmental issues to National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka (2nd-R, foreground) earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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public with any historical information, picture or document regarding Mwalimu Nyerere's life to submit it to the committee," he added.

The minister further noted that the Father of the Nation was an icon in Tanzania, regionally and internationally and there are people relentlessly and devotedly follow his speeches, the directives he issued and his public service life

Nyerere's works to be digitised for benefit of future generations

in general.

He said that there are six areas of focus in the ten-year programme which, if well implemented, would benefit the country immensely.

These include marketing Tanzania's works and activities under the former leader and other leaders who worked closely with him. There will also be a museum of African freedom fighters

that will market the country, thanks to the rich history they are associated with.

Dr Ndumbaro also explained that Mwalimu Nyerere's heritage would be recognized, protected, celebrated and known to posterity in Tanzania and across the world.

He added that all places with evidence of Nyerere's history would

be marked, protected legally and kept open to tourists.

Imani Kajura, chairman of the special committee, said the team comprises officials from an array of government institutions "who are working to ensure that they come up with new ways of celebrating the life of our Father of the Nation".

"Without such new measures, future

generations will not be able to know as much as they would wish about Mwalimu Nyerere," he said.

Madaraka Nyerere, a son of the former president and now also a member of the committee, meanwhile said the Nyerere family was ready to cooperate with the government in marking his father's 100th birthday as

well as new initiatives to celebrate his life.

"The government has always honourably celebrated Mwalimu Nyerere Day and, as a family, we are ready to collaborate with leaders in these efforts which are meant to improve the celebrations since his life and work speak a lot about Tanzania" he said.



Kheri James (L. foreground, in kitenge shirt), district commissioner for Ubungu in Dares Salaam, in jubilant mood with Mashujaa Secondary School students at yesterday's launch of two classrooms built with CRDB Bank Plc sponsorship and the handing-over of 125 desks. The bank spent a total of 50m/- on the two goodwill 'gestures'. The school is situated in the city's Sinza B suburb. Right is CRDB social investment senior manager Joyceline Makule and left is the school's board chairman, Prof. Alphonse Kyessi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Get involved in FGM fight, local leaders told

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government wants to engage community leaders in its efforts towards ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as it is still rampant in some parts of the country.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender and Special Groups, said here yesterday that only through coordinated efforts from national to grassroots level can the vice be stamped out.

FGM comprises all procedures that involve cutting or injuring the female genital part for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of human rights, health and integrity of girls and women.

The minister told reporters here yesterday that FGM practices were still going on in various parts of the country, affecting the dreams and lives of girls and women.

The occasion was related to commemorating the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, an annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 as part of the United Nation's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.

Leaders from national to village level, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and religious leaders have to work in synergy to support community education on the challenge, and thus keep girl children safe from the harmful practices, she declared.

"The government alone cannot achieve this important campaign but only with support from other stakeholders and the public in general. Working in a coordinated manner will address a lot of challenges including gender based violence and killings," she observed.

This year's commemoration at national level will be held in Tarime District, Mara Region bringing together stakeholders from various parts, she further explained, listing the leading regions as Manyara where FGM practices are estimated at reaching 58

percent of girls, Dodoma (47 percent), Arusha (41 percent), Mara (32 percent) and Singida 31 percent.

The 2022 theme is "Accelerating investment to fight Female Genital Mutilation," with harmful traditional beliefs and customs being the drivers of FGM in the society.

"Economic factors are also visible as some old women hired to conduct the cut see it as a way to earn periodic income. There are communities which believe that FGM prevents some women diseases," she said, insisting that nothing of that sort is true.

Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, risk of infections and difficulty in passing urine.

Long term consequences also arise for their sexual and reproductive health and mental health where some of these effects continue troubling their physical wellbeing, she stated.

"To promote FGM elimination, coordinated efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities where everyone in the society plays a role to support the campaign," she emphasised.

The government in collaboration with stakeholders will continue implementing various strategies and guidelines to address the challenge, like building safe homes for victims and conducting intensive public education, the minister affirmed.

"This include training community-based leaders or change agents who encourage dialogue within communities and mobilise support from religious leaders, teachers, ward and village government officials to canvass for eliminating FGM," she elaborated.

Globally, it is estimated that at least 200m girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM. If current trends continue, 15m additional girls between ages of 15 and 19 will be subjected to it by 2030, UN agencies assert.

All unconnected hamlets to get electricity in four years

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government says it is preparing a special financing plan so as to connect electricity to the remaining 37,610 hamlets within four years.

Energy minister January Makamba told the National Assembly yesterday that so far about 42 per cent of the 64,760 hamlets countrywide have been connected to electricity.

A 7.4trn/- budget is needed to ensure that all the remaining hamlets are connected to power, he said, noting that relying on current arrangements with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) would take 23 years to connect power to all these remaining hamlets.

"This is why the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is

taking extra measures and means to ensure that it gets enough funds to facilitate power connection in all villages and hamlets in the country," he declared.

The government has connected electricity to 80 percent of the 12,345 villages countrywide and is set to ensure that by the end of this year, power will reach all villages. However the challenge will remain on reaching all hamlets, he stated.

"58 percent of hamlets in the country are yet to be connected to power, so we are taking various efforts to ensure that we connect all these hamlets within four years," he said.

He made the clarification when responding to questions raised by MPs who expressed concern on the

situation where many areas are still not connected to power despite the government saying it had connected 80 percent of villages in the country.

The government has come up with three options which include setting a budget of 1.8trn/- every year.

"Another option being discussed is engineering, procurement, construction plus financing (EPC+F) and this involves welcoming big companies capable of sending power to rural areas. "They would come with their proposals, and we are currently discussing to decide which option to go with, to ensure that all hamlets are connected to power," he stated.

Responding to the preliminary question by Flatei Massay (Mbulu Rural) deputy minister Stephen Byabato

had stated that the government will continue implementing various strategies to ensure that the whole country is connected to power.

The MP Massay had demanded when the government would deliver power connection to all hamlets in the constituency.

Byabato noted that the constituency has 26 wards and 90 villages, whereby 12 villages have no power and will be connected in the ongoing implantation of REA phase III.

Power connection activities are going on in the 12 villages of the constituency and will cost 2.071bn/- he said. Power connection in rural areas varies due to phases where areas of tier one the cost is 27,000/- and from tier two the expenses are different, he added.

TARI readies new avocado seedlings, freely distributed

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has said that it is working to invest heavily in research and improved seedlings to facilitate avocado farming for enhanced productivity of up to 140,000 tonnes per year by 2025.

The Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe told the National Assembly that the National Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) will increase efforts to ensure that it comes up with impactful research so as to support farmers who venture into the crop to improve lives and transform economies.

The government in collaboration with the private sector will from next year start producing improved avocado seedlings and supply them to farmers in various regions, capacitating them with prerequisite knowledge and skills on how to grow them for better yields.

"We are aimed to stop the ongoing irregular production and selling of avocado seedlings which kill the crop. We will soon launch new guidelines to supervise the crop and stimulate smart

avocado farming in the country," he said.

The government is mapping out five regions to supply them with improved seeds to ensure that the crop gets its value and wins international markets, he stated.

"We will construct common use facilities in Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Njombe and Dar es Salaam regions for smooth storage and packaging of the crop," he elaborated.

He acknowledged avocado farming as a key ingredient in the fight against poverty, pledging increased government support to enable farmers tap into the global market for the crop.

He was responding to Special Seats MP, Shally Raymond and a supplementary

question by Makete MP Festo Sanga.

In his supplementary question, Sanga wanted to know government plans to supply avocado seedlings to farmers free of charge as it is doing for cotton, cashew nuts and palm to stimulate farming and attract more farmers to venture into the business.

Deputy Minister Antony Mavunde said the government's aim is to increase avocado farming and find more markets outside the country.

Responding to a supplementary question by Shally, he said the government will continue supporting and attracting women in avocado farming so as to increase incomes.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

EXCITING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE DAR ES SALAAM.

The City Lodge Hotel Group has a reception/night audit vacancy available at City Lodge Hotel Dar es Salaam. Applicants must have obtained a Form Four Certificate/equivalent for their application to be considered. A hospitality related qualification will be advantageous. Interested applicants must register, verify their account and apply on the Group's careers portal or by visiting the following URL: <https://careers.clhg.com/>

EXCITING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE DAR ES SALAAM.

The City Lodge Hotel Group has an assistant general manager vacancy available at City Lodge Hotel Dar es Salaam. Applicants must have obtained a Form Four Certificate/equivalent and a Hotel School Diploma/C & G Advance Diploma/Equivalent for their application to be considered. Applicants must have held a junior assistant general manager position for at least 2 years, with proven exposure to all departments for the past 2 years. Interested applicants must register, verify their account and apply on the Group's careers portal or by visiting the following URL: <https://careers.clhg.com/>

EXCITING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE DAR ES SALAAM.

The City Lodge Hotel Group has a financial controller vacancy available at City Lodge Hotel Dar es Salaam. Applicants must have obtained a Form Four Certificate/equivalent and a formal Accounting qualification for their application to be considered. Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years Accounting experience. Interested applicants must register, verify their account and apply on the Group's careers portal or by visiting the following URL: <https://careers.clhg.com/>

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIAN CITIZENSHIP

MR. ZHOU TAO

MR. ZHOU TAO whose photograph provided above is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzanian citizenship. His nationality at present is CHINESE country of origin CHINA occupation DIRECTOR employer's address P.O. BOX 77800 Dar es Salaam. Has been in this country since 2008. Apart from Dar es Salaam Region has also resided in Dar es Salaam.

Anyone who knows any reasons why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send as written and signed statement of facts to the principal Commissioner of Immigration service, P.O. Box 512, Dar es Salaam.

Congratulations

Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson (MP)

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Derm Group, would like to congratulate

Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson (MP)

for being elected as Speaker of Tanzania's National Assembly.

We wish you all the best.

Kazi iendelee

Tanzania offers tourist spots for Qatar visitors

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA'S Ambassador in Qatar, Dr Mahadhi Juma Maalim has called upon the country's residents to visit Tanzania as more than 30 percent of the land surface is marked as conservation areas and prime wildlife sanctuaries in a natural environment.

Speaking to the media lately, Dr Maalim said that Tanzania presents a unique tourism destination for Qataris and other Gulf Zone residents.

Recently, TheGrio, a digital news outlet, named Tanzania among the top five places to visit in Africa, citing in particular the famous Serengeti National Park.

The park hosts the largest annual animal migration globally of over 1.5m blue wildebeest and 250,000 zebra, and the largest lion population in Africa.

"In terms of tourism, of course, more than 30 percent of the land in Tanzania is marked as a national resource where wild animals roam freely. You cannot get that anywhere else in the world or within the East Africa region. I think people can visit that in one trip and get a different experience, and we have different things to offer," the envoy stated.

He disclosed that visiting Tanzania has an easier visa application and approval environment, where this is completed in three days.

"Qataris and a lot of residents can get

visas easily within two or three days. They can apply online without coming to the embassy," he specified.

Qatar and Tanzania share a long history culturally and in terms of trade dating back centuries. Over the years, Zanzibar has been arguably the top attraction for visitors from Qatar, while Mount Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa at 5,895 metres), beaches, and other conservations are also places of interest, he elaborated.

"The safaris and the Serengeti are well known. Those who like mountain climbing can visit Mount Kilimanjaro. We also have beautiful beaches, especially in Zanzibar, for water sports and all kinds of attractions," he stated.

He disclosed plans of partnering with tour organisers to arrange fun trips and publicity through the local media in Qatar. "We will be working with travel and tourism companies to prepare some fun trips for potential visitors to familiarise themselves with our attractions," he said.

Qatar Airways operates four flights daily to Tanzania, two to the commercial capital and two to the coastal city of Zanzibar.

The envoy hinted at signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and agreements with Qatar firms on air transport and employment regulations. Three deals between the two countries are being finalised, with ten being discussed at different stages, he added.



Consulting engineer Sabyasachi Kar (L) briefs Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (2nd-L) yesterday on the ongoing construction of the Chang'ombe flyover on Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Road. Second right is Tanania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Rogatus Mativila. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent

THE police force have detained more than 20 people following conflicts between farmers and herders in Kibirashi ward in Kilindi District, Tanga Region that left six people dead.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro made this observation when speaking to residents of Elerai village in Kilindi district in the wake of the incident where farmers and herders clashed at Elerai, Kibirashi and

Police hold 20 people as clashes lead to six deaths

Ngaroni villages.

More than 20 people are being held by the police while efforts are continuing to arrest more people who were involved, the police chief noted, elaborating that uncertainty among the residents had compelled dispatching special police patrol units in the ward.

"I would like to assure all residents in the area to live in peace," he said, expressing distress at the incident. "When I arrived here, some students told me that they did not go to school in fear of being killed.

"This is not right at all, all those involved must be apprehended; there are special units from headquarters

as well as from Morogoro for your protection," he declared, urging those involved but were still at large to surrender. The police will hunt for them wherever they will be, he warned.

Six people were killed last week during the fight between farmers and pastoralists as the two groups

could not agree as to the borderline separating the two villages.

District Commissioner Abel Busalama linked the clashes with a border dispute, noting that among the dead are women, men and children.

He appealed to the two groups to stop the fighting as better ways exist

of resolving conflicts, cautioning that fighting would not end conflicts, apart from miseries arising from injuries and death.

Ward councillor Bakari Mohamed said the conflict has lasted for several years, noting that one villager used a gun, killing five villagers whose bodies were dumped in a bush.

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TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

- National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2022/2023, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
- Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
 - ATM Switch and Support Services
 - Collection and Recovery System
 - Service Management Platform
 - Customer Relationship System
 - SMS Notification
 - Branch Operating Channel
 - Customer Lead Management System
 - HR Management System
 - Learning Management System
 - Financial Crime Risk Management System
 - Branch Paperless Banking
 - USSD Mobile Banking
 - Customer Data Analytical Tool
- Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website www.nbc.co.tz and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
- All Proposals in one original and one copy set properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6th FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
- Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Friday, 25th February 2022 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground Floor along Sokoine Drive /Azikiwe Street.

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**



TANAPA buys vehicles, equipment to uplift oversight of protected areas

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has signed a 15bn/- agreement for the procurement of vehicles and equipment to improve infrastructure in national parks around the country.

The agreement forms part of the World Bank funded project for resilient natural resource management for tourism and growth (REGROW). It seeks to strengthen the management of protected areas and promote nature-based tourism in Southern Tanzania and will cover Ruaha, Mikumi, Udzungwa and Nyerere national parks. Conservation commissioner William

Mwakilema signed the agreement at TANAPA headquarters here with Al Mansour Auto EA (T) Ltd along with Hughes Agricultural (T) Ltd who won tenders for the task.

He called upon the two companies to finalise all the required documents and processes to facilitate delivery of equipment, hailing the government for the efforts to improve infrastructure in national parks.

This would allow more tourists to visit the various attractions easily, he said, expressing gratitude for the World Bank for extending loans for the project, aimed at promoting tourism in the southern zone.

Assistant conservation

commissioner Betrita Lyimo, the coordinator for the project, had earlier said 44 vehicles which include five water bowsters, two fuel bowsters, 17 tipper dump trucks, five concrete mixers, two low loaders and trailers, three expedition trucks, five mobile workshops, four cinema vans and one minibus would be purchased.

Others include seven tractors, seven tractor mower machines, eight water bowsters for tractors and five tones tractor trailers.

Key areas to be addressed are road renovation for about 2050 kilometers inside national parks, staff houses and renovation of airstrips and vehicles, she added.



South Korean multinational molecular diagnostic company Seegene Inc has, through its Tanzanian agent Abner Pharmaceuticals Limited, donated Allplex Master Assay worth 110m/- the government. This, said to support one of the latest ways of detecting Covid-19 and its various variants, has been presented to Tanzania's National Health Laboratory through local private partnership programmes in supporting the government's efforts towards kicking Covid-19 from the country. Abner Pharmaceuticals CEO Kevin Arika (L) is pictured presenting the consignment to NHL laboratory manager Elia Ambele in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Dr Charles Kimei (standing), legislator for Vunjo constituency in Kilimanjaro Region, asks a supplementary question in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. The House is in ordinary session in the national capital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TFRA: Over 259,000 tonnes of inspected fertiliser endorsed

By Guardian Reporter

A COMBINED consignment of 259,170 tonnes of imported fertiliser was inspected and verified for use by farmers.

The inspection was conducted from July to December last year, being among responsibilities of the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) in making sure the country's fertiliser trade satisfies quality standards.

Gerod Nganilevanu, the TFRA acting director of control services, made this observation when submitting an implementation report to the board of directors recently in Dar es Salaam.

In the July to December 2021 period, fertiliser inspections were conducted in 26 regions and 2,031 dealers were inspected, way above the target set earlier.

Out of inspected dealers 1,151 (57%) had valid licences, 194 (10%) had expired licences and 686 (33%) didn't have licences, hence TFRA officials provided them with education and handed them licences.

Following that inspection tour, TFRA

found out that 888 dealers or 43 per cent conducted fertiliser trade without valid licences.

During the same period inspectors in Arusha, Kigoma and Tabora regions discovered nine types of liquid fertiliser in the market that had not been formally registered.

The fertilisers are Mawenzi ansil booster, new power booster, top max crop leader, vita booster, tanzanite, max golden bloomv plus N, Mokusaku brix, herbolive, and super agrofollor (NPK 23:23:23+TE)

In the circumstances, TFRA removed the fertilisers from the market and the dealers were ordered to stop selling them, he stated.

Apart from the steps taken against dealers violating the laws, TFRA has prepared a work plan aimed at following up fertiliser dealers who were found to conduct fertiliser business without adhering to laid down laws and regulations, he said.

The work plan includes educating fertiliser dealers not having training certificates to bring them abide by conditions of registration with TFRA, he added.

Samia on Mara Region tour as CCM turns 45 years

By Guardian Correspondent

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to officiate at the 45 years anniversary of the ruling party to be held at the national level at Mwalimu Nyerere's birthplace in Butiama, Mara Region.

Towards that event, the president will conduct a tour to inspect various development projects in the region, including the construction of the Mwalimu Nyerere memorial referral hospital at Kwangwa.

She will also inspect ongoing water supply projects like the water treatment

plant at Bunda and the Mugango waste water project at Kiabakari.

Regional Commissioner Ally Hapi told reporters on Wednesday that the region was thankful to the president for funding construction of 798 classrooms, whereby 48,855 students who passed Std VII examinations to join Form I have done so.

The first ever feasibility study for the Kwangwa Hospital complex was done in 1975 by Israeli experts only to get stuck so they decided to go back home. The construction started in 1980 handled by the Tanzania Building agency (TBA).

"In 2019 the Ministry of Health entered into a 15.82bn/-contract with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) for building the hospital, which began on September 5 2019 and the work has reached around 95 per cent to completion," he said.

The maternity unit started services in August 2020 and by December of that year a total of 14,150 expectant mothers were served by the hospital, he said.

President Samia will also inspect the construction of water treatment plant at Bunda implemented by MUWASA, whose work was 65 per cent complete,

undertaken by Shanxi Construction Corporation and Minerals Co. of China at a cost of 3.2bn/-.

The Mugango Kiabakari water project costing 70.86bn/- was being undertaken by UNIK Construction Engineering Lesotho (PTY) and already 12.15bn/- had been paid for the work.

The construction of Butiama District headquarters also housing the Butiama District Council head offices, costing 3.26bn/- whose building started in March 2017 and set for completion next month would similarly be inspected by the president, the RC added.

EJAT 2021 pushes entries submissions by two weeks

By Guardian Reporter

THE deadline for submitting entries for the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2021 has been extended for 14 days.

The Media Council of Tanzania, the lead partner in the competition, set February 14 at 5.00 pm as the new deadline instead of January 31.

Organising committee chairman and MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga said an extension has been granted to sponsors' requests in two competition categories.

