



TOURISM



298 TOURISTS ARRIVE AT KIA
PAGE 3

MARRIAGE



CALL FOR AMENDMENT OF 1971
MARRIAGE LAW PAGE 4

TECHNOLOGY



FOUNDATION DONATES ICT
GADGETS PAGE 6

DISEASES



CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON
RESPIRATORY DISEASES PAGE 7



TCRA hires electronic imports verifying firm

By Henry Mwangonde

IMPORTERS of electronic communication equipment will be required to pay an eco-levy and go through an inspection process at the country of export in line with the Communications Equipment Standards and E-Waste Management Act of 2020, whose regulations were drawn up later and come into effect on May 23.

John Daffa (pictured), the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) acting director general, said yesterday that the new regulations set out obligations of stakeholders involved in handling electronic communication equipment as the end of its use, namely manufacturers, importers, consumers and recyclers.

A write up from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) indicates that so far there is no global convention on handling electronic waste which imposes obligations on countries on what sort of material is allowed in the market, and on what conditions.

An online write up says ITU seeks to develop international standards to protect the environment and assist countries to develop policies and implement ITU-T standards to tackle e-waste to achieve a circular economy, where e-waste is mostly recycled.

Environment stakeholders and the public at large need to play a role in ensuring the correct disposal of electronic waste to diminish risks associated with improper disposal of used electronic devices

It similarly seeks to help companies become more sustainable and socially responsible, partly by conducting research and development on areas which include e-waste, circular economy and smart sustainable cities, the write up noted.

Raising awareness on the role of ICT in tackling environmental challenges is another area, it said.

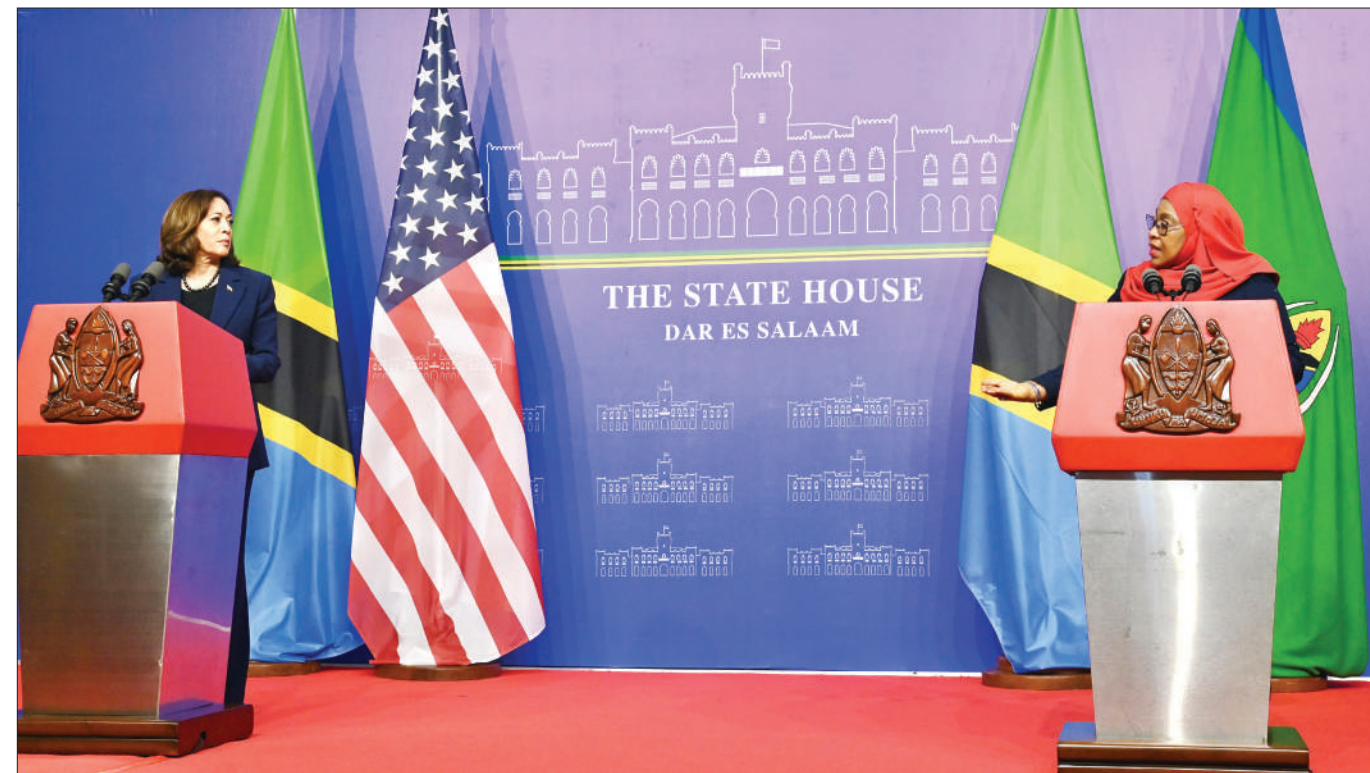
TCRA said that in fulfillment of stakeholder obligations, TCRA has contracted Bureau Veritas (T) Ltd, a testing, inspection and certification firm, for inspection services of electronic communication equipment.

Inspection and verification will be conducted at the country of export to verify that the imported material is not classifiable as waste, while facilitating the collection of advance eco levy fees, he said.