The sponsors requested the extension to allow more time for submission of entries on 'Reporting Cooperatives' and 'Reporting Good Governance and Accountability,' he said, urging journalists who could not send their entries by the earlier deadline to use this opportunity to do so.

The extension covers all reporting categories and various other modes of media expression, with the competition recognising journalists showing outstanding performance in 20 categories.

Listed categories involve handing an award, relating to reporting economy, business and finance, sports and culture, agriculture and agribusiness, education, tourism and conservation, data journalism and an award in reporting human rights.

Other categories are best photographer - print media, best camera person in TV, best cartoonist, gender and children reporting, reporting gas, oil and mining, along with reporting on disability and health.

Yet other categories are reporting science and technology, reporting on menstrual health, cooperatives, good governance and accountability as well as an open category.

EJAT is organized by MCT in collaboration with the Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), the Media Institute of Southern Africa, Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan), the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), HakiElimu, the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) and SIKIKA, a research outfit.

CHAKUA pushes stakeholders to take up Covid-19 vaccination

By Correspondent Sabato

Kasika

ACTIVISTS in the Tanzania Passengers Association (CHAKUA) in the Northern Zone have decided to mobilise passengers, drivers and conductors to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

Its northern zone manager, Solomon Nkiggi, said in an interview yesterday that when the disease first erupted in the country in 2020, they were among stakeholders who provided education on the required preventive measures.

"We have now turned to mobilise for Covid-19 vaccination to our stakeholders who include passengers, drivers and conductors of passenger buses as well as commuter buses," he said.

He said they have made great efforts to rally the stakeholders to wear masks, wash hands with running water, use sanitisers and avoid congestions in buses. Now they are rallying them to get vaccinated, he stated.

"In our zone we have stationed people at all bus stands to do the work of educating for Covid-19 jabs, and then let people decide for themselves," he stated.

Godwin Mpinga, the association secretary for the northern zone, said the government has

already provided guidelines for prevention against the disease. It was now mobilising for vaccination, and the association was only conveying what the government had directed, he stated.

At the zonal headquarters in Arusha mobilisation for Covid-19 vaccination had started and was being spreading to numerous at all bus stands.

Activists are certain that education for prevention against the disease that is spread by CHAKUA in the zone had reached many people and they were working to spread it even further.

Three months ago the government projected that

between 80,000 and 100,000 people will be vaccinated daily against COVID-19 during the second phase of the inoculation campaign.

Health ministry permanent secretary Prof Abel Makubi indicated in a statement a

clear acceleration of the vaccination drive, issued at a meeting with regional medical officers and COVID-19 vaccination coordinators in the capital.

The second phase of the vaccination campaign

would mainly focus on rural communities, he stated, elaborating that it would go in tandem with raising awareness at community level on precautionary measures advised by health authorities to prevent infection.



Supported by
European Union



Enabel
Belgian Development Agency



United Republic of Tanzania
Ministry of Water

CALL FOR BIDS

Under the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Tanzania (2014 – 2020) of the 11th European Development Fund, the European Union is collaborating with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to support Beekeeping subsector, through the BEVAC project. The BEVAC is part of the intervention under the NIP focal sector of Agriculture, which the latter aimed to enhance management of natural resources, including forests, and ecosystem services for sustainable agriculture development and climate adaptation. The action supports the enhancement of the beekeeping industry's contribution to inclusive economic growth in Tanzania.

Specifically, the action will improve the beekeeping value chain through enhanced quality production, value addition of bee products and strengthen trade and market access to local, regional, and international markets.

The implementation of the BEVAC project is through Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), which is the line ministry responsible for the beekeeping subsector, together with the Ministry of Industries and Trade (MIT), which is responsible for promotion of market and trade including of the bee products.

Enabel has been engaged by the EU Delegation in agreement with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to implement the project in Pemba Island and in the mainland regions of Tabora, Kigoma, Katavi, Shinyanga and Singida.

Through its result areas, Enabel is now looking for consultants to conduct an in-depth analysis of the beekeeping market system and value chain within the targeted intervention areas.

The assignment shall analyse the functioning of the value chain, the value addition stages, the challenges faced in production and marketing of honey and other bee products, the profits and costs at each stage, and map the key players in the value chain. This information gathered will be used to inform the development of upgrading strategies together with the accompany value chain intervention plans.

Service contracts
There is only one lot to this public service contract.

Interested legally registered companies/consultants can access more information on the bid document of this contracts at: <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/> or at (www.enabel.be)

The deadline for submitting the tenders is before **Monday 25th February 2022 at 16h00**

166902

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA
AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 3 OF 2022

BETWEEN
**BHARYA ENGINEERING &
CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD** APPELLANT
AND
**TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY
COMPANY LIMITED** 1ST RESPONDENT

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY 2ND RESPONDENT

(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on 28th October, 2021 in which EWURA partly allowed the Appellant's complaint against the 1st Respondent contesting a debt amounting to TZS 87,931,146.95 alleged to have emanated from electrical energy consumed by the Appellant's tenant. EWURA held that the Appellant is liable to pay TZS 37,426,864.55 only and ordered each party to bear its own costs.

The appeal is based on the grounds that, among others, EWURA erred in law and fact in interpreting the tenancy agreement and evaluating evidence of the Appellant's witness. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders to grant the appeal and set aside the decision of EWURA.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 4th February, 2022.

REGISTRAR

166901



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: SUPPLY UP TO 3 GRID POWER QUALITY ACQUISITION DEVICES FOR EACOP REFERENCE NO: 0010007468

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Co. LTD. invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest to supply up to 3 grid power quality acquisition devices, in order to be able to do long term monitoring of the TANESCO Grid performance in different areas of the Network, at the same time. to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania, for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania, to Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

EACOP is investigating to connect to TANESCO Grid and require assessing the Grid power quality.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Supply of up to 3 grid power quality acquisition devices, in order to be able to do long term monitoring of the TANESCO Grid performance in different areas of the Network, at the same time.

Potential suitable devices are:

- A-Eberle PQbox 200 & equivalent.
- ELSPEC G4500 or equivalent.

Accessories will be required for connection to Grid Provider connecting points.

Minimum technical requirements:

POWER QUALITY PORTABLE ANALYZERS SPECIFICATIONS PORTABLE POWER QUALITY RECORDER/ANALYSER C/W HARD CASE AND TESTING LEADS

TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED SUPPLY OF ADVANCED PORTABLE POWER QUALITY ANALYSER WITH COMPUTER SOFTWARE

TECHNICAL SCHEDULE FOR: PORTABLE POWER QUALITY ANALYSER

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT	QUARANTEED
1.0(a)	Manufacturer		Supplier to specify	
1.1(b)	Country of origin		Supplier to specify	
1.1	Standards		IEC, IEEE, NRS as per – Part 1 General Clause 2.0 standards shown above	
1.2	Type/ features		Three phase type 1. High accuracy 2. Direct measurement of voltages up to 660 VLL 3. Supports 20A mini-clamps and the IEM FLEX 4. sensors that provide current measuring 5. capability of 30A/300A/300A in a single Package. 6. Internal DC battery for continued operation in the event of a power failure 7. Power supply: 100-240VAC, 45-65 Hz, 30 VA 8. Battery: rechargeable 12V/1.2Ah DC. Allows 9. 120 minutes of continuous backup operation when fully charged 10. Two independent port communication 10.2) Long term memory for data logging & Trending 11.3) waveform compatibility up to 8 cycles of pre-fault, and up to 16 post-fault 12.4) Programmable sag, swell detection 13.5) Programmable transients voltage and currents detection 14.5) Harmonic power and energies 15.6) Power direction of harmonics 16.7) Programmable voltage dip/sag, swell source (fault) location detection	
1.3(i)	Basic Measurements		Voltage: V, Current: A, An; Frequency: Hz (50); Unbalance: V, A; Max amp. Max/min V, A, An, Hz;	
1.3(ii)	Voltage Measurements		Voltage probes shall be connected to the instrument via connectors V1/ V2 / V3 / VN. The voltage inputs shall support direct voltage measurement of up to 660 VLL, or greater when an external Potential transformer is used.	
1.3(iii)	Current Measurements		Must have heavy duty connectors to be used to connect the current clamps to the instrument. Two current measurement options shall be provided: • 20 Amps mini-clamps • IEM FLEX sensors for 30A/300A/3000A measurements	
1.4	Multi-Function Power & Energy Meter		Real time cycle-by-cycle measurement of high accuracy, true RMS voltage, current, power, demand and energy with continuous sampling of 32, 64, 128, 256 samples per cycle Revenue accurate meter Meets IEC62053-22 Class 0.25 or ANSI C12.20 (Class 0.25) Advanced Time Of Use (TOU) feature (16 Energy sources include external digital pulses, up to 4 seasons, 4 daily profiles, 8 Tariffs, flexible automatic calendar) for any complex billing scheme. KYZ or KY output and LED indication for calibration and test	
1.5	Energy Import/Export		KWh, KVAh, KVARh, PF; Total, Per phase; KYZ Pulse Output; KYZ Pulse Input; Total: Absolute, Net; Time of use (TOU); Pulse Input;	
1.6	Harmonics Analysis		Total Harmonic distortion for Voltage and Current and up to the 63rd individual harmonic for V, I, P,Q Including directional power harmonics (Load or Source), V1 angle, K factor, vector diagram and symmetrical components, Inter harmonics, sub harmonics	
1.7	Basic communication Number of ports Communication Protocol		IEC 104 (TCP/IP), RS422/485	
	Additional communication Features		Optically isolated RS232 port 10BaseT Ethernet 56K modem. Shall supports industry standard Modbus RTU & ASCII, DNP V3.0, Modbus/TCP, DNP3/TCP protocols and shall have unique "Assignable Register Map" allows users to assign registers from different ranges into a single contiguous Modbus. Shall address space or a DNP Class 0, 1, 2, or 3 poll, limiting the amount of data passed over the communications line and therefore making efficient use of the available bandwidth Firmware upgrade via communications, eliminating chip replacement	
1.8	Case Construction		The rugged, heavy duty case allows the instrument to operate in the substation Environment and the harshest field conditions. • Case material: Polypropylene • Case temperature rating: -20 C to 60 C	
1.9	Power Quality Analysis software		Shall be compatible with Windows 7,8 and 10. Shall be easy to use remote configuration software. Shall support offline programming to allow easy downloading of a standard configuration to multiple meters. Shall Supports scheduled polling viewing of real-time data, and automatic retrieval of historical and waveform logs. Shall provides the ability to export waveform and data logs to COMTRADE and PQDIFF formats Must be able to perform Advanced Power Quality Analysis in Windows environment for easy multi-tasking Simple offline instrument setup	
2.0	Displays		Shall have 3 lines high-visibility 7-segment LED display, fully visible under bright sunlight Shall have two 4-digit and one 6-digit windows Simultaneous display of 3 phase parameters for quick phase balance assessment Shall have 6-digit Energy readings Configurable 8-segment LED % Load Bar mimics analog meter needle Energy pulse LED Communications activity LEDs Kilo and Mega LEDs for scaling indicators Must have menu driven selection and password protected device configuration, Automatic scrolling with adjustable scroll time or fixed display User configurable, simple two-button Demand RESET operation Adjustable update time from 0.1 to 10 seconds	
2.1	STATUS INPUTS		2 optically isolated status inputs shall be provided for status monitoring with timestamp, pulse counting and external demand or time synchronization. Each digital input shall be allocated as a status input to monitor external contact status, or as a pulse input to sense Pulses from an external source. One of the status inputs can be configured to receive an external synchronization pulse indicating the beginning of a new demand interval for power demand measurements. It shall also be configured to receive time synchronization pulses from a precise external time source.	
2.2	Relays		2 relays shall be provided for energy pulsing (KYZ), Alarming and remote control.	
2.3	External Time Synchronization		Provides 1 msec time resolution via IRIG-B time code input or satellite clock for common time base As an SNTP client, it can accept periodic synchronization of the meter clock from an SNTP server	
2.4	RealTime Clock		Accuracy: maximum error 5 seconds per month @ 45 C	
2.5	Log Memory		Standard onboard memory: 2GB or more	
2.6	IRIG-B Port		• Optically isolated IRIG-B Port • Time code signal: unmodulated (pulse-width coded) • Connector type: BNC • Recommended cable: S1 Ohm low loss – RG58A/U (Belden 8219 or equivalent), TNC connector • Recommended GPS time code generator: Master clock GPS-200A	
2.7	Internal Memory storage capacity		• 4.0 GB	

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Application for registration with the EVVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- To be an Official Agent or Seller of the Device Manufacturer in Tanzania.
- Fully efficient with Technical English requirements to manage the device and associated trouble shooting /maintenance with Device Manufacturer.

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to ecop-tz.eoi.100001@totalenergies.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **18th Feb 2022**. Email address should be **0010007468**

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English language.



William Mwakilema (C), Conservation Commissioner with Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa), pictured in Arusha city yesterday handing over to Hughes Agricultural Tanzania Limited managing director Stuart Leishman a document on a newly signed agreement on the procurement of vehicles and other equipment meant to improve infrastructure in national parks in the country. Looking on is assistant conservation commissioner Betrita Lyimo, coordinator of the project under which the equipment will be made available. Photo courtesy of Tanapa.

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Kilolo

Conservationists render smiles on Kilolo farmers

RESIDENTS of Lulindi village in Ukwega ward in Kilolo District, Iringa Region have commended the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EMACEF) for assisting them to establish various projects including pigs and fish farming, cattle rearing and beekeeping. They were speaking during a visit by EMACEF board members to various projects in the ward, with the villagers saying the projects have been successful and beneficial. Amka Fisheries Group secretary, Stan Mlengala told the EMACEF team that their group started in 2019 with 15 members, but the number has now increased to 28 members. The group started by constructing one model fish pond and now they

have 30 fish ponds. EMACEF provided them with 640 fish fingerlings and they had harvested 230 kilograms of fish, he said, noting that the villagers lack equipment for processing fish food. Kilolo District Council fisheries officer Joshua Jahazi commended the fund for supporting the villagers' projects saying such income generating activities help to improve their welfare. They started with one model pond used to teach others and currently there are several individuals with fish ponds. The ward has 78 fish ponds including 28 owned by Amka Fisheries

Group, he said. EMACEF board chairman Prof John Kesi urged the residents to make sure the projects are sustainable after the funding stops as projects in some areas are left to wither away when the funder stops supporting them. Fish is a major source of the protein that helps to improve the health of the people and enables villagers to earn money, he said. The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund was established as a permanent funding mechanism to assist government with its conservation efforts, he added.

By Guardian Reporter

EAC ends session on plant health inspection standards

THE first series of East African Community (EAC) capacity building sessions for plant health inspectors on standard operating procedures (SOPs) to operationalize pest risk analysis in the region has been concluded at the Mutukula One Stop Border Post (OSBP) on the border between Uganda and Tanzania. The five capacity building workshops were aimed at creating awareness amongst plant health inspectors on the procedures for inspecting maize, beans, and rice for pests of phytosanitary importance in the EAC. The training was conducted at the OSBPs of Namanga (Kenya/Tanzania), Malaba (Kenya/Uganda), Kabanga-Kobero (Tanzania/Burundi), Rusumo (Tanzania/Rwanda), and Mutukula (Tanzania/Uganda). The workshops were also meant to facilitate the implementation of the SOPs at all the EAC border posts and identify any challenges that might be associated with the implementation of the SOPs. Speaking during the closing session of the workshop at Mutukula, EAC Director of Productive Sectors, Jean Baptiste Havugimana thanked USAID Kenya/East Africa (USAID/KEA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA-FAS) for their generous financial and technical support towards supporting

food safety in the region. He reaffirmed EAC's commitment to work closely with the partner states and key development partners to mobilize additional resources to scale up the training to other OSBPs and address identified gaps and actions towards the elimination of trade related phytosanitary barriers for maize, rice and beans in the EAC. He assured partner states that the Secretariat would mobilize additional resources to implement a follow-up initiative dubbed 'One Inspector One Toolkit'. The new initiative will aim at increasing the number of inspectors at OSBPs and ensuring that every appointed inspector has his/her own complete world-class toolkit. Paul Mwambu, the commissioner for crop inspection and certification in Uganda, expressed appreciation for being part of the historic capacity building process. The training was important as it enhanced the inspection of the most traded commodities in the East African region and would lead to reduction in non-tariff barriers (NTBs) thus enhancing regional trade, food security and deepening regional integration, he stated.

The workshops were convened by the EAC Secretariat with support from USAID/KEA and USDA-FAS and were also attended by technical staff from the EAC Secretariat, a representative from Africa Food Safety Initiative (AFSI), a project funded by USDA-FAS. In November 2019, the EAC Council of Ministers approved harmonized procedures for conducting pest risk analysis (PRAs) for maize, beans and rice. Subsequently, the EAC Secretariat prioritized the development of harmonized standard operating procedures (SOPs) for inspection of grain (maize, beans and rice) required for operationalizing the PRAs. In 2020, the EAC Secretariat, with technical and financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through its Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the Africa Food Safety initiative (AFSI) of the University of Missouri, commenced the process of drafting the aforementioned SOPs. The draft SOPs were subjected to validation at the national level by EAC Partner States and finally approved by the 14th Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFs) in June 2021.



Mkinga district commissioner Col Maulid Surumbu (C) symbolically presents 30,000 oil palm seedlings donated by the Agricultural Seed Agency to Modester Mushi, head of environment at the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) in support of efforts to protect River Ruvu. The event was held at Mwele farm at Maramba village in the district. Looking on is ASA crops director Dr Justin Ringo. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Govt: We'll have built over 1,000 health centres by June

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

CONSTRUCTION of over 1000 health centres in various parts of the country is set to be completed in June, further strengthening access to quality and affordable health services to the people, the House was told yesterday. Dr Festo Ndugange, the Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), told MPs that the government wishes to ensure that access to quality health services is facilitated from village to the national level by constructing more dispensaries, health centres and hospitals. About 1,073 new health centres will be ready for use by June and

the government is now purchasing medical supplies and preparing plans to hire enough medical personnel to work in the facilities, he said. He was responding to a question by Nassor Hussein Amar (Nyang'hwale) who sought to know government plans to increase personnel at Kharumwa and Nyang'wale health centres. The deputy minister said the government was striving to hire enough medical officers in its health facilities so as to ensure that the public gets quality health services. "During the 2021/22 fiscal year the government has hired 2,726 servants in various fields of the health sector. We will continue taking measures as per availability of funds so as to ensure that our health centres

have all the required supplies and workers," he said. In the 2,726 employment posts for local governments in the current fiscal year, Nyang'wale District Council got 20 employees where the Kharumwa health centre got three workers and the Nyang'wale centre got four workers, he specified. The government will continue installing vital infrastructures in various health centres so as to facilitate provision of quality services, he said. "In the 2022/23 fiscal year the government will issue other employment permit where more servants will be sent to various health centres, hospitals and dispensaries to further strengthen provision of services in the facilities," he added.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTRODUCTION OF UPGRADED VAT ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM

Dares salaam, Thursday, February 03, 2022

1.0 Background Information

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to inform Value Added Tax (VAT) registered traders and the general public that, it has upgraded its electronic system of filing VAT returns. The upgrade comes with a view to improve taxpayer's VAT return filing through simplified filing processes.

The upgraded VAT e-filing system shall be rolled out effectively from 1st March 2022 and therefore shall become operational for **VAT returns of the month of March 2022** that are due for submission on or before **20th April 2022**.

2.0 Advantages of the Upgraded System

The upgraded VAT e-filing system comes with a number of advantages to users including, but not limited to the following:

- Enhanced user experience where the taxpayer will use single e-filing account contrary to the current practice where VAT filing uses a separate account;
- Simplified filling of returns whereby the taxpayer shall only key in Verification Code for the purchases made, to simplify the current practice where the taxpayer was required to key in more details like Supplier's Name, VAT Registration Number, Tax Invoice Number, Date of Invoice, Amounts of purchase and VAT involved;
- The upgraded system enables the users to effect adjustments resulting from occurrence of adjusting events as provided for in the tax law. This upgrade simplifies the current practice where the taxpayer has to write a letter to the Commissioner to notify occurrence of the adjusting events;
- The upgraded system enables automatic apportionment of input tax for eligible taxpayers;
- The upgraded system shall issue an acknowledgement of receipt of return and an assessment of tax to the taxpayer immediately upon accomplishment of filing process.

3.0 Operational Features of the Upgraded System and Salient Issues to Observe

The upgraded system comes with improved operational features to increase convenience and enhance compliance among users. The key operational features that are worth noting includes the following:

- The system shall be accessed through the TRA website (www.tra.go.tz) using the same e filing account used for other tax returns like PAVE, SOL and Returns of Income;
- The system shall only accept EFD receipts/invoices with verification code for input tax claim. Accordingly, receipts without verification code shall automatically be rejected effective from the return of the month of March 2022;
- The system shall only accept EFD receipts/invoices with buyer's TIN for input tax claim. Therefore, receipts without buyer's TIN shall be automatically rejected with effect from March 2022 return;
- The system shall only accept input tax claims on imports that are supported by valid TANSAD;
- The system shall automatically make verification of validity of receipts/invoices or TANSAD;
- The system shall not automatically carry forward the Negative Net Amount (Repayment position) for February 2022 VAT return existing in the current unless the repayment amount is verified by TRA and subsequently allowed to be accounted for in March 2022 VAT return in the new system.

In order to comply with the requirements of the new system and therefore avoid any inconveniences, VAT registered traders are urged to observe the following:

- Because the repayment position will not be automatically carried forward, all traders with Negative Net Amount (Repayment position) for the return of the month of February 2022 should apply for VAT refund (for those eligible) or notify the respective TRA offices of their positions for audit or verification of that position before the same is allowed to be carried forward in respective tax return in the new system;
- All traders should upgrade their EFD machines to Protocol 2.1 in order to issue receipts/invoices with verification codes. Receipts issued by EFD machines not upgraded to protocol 2.1 shall not be allowed to claim Input tax;
- Traders should avoid using invalid receipts/invoices or TANSAD in order to avoid any consequences and inconveniences that may arise during filing process and after; and
- In making payments of VAT, taxpayers must use the Tax Debit Numbers from the tax assessments issued.

TRA will issue periodic guidance and conduct trainings to taxpayers and other stakeholders to enhance and impart knowledge in order to ensure proper use of the new system. TRA urges all taxpayers and stakeholders to take note of various TRA guidance that are issued from time to time and to attend prospective trainings and sensitization sessions.

For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or use the following contacts to communicate with us:-

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"Together We Build Our Nation"



A. J. Kidata
Commissioner General

166903

Laudable display in 'selling' Destination Tanzania, but...

THE Natural Resources and Tourism ministry has been busy in recent months fighting to "sell" Tanzania, complete with the wide array of natural and other riches it is endowed with, to the world.

Some might wonder whether there is anything in that - asking whether that is not, after all, what the respective minister and the women and men under his command are there for.

But the minister has singularly active doing what he is both supposed and expected to do. And, so, why not salute the team?

A reader referring to himself as a business, finance and economics expert once emailed The Guardian remarks whose importance and relevance we quickly acknowledged.

The expert explained how the government and private stakeholders have, time and again, joined forces in identifying and formalising national parks and wildlife reserves until the number of wildlife sanctuaries recognised by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) has shot up to over twenty.

He said this was done largely so as to boost national income through proceeds from tourism but wondered whether the industry necessarily promised a higher income than any other in the country.

He might have had a point at least in the sense that having better legislation and using better expertise in managing our wildlife resources might serve a much better purpose than merely turning more and more chunks of land into game reserves or national parks.

The aim would be to benefit the larger society, including farmers, pastoralists and industrialists, instead of merely boosting the government's coffers through tourism.

Where practicable, some wildlife

sanctuaries could be exclusively for wild animals as others accommodated both wildlife conservation and human activities.

Tanzania has decades of experience in tourism and knows both the advantages such a mix can offer as well as the challenges it can pose. But, as recommended by the particular expert, Tanzania would do well to consider capitalising more on such coexistence than it has done thus far in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

There is a catch here, of course, as global wildlife conservation agencies and the likes of UNESCO might not take very kindly to moves of the kind.

But we already have laws and regulations governing how villages surrounding wildlife sanctuaries ought to help in protecting wild animals without compromising the security of people.

We have no doubt whatsoever that the relevant authorities recognise that tourism is not just about keeping wild animals in the same area where tourists can go to see, photograph or occasionally shoot them. Equally important is creatively embracing the coexistence of animals and people.

Therefore, the authorities must continue seeing the need to make sure that the protection of wildlife does not mean placing a greater premium on animal life than on human life.

We can bet that the respective ministry has this permanently at the back of its mind as it goes around touting Tanzania as an ideal destination for local and foreign tourists.

Also, having a national park or game reserve in each region is not necessarily a sure means of boosting tourism revenues, considering recent developments in the industry such as crop tourism, culture tourism, and food tourism.

There is no excuse for belittling ethical leadership, social justice

WE made remarks much similar to these just over five years ago, and we are making them again today in the wake of various prominent people's comments underscoring the need to promote and enhance ethical leadership, social justice and fair play.

It's sad that all these concepts - and many more - have been subjected to so many decades of intense deliberations and analysis that they are now often taken for granted.

This takes us back to the "social justice and leadership ethics" forum for eastern and southern Africa youth held in Dar es Salaam in late August 2009.

The keynote speaker, former president Jakaya Kikwete, elaborated on what he saw as a thread linking the three concepts with democracy and the institutionalisation of good governance.

He went on to express hope that the African continent was "witnessing the emergence of a new breed of leaders throughout the continent who are committed to change and the fight against corruption".

Whether he too has indeed witnessed enough of the change he had in mind is best known to himself, although corruption remains one of the daunting challenges giving African countries a hard time - and a bad name.

However, as noted by the former president, we would be doing Africa in general and individual African countries much good by fighting to make them grow into oases of hope and not places of despair and lamentations.

Indeed, we need to recognise

our weaknesses, appreciate our achievements and face our challenges while working towards greater prosperity.

We need to soberly and realistically evaluate the ground we have covered as we sought realise the three principal pillars supporting social justice: economic prosperity, democracy and human rights.

We need to appreciate the need for our people to have access to a fair chance to engage in gainful income-generation activities for their own benefit and for the good of the country's social and economic development.

It is also of fundamental importance for respect for basic human rights to have pride of place in everything we do, and nothing should be allowed to stand in our way on this cardinal principle. Development is of little use and relevance in the absence of dignity.

This is consonance with the remarks President Samia Suluhu Hassan made as she graced the climax of Law Day celebrations in Dodoma city on Wednesday.

In her particular case, she underlined the need for the country's judicial system to dispense justice unconditionally - that is, including desisting from allowing corruption to lead courts of law to deprive the poor of a fair deal.

Unfortunately, these things are so often taken for granted that at times even the most blatant of violations of basic human rights go unnoticed.

With our rich and diverse experience, it will be purely by choice that we will be found wanting in efforts to promote ethical leadership and enhance social justice in our country.

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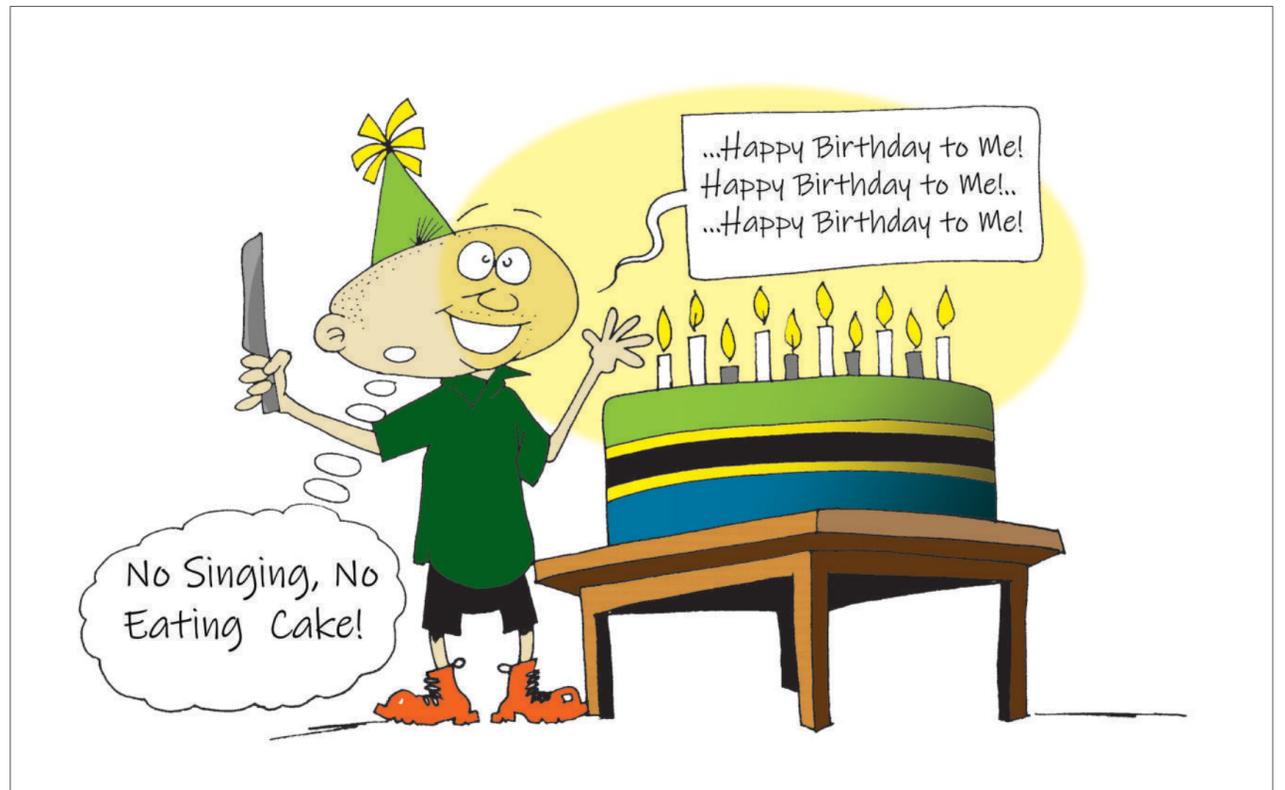
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New story agency shifts narratives away from damaging stereotypes about Africa

By Agbaje Ayomide

FOLLOWING a news conference during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in 2020, Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate was cropped out of a photo taken with her white fellow activists.

The photo was featured in reporting by the Associated Press and various other international media outlets. Outraged by the situation, Nakate became a strong voice advocating how climate activism and emerging voices in Africa should be represented in the media.

Media coverage about Africa and Africans has received deserved criticism over the years. In his popular satire, "How to write about Africa", published in 2009, Kenyan writer and activist Binyavanga Wainaina critiqued the racial stereotypes often used by Western journalists and storytellers when writing about the continent.

Later, in 2015, some young Africans began using the hashtag #TheAfricaTheMediaNeverShowsYou to crowdsource beautiful images showcasing the diversity and richness of the continent beyond media stereotypes.

Also in 2015, a group of Kenyans similarly trended the hashtag #SomeoneTellCNN on social media to express their displeasure over a CNN report describing Kenya as "a hotbed of terror".

In an effort to sustainably address the often negative, stereotype-laden media coverage, Africa No Filter, a nonprofit organisation committed to rewriting, defining and amplifying African narratives, launched **bird**, the continent's first digital story agency, in 2021.

The agency seeks to report stories that cover the advancement of people and places spotlighting more of Africa's beauty and promise, pushing coverage away from tired, damaging narratives.

"We live and breathe harmful and stereotypical narratives about Africa every day. One of the first things we looked at when we started was research on narratives about Africa," Moky Makura, the executive director of Africa No Filter, told IJNet.

"We went through nearly 60 documents - research papers, reports, books, academic journals from 2,000 - that had been written on African narratives," he said.

He elaborated: "We also surveyed 38 African editors and analysed over 300 articles from 60 African news outlets across 15 countries in 2020. The five



key frames through which most stories were told about Africa are poverty, conflict, corruption, disease and poor leadership."

Upon identifying these prevalent stereotypes - and that one-third of stories in African news outlets are sourced from foreign media - Makura determined that African media should be empowered to cover, tell and deliver stories with more positive angles about the continent.

To achieve this goal, **bird** commissions and distributes engaging multimedia reporting produced by journalists and other content creators for free to its 20 content partners, which include leading media outlets and digital publishers across Africa. To date, the agency has produced over 350 stories from more than 40 contributors.

According to Tom Kirkwood, **bird**'s managing editor, these stories are loaded onto a purpose-built website from where the stories can be downloaded by their partners.

"The content partners are digital news platforms that have signed our memorandum of understanding, agreeing for us to count reads of the stories," he said.

He added: "We can also count the number of stories read by readers on our partner sites - thanks to a piece of code, the snippet counter, that we provide with each story. That way, we can gauge the efficacy of the funding provided for the **bird** project."

Targeted at African, mobile-first audiences, **bird**'s stories focus on development, innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, arts and culture in Africa, among other topics - to showcase the dynamism, progress and resources that abound on the

continent.

To further its efforts, **bird** partners with like-minded organisations to create and support a community of creative storytellers and journalists across Africa. Through these relationships, the agency is able to offer opportunities for paid work and training.

One example is the African Arguments fellowship, a mentorship and training programme that equips young freelance journalists in Africa with skills to produce in-depth, high quality stories about the continent.

bird's parent organisation, Africa No Filter, has traditionally supported research, independent media, creative initiatives and advocacy efforts that in turn support nuanced, contemporary and diverse stories about Africa.

Since 2019, the Johannesburg-based organisation has raised over US\$6 million from external funders to support its pioneering work. In turn, it has awarded over US\$1 million annually in micro-grants to support digital storytellers, content creators and research reports through its Kekere Storytellers Fund.

Earlier this month, Africa No Filter announced the launch of a new initiative in partnership with The Africa Centre called the Global Media Index, which will monitor and measure how leading international outlets report on Africa.

bird's vision resonates with fellow journalists. "The media have an important role to play by amplifying voices and bringing a deep focus on the rapidly-evolving technological ecosystems, innovative farming techniques, and creating balance in political discourses on the continent," said Todah Opeyemi.

This is a multimedia expert and junior editor at The Republic, a Lagos-based journal focused on in-depth coverage of underreported stories about Africa.

Opeyemi also believes that African news media must tell their stories and shape their own narratives about Africa, particularly with the rise of Africa-focused publications in the media landscape. "Stories have the greatest power to influence our identity as Africans," he said.

Today, **bird** has moved past its pilot phase, arriving at what Kirkwood termed **bird 2.0**. The story agency is now building out its team and network of contributors and, through a new partnership with the Thomson Foundation, offering a training module for the agency's contributors in an effort to speed up content production.

"We have received funding for 2022, which is great news for **bird**, its partners, the virtual newsroom team and our contributors," said Kirkwood.

He added: "We're looking forward to adding to our current offering through the year, with the potential to use **bird** as a platform to deliver a whole swathe of content that fits with Africa No Filter's commitment to shifting narratives on and in Africa. We are looking to expand our footprint further through the 54 countries that make up this vast, dynamic continent."

• A dispatch by the **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)**, a project of the Washington-based **International Centre for Journalists**. Agbaje Ayomide is a Nigerian freelance writer and storyteller. He is currently a media fellow at **Climate Tracker**, a 2020 alumnus of **Future News Worldwide**, and a contributor for **Quartz Africa**.

Help others at workplace to unleash your leadership potential

NO matter how qualified or competent you are, you'll need others in one way or the other to improve quality of your work and career advancement. And those who master the art of cooperating with others at workplace normally emerge as best performers and hence, leaders.

People are important, we'll never be able to know everything or do everything. Because of this, it means that we'll constantly need to rely on people in the office. Consider a time when you really needed the assistance of another person. It may have been for a project with a short deadline or a task in a field in which you lacked experience. Your email asking for the opinion of a coworker didn't elicit a response, did it? Were other people able to swiftly jump in and work with you to solve problems?

With colleagues, bosses, or subordinates, having a mutually beneficial working connection is essential. Not everyone has to be your cup of tea. However, you must be able to show that you are just as willing to help them in a time of crisis as they are to help you. Despite the fact that you're all working toward the same goal, creating trust and equality with your coworkers is essential. Setting aside time each day to check on others and understand how you can be of service instead of just asking for it implies you're being a trustworthy partner who is as responsive as you'd like others to be. It's also important to remember that these relationships can continue to support and guide you well

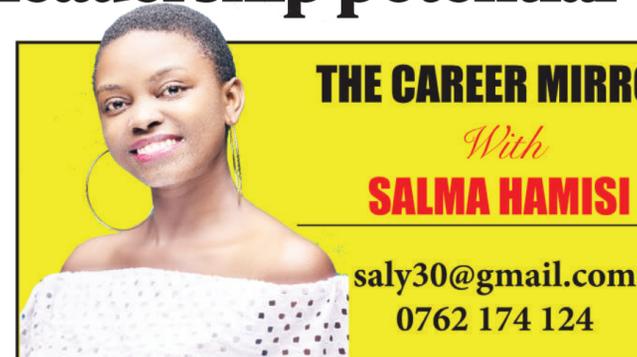


into the future.

In front of a gathering of roughly 100 people during a company offsite, I began by asking the group's leaders to get up. The few senior members of the organization with the most prestigious titles all stood. Inquiring as to why others hadn't risen, I turned to the group of employees seated at the table closest

to the speaker but none could provide an answer.

At the end of the day, everyone is a leader regardless of their position or level of experience at the organization. Author Brené Brown noted in her book *Dare to Lead*: "Leadership is not about titles or the corner office. It's all about having the guts to go for



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it, to put yourself out there, and to embrace your inner bravery. The world is in serious need of leaders with more courage. We all need to do our part to make this world a better place."

Nothing is more vital than it is right now. Regardless of whether you've been working from home or in the office throughout the pandemic, you've seen how people have stepped up. In times of crisis, people's reactions are a reflection of their leadership style.

Everyone has the opportunity to lead. In the way we treat our colleagues every day, how we approach solutions to difficult situations or take action to fulfill a critical need at work. Being courageous, vulnerable, efficient, focused, committed, kind, or any combination of these is entirely up to you, as long as it serves some purpose. Recognize and respect people as leaders in their own right by paying attention to what they have to say.

Finally, I'd want to offer a final piece of advice: someone is always keeping an eye on you and picking up lessons from what you're

doing.

This at first seemed a little spooky. At lunch, I was a little apprehensive since I didn't enjoy the thought of being observed in the office or on video calls. However, when I pondered this further, I understood that what it truly meant was that you're always on duty at the office. Someone is watching your every move, regardless of whether you're online or not. On Zoom calls or in a conference room, they're watching your demeanor and your facial expressions. Using your eyes to indicate that you aren't open-minded or interested in actively listening to the viewpoints of others might lead to lack of trust in the relationship. In addition to what you say, your audience is paying attention to how you say it. If you behave in a certain way, others may decide that they should do the same, too.

The way you show up each and every day can have a significant impact on your career and personal life.

MADRID

This is about Wetlands, which are considered as a natural solution to the global threat of climate change.

They absorb carbon dioxide, help slow global heating and reduce pollution, hence they are often referred to as the "Kidneys of the Earth".

Specifically, peatlands alone store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined. However, when drained and destroyed, wetlands emit vast amounts of carbon, adds the UN on the occasion of the World Wetlands Day, marked 2 February.

"Wetlands also provide a buffer against the impacts of floods, droughts, hurricanes and tsunamis, and build resilience to climate change."