The law also obliges importers to ensure that electronic communication equipment that have reached their end of life are channeled to licensed collectors, recyclers and put to certified electronic waste treatment facilities,

TURN TO PAGE 2

US VP hails democratic shift, sets out 2024, 2025 polls aid



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and US Vice President Kamala Harris during a joint news conference at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

By Getrude Mbago

VISITING United States Vice President Kamala Harris yesterday expressed satisfaction with reforms undertaken by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, including restoring democratic freedoms, setting out new areas of bilateral cooperation.

At a news conference held at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the VP hailed President Samia for progress in various areas, with democracy and other reforms being valued in the US and elsewhere in their importance.

The visiting stateswoman has elicited excitement in Africa and beyond, in like manner as former President Barack Obama, with an August 11, 2020 biographic note saying Harris is a California senator, the first Black woman and first woman of Asian descent to be picked for running mate on a major party ticket.

In her remarks yesterday, she said under President Samia's leadership, Tanzania has taken important and meaningful steps in the direction of democracy.

"President Joe Biden and I applaud you for this, you have been open to working with political opposition, you have lifted the ban on political party public rallies, you worked to improve the freedom of the press and many other measures that have greatly helped to improve democracy in the country," she stated.

She referred to the core goal of US

Tanzania will respect all in the agreed MoUs so as to achieve the intended goals and bring transformation

cooperation as to increase investments in Tanzania and strengthen economic ties, with the US Department of State providing \$1m for projects that encourage lifting restrictions on freedom of expression for the media.

For the 2024 civic elections and the 2025 general elections, the United States will provide \$400,000 to support the work of the Tanzania Centre for Democracy to bring together stakeholders to discuss further legislative reforms. The money will also be used to building youth capacity in the political sphere, she specified.

She said the US Exim Bank will sign a memorandum of understanding for \$500m (more than 1.17trn/-) in US exports to Tanzania covering transportation, infrastructure, digital technology and clean energy, along with climate and energy security, power generation and distribution projects.

She unveiled the move where Lifezone Metals, a US firm linked with the Kabanga Nickel mining project, has entered into a framework agreement with the government to open a new multi-metals processing facility.

It will use innovative, low-emission technology to process nickel and other critical minerals mined in Tanzania, targeting delivery of battery grade nickel to the U.S. and the global market as soon as 2026, she stated.

"This project is an important and pioneering model using innovative and low emission technology and high labour standards," she stated, noting that importantly, key renewable energy minerals

TURN TO PAGE 2

VPO, Treasury working on Development Vision 2050

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has embarked on the preparation of the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (TDV 2050) aimed at propelling economic growth beyond the ongoing TDV 2025, the Treasury has announced.

Jenifer Omollo, the Treasury deputy permanent secretary, said the official launch of the programme to kick-start the process is slated for Monday next week in the capital.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango is expected to officiate at the event,

noting that the average annual growth rate and trend were largely maintained during the period

attracting stakeholders from different quarters, with considerable developments realized in the 2025 vision, she said.

Thus there is need to start preparations for the other vision that will take the country ahead in the next 25 years, she asserted, noting that preparations for TDV50 was in line with the constitution.

It is the key set of guidelines for the country's development, she said, noting that TDV 25 has substantially propelled economic, social and political development.

Known as 'the National Composite

TURN TO PAGE 2

Medical ship on Lake Victoria islands tour



By Correspondent Titus Mwombeki, Bukoba

ship in Lake Victoria is carrying health experts to various islands in the lake for educating residents thereof to protect themselves against the Marburg disease has returned to Bukoba port.

The ship belongs to Vine Trust, a charity organisation registered in Scotland and linked with the British royal family, on the basis of an online entry.

Speaking soon after the ship berthed at Bukoba Port, its captain, Juma Rashid said they began their tour at Mwanza port on Friday last week with the health experts visiting five islands to raise awareness on the outbreak of Marburg disease, as it is deadly and difficult to treat.

The medical team comprised specialists ready to deliver treatment services if the need arose," he said, noting that islands visited include Rushonga, Nyaburo, Makibwa, Kelebe and Goziba.

The ship's doctor in charge, Uzia Mohamed said that during the journey the team managed to raise awareness among islanders on how to protect themselves against the disease, especially in taking precautions against infection.

Magandu Godwin, a Kelebe Island resident, expressed gratitude that the government launched prompt efforts to send health experts to the islands.

There was need to deliver thermometers as a first aid kit to take body temperature on every person entering or leaving the islands, he added.



VPO, Treasury working on Development Vision 2050

FROM PAGE 1
Tanzania Development Vision 2025, it was launched in 2000 with its set objectives to be realized over a 25-year time horizon; she said.

One vital area was to lift the country out of the Low Income Country (LIC) group grouping states with GDP per capita of less than \$1035, to semi-industrialised middle income country (MIC) with a GDP per capita of \$2,500 at the end of the period, she said.

With a population then projected to reach over 50m by 2025, the target GDP per capita was total GDP of \$125bn, she said, noting that the average annual growth rate and trend were largely maintained during the period.

The first 15 years of implementing TDV 2025 experienced steady growth which built confidence

that the performance targets and intended objectives were realistic and could be achieved as planned, she asserted.

The aim was to help build capacity for modern industrial production and enhancing trade capacity, synchronized with investments in economic services, she stated.

This included multi-modal transportation infrastructure, higher electric power supply, industrial water supply and telecommunications facilitating efficiency in production and trade activities, she elaborated.