And though they cover only around 6% of the Earth's land surface, 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

The World Day also reports that:

Coastal wetlands sequester and store carbon up to 55 times faster than tropical rain forests.

Rice, grown in wetland paddies, is the staple diet of 3.5 billion people.

But... what are wetlands?

Wetlands are ecosystems where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life, explains the UN.

A broad definition includes both freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems such as all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and saltpans.

Where?

"Although present in all world's regions, about 30% of the world's wetlands are located in North America. Some of them developed after the previous glaciation created lakes. Asia and North America combined contain over 60% of the world's wetland area."

Critical to people and nature

The World Day also explains that these lands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, climate, ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human wellbeing.

"Wetland biodiversity matters for our health, our food supply, for tourism and for jobs. Wetlands are vital for humans, for other ecosystems and for our climate, providing essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, including flood control and water purification."

A billion people depend on wetlands

"They are vital habitats for wildlife, as well as important tools for mitigating the effects of climate change. They help to manage extreme weather events like floods and storms, and can store 10-20 times more carbon than temperate or boreal forests on land."

"Add to all that, more than a billion people across the world depend on them for their live-

The 'kidneys of the earth' are all about disappearing



Young mangrove plants in Puttalam Lagoon, Sri Lanka. Credit: Amantha Perera/IPS



In the Ciénaga de Zapata, Cuba, the biggest wetlands in the Caribbean. Credit: Jorge Luis Baños/IPS

lihoods - that's about one in eight people on Earth."

Why are they in danger?

Wetlands are among the ecosystems with the highest rates of decline, loss and degradation, explains the World Day.

Indicators of current negative trends in global biodiversity and ecosystem functions are projected to continue in response to direct and indirect drivers such as rapid human population growth, unsustainable production and consumption and associated technological development, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change.

The most threatened ecosystem

But not only are they disappearing three times faster than forests - they are the "Earth's most threatened ecosystem." In just 50 years - since 1970 - 35% of the world's wetlands have been lost.

"Human activities that lead to loss of wetlands include drainage and infilling for agriculture and construction, pollution, overfishing and overexploitation of resources, invasive species and climate change."

In the specific case of the Mediterranean, for example, the region has lost 50% of its natural wetlands since 1970 - and we continue to destroy them, warns the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

The vicious circle

This vicious circle of wetland loss, threatened livelihoods, and deepening poverty is the result of mistakenly seeing wetlands as wastelands rather than life-giving sources of jobs, incomes, and essential ecosystem services, the World Day concludes.

We need to act against xenophobia before lives are lost to violence

SOUTH AFRICA

At its meeting this week, members of the Gauteng Community Organising Working Group (COWG) discussed the threat posed by rapidly rising levels of xenophobia, specifically those associated with Operation Dudula. Mostly our discussions are about mobilising people for vaccination in the Johannesburg municipality, so the change of topic reflected profound anxiety about increasing levels of violence directed mainly at non-South Africans. This is a summary of what was said. We wish to draw attention to the threat, ringing the alarm so that others are also aware.

In the third quarter of 2021, South Africa recorded its highest unemployment rate since 2008, officially sitting at 34.9%. Youth unemployment alone is now 66.5%. The high unemployment rate can be said to be the result of job losses resulting from the economic disruption caused by the Covid-19 lockdown and the social unrest in certain provinces in July 2021. However, these can only be seen as factors that exacerbated an existing problem caused by the history of the country and the government's neglect in addressing the matter effectively.

Regardless of the various factors that have contributed to the problem of unemployment, there is a group of people who see foreigners as the cause of this problem, and they are adamant that they will push them out and replace them with South Africans, not only in the workplace (particularly in the restaurant and truck-driving industries) but also from trading as street vendors and shop owners. This has been referred to as Operation Dudula (meaning to "push out") and has gained momentum in recent weeks in the Gauteng township of Soweto and surrounding areas.

Politics of xenophobia

Political parties such as ActionSA, the EFF and the IFP have expressed their support of prioritising South Africans over foreigners in the workplace, with the EFF going as far as to engage with restaurants, pleading with them to dismiss "foreigners". The EFF has expressed that they do not necessarily have a problem with foreigners being employed in South Africa, but that the party would like for South Africans to be prioritised for jobs, given the high levels of unemployment in the country. The government has given credibility to arguments that foreigners are the problem by calling for tighter restrictions.

The approach being taken by the promoters of Operation Dudula includes intimidation and violence against foreigners. For example, a video circulating on social media shows promoters of Operation Dudula telling vendors at the Baragwanath taxi rank in Soweto to leave their trading spaces, so that South Africans can take them up. They are heard saying that the spaces are for "original South Africans", meaning people born in South Africa.



Protesters at the #PutSouthAfricansFirst March on Pretoria's Church Square, from where they marched to the Union Buildings on 24 November 2021, in protest against the renewal of Zimbabweans' work permits. (Photo: Gallo Images/Alet Pretorius)

Vaccination

Community activists of the COWG, who have been involved in mobilising for the vaccine roll-out in Johannesburg, now fear the repercussions Operation Dudula is likely to have on that. With South Africa desperately trying to reach the revised target of 67% of the population fully vaccinated by March 2022, and we as community activists working tirelessly to encourage vaccine uptake in our communities, Operation Dudula is a potential setback.

This would not be the first time the vaccine roll-out in South Africa has been derailed. In July 2021, when only 7% of the population had been vaccinated, the civil unrest led to a brief

halt in vaccination in certain areas, and it is still moving at a snail's pace in KwaZulu-Natal. Now, with only 27.8% of the population fully vaccinated at present, Operation Dudula is a looming threat to the roll-out, due to the momentum we see the movement gaining in our communities. Migrants are now especially fearful.

Vaccine equality has been something the COWG has always strived for and has been working on getting undocumented persons vaccinated in our communities. Although the thought of undocumented persons may initially be understood to indicate foreigners only, this is simply not the case. There are very many South African citizens, maybe 15% of the

population, who are undocumented for some reason or another.

We were starting to see progress in this area, organising pop-up sites that cater to vaccination of the undocumented in places such as Protea South, Nana's Farm in the south of Johannesburg and Klipspruit in Soweto, with other organisations mobilising elsewhere. Now we fear that the undocumented, whether they are from South Africa or other countries, will be reluctant to come forward to be vaccinated for fear of Operation Dudula.

We are however worried about the vaccination units and our own teams of campaigners. Already some vaccinators have been attacked, and

while the reasons for this are not clear, it highlights their vulnerability. Dudula activists have demanded IDs, and if people do not have one, they can be attacked, even if they are South Africans.

Unless we increase the total number of people vaccinated, the chance of infection is increased for everybody, whatever their nationality.

Wider fears

Xenophobia can be a deadly phenomenon in South Africa. In 2008, it led to the killing of 62 people. It is estimated that about a third of these were South Africans, some of whom were murdered because they had darker skins. Operation Dudula and other xenophobic activists say they are not against all foreigners, only those who are criminals and residing in the country illegally. These are problems for the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Home Affairs to deal with. In practice, xenophobic thugs cannot distinguish between different legal statuses, so they turn against anybody they assume is foreign. If law-abiding and peaceful people stand in their way, they too are exposed to violence.

We are especially worried this time, for three reasons:

1. Unemployment is higher than ever and people are more disillusioned with the government than in the past;

2. The ANC may decide to zero in on xenophobia to divert attention from its internal problems; and

3. Most immediately, Dudula is now recruiting people for branch membership. Now is the time to act, before it's too late

With the momentum the movement is seen to be gaining in Soweto and surrounding communities, we as COWG community activists believe that time cannot be wasted in acting against Operation Dudula. We are witnessing a massive attack on human rights. Violence and intimidation are already occurring, and this will surely increase, leading, at some point, to killings.

SAPS should be stopping xenophobic intimidation and violence, but we do not see this happening. We believe the best way to stop xenophobia is by joining forces with trade unions, NGOs and other organisations. It is important that there is strong and urgent action against xenophobia

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) and the South African Federation of Trade Unions (Safu) have spoken out, disputing the very claims that motivate this movement. They say South Africans cannot look to foreigners to blame for their state of unemployment, but should rather focus their attention on the government because its officials are the ones who have failed them.

This is a statement we fully support.

The foreign migrants under attack are our African brothers and sisters. They are our workmates and neighbours, we buy our food from them and sell them our goods. As nurses and teachers they keep us safe and educate our children and sometimes they are our loved ones. Now is the time to act against xenophobia, before it's too late and before the killings start. DM/MC

The Community Organising Working Group is part of the C-19 People's Coalition, an activist-driven alliance operating through a set of working groups coordinated by a steering task team. Most of the COWG members lead teams of volunteers, and some are experienced activists and community leaders. For safety reasons they have chosen not to be named individually as many of them live in communities where they deal with the very real threat of xenophobia.



Stalls and hawker trading spaces at the Baragwanath taxi rank in Johannesburg stand abandoned on 28 January 2022 amid Operation Dudula's push to remove illegal foreigners or those without permits from townships and surrounding suburbs. (Photo: Gallo Images/Fani Mahutsi)

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

By Guardian Reporter

'Tanzanite Bridge symbolises Korea-Tanzania co-operation'

COMPLETION of the new Selander Bridge, also known as the Tanzanite Bridge, has not only eased congestion along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road during peak hours but also adds to the aesthetic view of Dar es Salaam, the government has stated.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Minister for Works and Transport, paid homage to cooperation between the government of South Korea and Tanzania, for the construction of the longer version of the main link to the city centre, named after John Einar Selander, Tanganyika's first Director of Public Works.

The history of the famed bridge dates back to 1929 but with time and increased motorists, and traffic jams, construction of Tanzanite Bridge was largely a matter of time and on Tuesday the bridge started operations.

It highlights a new chapter in the sparkling cooperation between South Korea and Tanzania, the minister noted, with the bridge, built by South Korea's high-tech construction firm GS E&C,



has a 180-tonnage capacity. It is billed to ferry 55,000 vehicles per day along the Coco Beach coastline in Oysterbay area stretching to clear a patch of the sea to face Aga Khan Hospital.

Construction of the 1.03kms bridge cost 243bn/-, having two vehicle lanes and a pedestrian

lane on both sides of the road, its construction starting in 2018 with South Korean government funding for 82.9 per cent of its costs, the host government topping up, he said.

Transportation infrastructures are essential for human life and economy, while the bridge brings a new look to the city and thus touted

to become a tourist attraction.

The new bridge has combined the characteristics of a girder bridge and a cable-stayed bridge to make it lighter, a technique which enhances construction and economic feasibility, he said.

Research from transport data company INRIX into the state of

congestion highlights the impact of snarled traffic by looking at how much time and money it wastes. The new bridge is expected to mitigate traffic congestion along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, one of the busiest roads in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam is a key trading hub connecting the Indian Ocean

and landlocked countries in East and Central Africa, with the project the first bridge construction project GS E&C has undertaken in the country. It was completed on time without delays in spite of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the contractor affirmed.

Economists have recognized important areas with regard to bridges in propelling economic activity. Considering that Dar es Salaam is an important port city, good infrastructure is crucial to ship raw materials and finished goods to factories, warehouses, suppliers, distributors, stores, and end-consumers.

Good infrastructure also facilitates travel so consumers can purchase goods and services in their own communities and beyond. At a more

permanent level, the bridge is a lifeline to many as it connects two places that complement each other economically.

On another note, construction of the bridge had also created employment for construction and maintenance workers, where investment in wages and consumer spending resulting from it, is proven to pay off many times over.

About 773 people essentially from Kinondoni District were engaged in the road construction work.

Scores of city residents rely on the city centre which is connected to residential areas through the Selander Bridge for once, and Jangwani Bridge a few kilometers from there. The positive impact of the bridge cannot be overemphasized because it leads to where business activities take place, observers noted.

Snarled traffic reduces business activity, and when business activity is reduced, tax revenue decreases, which impacts the bottom line of government in collecting sales taxes.

Human activity endangering Kenya's crucial Yala swamp

NAIROBI

KENYA'S famed Yala swamp, home to rare sitatunga or March antelope is under threat because of human activity.

The largest wetland in the Horn of Africa country within an area covering the length of 175 kilometers, is not only a natural filter for the waters that go into the River Nile from Lake Victoria but also home to numerous species of flora and fauna.

Speaking on the World Wetlands Day observed on Wednesday, Lenon Otiko Omondi, a 53-year-old farmer who owns land near the Yala Swamp, said he has witnessed the swamp shrinking over the past decade.

"This swamp is our life; it has watery patches with a lot of fish that we use to earn a living and for nutrition. The problem nowadays is everything is slowly disappearing. The swamp is still big but it has shrunk, it is nothing like 20 years ago," he said.

Some people were clearing the swamp to get land for large-scale farming, despite the government regularly chasing them away, he said.

"People backfill the recovered wetland area and construct buildings. Then a small shopping centre comes up. The people need water, food, and a place where they can dump their waste," said the farmer, explaining how all this cramps down the swamp water capacity.

Over a quarter-million people who live around the swamp rely on resources such as water, medicine, firewood and food from the ecosystem.

Patrick Ochieng, 53, who has been fishing on the swamp for over 20 years said fish stocks had almost vanished in the swamp, as the population around Yala increases, further threatening the swamp.

A visit to the area reveals that in some areas, the locals have altered the natural flow of water for irrigation or water storage.

Conservationists explain that these barriers and dams have a drastic effect on the ecosystem, affecting native species of fauna and seasonal migrations of fish.

Moses Owillly Nyawasa, a researcher at Nature Kenya, one of Africa's oldest environmental societies, describes encroachment as one of the biggest threats to the Yala Swamp.

"We have people doing overfishing. We also have investors doing agriculture without control, alongside pollution taking place because people who do large-scale farming use chemicals," he said.

The loss of habitat has affected the birds and the antelopes, while the clearing of breeding areas for agriculture has affected fish.

The health of the Yala Swamp has also further endangered Sitatunga antelope. Scientists say that the hooves of this antelope are splayed because it can only thrive in muddy or swampy areas and is unable to walk on firm ground.



Study gives new insights on health benefits of bed nets

By Special Correspondent

BED nets save and prolong lives in the long run, according to a 22-year study in Tanzania which, for the first time, indicates that children who sleep under the net at early age are more likely to survive into adulthood.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, followed more than 6,700 children from 1998, tracking them again in 2019 to find out what happened to them.

The results showed that survival of children who habitually slept under nets was over 40 per cent higher compared with survival in those who slept under nets less frequently in their early childhood.

There are very few long-term population-based studies in any African country. With over 6,700 participants recruited and remarkably high completeness of follow-up after 20 years, this study is particularly unusual and provides unique insight into the long-term benefits of malaria control in young children.

Malaria killed more than 600,000 people in 2020 and is especially dangerous for children.

The disease, which is common in sub-Saharan Africa, is caused by a parasite transmitted through mosquito bites. In malaria-endemic areas, sleeping under a bed net treated with insecticide is one of the most effective ways to protect young lives.

Until now, however, the long-term effect of malaria control in early childhood has been unclear. Theory suggested that preventing malaria in early life could make people more vulnerable later in life due to a lack of immunity, simply delaying life-threatening illness and death.

Estimates from this rare long-term observational analysis appear to counter this theory by finding no evidence that prevention in early life leads to a surge in

deaths later on.

The study was led by researchers from Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH).

Dr Salim Abdulla, principal scientist at IHI and study author, said: "We have known for a long time that bed nets save young lives, but we never knew for sure how long the benefits persisted. Our study shows that preventing malaria in early childhood has effects that last into adulthood."

Between 1998 and 2003, the study enrolled 6,706 children born in Kilombero and Ulanga districts, a part of rural Tanzania where malaria is endemic. Up to 2003, a survey team visited the children's households every four months to collect information about the use of insecticide-treated bed nets.

In 2019, 16 years later, the study team did a follow-up survey and was able to gather information relating to 89% (5,983) of the original participants. Sadly, the team learned that over 600 of the children had died.

When the researchers analysed the data from the study they discovered a positive long-term impact of bed nets. They estimated the association between bed net use and survival, using regression modelling to adjust for other differences between groups.

Dr Günther Fink, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Household Economics at the University of Basel and Swiss TPH, and first author, said: "It's so important to be able to go back and find out what happens to children when they grow up. Bed nets have been a huge part of malaria control efforts, and continue to be part of the toolkit. It is reassuring to see these long-term benefits, which further highlight the remarkably high returns to investing into early childhood infectious disease prevention and early life health more generally."

UN agencies in relief assistance move for Malawi flood victims

LILONGWE

UN agencies in Malawi have started providing aid to victims of the tropical storm Ana, which killed scores of people across south-eastern Africa and left tens of thousands homeless.

The UN children's agency, UNICEF, has provided personal hygiene and water treatment kits to approximately 15,000 people, while President Lazarus Chakwera says more assistance is needed.

The Department of Disaster Management says the floods killed 33 people, displaced more than 100,000 and affected nearly 200,000 households in the country.

The storm also damaged 19 health facilities, destroying medicines and cold chain equipment, it stated.

Mohamed Fall, the UNICEF regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa is in Malawi visiting flood hit areas.

He said that for the moment the agency is focusing on life-saving commodities, those which help for water, for sanitation, non-food items, probably also tents, latrines, cleaning stuff. With water levels dropping, resettlement will be a challenge, he said.

Meanwhile, the World Food Program announced Wednesday that it has set aside an initial amount of \$500,000 for relief assistance for the flood victims.

A top official of the agency said as part of its immediate response, WFP is providing corn-soya bran to around 21,000 households with 95,000 people in the four most affected districts of Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nsanje and Phalombe. Distribution started on Wednesday, he said.

WFP is currently prioritizing displaced people living in temporary shelters as it looks for additional resources to scale up its response.

Charles Kalemba, the head of disaster management, told a press conference Tuesday that relief efforts are hampered by lack of funding despite several government appeals for financial assistance.

During his tour to affected areas Tuesday, the president called for more assistance to help thousands of Malawians affected by floods in over half of the country's 28 districts.

"As we continue asking for more assistance from our partners, we should also make sure that in our national budget this year, we allocate funds to help rebuild public infrastructures destroyed by the storm," he said.

Tropical storm Ana also killed at least 20 people in Mozambique and 48 people in Madagascar, with Chakwera expecting to meet with African Union heads of state to ask for support in aiding areas affected by the storm.

RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM EYES CLEANER ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, FLEET

By Francis Kajubi

THE Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency (DART) and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) are in talks to invest in cleaner energy infrastructure, that will enable the urban transport agency to start using environmental friendly energy.

It is planned by 2023; DART fleets operators will be using natural gas to run buses, as part of mitigating the impact of fossil fuel to climate. Tanzania has an estimated natural gas reserve of 57 trillion cubic feet.

Currently, all buses operating on DART infrastructure corridors are using diesel as their main source of energy, and officials say one bus consumes at least 1.7 litres, which is not cost effective and environment friendly.

The project will involve the construction of gas filling stations, which will specifically serve DART operators, to alternate diesel.

Speaking to Property Watch earlier this week in Dar es Salaam, DART Acting Director of Operations and Infrastructure Management, Engineer Ahmed Wamala, said talks started since mid-last year, although he did not give more details on the targeted project.

"I can't go further into details for now, but it is true that we are negotiating with TPDC for such a clean energy initiative for buses operating within DART corridors," said Wamala.

According to him, the agency is even eager to see that phase two of the project, connecting Magomeni to Mbagala suburb is being



modernized to cleaner energy infrastructure.

"We are considering procuring 95 new articulated buses to add on the current 210 buses in operation. In the wake of climate change effects, it's logical to have some of these buses made of clean energy systems such as liquefied natural gas to reduce carbon emission," he added.

However, Wamala noted that the agency plans of engaging more players in the central business district project.

The agency is intending to engage commuter bus operators in the project by allowing them to operate in all feeder roads connected to the main trunks corridor.

"The project is designed with many feeder roads connecting the trunks from different streets of the city. This part of the project will be left for commuter bus operators but under special conditions such as having buses with special cer-

tified standards agreed by DART. Commuter bus operators will have to form a shareholding company which they will run jointly and own shares," he explained.

He said that more new service providers are mostly likely to join the project as the agency continues to extend the BRT network.

According to him, UDA-RT owns 51 percent in shares of the project and the government through Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART) owns the remaining 49 percent.

"As we speak the BRT system moves almost 180,000 passengers a day with 210 buses from 76,000 passengers in 2016 when the project had only 140 buses," said Wamala.

Commenting on the new initiative, Sarah Ngoy, Executive Director Forum on Climate Change (Forum CC) said the government initiative through DART is in line with global strategies to reduce global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emis-

sions generated by fossil fuels, coal and transportation activities.

According to her, fuel and diesel combustion emits carbon dioxide, greenhouse gases, into the atmosphere.

The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other pollutants such as methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), and hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs) causes global warming.

Global warming, she asserted, results in climate change impacts that we are already seeing today such as increase in heat, prolonged drought, seasonal floods and diseases.

"The more people travel using transportation that involves burning diesel and petrol the more we contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Clean energies are therefore a remedy to this tragedy," said Ngoy.

According to Climate change and global warming analysis 2021 done by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA), Earth's global average surface temperature in 2021 tied 2018 as the sixth-warmest year on record.

The analysis that came out mid-January 2022 reads that global temperatures in 2021 were 0.85 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) above the average for NASA's baseline period, according to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS).

The analysis asserts that the long-term global warming trend is largely due to human activities that have increased emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

"Science leaves no room for doubt: Climate change is the existential threat of our time. Eight of the top ten warmest years on our planet occurred in the last decade, an indisputable fact that underscores the need for bold action to safeguard the future of our country and all of humanity," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson in a statement to the press mid-January 2022.

NASA uses the period from 1951-1980 as a baseline to compare how global temperatures change over time. In the East African region, Kenya has emerged as the first country to have clean energy technology vehicles.

A Swedish-Kenyan company, Opi-bus, has recently introduced the first African-designed and manufactured electric bus in Kenya with the aim of bringing clean energy to public transportation. Opi-bus, Kenya's first company to make electric motorcycles plans to launch the bus commercially in a few months and bring it to markets across Africa by 2023.

Calgary housing market heats up as homebuyers from Ontario and B.C. pile in

CALGARY

Tight supply in Calgary's real estate market pushed the average unadjusted benchmark price to \$472,300 in January, a 12 per cent increase over the same time last year, according to data from the Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB).

Housing inventory also reached its lowest point since 2006 at 2,620 units, the organization said, while the 2,009 units sold was nearly double the long term trend.

Realtors based in Calgary told the Financial Post that demand in the market is being driven in part by buyers from Ontario and Vancouver, who have been flocking to the city in search of more affordable homes for their families or as investment properties.

Jared Chamberlain, a realtor and the owner of Chamberlain Group, has been working in Calgary real estate since 2004 and said he's seen many booms and busts, mostly tied to the energy sector.

"This time, it's not an oil boom, it's just people moving here," Chamberlain told the Financial Post. "I don't ever recall seeing this quick an increase (in prices)."

There are two stories playing out in the Calgary market right now, according to Chamberlain: investors looking to grow their money in real estate at a lower price point, and families or young couples in Toronto and Vancouver who have been priced-out of their cities, but have a down payment ready for a Calgary home.

"It seems like it's a transfer of money from other places that have had increases to now Calgary," Chamberlain said.

Inter-provincial migration data backs up his observations insofar as Ontario is concerned. That province has seen an outflow of migrants for most of 2021, while Alberta recently saw a multi-year exodus reverse course. In the third quarter in 2021, 22,013 migrants came to Alberta from other parts of Canada and only 17,524 left, for a net gain of 4,489 people, according to StatsCan data.

The winter months usually see a lull in any housing market, though that hasn't been the case this year, including in Calgary, the realtors said.

"Even December was an extremely busy month. And of course, it just flew into January full gangbusters," said Lowell Martens, an agent at the Calgary RE/MAX office.

A report from RE/MAX released late last year showed that through the end of October 2021, Calgary house prices had risen eight per cent for the year, trailing some of the country's hottest markets. But sale volumes at the time were 76 per cent ahead of 2020's pace, the largest increase in Canada.

CREB's full-year figures for 2021 showed record breaking sales volumes and an overall price increase of more than eight per cent, after a five-year stretch in which prices for the most part declined.

The detached and semi-detached segments hit new all-time highs for prices, but the row and apartment segments lagged their oil-boom peaks.

That newfound momentum faces a challenge from the possibility that the Bank of Canada will hike its overnight rate in the coming months, but Chamberlain said he is not overly concerned.

"I don't think that's going to stop these types of buyers and what's happening right now," Chamberlain said. "I think the biggest concern is just a lack of supply."

(Agencies)

Rapid urbanisation pushes demand for housing in sub-Saharan Africa

WASHINGTON

African cities become the new home to over 40,000 people every day, many of whom find themselves without a roof over their heads.

With that in mind, IFC has committed to do more to develop the property sector, both to provide new and affordable housing and to encourage an industry that requires significant building materials and has the potential to be a major employer.

In May, IFC and Chinese multinational construction and engineering company, CITIC Construction launched a \$300 million investment platform, CITICC (Africa) Holding Limited, to develop affordable housing in multiple African countries.

The platform will partner with local housing developers and provide long-term capital to develop 30,000 homes over next five years. IFC estimates that each housing unit will create five full-time jobs - resulting in nearly 150,000 new jobs on the continent. Kenya and Nigeria are high on the priority list for the new effort. Kenya's housing shortage is estimated at 2 million units, while Nigeria is in want of 17 million units. The soaring demand is being met by scant new supply. Africa's housing market has few local developers with the technical and financial strength to construct large-scale projects.

The IFC-CITIC Construction platform will work with local housing companies to develop affordable housing projects across Sub-Saharan Africa, each ranging in size from 2,000 to 8,000 units. CITIC Construction has a proven track record in constructing and delivering large scale housing projects. The platform will start by developing homes in Kenya, Rwanda and Nigeria, expanding to other countries as operations ramp up.

"In Angola, through planning, financing, construction and post-construction operation, CITIC Construction has successfully completed the 200,000 units housing program, new city of Kilamba Kiaxi, with relative infrastructure and utilities in four years. CITIC Construction



has also founded the CITIC BN Vocational School in Angola which helps youth acquire the skills they need to become professionals", said Hong Bo, Assistant President of CITIC Group and Chairwoman of CITIC Construction, "CITIC Construction will take advantage of our engineering experience and delivery capability to develop more affordable houses for Africa through

the platform with IFC." "As Sub-Saharan Africa become more urbanized, the private sector can help governments meet the critical need for housing", said Oumar Seydi, IFC Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. "The platform will help transform Africa's housing markets by providing high quality, affordable homes, creating jobs, and demonstrating the viability of

the sector to local developers. IFC will work with financial institutions to support mortgages and housing finance that will allow people to purchase the units." The new housing units will be constructed in accordance to IFC's green building standards, delivering homes that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. The World Bank Group estimates

that by 2030, three billion people, or 40 percent of the world's population will need new housing units. To date, IFC has invested more than \$3 billion in housing finance in over 46 countries world-wide. IFC focuses on regions where large portions of the population live in sub-standard housing and have limited access to credit to build, expand, or renovate their homes.



Even December was an extremely busy month. And of course, it just flew into January full gangbusters

CONGO STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST DEEP-WATER PORT

KINSHASA

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo has launched the construction of the country's first deep-water port, a \$1.2 billion project that has drawn criticism for being built on the edge of protected wetlands.

Banana Port, to be built by Dubai's port giant DP World, will border Congo's Mangrove Marine Park, a nature reserve that contains a variety of vulnerable or endangered plant and animal species.

The port at Banana, a sandy

spit of land at the mouth of Congo River, will process 322,000 containers per year, Congolese Minister of Industry Julien Paluku said on Twitter, posting a picture of Tshisekedi laying the first stone of the project.

Congo's Presidency said on Twitter that Tshisekedi was realising an old dream of the country for a deep-water port on the Atlantic Ocean, which would be completed in 2025.

In December DP World said the first phase of the port will include a 600-meter (1,968.5-foot) quay with an 18-metre (59-

foot) draft, to be completed in 12 months.

Congo's main port at Matadi, which lies around 120 km (75 miles) upstream from Banana, is not deep enough to handle the larger vessels from Asia and Europe, requiring cargo to be transferred to smaller ships at neighbouring Congo Republic's Pointe Noire port.

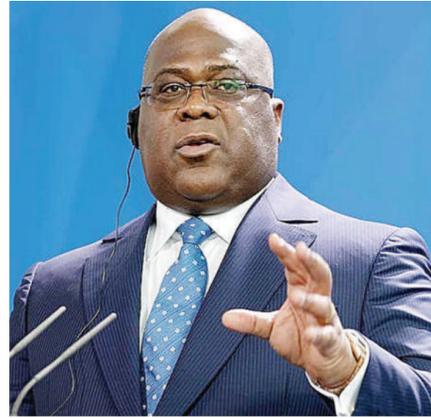
Corruption watchdog Platform to Protect Whistleblowers in Africa (PPLAAF) has accused the government of negotiating the contract without a public tender, as required by Congolese law.

"This strategically important, multi-million-dollar project, is planned to be built on one of the most ecologically sensitive areas in DRC," said Gabriel Bourdon-Fattal from PPLAAF.

"It is inconceivable that President Tshisekedi will proceed with a project conceived in complete opacity, despite calls from civil society for a transparent process."

Government spokesman Patrick Muyaya did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

(Reuters)



Zambia residential market slows in H1, 2020: report

LUSAKA

Overall transactions in the residential market slowed in H1 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic exerting downward pressure on prices.

This trend is set to continue in H2 2020. Further, average yields for residential properties have sharpened in H1 as a result of falling rentals, according to Zambia Market Update issued by Knight Frank.

Prices have remained relatively high in areas such as Kabulonga, Woodlands and Rhodes Park with land values ranging between \$300,000/acre and \$500,000/acre.

In the medium term, increasing urbanisation and infrastructure development in the city is set to lead to increased demand for land in Leopard's Hill, New Kasama, Ibex Hill, Roma, Ngwerere and Lilayi with prices ranging between \$20,000/acre and \$70,000/acre.

Outside of Lusaka, an emerging trend has been the conversion of agricultural land into serviced plots in order to facilitate self build projects.

Prime residential units in the Copperbelt continue to range from ZMW600,000 to ZMW3,500,000 and ZMW650,000 to ZMW1,300,000 in other towns around Zambia.

The residential market in Zambia continues to be dominated by self-build projects as a result of the very high interest rates and the long term growth of the market is supported by new roads opening up new neighborhoods around the city under the ongoing Lusaka Decongestion Project.

In H2 of 2017 the Central Bank of Zambia reduced its benchmark interest rate to 10.25% and in H1 2020 the central bank interest rate reduced to 9.25%. Mortgage rates range between 20%-30%.

An increased supply of residential units onto the market together with lower demand has led to a softening of the market and a reduction in rental levels and this looks set to continue throughout 2020. Affordable housing demand continues to persist with the rise in young professionals.

New Hotel in Nairobi is a stylish slice of paradise

NAIROBI

The Kenyan capital of Nairobi has long been something of a luminal city for travellers. They disembark their planes, dash away to their hotels, and recoup their energy as they prepare for their adventure out in the bush.

And on their return, they rest in their day rooms or lounge by the pool, drink in hand, before being whisked to the airport for their late-night flights.

But outside the great migration of safari-goers, Nairobi has become a creative and technological hub—Silicon Savannah, some

say—drawing a growing international crowd of a different feather.

But then, everything stopped. With their businesses paused due to the pandemic, many of Nairobi's innovators had to take an unexpected sabbatical, but for some, that gave them the push they needed to pursue a new project.

For fashion designer Anna Trzebinski, who was born in Germany and raised in Kenya, that meant turning her talents toward hospitality, developing a boutique hotel-meets-social club named Eden—and, in the process, keeping her entire team employed at full wage.

"We looked and talked about our us-ness,

our identity vis-à-vis the outside world. Good, bad ugly, fragile. All of it," Trzebinski tells AD. "And it really became clear that Kenya, in this case distilled into its capital city, was screaming from a metaphorical rooftop, bursting with such talent, creativity, wisdom, self-assuredness, vulnerability, and more in all creative fields."

Trzebinski felt Nairobi lacked inspiring communal space dedicated to creatives, so she and her team converted her former family home into a gathering place that would bring together Kenyan doers, makers, and thinkers, as well as travelers from afar, who could stay on the lush property in the city's Langata

neighborhood.

Turning from dressing humans to dressing the house, she combines traditional patterns from Kenya's Samburu and Maasai peoples, natural materials like driftwood, and European elements—say, a forest green Chesterfield chair—to create an eclectic, distinctly Trzebinski look that mirrors her fashion line. "There are many layers to everything I do. Most things are highly textural," she says. "But it's not all about the space, it's also about you in the space and what that does to you. I always hope to achieve balance and harmony and a space that is inspiring to be in whilst being a very clear expression of something."

That something is Trzebinski's family story. She filled the house with her personal art collection gathered over her lifetime, which is anchored by works by her first husband, Tonio—a painter who was tragically murdered in a suspected carjacking in 2001—as well as pieces by their two children, Lana and Stanislaw, who are also artists.

Tonio's former studio now houses five of the eight guest rooms at Eden (the others are in the main house), with an additional Artist-in-Residence cottage rounding out the accommodations. "To tell you the story of my hotel would be to tell you the story of my life," Trzebinski says.

Although she warmly welcomes travelers to Eden, Trzebinski is clear that Eden is not just for "heads on beds," but rather for guests and locals to congregate with similarly "discerning and socially engaged" minds in a "very contemporary expression of Nairobi." For casual socializing, there's the alfresco Deck restaurant and bar, open for lunch and dinner, where she'll often host events.

She also provides guests the opportunity to explore beyond the house, tapping her network to host visits to the studios of artists, designers, and other creatives throughout Nairobi.

Trzebinski also runs a humanitarian program and a sustainable investment program. "We really want to be a true keyhole oasis to enter into an authentic and vibrant city on many levels," she says.

In opening Eden to foster the creative community, Trzebinski found the closure she needed on the most recent chapter of her life—one that she describes as magical, but marred by tragedy, between the loss of Tonio and the upheaval of the pandemic.

"It was my opportunity to finally tell the story of my family, of our lives, of our loss, of our creativity, of our collections, of our friendships and experiences, and of our identity as Kenyans," Trzebinski says. "This was my chance to just be in the silence, no space, no time. Just create. And in the process, all was good."



Tycoon sues Kenya Railways for destroying property

NAIROBI

A wealthy businessman, Yusuf Isaack Suraw, has sued Kenya Railways for damaging his property valued at Ksh220 million.

The tycoon went to court arguing that his family had been left in an impoverished state after the demolitions that took place in October last year.

He told the court that while on a business trip to Mandera, he turned on his television only to watch his property being destroyed.

"I switched on the television and the demolition was being broad-

cast live. It was devastating," he stated.

He faulted KR for not issuing a prior notice to those with lease agreements before carrying out the demolitions. Suraw noted that they had entered into a lease agreement with Kenya Railways in February 2013 and extended the agreement for a period of 25 years.

Paying the amount in advance, Suraw expressed his disappointment when he saw the corporation renege on the deal.

"The Kenya Railways, in the notice, directed owners with leases to pay the rent arrears and those with

casual businesses and encroachers to vacate. We were not worried because we had cleared rent for the year," the businessman stated.

In a rejoinder, Kenya Railways noted that it was reclaiming part of its land, as it had done in other parts of the country.

The tycoon highlighted that among his key businesses and investments that were destroyed included a petrol station, showrooms, restaurants, car wash, and various car dealership businesses.

The case is set for hearing on May 24, 2022.

In 2021, Kenya Railways demol-

ished properties worth millions in its bid to reclaim its land. KR Managing Director, Phillip Mainga, however, noted that they had issued prior notices before carrying out the demolitions.

"This land we are repossessing will be leased out to organisations that will be supporting the operations of the train services. We expect there will be warehouses and companies investing in these areas and they will need space for their business," Mainga stated after KR repossessed a tract of land in Nyeri County.

(Agencies)



CONSTRUCTION

KHOISAN PROTEST CONSTRUCTION OF AMAZON AFRICA HEADQUARTERS

Cape Town.

Groups representing Khoisan indigenous community, one of the earliest inhabitants of southern Africa, approached the Cape Town High Court to stop the construction of Amazon's 70,000-square metre Africa headquarters on land they regard as sacred.

The word Khoisan is a combination of the names of two ancient tribes Khoi Khoi and San. Members of the San tribe were hunter-gatherers for tens of thousands of years. The Khoi Khoi, who were pastoralists, joined them over 2,000 years ago.

Members of the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Indigenous Traditional Council (GKKITC) and the Observatory Civic Association have filed an application seeking to halt the ongoing development in Cape Town by the Liesbeek Leisure Properties (LLP) Trust.

The legal action is against project developer LLP, the City of Cape Town and Western Cape Province as well as a group of Khoisan who support the development. The court case is due to last three days.

Members of the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi indigenous community performed a 'cleansing ceremony' and prayer before walking to the Western Cape High Court for a three-day hearing that seeks



The Khoisan people of southern Africa. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

to put a halt to construction on the Liesbeek Leisure Property Trust development that will house Amazon's African headquarters.

A section of the Khoisan people, the First Nations Collective (FNC)

welcomed the prospect of jobs from the 4.6 billion rand (\$259.03 million; over Rs 19,000 crore) development near Cape Town, including a hotel, retail offices and homes with Amazon setting up its

office there.

'Heritage not for sale'

The site lies at the confluence of two rivers – Black River and Liesbeek – and is of spiritual significance to the community. The

construction would also block the view to the Lion's Head mountain, also considered sacred by the indigenous communities.

The reverence story dates back to 1510, when the Portuguese Vice-

roy Francisco de Almeida at the Battle of Gorinaiqua by the Gorinhaiqua Khoi in response to a Portuguese cattle raid.

The first Khoi-Dutch War (1659-1660) over traditional grazing land access was also sparked at the floodplains. The area has been identified as part of the Khoisan Legacy Project and the National Liberation Heritage Route.

The consultation process that led to approval of the project only included FNC, alleged the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Indigenous Traditional Council (GKKITC), the proponents of the case. GKKITC said they had excluded themselves but didn't mean that they did not want to be part of the process.

Under international law, corporations should consult indigenous communities under their own terms and conditions and not those of the corporation, the council highlighted.

Species including the African clawed frog, Cape galaxias (an indigenous fish) and several species of birds and insects live in and along the river, conservationists and members of the indigenous communities pointed out.

The project plan includes filling in parts of a floodplain. This led environmental experts, including some officials from the municipality City of Cape Town, to conclude that the project doesn't fully consider the potential impacts of climate change.

"I think the worst case scenario is that we have regular, very costly flooding, and someone will have to pay for that," said Nick Fordyce, chairman of Friends of the Liesbeek, a non-profit organisation that works to conserve rivers.

UK real estate market hopes for growth in 2022

LONDON

MORE than half of real estate companies in the UK expect to grow their business in 2022. However, with a number of other challenges, more than one-third anticipate that technological trends will impact their office portfolios, among other challenges.

As the UK emerges from the uncertainty of Covid-19, Crowe has taken stock of the country's real estate market, to see what lies ahead for the industry.

With the UK's broader economy on the road to recovery, the study finds that long-term optimism within the sector is growing. However, there was so many trends for change prior to the pandemic which are still influencing the market, that many aspects of real estate portfolios are still being disrupted.

Caroline Fleet, Crowe's UK National Head of Real Estate, said, "What is clear is that real estate businesses across all sectors have had to become far more innovative, flexible and adaptable over this time.