TDV2025 was geared at uplifting the quality of livelihoods, peace, stability, unity good governance, she stated, pointing at a well-educated and learning society, a competitive economy capable of sustainable growth and shared benefits.

TCRA hires electronic imports verifying firm

FROM PAGE 1
he further stated.

The law also directs registering with TCRA the particulars of electronic communication equipment that are imported and manufactured within the country, the director noted.

The newly published regulations facilitate engaging in awareness programmes in electronic waste management through publications, take-back schemes and other channels, he said.

With the coming to effect of the regulations, applications for importation of electronic communication equipment shall be filed through a dedicated website

set up by TCRA to importers to declare details of consignments, he said.

"TCRA further wishes to remind the general public that importation of electronic communication equipment requires a separate license as imported electronic equipment are subject to an approval process for conformity and interoperability assessment," the regulator affirmed.

Environment stakeholders and the public at large need to play a role in ensuring the correct disposal of electronic waste to diminish risks associated with improper disposal of used electronic devices, he added.

UN refugee agency in Mozambique call for help to deal with The DRC refugees

MAPUTO

THE representative of the UN refugee agency in Mozambique said refugees fleeing war-torn parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo are making an already complicated humanitarian crisis in northern Mozambique even worse.

Samuel Chakwera told a press conference in an exclusive interview on Wednesday that the agency now needs additional resources to cater to the arriving asylum seekers, on top of already settled refugees and Mozambique's own internally displaced persons.

"They are coming from Kivu north and Kivu south which is still in conflict as we speak. So, their situation is far from the best solution," Chakwera said. "We have others integrated; we have quite a few in Maputo, in Beira and Tete."

Violent clashes between non-state armed groups and government forces periodically drive hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC.

In February alone, according to aid agencies, nearly 300,000 people fled homes across the Rutshuru and Masisi territories in the DRC's North Kivu province.

Now, small numbers of these people have entered Mozambique's troubled northern regions where Islamist-linked insurgents are fighting with government troops in oil-rich Cabo Delgado province.

According to the U.N official, Mozambique hosts close to 30,000 refugees and asylum seekers, of which around 9,500 reside in Maratane settlement camp in Nampula province, while the remaining 19,000 reside in urban areas with host families.

The UN refugee agency says it works in full coordination with the Mozambican government, responding to lifesaving needs and advancing protection and solutions for forcibly displaced persons.

Chakwera said the increasing number of temporary refugees and asylum seekers from the DRC has strained Mozambique's resources.

"So we are appealing for more funding from our donors to provide for things like shelter," Chakwera

said. "It's quite a thing especially given the fact that we need resilient shelter because of the weather conditions. So that is the biggest thing that we are requesting from international partners for support."

As Mozambique's low-lying coast is prone to climate-induced disasters, the U.N. also provides emergency assistance in the wake of powerful cyclones that periodically ravage the region. Powerful Cyclone Freddy struck Mozambique twice in February and in March, leaving behind a trail of damage, killing dozens of people and displacing 250,000 others in the central and northern parts of Mozambique.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has recommended the inclusion of climate risk in land use planning, at a time when Mozambique needs 35 million dollars to build resilience in various sectors threatened by climate change by 2030.

The information was revealed by Franka Braun, senior specialist in natural resource management at the World Bank, at the launch of a report on climate and development in Mozambique.

"Mozambique must adopt measures to face the crisis caused by climate change. We will work with our partners to mobilise support for various countries, including Mozambique, to face the damage caused by climate change", Braun said, cited by the Beira daily, *Diário de Moçambique*.

Citing the report, Braun said "the first recommendation prioritizes the inclusion of climate change risks in land use planning. It also recommends the creation of legal structures to coordinate climate actions, as well as a law on climate change to promote institutional responsibility."

According to the specialist, the study also recommends the creation of conditions to attract private investment focused on importing the clean technologies that the county needs.

"The recommendations indicate that the country needs to build robust infrastructures that can resist climate change", she said, adding that schools and water sources "must be resilient".

AGENCIES



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar, shortly before their talks at the State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

US VP hails democratic shift, sets out 2024, 2025 polls aid

FROM PAGE 1

will soon be processed in Tanzania by Tanzanians, helping to address the climate crisis, build resilient global supply chains and create new industries and jobs.

Another area is fiber backbone and access network expansion in East and Central Africa where the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will support the expansion of affordable broadband access to thousands of people across the sub-region.

The initiative will be based on a \$1m feasibility study grant to help develop new fiber backbone and access network infrastructure in Tanzania, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, she said.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the

government signed a five-year, approximately \$1.1bn (2.57trn/-) assistance agreement directed at uplifting economic growth, health, education, and democracy and governance, she said.

"The agreement underscores the US government's commitment to help advance the government's development priorities," the VP underlined.

In the next financial year (2024) budget, the Biden-Harris Administration requested \$16.4m in funding for democracy, rights and governance programming for Tanzania, "a significant increase that will support Tanzanian-led efforts in this space," she remarked.

USAID additionally selected Tanzania as a focus country for its advancing women's and girls' civic and political leadership initiative, providing an additional \$1m in

funds for programmes starting this year, she stated.

She looked forward to discussing with President Samia the long term vision for economic growth for Tanzania, democracy and good governance.

The climate crisis as well as regional and global challenges including the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on food supplies would also be raised, she affirmed.

President Samia expressed gratitude at the US leadership for making Tanzania one of its priority countries, noting that Tanzania shall now be waiting for President Biden to visit the country.