While Covid-19 may have accelerated these changes, or in some cases, caused some of the constraints such as the rent moratorium, many of the factors affecting the market already existed before the pandemic and will continue to impact the sector in the post



Residential housing | UK (Agencies)

pandemic environment."

Crowe spoke to a total of 99 respondents across all levels and all types of businesses related to the real estate industry. Overall, at the moment the real estate market seems positive on its outlook. While a majority of 55% professionals expected to grow their business, just 5% said they expected to decline in the coming year.

With that being said, opinions were more divided on

challenges facing the wider market. As was the case with Crowe's recent survey of the UK legal market, firms are more optimistic of their own prospects than of the broader market. For example, even though lockdown measures have been rolled back over the last year, their impact on consumer behaviour will have lasting impacts on real estate.

Calls for more hybrid working patterns pre-dating the

pandemic have been accelerated by it. With Covid-19 extending the possibility of home working for more people even post-pandemic, demand for residential properties near key transport links may wane.

Within your property portfolio, which sector has been most impacted?

Meanwhile, beyond residential property, 37% of respondents said that they believed that offices are the

most likely property to be affected by technological trends.

These have also been accelerated by the pandemic, as work that was done in the office has been enabled for home working.

With this technology now live, many companies are looking to scale back their office presences as a means of saving money. Meanwhile, with fewer commuters visiting stores to or from work, retail property is also likely to be impacted by this trend.

This can be seen already to an extent in the property portfolios which have been impacted at firms across the UK through 2021. London firms most noted an impact on their portfolios in office property, as firms scale back on collective spaces due to the previously mentioned trends. Meanwhile, regional firms saw that retail and residential property portfolios were most impacted - thanks in part to changed habits of commuters heading into London from surrounding cities and towns.

The researchers concluded, "While many businesses have weathered the storm of the pandemic and taken advantage of the government support available, there is now a steep hill to climb for those in real estate, particularly for those in the retail and commercial property sectors. There is opportunity for growth, but businesses will need to adapt quickly in order to thrive."

(Consultancy UK)

6 property law changes take effect in S.Africa

PRETORIA

The South Africa new Property Practitioners Act (PPA) I officially commenced on 1 February 2022.

According to Tony Clarke, chairman of the Real Estate Business Owners of South Africa (Rebosa), this was a welcome step in the right direction for an industry previously plagued by unclear and often poorly implemented legislation.

"The PPA clears up a lot of the grey areas in the previous legislation. We're really looking forward to the clarity it brings, along with the additional protection it gives consumers by formally legislating processes that we've considered best practice for some time."

Clarke outlined some of the key changes being introduced by the new Act.

One of the most important new consumer protections, according to Clarke, is the now-compulsory inclusion of a comprehensive property defects disclosure document for both property sales and rentals.

"At Rebosa, we've been encouraging this for several years now, but under the PPA it will be officially illegal to accept a mandate from a seller or a landlord without receiving a comprehensive disclosure document first."

"This document must be signed by all parties and attached to the sale or lease agreement. It's a valuable reinforcement of our ethical responsibility to ensure open and honest property transactions."

Disclosure isn't the only area in which the PPA is tightening up on legislation. It also requires any business earning a commission or brokerage from the sale or lease of a property to hold not just a valid Fidelity Fund Certificate (FFC), but tax clearance and BBE certificates as well.

To reduce the administrative burden, however, new FFCs will be valid for a period of three years instead of one. Fees have also been standardised across all professional levels. Only Candidate Property Practitioners will pay a different, reduced fee for the first two years of their candidacy, after which the standard fees will apply.

"We're particularly pleased with the fact that FFCs are also no longer linked to a specific employment position," said Clarke. "Certificates will now remain valid if an agent progresses to principal, for example, or changes employers."

As for the issuance and policing of FFCs, Clarke is hopeful that processes will be better managed under the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority or PPRA which replaces the Estate Agency Affairs Board.

For now, digital application processes and downloadable FFCs are a step in the right direction. So is the amnesty offered to agents previously operating non-compliantly - provided they are not subject to criminal investigation or prosecution.

However, Clarke said the automatic approval now legislated for applications not processed by the Authority within the stipulated time may not be as effective as intended.

(Business Tech)

Is Spain headed for another property bubble?

Madrid

Housing will continue to get more expensive in 2022 in line with economic growth and inflation. Though the European Central Bank (ECB) has flagged up the sector's "exuberance" - a term used to substitute "bubble" - it appears to be referring to the housing market in other countries rather than in Spain.

But in a sector increas-

ingly exposed to global investment trends, a degree of contamination cannot be ruled out.

According to Ignacio de la Torre, chief economist at the asset management firm Arcano Partners, the current situation is linked to affordability. In a bid to assess the risk of a bubble, he suggests analyzing the so-called effort rate: the portion of income a household allocates to housing payments.

"Anything above 35% means we have a stressed market, and Spain was at 46% in 2006," he explains in reference to the peak of Spain's previous housing bubble. Right now, with that percentage lying between 30% and 32%, it's a different scenario.

"The problem is when houses go up in price," he adds. "If they go up 9% as in Germany, or 20% as in the US, it leads to a bubble."

Housing has become more expensive in Spain in 2021, contrary to what many experts were predicting a year ago. The National Statistics Institute (INE) will not publish the official data until March, but the annual growth rate up to the third quarter stood at 4.2%, showing a clear upward trend. Meanwhile, CaixaBank's research service, which quantified the average rise in 2021 at 1.9% (well below

other sources), believes that the rate will double and reach 4% in 2022.

"There are some worrying symptoms," says Gonzalo Bernardos, director of the Master's degree in Real Estate Consultancy, Management and Development at Barcelona University. However, he sees the risk of no more than a "light bubble" and makes it clear that the situation is very different from the 2008 global downturn: "If

there is no financial crisis and the banks are not in big trouble, there would only be a market freeze and prices would fall," he says. At the root of what could lead to a bubble is, he says, the imbalance between the supply of new houses and growing demand, but he stresses that a bubble of whatever dimensions would not, in any case, happen until 2024.

(Agencies)

WORLD

US: OK to transfer aid money to Afghanistan

NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL banks can transfer money to Afghanistan for humanitarian purposes, and aid groups are allowed to pay teachers and healthcare workers at state-run institutions without fear of breaching sanctions on the Taliban, the United States said on Wednesday.

The US Treasury Department offered guidance on sanctions exemptions issued in September and December for humanitarian work in Afghanistan, where the United Nations says more than half the country's 39 million people suffer extreme hunger and the economy, education and social services are facing collapse.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last week warned Afghanistan was "hanging by a thread."

The Taliban seized power in August. Billions of dollars in Afghan central bank reserves and

international development aid were frozen.

International banks have been wary of Afghanistan and the United Nations and aid groups are struggling to get enough money into the country to fund operations.

The US Treasury said banks can process transactions related to humanitarian operations "including clearing, settlement, and transfers through, to, or otherwise involving privately owned and state-owned Afghan depository institutions."

It also outlined permitted transactions involving the Taliban, which includes the also blacklisted Haqqani Network.

These include signing agreements to provide aid directly to the Afghan people, general aid coordination, including import administration, and sharing of office space.

"Payments of taxes, fees, or import duties to, or the purchase or receipt of permits, licenses,



Workers sit on their wheelbarrows as they wait to be hired on the side of the road in Kabul, Afghanistan. AP

or public utility services from" the Taliban, Haqqani Network or any entity in which they own more than 50 percent is authorized for humanitarian operations, the Treasury said.

It also said aid groups are allowed to ship cash to Afghanistan for humanitarian operations and can make direct payments to healthcare workers and teachers in public hospitals and schools. **Agencies**

China will do its best to deliver 'streamlined, safe and splendid' Olympic Winter Games - Xi

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday delivered a video address at the opening ceremony of the 139th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), saying that China will do its best to deliver to the world a streamlined, safe and splendid Olympic Winter Games.

Xi extended a warm welcome to IOC President Thomas Bach and IOC members who have gathered in Beijing, the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, during the Spring Festival, and held the 139th IOC Session.

Noting that the world today, under the combined impact of changes unseen in a hundred years and a once-in-a-century pandemic, is entering a new period of turbulence and transformation and facing multiple challenges to humanity, Xi said the IOC has led the Olympic Movement in forging ahead with courage and fortitude, playing an important and unique role in galvanizing global solidarity and cooper-

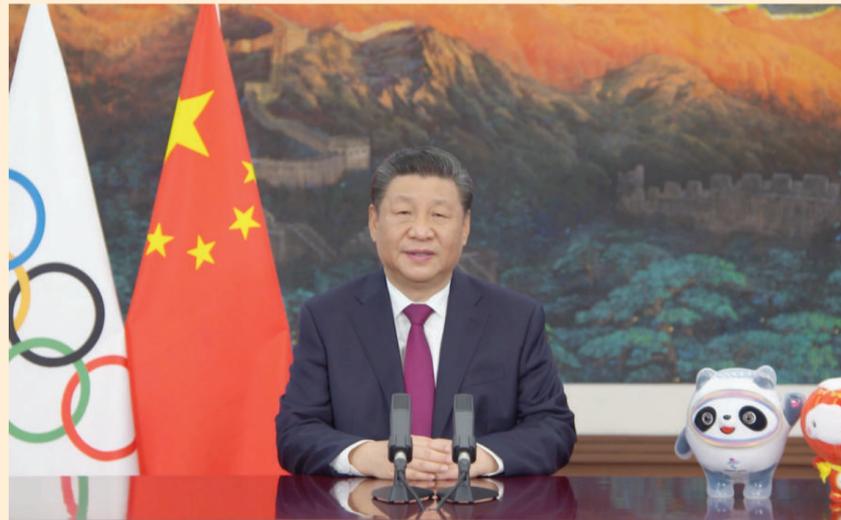
ation to tide over this difficult time.

He thanked the IOC for its active contribution to the development of sport in China over the years and for its strong support and guidance for China's bid and preparation for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

Xi stressed that from "One World, One Dream" in 2008 to "Together for a Shared Future" in 2022, China has taken an active part in the Olympic Movement and consistently championed the Olympic spirit. China is committed to pursuing the Olympic ideal with concrete actions.

"By preparing for and organizing the Winter Games, we have successfully engaged 300 million Chinese in sport on snow and ice. We have also promoted regional development, ecological conservation, green and innovative solutions and the betterment of people's lives in China, and created greater space for the development of winter sport worldwide," he said.

Noting that the Olympic Winter



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a video address at the opening ceremony of the 139th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday. Xinhua

Games Beijing 2022 will be open today, Xi said the world is turning its eyes to China, and China is ready.

"China will do its best to deliver to the world a streamlined, safe and splendid Games, and act on

the Olympic motto 'Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together.'"

Xinhua

UNECA chief says worsening food insecurity in Africa requires strong collaboration

ADDIS ABABA

STRONG collaboration is needed as the number of food insecure people on the African continent increased as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic worsened the situation, Vera Songwe, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has said.

The UNECA chief made the remarks during the opening session of the Executive Council on Wednesday, bringing together foreign ministers of African countries at the AU Headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two-day meeting is being held under the theme of the year "Build-

ing resilience in nutrition on the African continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development."

"Africa is not on track to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets to end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round and to end all forms of malnutrition," Songwe said. "Sadly, almost one in five Africans goes hungry every day. The number of hungry people on the continent reached 282 million in 2020," she added.

The UNECA chief cited the FAO food price index which indicated that food prices have been on the rise hitting the highest in a decade at 133.7 points by December 2021.

"The rising food prices pose

threats to the purchasing power of the poor that may provoke social unrest, as has been the case during the 2007/8 global spike in food price.

Progress on several SDGs may be at stake, particularly those on poverty and hunger, but also on access to social services and decent jobs," she said. She stressed that ensuring adequate food availability requires improved trade, in which intra-regional trade can help improve stability of supply and lower prices.

An ECA analysis showed that agri-food accounts for a substantial share of Africa's trade with around 16 percent and 17 percent of the value of Africa's total exports and imports, respectively.

The ECA said since 2000, Africa has turned into a net agri-food im-

porter. Songwe said the bulk of Africa's imports and exports are oriented towards the rest of the world, in which 81 percent of Africa's imports of agri-food come from outside the continent while 78 percent of Africa's exports are directed to the rest of the world.

"In this context, it is important to leverage intra-African trade in agri-foods by 42 percent, services by 40 percent and industry by 39 percent," Songwe said.

Songwe said Africa, like the rest of the world, needs to build resilience against a number of threats, which include climate change, cyber security risks and pandemics and infectious diseases, weak governance and conflict. "The health pandemic caught Africa like the rest

of the world unprepared," she said, adding "our insurance systems were not deep enough and as a collective we needed to come together to respond." According to the UNECA chief, addressing Africa's major challenges requires multiple partnerships and interventions in public and private sectors, at local, national, regional, continental and global levels.

"We need to target interventions in key areas that include climate resilient agriculture, climate resilient infrastructure investments, especially in roads, renewable energy and access to electricity and telecommunications, innovative financing, development of market infrastructure and fostering a conducive business environment; and leveraging the AF-CFTA," she said. **Xinhua**

German chancellor announces plans to meet with Putin in Moscow in near future

BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz plans to hold a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in the near future, as he himself said in an interview with the ZDF TV channel on Wednesday.



"I will soon talk [with Putin] in Moscow, discussing the necessary issues. There is a need for a well-coordinated policy towards the European Union and NATO," Scholz (pictured) pointed out. "It [the meeting] is scheduled to take place in the near future," he added without specifying the date of his visit to Moscow.

Scholz noted that he maintained active contact on the Ukraine issue with allies and partners in the European Union.

"There is almost nothing else that concerns us. And I certainly have talked with the Russian president and we are currently making the necessary preparations," he said, adding that he would make a visit to the US soon.

According to the German government, Scholz has held only one telephone conversation with Putin after he took office on December 8.

In their December 21 call, the German chancellor and the Russian president discussed Russia's military build-up along Ukraine's border with Scholz expressing concern about the situation and emphasizing the need for de-escalation, the German cabinet said.

Besides, the parties touched upon the implementation of the Minsk Agreements aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The German chancellor highlighted the need to ensure progress in talks on the Normandy Four platform.

Scholz is expected to meet with US President Joe Biden on February 7.

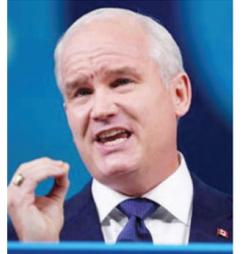
According to the White House, "the leaders will discuss their shared commitment to both ongoing diplomacy and joint efforts to deter further Russian aggression against Ukraine."

"They will also discuss the importance of continued close cooperation on a range of common challenges, including ending the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the threat of climate change, and promoting economic prosperity and international security based on our shared democratic values," the White House added.

Top Canadian opposition leader ousted in boost for PM Trudeau

OTTAWA

CANADIAN Conservative lawmakers on Wednesday ousted Erin O'Toole as leader, angry over the main opposition party's third straight loss to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals in a 2021 election.



Legislators voted 73 to 45 to replace O'Toole, who took over as head of the Conservative Party in August 2020. He had vowed to defeat Trudeau but instead led the right-leaning party to a disappointing finish in 2021 elections.

O'Toole, in remarks posted on Facebook, said he would remain in Parliament, pledging "unwavering loyalty" to the next leader.

The party selected Candice Bergen, the Conservative's deputy head, as interim leader on Wednesday night ahead of a convention to choose a permanent successor to O'Toole, according to a statement.

Bergen, in parliament since 2008, faced criticism last year after an undated photo emerged of her wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat, a slogan of former US president Donald Trump.

Some disenchanted Conservatives said O'Toole had pulled the party too far into the middle during the campaign, announcing major policies without consultation.

O'Toole, who represents a parliamentary district in the vote-rich province of Ontario, said the tactic was needed to attract more moderate voters.

But the move irritated many in his party, which has a strong populist wing. His ouster means it is likely the Conservatives will now swing more to the right.

"What's next is they lose the next election," said one gloomy former senior Conservative official.

Potential leadership candidates include the party's finance critic Pierre Poilievre, a lawmaker who is a favorite of the right wing. He strongly backed a protest by truckers opposed to COVID-19 vaccine mandates which has paralyzed central Ottawa.

RECENTLY, the railway container terminal at Wangjiaying West station, Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province, has become super busy.

Gigantic crane arms are hoisting fully loaded containers onto freight trains, and numerous commodities are being shipped to Vientiane from the terminal along the newly opened China-Laos Railway, including vegetables, flowers, daily necessities, and mechanical and electrical products.

The China-Laos Railway, bringing closer Kunming and Vientiane, has expanded new space for social and economic development of China and Laos.

The China-Laos Railway is a flagship project of China-Laos mutually beneficial cooperation. Since it was opened, both cargo and passenger services

China-Laos Railway injects new momentum into regional development

have been on a huge demand, which indicates that the project, facilitating the production and lives of the people along the route and boosting local economic development, is creating new opportunities.

As a signature project of the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road, the China-Laos Railway, upon completion, is enhancing the bond between the Chinese people and the Lao people with enhanced infrastructure. It has put an end to the history when Yunnan's Pu'er and Xishuangbanna were not connected to rail service, and brought a modern railway to the people in Laos, making trips much easier for the people along the route.

In the past month and more, an average of 23.5 pairs of passenger trains were put into operation on a daily basis, with the single-day highest reaching 31.5. A total of 700,000 passengers took the rail service during this period of time, and around 75,000 of them were outside China.

During the New Year holiday, a new pair of bullet trains running between Vientiane and Boten were put into operation to meet the transportation demand of the Lao people.

Offering safe and convenient services, the China-Laos Railway is favored by both Chinese and foreign passengers. It is enhancing people's welfare and contributing to regional prosper-

ity.

The China-Laos Railway has built an economic corridor connecting the Chinese market and Southeast Asia and South Asia, shaping a new pattern of opening-up with Kunming as the center, which docks with the new western land-sea corridor in the east, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor in the west, ASEAN countries in the south and the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle in the north.

As of Jan. 17, Kunming customs had inspected and green-lighted 153 international trains running on the China-Laos Railway, which carried 59,500 metric tons of cargos with a total value

of nearly 1.07 billion yuan (\$169 million). The railway has forged a transportation network that covers nine Chinese provinces, as well as 10 countries joining the Belt and Road Initiative. It means that to some extent, the China-Laos Railway is gradually driving regional connectivity.

Today, it takes as short as only 26 hours for cargo trains to arrive in Vientiane from Kunming. The low-cost and efficient transportation is injecting new impetus into regional development.

As the starting point of the China-Laos Railway, Yunnan province has been taking advantages of its regional features to grasp opportunities. It has

accelerated the development of the warehousing, logistics, cold-chain transport and green food manufacturing industries, further optimized the industrial structure along the rail route and strengthened industrial support, so as to integrate itself deeper into the cross-border industrial chain, supply chain and value chain facing the Southeast Asian and South Asian market and to build a new engine for high-quality opening-up and development.

It is believed that, with the official implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the China-Laos Railway will become an even bigger catalyst for regional economy and better serve the construction of the Belt and Road.

People's Daily

Putin lauds Russian-Chinese relations as model of efficiency, responsibility

MOSCOW

RELATIONS between Russia and China have reached an unprecedented level and become a model of efficiency, responsibility and aspiration for the future, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an article for China's Xinhua news agency, published on the Kremlin website yesterday.

The article, titled Russia and China: A Future-Oriented Strategic Partnership, came out ahead of Putin's tomorrow visit to Beijing, where he will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games.

According to the Russian president, he is "pleased to address directly the large Chinese and foreign audience of Xinhua, the world's largest news agency."

Principles of Russian-Chinese relations

The Russian leader emphasized that Russia and China "are close neighbors bound by centuries-old traditions of friendship and trust." "We highly appreciate that Russian-Chinese relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation, entering a new era, have reached an unprecedented level and have become a model of efficiency, responsibility, and aspiration for the future," Putin noted.

He pointed out that "the basic principles and guidelines for joint work were defined by our countries in the Treaty of Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, the twentieth anniversary of which we celebrated last year." "These are, first and foremost, equality, consideration of one another's interests, freedom from political and ideological circumstances, as well as from the vestiges of the past."

These are the principles we are consistently building on year after year in the spirit of continuity to deepen our political dialogue. Despite the difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we are striving to dynamically build the capacity of economic partnerships and expand humanitarian exchanges," the Russian leader wrote.

Agenda of talks

"During the upcoming visit, the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and I will thoroughly discuss key issues on the bilateral, regional, and global agendas. It is symbolic that our meeting will take place during the Spring Festival - the Chinese Lunar New Year. After all, as the Chinese saying goes, 'make your whole year's plan in the spring'," Putin noted.

According to him, "the development of business ties will certainly be given special attention." "There is every opportunity for this as our countries have substantial financial, industrial, technological and human resources allowing us to successfully resolve long-term development issues."



Russian President Vladimir Putin

portunity for this as our countries have substantial financial, industrial, technological and human resources allowing us to successfully resolve long-term development issues."

By working together, we can achieve stable economic growth and improve the well-being of our citizens, strengthen our competitiveness, and stand together against today's risks and challenges," Putin said.

Global issues

The Russian leader stressed that "an important part of the visit will be a discussion of relevant international topics." "The coordination of the foreign policy of Russia and China is based on close and coinciding approaches to solving global and regional issues."

Our countries play an important stabilizing role in today's challenging international environment, promoting the democratization of the system of interstate relations to make it more equitable and inclusive."

We are working together to strengthen the central coordinating role of the United Nations in global affairs and to prevent the international legal system, with the UN Charter at its center, from being eroded," the Russian president said.

He added that "Russia and China are actively cooperating on the broadest agenda within BRICS, RIC, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as other associations."

"Within the G20, we are committed to taking national specifics into account when formulating our recommendations, be it the fight against pandemics or the implementation of the climate agenda."

Thanks to a large extent to our countries' shared solidarity, following the 2021 G20 Summit in Rome informed decisions were made on international cooperation to restore economic growth, recognize vaccines and vaccine certificates, optimize energy transitions, and reduce digitalization risks," Putin specified.

He stated that the two countries "also have convergent positions on international trade issues."

"We advocate maintaining an open, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system based on the rules of the World Trade Organization. We support relaunching of global supply chains," Putin noted.

"Back in March 2020, Russia proposed an initiative on 'green trade corridors' that excludes any sanctions, political and administrative barriers. Its implementation is a useful aid to overcoming the economic consequences of the pandemic," the Russian president said.

Mutually beneficial cooperation

When speaking about economic cooperation, Putin pointed out that "at the end of 2021, the volume of mutual trade increased by more than a third, exceeding the record level of 140 billion US dollars." "We are well on the way towards our goal of increasing the volume of trade to 200 billion US dollars a year," he added.

"A number of important initiatives are being implemented in the investment, manufacturing, and agro-industrial sectors," Putin noted. "We are consistently expanding the practice of settlements in national currencies and creating mechanisms to offset the negative impact of unilateral sanctions," he stressed.

Putin pointed out that "a mutually beneficial energy alliance is being formed between our countries." "Along with long-term supplies of Russian hydrocarbons to China, we have plans to implement a number of large-scale joint projects."

The construction of four new power units at Chinese nuclear power plants with the participation of Rosatom State Corporation launched last year is one of them. All this significantly strengthens the

energy security of China and the Asia region as a whole," the Russian president emphasized.

"We see an array of opportunities in the development of partnerships in information and communication technologies, medicine, space exploration, including the use of national navigation systems and the International Lunar Research Station project," he added.

Fight against pandemic

The head of state expressed gratitude "to our Chinese colleagues for their assistance in launching the production of Russian Sputnik V and Sputnik Light vaccines in China and for the timely supply of necessary protective equipment to our country." "We hope that this cooperation will develop and strengthen," Putin said.

Interests of tourists

Putin noted that "in the last two years, the number of tourists, joint mass events, and direct contacts between our citizens has reduced due to the pandemic." However, he was confident that Russia and China "will catch up and, as soon as the situation allows, will launch new outreach and educational programs to introduce our citizens to the history and present-day life of the two countries." "President Xi Jinping and I have agreed to hold the Years of Russian-Chinese cooperation in physical fitness and sports in 2022 and 2023," Putin added.

Far Eastern development

Putin believes that "one of Russia's strategic objectives is to accelerate the social and economic upliftment of Siberia and the Russian Far East," which are "immediate neighbors of the PRC."

"We also intend to actively develop inter-regional ties. Thus, the modernization of the Baikal-Amur Mainline and the Trans-Siberian Railway has been started. By 2024, their capacity must increase one and a half times through higher volumes of transit cargo and reduced transport time. The port infrastructure in the Russian Far East is also growing. All this should further enhance the complementarity of the Russian and Chinese economies," the head of state said.

He also added that "the conservation of nature and shared ecosystems remains an important area of bilateral cross-border and interregional cooperation."

Against politicization of sports Putin stated that "Russia and China are leading sporting nations renowned for their sporting traditions and not once have hosted the largest international competitions with dignity." "I fondly remember my visit to Beijing in August 2008 to attend the 2008 Summer Olympics opening ceremony. Guests and athletes from Russia will remember the vivid performance for a long time, and the Games themselves were organized with the scale and exceptional hospitality inherent to our Chinese friends. For our part, we were delighted to host President Xi Jinping at the opening of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi," he noted.

Agencies

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Torch Relay

Time: Feb. 2 to 4
Location: competition zones in Central Beijing
Yanqing District in Beijing
Zhangjiakou City in Hebei

Design

Route

1,200 Torchbearers

Feb. 2

- Beijing Olympic Forest Park
- Beijing Winter Olympics Park

Feb. 3, a.m.

- Badaling Great Wall
- The International Grape Exhibition Garden

Feb. 3, p.m.

- Nihewan Ruins Park
- Desheng Village
- Zhangjiakou Industrial Culture Theme Park
- Fulong Ski Resort
- Dajingmen Great Wall

Feb. 4

- The Summer Palace
- Beijing Olympic Forest Park
- Beijing Grand Canal Forest Park

New attempt

- Amphibious robots and underwater robots will be used in the torch relay at the Beijing Winter Olympic Park.
- It marks the first time in the history of the Olympic Games that the torch is passed from robot to robot.

PD International
人民日报国际部

Pandemic fatigued Aussie workers seek greener pastures

SYDNEY

THE prolonged COVID-19 pandemic is taking its toll on Australian employees with many complaining of feeling "burned out" by increased workloads or worried about returning to their workplaces and many are actively searching for a new, less stressful job.

The list of grievances is based on a national survey of more than 1,000 workers compiled in December by ELMO Software, a company that specializes in human resources and rostering issues.

The latest report of ELMO Employee Sentiment Index found that 45 percent of respondents felt burned out, an 11 percent rise from the start of last year.

The report also found that mental health days for weary workers had also become more frequent throughout the year. In the first quarter of 2021, 12 percent said they had taken a mental health day, and that figure grew to 17 percent by December.

ELMO chief executive Danny Lessem told Xinhua on Thursday that burn-out was having a "startling" effect on workers during the pandemic, noting that the psychological impact was being felt across all industries. "Coinciding with greater burn-out is elevated feelings of being overwhelmed with workloads," the report noted.

The report consequently noted that one in three workers planned to quit their current job when they could find a new one, while one in five expected to leave even without another job on the horizon. Lessem said the potentially high turnover of staff "should act as a warning to employers to meet their employees' expectations".

Other notable statistics included 22 percent of workers wanting to take a career break in 2022 and 42 percent expecting to continue to work from home part-time. Lessem said employers would need to manage the spread of COVID-19 in their workplaces as almost 70 percent of employees were concerned about catching the disease at work.

Xinhua

Brick-and-mortar stores in China win back consumers through transformation

BY making products, services, business forms, as well as other elements of their supply structure more flexible and adaptable to new changes in consumer demands, many brick-and-mortar stores in China have managed to win favor with consumers again.

In the consumer market, physical retailers serve as an important foundation for the circulation of commodities, an important carrier for guiding production and expanding consumption as well as a critical channel for vitalizing the market and ensuring employment.

Chengdu International Finance Square (Chengdu IFS), an international urban complex in southwest China's Sichuan province, provides consumers with diversified shopping experiences.

"Even if I didn't want to buy anything, it would still be fun to look around in the mall," said a citizen.

The Chengdu IFS boasts business forms covering almost all aspects of life, such as catering, leisure, entertainment and fitness, with the types of stores ranging from bookstore to musical instrument shop, tea house, flower shop, beauty salon, and fitness center.

A food court in the sky garden on the top floor of the mall is particularly popular among foodies because of its pleasant environment.

At a shopping mall of Jinan Inzone Plaza at Quancheng Square, Jinan, east China's Shandong province, a redecorated supermarket is crowded with consumers. The upgraded supermarket has adjusted its commodity structure according to consumer demands.

For instance, its livestock and aquatic products zone highlights the theme of fresh and healthy food. By demonstrating the processing of food, the supermarket offers consumers a special shopping experience during which they can get a clear idea of the appearance, smell, taste, and form of the prod-



A child tries virtual reality (VR) devices at a mall in Huainan city, east China's Anhui province, Feb. 14, 2021. File photo

ucts.

In addition, more than 1,000 kinds of goods directly imported by the supermarket from abroad have been added to the shelves. "These imported goods with distinctive characteristics sell very well," said a manager at the supermarket.

"I took my child here for its naked-eye 3D screen. It makes me feel like I'm in a science fiction world," said a consumer, referring to JD Mall, a physical shopping center built by Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com. Trendy and sci-tech elements have been widely integrated into the overall design and interactive devices of the shopping center, which is now gaining increasing popularity among local citizens and on the Internet.

Its exterior features a large naked-eye 3D screen, which produces so vivid 3D effects that things displayed on the screen seem touchable. The inside of the shopping center is equipped with various refreshing sci-tech devices and facilities, including hologram projector, virtual reality (VR) equipment, intelli-

gent robot, virtual livestreaming studio and machine room with transparent circuits.

Innovation is the direct driving force for the transformation of brick-and-mortar stores, according to Zhao Ping, deputy head with the Academy of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

In recent years, physical retail in China, while growing in size, has vigorously cultivated new business forms and models by strengthening the application of new-generation information technology concerning such fields as the Internet and big data, not only further improving efficiency in the circulation of goods and the level of services, but providing consumers with more new supplies and winning their hearts once again, Zhao noted.

"Compared with online shopping, physical stores have their unique advantages. As long as they can offer high-quality products and services, they will certainly attract customers," said an executive of Jinan Inzone Plaza.

The executive believes that brick-

and-mortar stores can truly become appealing by responding to the ever-escalating demands of consumers and satisfying young people's demands for drinking coffee and meeting friends.

Turning offline shopping into a lifestyle becomes many physical stores' magic key to greater customer stickiness. Many retail outlets have put a lot of effort into improving shoppers' experience, successfully combining shopping and entertainment functions.

"When I shopped for clothes in the mall, I always worried about how to match clothes. Now with the suggestions from fashion stylists working here, I feel much easier," said Zhang Wei, a citizen in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province. She recently purchased two outfits efficiently at Chinese retail conglomerate Yintai Group's shopping mall at Wulin Square in the city, with the help of the mall's stylists.

In response to the needs of some consumers, the shopping mall introduced styling services two years ago, which have been well received by customers, said an executive at the mall.

While developing unique curriculum to unleash the professional capabilities of shop assistants, the mall has given full play to new retailing so that customers can seek advice on styling online and make reservations online for offline styling services.

Transformation is an inevitable path for traditional shopping centers, the key of which lies in catering to consumption trends while taking into account their own locations and characteristics and ensuring scientific and rational planning and management for transformation, according to Peng Long, professor as well as executive vice president of the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics.

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT



Morogoro's Waluguru Original Band's Director, Deogratius David, who is also the band's vocalist, performs at one of the troupe's recent shows, which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Waluguru Original Music Band set for contest

By Correspondent Sabata Kasika

MOROGORO'S Waluguru Original Music Band has entered an awards competition, dubbed 'Cheza Kadansi', which is expected to take place in Mwanza this weekend.

The band's Director, Deogratius David 'Killer Boy', said that his troupe has fielded three musicians in the competition which will also search for the Best Band of the Year.

David revealed: "Our band will field rapper Greyson Semsekwa, and singer, Amina Remmy, to compete for the award for best female singer, Best Composer and Best Female Singer prizes respectively."

"There is as well soloist, Kinde Makengele, who is contesting for the Best Soloist award," he disclosed.

David stated it would be the first time for his band to perform in Mwanza in collaboration with the city's troupe, Su-

per Kamanyola Band.

According to the artist, his troupe will also use the opportunity to introduce its album, titled 'Kikao cha Wahenga'.

"Our band has an album titled 'Kikao cha Wahenga', it is made up of such tracks like 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapezi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu', and 'Nataka Nilewe', we will introduce them to Mwanza music followers," he said.

He said participating in the competition is a unique opportunity for the band to show its edge in order to gain more fans outside the Morogoro, where it has already gained much popularity.

"After the Mwanza tour, we will prepare to compose a song to promote the coronavirus vaccine so that more Tanzanians can come forward to access the service as the government has been encouraging them to do so," he said.

Sulle to take part in Eastern Africa Half Marathon Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN athlete, Fabian Sulle, will depart for Eritrea next week to compete at Eastern Africa Half Marathon Championships which will be held in Asmara.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information Officer, Rogath Stephen, said the championships will be held at the end of next week.

He said the athlete is undergoing intensive training ahead of the championships.

"Our athlete Fabian Sulle will represent the country at the coming East Africa Half Marathon which will be held in Eritrea, he is preparing well for the event, although he will not be accompanied by coach, we hope he will do well at the championships" he said.

Meanwhile, Stephen said another runner, Cecilia Ginoka, will represent the country at the World Tour Cross-Country Championships in Kenya. He said the Kenya event will be held next Saturday.

He said World Tour Cross-Country Championships are exciting yet challenging hence the local athlete has stepped up training.

In another development, the AT information officer said the country will be represented by two athletes only at the East Africa Cross-Country Championships slated for next Sunday in Ethiopia.

He mentioned the two as Jackline Sakilu and Faraja Damas while Thomas

John will be the head coach of the two.

The two were selected at the just ended National Cross-Country Championships which were held last Saturday at Burkana Estates in Arusha.

Initially AT announced that it will send 12 athletes to the Ethiopia Championships but Stephen said they have failed to raise money for all athletes.

"Our plan was to send 12 athletes to East Africa Cross-Country Championships, but we have failed to raise the money."

"Jackline and Damas's costs are paid for by the Confederation of Africa Athletics (CAA), if we will get support from well-wishers the other athletes will travel to Ethiopia, but for now the two and one coach are ready for the trip," he said.

The East African Cross-Country Championships is also known as the Eastern Africa Cross-Country Championships.

It is an international cross-country running competition between the nations of East Africa and is organized by the Confederation of Africa Athletics (CAA).

It is typically held over one day in February and features a senior and junior race for both men and women.

All four races contain an individual and team competition. Senior short course races were also held during the period where that event was present at the IAAF World Cross-Country Championships.

A tale of two wins, setting off city rivals' psychological restart

By Correspondent John Kimbute

AFTER leaving club fans heart broken and in disbelief as to title chances, Simba SC players did the right thing when they met distant rivals Dar City FC, with a 6-0 thumping to send a message that it is still a hardnosed and well drilled side.

At the same time their next street rivals, Young Africans SC, alias 'Yanga', met Mbao FC with whom they have a battered memory, and rather nervously disposed of the side 1-0, touching off a new round of psychological contention. What do the wins mean for prospects of each side?

Some pundits in early morning reviews tried to belittle the Simba SC free scoring win at the Benjamin Mkapa arena, one for instance repeatedly insisting that an elephant had crushed a tiny ant, or something of the sort.

Only later did some cooler heads start unwrapping what either side represents the various league rankings, and there it was abundant what can be read in the winning note that either side obtained.

The comparison was made easier by the fact that the two other sides play in the same league and are easier to set off as to which is the better side, unlike if one was at a higher league, thus automatically rated higher.

There was a sort of psychological set up, not to say a trap, that allowed Yanga to get away gleefully with a narrow win on a poorly rated side in the first division (actually the third division if the premier league is the first division and the championship is the proper second division).

While a number of commentators kept writing off Dar City FC as non-competitor, intimating that the Simba SC result was not something to write home about, the 1-0 piping of Mbao FC appeared to be more dignified, as the team carried a well-respect-



Simba SC defender, Pascal Wawa (2nd R), shoots past Dar City FC defenders when the outfits met in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) round of 32's duel that took place in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

ed tag as premier league hard hitters in the past. At one point they survived relegation by beating... Yanga.

This comes to a literary expression that says 'looks is deceiving...' as the Mbao FC looks in the image of its former past, and especially when it was being drawn against the Jangwani Street side, which has an indelible memory of the once mighty Mwanza city soccer side.

At that time they were strugglers in the premier league, and as usual the currently leading title chasers knew it would be a late afternoon stroll, and scarcely took time to study the Mbao FC game, or think out how Mbao FC would confront them. So their game pattern would squarely have resembled what the other team's coach expected, so he enjoyed the tie.

What is surprising is that apparently the same situation came up again, on the basis of the fact that Mbao FC is now so far flung in league standing that it is not a side to be rated as a contestant to Yanga on a one to one basis.

Yet it pulled off a respectable

margin which perhaps the side didn't quite expect, short of reliving their old memories and cherishing hopes that it would be the same as at that time.

Misplaced as that idea seems, it is likely to have given an impetus to the 'first' division side to play its game quite well.

The Simba SC-Dar City FC match was a totally different issue, not padded with memories of past performances to give undue credibility to the clear underdogs, facing a Simba SC that had all reasons to prove the players still merit the confidence of the fans, the coach and the leadership.

Each player knew he had something to prove, that the team's collective weakness didn't start at the position he plays, in which case individual need to prove something led to collective performance that had lacked for a while.

And it was also fitting with a pattern over the years, that when either of the archrivals is humbled and people chuckle all over the place, the next team that takes the pitch with it pays the price, and the 6-0 result is sort of appointed

score.

Yet the more substantial result is the difference between the two first division sides that faced the city rivals, in that Dar City FC is ranked near the top of the league standings, while Mbao FC is ranked close to the bottom of that same league standings.

In that sense it is evident that the Msimbazi Street side trounced a good side in a way that is without appeal that is rediscovered its game and is on a winning streak.

That could hardly be said for Yanga as they rode into the pitch with the same easy attitude and just won.

A few pundits would affirm that Yanga won over Mbao FC because it is a much reduced side, having lost most of their players who had premier league experience, those who gave the Jangwani Street side their change at that time.

It means Yanga have to look over the shoulder after that win, and especially if they want to take a realistic attitude as to where they are with Simba SC. But as they say, old attitudes die hard.



Athletes take part in a recent Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon which took place in Moshi.

2022's K'njaro Marathon registration ends next week

By Guardian Correspondent

WITH almost three weeks left to the 20th Anniversary of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2022, organizers have reminded participants that the registration deadline is February 7.

A statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday, indicated that registration for the marathon will end on the midnight of February 7, 2022 hence those who have not registered should do so to avoid last minute rush and inconveniences as registration is online.

The organizers revealed: "Registration is through our website www.kilimanjaromarathon.com or through Tigo Pesa by dialing *149*20#."

"The system will close down after February 7, 2022 hence people should register within these few days that are left," the organizers stated.

The organizers confirmed that only registration for the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run will continue after February 7, 2022 but for Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km race and Tigo 21km race will close.