She was specific that for more than six decades Tanzania has benefited from various assistance programmes from the US, ranging from education, health, water, energy, infrastructures, sanitation

and human rights issues.

The Presidential Emergency Fund for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) had greatly helped Tanzania fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, facilitating access to health services where expectant mothers with HIV have more assurance of delivering babies with no HIV infection, the president noted.

She expressed a hand of welcome for US investors to set up pharmaceuticals to increase the production of medicines and medical tools at global standards.

"Tanzania will respects all in the agreed MoUs so as to achieve the intended goals and bring transformation," she stated, appealing that the US government review the current visa agreement to enable citizens of the two countries to access more opportunities in trade, tourism and investments.



Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Deputy permanent secretary Prof. James Mdoe (3rd L), Mtibwa Sugar Company managing director Seif Ali Seif (2nd L) and the Siemens Africa Region chief executive officer, Sabine Dall'omo (3rd R) together cut the ribbon to officially open the ICT classroom at Kiwandani primary school which had been renovated by Mtibwa Sugar in partnership with Siemens in Mvomero district, Morogoro region yesterday. Others are Madizini village government chairman Goodluck Mugeta (L) District education officer Bruno Sangwa (2nd R) and the school's headteacher Philemon Sokime. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Global leaders at conference in China warn on the growing geo - political competition

HAINAN, China

WORLD leaders at the annual Boao Forum for Asia on China's Hainan Island delivered warnings about growing geo - political competition, decoupling and fragmenting supply chains.

Speaking Thursday at the Boao Forum, a major political and economic conference in southern China, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva called for global cooperation and solidarity

in a time of high uncertainties and geopolitical tensions.

"We ought to guide our world economy to a safer future," Georgieva said at the opening plenary of the forum in the southern Chinese island Hainan. "It has been in choppy waters for quite some time, experiencing shock upon shock upon shock."

Citing uncertainties including impact of the war in Ukraine and supply chain disruptions, Georgieva urged the world to stand together to

promote economic growth.

"We have learned that supply chains must be made more secure and more resilient," she said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim also called for unfettered competition to give way to collaboration in a time when geopolitical competition has become a feature for Asia.

"The rivalry to be ahead can take either a productive or destructive turn," Ibrahim said. "We need to establish certain guardrails, so that

the competition does not lead to bifurcation in the technological world, one that will raise cost and impede progress."

Patrick Achi, Ivory Coast Prime Minister, said his country joined China's Belt and Road initiative to promote development, and that he took China and other Asian countries as an inspiration for his own country's economic growth.

"Unity is also essential to Africa. It is in this spirit that our country joined the belt and road initiative in 2018. This initiative promotes cooperation, free trade, and brotherly ties between Europe, Asia, and Africa," he said.



The Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) Lake Victoria region member who is also Musoma municipality Mayor William Gumbo plants a tree at the Karume health centre in Ilemela district, Mwanza region on Wednesday aimed at ensuring the community continues to take care of the environment. ALAT aims to plant one million trees in various regions in the country this year. On his (R) is Loreto secondary school Form Four student Rhoiadammy Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

298 tourists arrive at KIA to visit Serengeti, NCAA

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

A TOTAL of 298 tourists from India, Israel and Ethiopia arrived yesterday at Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) for a nine-day stay in Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA).

The visitors were received by Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) official, Christine Mwakatobe.

Speaking about the visit, Mwakatobe said the tourists flew into the country by Boeing 757 plane (with 65 passengers from India, Boeing 738 Max (with 158 passengers from Israel and Boeing 787-800 with 75 American tourists from Addis Ababa).

"Basically, the coming of these planes is the result of tourism advertisements for foreign countries via The Royal Tour film.

"As for now, there have been an influx of tourists, increase of the number of investors and business people coming to the country.

"Tanzania has become a big exporter of horticultural products

and that is why you see a stream of tourists coming," she said.

Karoly Nikoliche (59), who was among the tourists, said his coming to Tanzania stems from her heritage of rare wildlife in NCAA and Serengeti National Park.

"We have come to Tanzania for a nine-day tour in wildlife reserve areas, and this is my very first time to come to the country with my grandmother," said Yael Yanger (12).

Gag Seav (19) a US national said their visit will help them see for themselves what they had learned in books, especially in regard to the wild animals and their natural habitats.



Tanzania has become a big exporter of horticultural products and that is why you see a stream of tourists coming

Tanzania to develop plan for its ocean resources

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN government intends to develop marine spatial plan to guide all economic activities within the Indian Ocean in order to reap greater benefits from more sustainable blue economy.

Mary Maganga, permanent secretary in the Vice President's Office unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a workshop to validate the pre-feasibility study. The two-day workshop brought together ocean users, government officials, development partners, as well as local and international NGOs.

The marine spatial plan will encompass all activities in the ocean, including fishing (small scale and deep sea), aquaculture and marine

products, seaweed farming, construction of strategic infrastructure for ports and sea transport, seafood and fish processing, oil and gas extraction, and beach tourism and water sports.

According to Maganga, the plan will deliver more benefits from the ocean to communities and the nation through sustainable practices while strengthening the blue economy.

To set the foundation for the plan, a pre-feasibility study has been concluded. Commissioned by The Nature Conservancy and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the study reviewed the current status of marine spatial planning in the country and the state of policy, legal and administrative frameworks. It

proposes a roadmap for developing the plan.

She said: "The marine spatial planning is part of the solution to bring about the sustainable use of our ocean resources and open economic and employment opportunities based on proper management of the environment and dealing with climate change".

Lucy Magembe, the Nature Conservancy's Tanzania country director told the workshop that 25 marine spatial plans have been implemented worldwide and have proven to be a practical approach for engaging communities, stakeholders, and governments to expand marine protection, meet conservation goals, and improve sustainability of both economic and non-commercial activities.

"We are working closely with the government of Tanzania and other partners to manage human activities in the ocean to ensure they are sustainable. The marine spatial plan will ensure that communities around the ocean benefit from it, while protecting the environment," added Magembe.

The pre-feasibility study was funded by the German government's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety through the International Climate Initiative, as part of a five-year (2021-2025) regional project entitled strengthening the blue economy of the WIO through the integration of ecosystem services and effective biodiversity conservation covering Tanzania, Kenya, Seychelles, and Mauritius.

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-23-03-02 SUPPLY OF CLUTCH 51VC1600 VC-509

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Clutch specifications:

- **CLUTCH;TYPE:DUAL,BORE DIAMETER:12 TO 15.5 IN,SPEED RATING:550,RPM,TORQUE RATING:3220000 LB-IN, ADDITIONAL FEATURES:COMES WITH WAIR, RECEIVER**
- **Manufacture Part No: 51VC1600 VC-509**
- **Manufacturer: EATON CORP**

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

Submission of Quotes:

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.

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NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement

If you do not hear from us within 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your bid/quote unsuccessful.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes: **07th April 2023.**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

217348501



Vi Agroforestry

VACANCY

Vi Agroforestry Seeking Consultancy for Sustainable Agriculture Land Management (SALM) Practices Refresher Training for the Smallholder Coffee Development Project in Tanzania (CODE-P)

Background

Vi Agroforestry is commissioned by the European Union (EU) to implement a 4-year project; the Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P) in Songwe, Mbeya and Ruvuma regions of Tanzania. Between 2020-2024 CODE-P aims to reach 24,000 smallholder farmers including 12,000 youth in 6 districts of Ruvuma, Mbeya and Songwe Regions of Tanzania.

Purpose of the Assignment

The assignment will be focusing on the projects Specific Objective 1. Increased production and productivity of quality coffee by smallholder coffee producers through equitable, efficient resource allocations and SALM practices. The purpose of this assignment is to capacitate our partners especially field and project officers, extension officers and some lead farmers with the SALM practices to improve their practical understanding of the SALM practices for disseminating to more coffee farmers. This training is the second-round training that might have the new participants and the old participants.

Scope of Work

A training schedule shall cover 6 days, preferably Monday to Saturday. This training shall be conducted at the end of April 2023. A training shall consist of project officers working under CODE-P, coffee inspectors from 6 districts, extension officers actively working with CODE-P from six districts and representative lead farmers with a total number of 45 participants. Consultant is required to prepare the training program and share with Vi Agroforestry for review and approval 10 days before date of starting the training. There will be 2 extra days for preparing training report after training. Hence a consultant will have a total of 9 days for the assignment.

For more information on requirements and how to apply please visit: <https://viagroforestry.org/work-with-us/>

Deadline for applications - 17:00 EAT on **April 13th, 2023.**

217348501

Zanzibaris urged to name corrupt public servants

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBARIS have been urged to collaborate with the government in disclosing public servants engaged in corruption and economic sabotage.

The call was made here on Wednesday by Haroun Ali Suleiman, Zanzibar Minister of State (Constitutional, Legal Affairs and Good Governance) at a joint meeting of government officials and ordinary citizens aimed at discussing challenges they face and find solutions.

He said the issue of bribery among public servants especially in the judiciary that dispenses justice was not acceptable and was in violation of their work ethics.

Haroun explained that the situation has been prompting many complaints from among the people whenever they go to seek justice but fail to get.

He added that the government will not hesitate to take stern measures against public officials engaging in acts of corruption and violating public service procedures.

People who participated at the meeting said some of public officials engage themselves in corruption whenever they go to seek justice.

Ame Juma, among them, said the

issue has been discouraging them and place them in difficult situations due to many of them lacking financial ability to give bribes, adding that this retards government's efforts to provide better social services to the people.

They mentioned the social services that they say are of poor quality as including shortage of drugs at health centres, unreliable electricity supply and lack of a perimeter fence at Makunduchi district hospital.

In regard to land ownership issue, Unguja South regional commissioner, Rashid Hadid Rashid appealed to the people to see the importance of seeking land title deeds legally to avoid conflicts from the present and future generations.



...the situation has been prompting many complaints from among the people whenever they go to seek justice but fail to get

Robot school in Namibia prepares youth children to become tech-savvy in ever-evolving 21st century

WINDHOEK

IN a move to make learning a playful experience by enlightening young minds about new-age tech while empowering them with 21st-century skills amid the Fourth Industrial Revolution, one institute in Namibia is at the forefront of this initiative.

Established in 2018, Robot School, located in the Namibian capital of Windhoek, is currently preparing more than 120 children for the rapidly changing technology in all industries worldwide.

"We believe in a brighter future through enabling kids to understand and harness their creativity and inventiveness with coding, engineering, design, and of course, robots," Bjorn Wiedow, co-founder of Robot School Namibia said in a recent interview.