"We wish to remind participants that if the entries are full before February 7, we will have to close registration before that date," the statement stated.

According to the statement, those registering have to pay to confirm their registration.

The organizers said that soon

they will announce race number collection points and dates in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Moshi.

On another note, the organizers said for the first time, they will host the Kili Expo (The People's Expo) where sponsors and other stakeholders will get the chance to showcase their products and services for three days from February 24-26 at the MoCU ground.

"The expo is meant to give the public a true Kili Marathon experience and we will also have number collection this time happening at MoCU and not Keys Hotel as it used to happen in the previous years," the organizers noted.

Sponsors for this year's 20th Anniversary event include Kiliman-

jaro Premium Lager- Main sponsor, Tigo- 21km, Grand Malt -5km.

Water table sponsors are Absa Tanzania, Unilever Tanzania, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, and Kilimanjaro Water.

GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, Surveyed Plots Company Ltd, Tanzanian Tourism Board and CMC Automobiles are the event's official suppliers.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, which will be held on Sunday February 27, 2022 at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) ground.

It is organized by the Kilimanjaro Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Olympics chief snaps at FIFA for World Cup plan

BEIJING

FIFA's fading plan for biennial World Cups was labeled a threat to football and all other sports by the International Olympic Committee on Thursday. IOC President Thomas Bach lambasted FIFA counterpart Gianni Infantino, an IOC member for the past two years, for not being in Beijing to hear the criticism.

"We all would have very much liked to discuss the FIFA proposal for a biennial World Cup together with the FIFA president and IOC member," Bach told about 100 colleagues at the traditional pre-Olympic meeting, with some there in person and others viewing remotely.

Bach added, in a break from the usual politeness of IOC gatherings, that talking to Infantino directly "is not possible... because he canceled his visit to Beijing the day before yesterday."

Infantino was expected to be watching remotely, either from FIFA's home city Zurich or Doha, where he has been living ahead of this year's World Cup. The tournament in Qatar starts in November.

The FIFA president has been pushing a plan to stage World Cups for men and women every two years instead of four. FIFA believes the plan will accelerate development in soccer worldwide, close the gap on the European clubs and national teams that dominate competitions, and add billions of dollars in revenue it can share among its 211 national federations.

Infantino has strong support from Africa for the plan. But the European and South American soccer bodies have said they will boycott biennial tournaments.

The FIFA plan has "no chance" of succeeding, South American soccer president Alejandro Dominguez told The Associated Press last week.

Mustapha Berraf, the president of the African group of national Olympic committees, led the IOC's opposition on Thursday, saying biennial World Cups would have a "heavy impact" on his continent.

"The plan promoted by FIFA as we speak would create immeasurable damage and put in danger sport in general," Berraf said.

IOC executive board member Nenad Lalovic, representing summer sports, and Olympic table tennis gold medalist Seung Min Ryu said adding extra World Cups would add to players' workload and put their health at risk.

After four interventions from IOC members, Bach asked for and was given applause to convey the feeling of the room back to Infantino.

Aubameyang finally joins Barcelona with break clause in 2023

BARCELONA

BARCELONA finally confirmed the signing of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang on Wednesday, handing the 32-year-old a contract until 2025 but with a break clause after 18 months.

Aubameyang was able to join Barca on a free transfer, in the most dramatic deal of the transfer window, after Arsenal terminated their former captain's contract.

The break clause can be activated in June 2023, Barca confirmed, when his Arsenal contract had been due to expire.

Aubameyang has also taken a significant cut on his Arsenal salary to complete the move although it is likely his terms will improve after this season, when Barcelona's salary limit is due to increase.

"The player will sign a contract until 30 June 2025 with an option to agree departure on 30 June 2023 and his buy out clause will be set at 100 million euros," a Barcelona statement read.

Aubameyang's surprise move brings an end to an increasingly embittered spell at Arsenal, who will be relieved to be rid of his wages, which reportedly started at 300,000 euros (\$337,000) a week.

Barcelona, meanwhile, will believe one of the world's deadliest finishers in his prime can now fire them into La Liga's top four, with Champions League qualification essential to the club's hopes of financial recovery.

"It's Auba time!" declared Barca as they announced the striker's arrival as a free agent. The club's tweet also included a video of Aubameyang declaring "I'm here Barcelona fans! Forca Barca!"

Barcelona are "one of the biggest clubs in the world and that is why I have signed for Barca", he said.

"It was a very long day, but in the end I'm here, I'm looking forward to it and I'm very happy."

French-born Aubameyang is, like his father Pierre, a Gabon international. His mother was born near Madrid before moving to France as a child.

"I'm very proud especially because my family is Spanish by my mother's side," said Aubameyang.

The move gives him the set of the five major European leagues, although he never played in Serie A for AC Milan, where he began his career and starred for the youth team.

"I have experience, I played in Germany, in France, in England, so I'm here to help and give the maximum for the team."

- 'Disciplinary breach' -

It was a spectacular way for Barcelona to end an active transfer window.

AFP

Mane and Senegal break Burkina Faso hearts to reach AFCON final

YAOUNDE

SENEGAL are through to a second consecutive Africa Cup of Nations final after breaking Burkina Faso hearts in their last-four tie in Yaounde on Wednesday. Abdou Diallo, Idrissa Gana Gueye and Sadio Mane scoring second-half goals to secure a 3-1 victory.

Africa's top-ranked national team, Senegal were to find out their opponents in Sunday's final later yesterday, when hosts Cameroon were to take on Egypt in the second semi.

"We dedicate this win to our people," said Senegal coach Aliou Cisse.

"We are really satisfied this evening. Our objective is to win the trophy because that is what the boys deserve given everything they have put into this."

Cisse's side had two penalties awarded in the first half only for the Ethiopian referee to change his mind both times following a VAR review.

However, they went ahead just after the midway point in the second period when Paris Saint-Germain defender Diallo popped up in the box to produce a striker's finish.

The second arrived on 76 minutes as Mane provided a superb assist for Gueye, also of PSG, to score, and Mane completed the win late on after Blati Toure had pulled a goal back.

Senegal's two possible final opponents are the most successful sides in AFCON history with 12 titles between them, while the Lions of Teranga are still searching for their first continental crown, two and a half years after



Senegal are back in the final after finishing runners-up to Algeria in 2019 (AFP)

losing to Algeria in the final in Cairo.

"We knew it was not going to be at all easy to get to two straight AFCON finals, but the most important for us now is to go all the way and win it, whoever we come up against," said Mane.

Senegal's opponents here could not be underestimated.

Burkina Faso have shown themselves to be a talented young side and one driven on by the desire to give joy to supporters in a country reeling after President Roch Marc Christian Kabore was overthrown in a military coup last week.

That happened to a backdrop of a jihadist insurgency in the landlocked country, and their coach, Kamou Malo, talked of the events giving his team "added motivation".

- Keeper Koffi carried off -

They showed plenty of fight and matched their opponents for long spells, but they did not trouble Chelsea's Edouard Mendy in the Senegal goal often enough.

Mendy's opposite number, Herve Koffi, was stretched off half an hour in after landing horribly as he went up to punch the ball clear in

an aerial challenge with Cheikhou Kouyate.

Referee Bamlak Tessema initially gave a spot-kick before changing his mind after a VAR review, as Kouyate was able to resume but Koffi could not.

"There is nothing to suggest he is seriously hurt, but he is undergoing further tests just so we can be reassured," said Malo, who said his side had enjoyed "a wonderful adventure".

Referee Tessema also pointed to the spot in first-half injury time when a Gueye shot struck the arm of Burkina Faso's Edmond Tapsoba in the area, but again he changed his mind

after a review of the images showed the defender's arm was in close to his body.

The breakthrough arrived with 20 minutes left, Kalidou Koulibaly trying an acrobatic attempt at a corner and inadvertently setting up Diallo to score, beating substitute keeper Soufiane Farid Ouedraogo.

Senegal's pressing made the second goal as Mane got to the byline and set up Gueye, who just beat Bamba Dieng to the finish. It was always going to be a huge ask after that for the Stallions against a Senegal side who had conceded only once in the whole tournament.

They did reduce the deficit eight minutes from time as Issa Kabore's cross was diverted in by Toure's knee.

Mane had the final say, though, bursting clear in the 87th minute to make it 3-1.

He was to find out later yesterday if he will come up against his Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah and Egypt in the final.

Meanwhile, Sadio Mane hailed his Senegal teammates after they beat Burkina Faso 3-1 in Yaounde on Wednesday to reach their second consecutive Africa Cup of Nations final.

"It shows you the momentum we have. We knew it was not going to be at all easy to get to two straight AFCON finals, but the most important for us now is to go all the way and win it, whoever we come up against," Mane said after scoring one goal

and making another in the semi-final.

Abdou Diallo put Senegal ahead 20 minutes from time at the Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium in Cameroon's capital, before Mane set up the second goal for Idrissa Gana Gueye.

He then netted the late third himself after Blati Toure had pulled a goal back.

"We were up against a really good Burkina side who caused us a lot of problems," the Liverpool star added.

"We expected a tough game and it was but we stayed calm and created lots of chances. I think we deserved to win tonight."

Mane, who now has three goals at the tournament, could not keep the smile off his face as he looked forward to the chance to win the trophy.

"I think you can see on my face how happy I am which is completely normal. I am really proud personally and very happy for myself, my teammates and the country."

Africa's top-ranked national team, Senegal lost to Algeria in the 2019 final in Egypt.

They will play either the hosts Cameroon or Egypt in Sunday's final at the Olembe Stadium.

Those sides are the most successful nations in AFCON history with 12 titles between them, while Senegal have still never won the continental crown.

Asked who he preferred to face in the decider, Mane added: "We have no preference."

AFP

Analysis: Saudi role in transfer market revival in pandemic

LONDON

FOR a government in turmoil, there's little to celebrate in the corridors of power in London. Except, perhaps, the financial heft of England's soccer clubs and their ability to spend on players.

The news of Premier League spending over the last month reaching 295 million pounds (\$400 million) was celebrated by sports minister Nigel Huddleston in the hours after clubs completed their final trades of the season.

"Good to see the Premier League recovering so strongly from the pandemic," Huddleston tweeted, "with January transfer window spending levels at second highest ever."

In fact, deducting the amount recouped from sales from total expenditure showed that Premier League clubs had the highest net spend of 180 million pounds since the January transfer window was introduced in 2003, according to a tally by accountancy firm Deloitte.

The ability to so significantly revamp squads in midseason has shown the resilience of the world's richest league to weather the financial impact of the coronavirus, helped by the government ending all capacity restrictions that have continued to impede rivals in Europe.

But it's the government's warmth toward investment from Saudi Arabia that has also contributed to the headline figure trumpeted by Huddleston.

In the first transfer window since the takeover of Newcastle by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund was approved by the Premier



Eddie Howe)

League - defying the pleas of human rights activists but reflecting Britain's embrace of the kingdom - the northeast club accounted for 90 million pounds in player spending. And the Public Investment Fund would have splurged even more, as it pursued more than the five deals it got over the line before Monday's transfer cutoff.

Now this is the squad Newcastle is stuck with until May in its mission to ensure its first season with the wealthiest owners in world football does not end in relegation. Escaping the drop zone means only wiping out Norwich's single-point edge on Newcastle with 17 games remaining. To that end, manager Eddie Howe has been given three new defenders, a midfielder and a striker.

Kieran Trippier, who was part of England's run to the 2018 World Cup semifinals and Euro 2020 final, is the recruit with the most star power.

It is only the start -

City, although this was a more restrained transfer window, reflecting the nine-point lead enjoyed by Pep Guardiola's side at the top of the Premier League. After letting Ferran Torres join Barcelona for around \$60 million, City spent only a third securing another young attacker with potential - the 22-year-old Argentine, Julian Alvarez - who will be played from next season.

While the most expensive single signing was the 60 million euros second-placed Liverpool committed to signing Luis Diaz from Porto, the other teams in the top five - Chelsea, Manchester United and West Ham - spent nothing.

Instead, more than half of the league's spending was by teams in the bottom five, with an estimated outlay of 150 million pounds by them, according to Deloitte.

The desperation to avoid relegation is reflected by Everton, which is in 16th place and four points above

the drop zone, spending more than 50 million pounds on players on top of the cost of replacing manager Rafa Benitez with Frank Lampard.

"This transfer window indicates that the financial pressures of COVID on Premier League clubs are easing," said Dan Jones, head of sports at Deloitte, "with spending firmly back to pre-pandemic levels and remarkably among the highest we've ever seen in January."

It reinforces England's elevated status apart from its European rivals, underpinned by a growth in the value of international broadcast rights. The second-biggest spenders in January were Serie A clubs whose total of 175 million euros (almost \$200 million) was almost half the outlay by Premier League rivals.

Next were La Liga clubs who spent 75 million euros on transfers, followed by 65 million euros across Ligue 1 in France and 60 million euros by the Bundesliga.

Calum Ross, assistant director in the Sports Business Group at Deloitte, commented: "In stark contrast to January 2021, the wider European transfer market appears buoyant. Many clubs are starting to bounce back from significant COVID-induced reductions, with rising revenues re-activating activity within the transfer market."

While total spending across Europe's big five leagues rose to 735 million euros from 460 million euros last January, the figure was almost 1 billion euros in 2020 before the coronavirus spread across Europe, disrupting leagues and revenue streams.

"Provided fans continue to return to stadiums and disruption to the football season ahead remains limited," Ross said, "we should see revenues, and therefore transfer spend, continue to increase in the seasons ahead."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mane and Senegal break
Burkina Faso hearts to
reach AFCON final

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DTB FC's striker, Amisi Tambwe. DIAMOND TRUST BANK FC

DTB FC forwards in pursuit of 2021/22 Championship's top goalscorer prize

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM'S Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC's Burundian forward, Amisi Tambwe, and teammate, Ghanaian Nicholas Gyan, have intensified the chase for the golden boot prize in this season's Championship.

Tambwe and Gyan are now holding the top two spots in the list of leading goalscorers in the second tier of domestic soccer, thereby gaining an edge in the pursuit of the golden boot prize.

Tambwe leads the Championship's leading goalscorers' list with 12 goals as he keeps on finding the opponents' back of the net every match, while fellow striker, Gyan, has netted 10 goals to keep pressure on his teammate.

The duo, who once played for the NBC Premier League side, Simba SC, is currently untouchable when it comes to netting goals.

They are virtually not giving each other breathing space, as far as the race for the top scorer's accord is concerned.

So far, it has been a good ride for DTB FC as it has managed to complete the first round of the tournament unscathed from 15 games, such an achievement is a bonus to the side ahead of the second round.

The Championship leader has won 12 duels and settled for a draw in three outings in 15 fixtures.

If DTB FC continues with the same energy in the forthcoming second round, the club's objective to win promotion to 2022/23 Premier League will be achievable.

However, the level of investment that DTB has pumped into the squad by bringing onboard quality players from both in and outside the country is now bearing tangible fruits.

The side has also strengthened its technical bench by hiring well-qualified coaches who are also pushing for remarkable results in the team.

Mbeya's Ihefu SC sits second in the league's log with 35 points from 15 games as well hence only four points separate the two teams, the situation makes the quest for a place in the next season's top-flight interesting.

Under the tutelage of Zubeir Katwila, the Mbarali-based Ihefu SC is leaving no stone unturned in its quest to make its way back to the top-flight after taking part in the league last season.

As such, until now, the battle for the possible league promotion next season involves DTB FC and Ihefu SC since the third-placed side, Tabora's Kitayosce FC, has so far collected 28 points, seven points adrift of Ihefu SC.

In terms of goals scored, DTB FC and Ihefu SC have netted 28 goals apiece in their 15 appearances and this shows how tense the league's battle is.

The going is tough for Gwambina FC, which has not won any match in 15 games played as the side sits at the bottom of the table with six points.

Tanzanite Queens closes in on 2022 U-20 Women's World Cup qualification



Players making Tanzania's U-20 women football side, Tanzanite Queens, participate in training in Karatu, Arusha recently to shape up for the rematch of the fourth round of African qualifiers for U-20 Women's World Cup against Ethiopia's U-20 side, which will take place in Ethiopia today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S national U-20 women football side, Tanzanite Queens, will be out to close in on making it to the 2022 U-20 Women's World Cup, coming up against Ethiopia U-20 squad in the rematch of the fourth round of African qualifiers in Addis Ababa today.

In the first leg between the two squads, Tanzanite Queens posted a 1-0 victory over Ethiopia U-20 in the clash that took place at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar on January 23.

Striker, Christer Bahera, netted the all-important goal for Tanzanite Queens in the 64th minute to put the squad in pole position heading to the rematch.

A win by Tanzanite Queens will see the girls book a place in the fifth and final round of the qualifiers.

The 2022 U-20 Women's World

Cup will be played in Costa Rica from August 10-28.

A brilliantly taken set piece by Christer made the difference for the Tanzania girls in the first leg.

Tanzanite Queens had more than 10 days to prepare under head coach, Bakari Shime, as they camped in Karatu, Arusha to get used to Ethiopia's climate.

In his update before the squad's trip to Addis Ababa, Shime said his charges are well prepared to fight hard and make it to the fifth round of the qualifiers.

"We hope that we will use this venue to get good results to propel us to the next phase of the competition, as such, we ask for massive support from all Tanzanians wherever they

are," Shime said.

"Everything has gone well in the camp. We know that we are going to Ethiopia to fight for one place out of two allotted for Africa's envoys for the U-20 Women World Cup finals this year," Shime added.

"All I have decided to do is succeed to impart instructions that could not be implemented in the first leg."

He added that his players are on full throttle for the match and that based on the level of preparations they have had, morale among them is high to fight for the national colours.

"My players know the importance of this game, they are in full morale and commitment to interpreting everything I have directed on the training pitch to the stadium so that we can get positive results," Shime noted.

The coach pointed out that managing to hold Ethiopia and prevent them from scoring an away goal is an advantage to his team before the rematch.

A 1-0 win in the first leg does not mean the job is over because of the quality of the Ethiopians who commanded an 8-2 aggregate victory over Botswana in the third-round match.

If Tanzanite Queens qualifies for the Costa Rica finals, it will be the first time for the squad to make it to the big stage of the women's football showdown.

The showpiece will give the players a platform to be spotted by other women's clubs across the world.

Two teams from Africa will have a chance to represent the continent at the finals which attract 16 teams.

Japan is the current U-20 Women's World Cup defending champion after clinching it in 2018.

Tanzania's Premier League rated 10th in Africa

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S NBC Premier League is now placed 10th in the list of the best leagues in Africa.

The International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) announced the rating yesterday.

The IFFHS report has mentioned the 10 strongest national leagues in Africa, with Tanzania's league featuring in the list.

The league had moved nine steps up from 71st in 2020 to 62nd in the world last year.

Egypt's national football league is on top in the continent, followed by Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Zambia in that order. The Brazil Premier League is on top of the world.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) yesterday also posted the news on the federation's official website.

The move from 71st to 62nd spot in the world was expected as clubs in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League have in recent years made a tremendous investment by signing many top foreign players and foreign coaches.

The investment and arrival of foreign players have made the Premier League one of the more competitive, unpredictable, and most followed leagues in the continent and the world at large.

Meanwhile, TFF Technical Director, Oscar Mirambo, has said the ongoing CAF Diploma D coaching



Prisons' keeper, Aron Kalambo (L), vainly seeks to save an attempt by Mbeya City FC forward Peter Mapunda (C) when the sides locked horns in an NBC Premier League duel that took place in Rukwa last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBEYA CITY FC

course will help to improve the game in the country.

The federation is organizing the course at its offices at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Mirambo said in modern football it is good for coaches to have good knowledge of the game.

"For football to grow in the country there is a need to have qualified coaches and individuals from other sectors," he said.

He said having qualified coaches help clubs to play with a purpose and proper system, as well as being compact and organized.

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Flexibles by David Chikoko