Wiedow said the school teaches 4 to 15-year-olds to start with the basics with lego robots and progress to Python and high-level programming applied to robotics when they enter their final year before graduating with a certificate.

According to Wiedow, coding helps develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in kids as well as encourages them to experiment with different possible solutions to a problem. The classes are facilitated by local teachers/coaches called #techstars, who provide one-on-one coaching and mentoring in groups of a maximum of ten learners per class.

"Our coaches are creative engineers who have the passion and experience gained by running courses at the Namibia University of Science and Technology over the past two years," he said, adding that preparing the youth to be an actively contributing generation requires investment in new educational content such as robotics, coding, and technical troubleshooting.

Wiedow said it is not always easy to teach the little ones, especially toddlers, who at this age are more playful than ever. "We just need to be patient with them as they adjust over time and start learning."

During a tour of the school, most of the learners who were in high spirits were gingerly absorbed in their work, while they said they are

enjoying learning and playing at the same time.

"I am happy to be here as I am learning some interesting designs and computer skills to make robots," one learner said.

"Over the years, we have grown, and we have 120 learners and currently host three after-school classes. We also work with the disadvantaged communities and assist some of them with giving free transport to come to the school and learn different programs," Wiedow said.

Wiedow meanwhile concluded that despite using robot legos, he and his team are busy designing their own robot kits as they look to move from the lego-based robots, and developing a series of exciting new classes ranging from robotics, website and game design to 3D printing and computer-aided design.

Namibia last year was represented on a bigger stage by a three-member robotics team at the First Global Challenge in Geneva, Switzerland, which they described as a wonderful, exhilarating, and motivating experience.



Over the years, we have grown, and we have 120 learners and currently host three after-school classes. We also work with the disadvantaged communities and assist some of them with giving free transport to come to the school and learn different programs



Deputy minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato (2nd R) gestures shortly after the official launch of the Tanzania Electricity Company (TANESCO) four-year gender plan 2023-2027 logo in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on are the ministry Deputy permanent secretary, Athuman Mbutuka (R), Tanesco director general Maharage Chande (2nd L) and Mpwapwa district administrative secretary Sara Komba. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

EAC welcomes full deployment of the regional force in eastern DRC

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) has welcomed this full deployment of the EAC Regional Force in Eastern DRC to support the ceasefire and the restoration of peace and stability in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Dr Peter Mathuki, the EAC Secretary General said in a statement that the move follows the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the

East African Community (EAC) Chiefs of Defence Forces/Staffs (CDF/CDS) that was convened recently in Bujumbura, Burundi, to review the implementation of the Heads of State Directives of the 20th Extra-Ordinary Summit and evaluate the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

During the deliberations on the ceasefire and withdrawal by the armed groups, the EAC partner states' chiefs of Defence

forces confirmed that the EAC Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (EAC-MVM) has already been deployed. The Republics of Uganda and South Sudan Contingents on Wednesday, 29th March, 2023 deployed to their respective sectors in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Dr Mathuki said: "The EAC further welcomes the deploying of the EAC-MVM to monitor and verify the ceasefire and

withdrawal by all Armed Groups."

He said that the EAC Secretariat continues to support the restoration of peace and stability in Eastern DRC.

"I urge all parties to the conflict to continue implementing the ceasefire directive observe the withdrawal timelines and join the political process as directed by the 20th Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC heads of state," the EAC boss said.



Chemba district commissioner Gerald Mongella (L) talks to some development stakeholders who visited the district hospital in Dodoma earlier this week to discuss the possibility of supporting the construction of some buildings of the hospital. The hospital has more than 100 acres of land. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Girls rights groups call on govt to amend 1971 Law on marriages

By Guardian Reporter

INSTITUTIONS defending girls' rights in the country have called on the government to table an amendment Bill on the 1971 Law of Marriages Act in the coming Parliament Budget session.

They say they want the amendment Bill to recognise 18 years as the age for a girl and boy to marry and not otherwise.

In their statement on Wednesday

the institutions said it has been four years since the Court of Appeal ordered the government to make amendments to the 1971 law, but so far nothing has been done.

Speaking on behalf of the institutions, the managing director of Msichana Initiative, Rebecca Gyumi said the sections of the law that had been ordered for amendments are 13 and 17 that permit a 14-year-old girl to get married with court's approval and

15 years with parents' consent.

"We want the government to table the Bill that will abide by the views given stakeholders that will not have provisions that perpetuate child marriages in the country thereby consecrate child abuse," said Gyumi.

She added: "For four years the government has failed to implement the Court of Appeals' order timely," and reminded Legislators to have

the responsibility in protecting children against child marriages notwithstanding they are at schools or not.

"There will be no development to be attained if the country cannot eradicate child marriages, as such marriages have been adversely affecting many girls especially from poor families, hence having a law that perpetuates child marriages is akin to propagate poverty in the nation," said Gyumi.



Railway Police Unit protocol officer Inspector Naina David speaks to students of Ngerengere secondary school located near the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project being built by the Yapi Merkezi company. The event took place at Ngerengere Ward in Morogoro rural district on Wednesday. Other topics included patriotism and education against acts of sexual violence and adolescent pregnancies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WHI directed to construct quality, affordable houses

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister in the President's Office-Public Service Management and Good Governance, Ridhiwani Kikwete has directed Watumishi Housing Investments (WHI) to construct quality and affordable houses in areas with high demand and opportunities so as to enable public servants to live and implement their duties comfortably.

Kikwete made the directive yesterday during his tour of WHI offices in Dar es Salaam where he insisted on accountability so as to achieve the intended goals.

"Despite the good job that WHI is doing, it is important for the corporation to think of constructing more houses in the areas that have multiple opportunities, especially in the outskirts where there is high demand for housing," he said.

He said that apart from several rights and offers that servants get, an attractive living environment is one of the basic and important needs which need to be given priority by WHI when implementing various

projects.

He said that it was President Samia Suluhu Hassan's zeal to see public servants working hard and efficiently and that Watumishi Housing has that role to ensure that the servants are served with quality housing.

"Companies that are working in the real estate sector are many but Watumishi Housing Investments has its goals which aim at ensuring that public servants access quality and affordable housing," he added.

The deputy minister assured the corporation's management that doors at the ministry were always open to go and speak on anything that needed further assistance.

He also urged the corporation to also invest in public programmes to market well activities implemented so as to for the servants to know their services.

"You need to be innovative, invest in programmes that will help market your works and products to the public, with this, servants will be able to seek for your services whenever they need to purchase a house or for rent," he added.

NAIROBI

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appealed for 171 million US dollars to respond to the rise in cholera cases in 11 countries in eastern and southern Africa.

It said 28 million people are in need in Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Sudan, Burundi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

"To respond to the increasing needs of children and families in

UNICEF appeals for funding to respond to cholera outbreak in 11 African countries

the region impacted by cholera, UNICEF is urgently calling for funding of 171 million U.S. dollars," it said in a statement on Monday.

The UNICEF said the funds will be used to provide lifesaving

water, sanitation and hygiene, health, risk communication, nutrition, child protection, and education services to women and children affected by the outbreak.

The 11 countries are experiencing an extremely

worrying cholera outbreak with 67,822 cases and 1,788 estimated deaths, noting that actual figures are likely higher as limitations in surveillance systems, under-reporting, and stigma hamper monitoring, the UN agency said

earlier this month.

It said it is developing individualized cholera response plans based on the unique conditions within each affected country.

According to UNICEF, the

budgets for both Malawi and Mozambique include requirements to address each country's recent cyclone-related flooding, given that flooding is a priority compounding risk to the spread of cholera.




Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-23-03-03 SUPPLY OF BEARING SLEEVE; HALF-GROOVED, 483MM, 1.655M

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Bearing Sleeve specifications:

- BEARING:SLEEVE;TYPE:HALFGROOVED,INSIDE.DIAMETER:483MM,LENGTH:1.655M, MATERIAL:BRONZE,ADDITIONAL FEATURES:WITH LUBE MAIN BEARING BRONZE INSERT; (SEGMENT OF 120#)
- Manufacture Part No: 54001215
- Manufacturer: FLSmidth

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
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NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement

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Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes: **07th April 2023.**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited




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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-23-03-04 - SUPPLY OF PUMP 200M-20-2511664

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- Manufacture Part No: 200M-20-2511664
- Manufacturer: FLSmidth

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
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Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes: **07th April 2023.**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

Vodacom Tanzania Foundation donates ICT gadgets worth 150m/- to 20 schools in Tabora

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania Foundation has donated over 100 items of ICT equipment worth 150m/- to 20 secondary schools in the Tabora region as the implementation of a school connectivity project.

The initiative is aimed at reaching 300 schools throughout the country in partnership with African Child Projects (ACP) and the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF).

The handing over ceremony was held at Kariakoo secondary school in Tabora Region on Wednesday.

Tabora Regional Commissioner of ambassador Dr Batilda Buriani commended the school connectivity project's commitment to transforming teaching and learning formalities through digital connectivity in Tanzania.

"Now is about the time to embrace better things that internet advancement can benefit our communities. We can achieve remarkable outcomes if we take advantage of the quality and reliable connectivity that Vodacom Tanzania has even in interior areas. The future of teaching and learning does not require physical meetings between a teacher and a student anymore. With the increasing penetration of internet networks and smart devices like we have received today, the education sector could be transformed," said Dr Batilda.

The RC noted that the donations come at the right time when the government is heavily investing in building more schools and classrooms, and it is encouraging to see the private sectors play a part in improving the provision of quality education.

Dr Batilda urged the beneficiary of this project to take advantage of this opportunity to encourage more stakeholders to support the initiative. And expect to see an improvement in performance in teaching and learning areas as well as in schools' academic performance.

Ahmed Akbarali, Vodacom Tanzania Plc, executive sales manager said that the donations are the implementation of the company's vision to impact the lives of Tanzanian communities through innovative digital solutions in different sectors across the country.

"We are delighted to donate ICT equipment to secondary schools in Tabora that will impact the teaching and learning aspects. These items include desktop computers, tablets,

television screens, and printers to assist both teachers and students to access teaching lessons and books through the e-Fahamu portal," says Akbarali.

He added that some schools are to be connected to free internet for a year to enable them to access the e-Fahamu portal hence assisting to boost the performance of not only teachers and students but also the entire education performance system in Tabora.

"Almost 600,000 students benefit from the project so far and we expect that number to increase when it is fully executed so is the academic performance. I urge teachers to use this opportunity to transform their teaching practices and guide students on better ways to consume internet networks positively," said Akbarali.

Secondary schools that benefited from the donation include Bombamzinga, Milambo, Lwanzari, Kariakoo, Kazehilli, Ipuuli, Iseyva, Fundikira, Kanyenye, Kazima, Nyamwezi, Nkinga, Ziba, Igunga, Chief Ntinginya, Bugwangoso, Bugwandege, Miguwa, Bulunde, and Undomo.

Kariakoo Secondary School headmaster Leonard Nyasebwa acknowledges the efforts by the government and private sectors in equipping us with digital learning tools that will play a great role to improve teaching and learning practices at the school.



We are delighted to donate ICT equipment to secondary schools in Tabora that will impact the teaching and learning aspects. These items include desktop computers, tablets, television screens, and printers to assist both teachers and students to access teaching lessons and books through the e-Fahamu portal

Community Development Department lauded for revision of curricula on community programmes

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Community Development Department has been commended for initiating a process for the revision of curricula for community development programmes and construction engineering in time.

The commendation was given here yesterday to the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr John Jingu when he was opening a workshop for the revision of the curricula for the community development programmes and construction engineering.

Dr Jingu said the step will help the youth joining colleges and all other which will use the curricula to receive training that goes in tandem with the present environment.

"I must thank NACTVET on the way they have been at the front line in providing various guidelines for the improvement of the training.

"Also I must thank all participants in attendance for giving your views on the curricula," he said.

Dr Jingu called on them to make sure the curricula they will use in the training satisfy the environment

in the community, the country and the world in general.

"The curricula must abide by the fact that the society has changed technologically, politically and economically taking place globally including our country," said Dr Jingu.

He told them to have close relations with curricula stakeholders and colleges in their areas in order to reap students who have the true picture of the society.

Earlier, Assistant director of the Community Development Colleges Department in the Community Development ministry, Neema Ndoboka said the curricula that are being reviewed are those for the community development and technicians at the certificate level that had been prepared since 2028.



Also I must thank all participants in attendance for giving your views on the curricula



Bosphorus manufacturing Ltd, the producer of Yapfix, Wall Putty manufacturing plant, director general, Necmetin Keles (R) shows the factory's products to journalists who visited the plant at Boko in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (L) is the factory manager Ale Alex. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Bodies to scale-up financial literacy for healthcare staff

By Henry Mwangonde

THREE organisations that work on health-related activities have signed an agreement to enhance financial literacy among healthcare workers—targeting higher education students and practitioners.

The agreement between Frontier Health Markets (FHM) through results for development that implements USAID's flagship private sector health project Engage and Tanzania Health Summit (THS) aims at filling the gap in financial literacy among healthcare practitioners.

The signing took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday signaling the start of an avenue where financial services and information will be

shared to the healthcare workers so that they can further utilize the available opportunities in financial institutions and other areas of investments.

"We will link young health professionals' start-ups with mentors to help navigate the critical steps in establishing a business," said THS President Dr Omary Chillo, explaining that the project aims to facilitate linkages between young health professionals and higher education students with sources of finances.

Through the FHM Engage project and THS are collaborating to implement a project known as Kuza with the purpose of empowering young health professionals to

share and discuss challenges and solutions to health financial issues in the country.

The initiative comes after results for development and THS noted a serious gap in financial literacy among healthcare practitioners, especially the gap in access to information and opportunities among the healthcare practitioners.

Through KUZA, the two organisations plan to help young health professionals to understand the health commodities value chain, opportunities and gaps in industries, supply chain, service provision and other value-added services.

The team will support the young health professionals and facilitate

ideas of potential healthcare businesses. Further they intend to stimulate the initiation of small-scale business ventures through specific training on the principles of business operations, barriers and the importance of teamwork.

"One of the key challenges that the private sector faces is access to finance and the Kuza project is a step in the right direction in providing that support not just to existing health practitioners but also to healthcare students in preparing them for their future contributions to the health sector" said Farhan Yusuf, the leader for the FHM engage project in Tanzania.

It is expected that the partnership will create and consolidate the private health facilities owners through the clubs as a platform to meet and strengthen business relationships. The clubs will recruit the owners of the private health facilities and they will be enrolled in the project.



Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji looks at a microscope at the Tanzania Biotech Products Limited (TBPL) pesticides production factory laboratory during her visit in Kibaha district, Coast region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Kijaji advises TBPL to promote its products locally and internationally

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DR Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade has advised the Pesticide Manufacturing Factory, Tanzania Biotech Products Limited (TBPL) to promote its products locally and internationally.

Dr Kijaji made the remarks yesterday when she visited the factory in Kibaha district, Coast region to witness production of pesticides at the factory.

Dr Kijaji instructed the factory to promote itself to secure domestic and foreign markets.

"The government has fulfilled its obligation by constructing the factory in an effort to eliminate malaria. Our responsibility is to ensure that we provide sufficient education on the use of pesticides," she said.

The minister urged TBPL to cooperate with Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) to promote the locally manufactured pesticide and provide education to the public on its use.

Acting managing director, National Development Corporation (NDC) which owns

the factory, Alfred Mapunda said NDC in collaboration with TBPL have started to implement various marketing strategies including signing of contract between NDC and the Ministry of Health.

He said they are planning to start hiring agents to sell and distribute pesticide in various regions across the country.

Mapunda said they have also started to produce crop pesticides, noting that they have shown great success in fighting crop pests which are dangerous for the welfare of the agriculture sector.

Mapunda said that TBPL has helped to a large extent in reducing the level of malaria in the country, especially in the islands of Zanzibar, where due to its use malaria infection has decreased tremendously.

He said in Zanzibar, the infection rate is currently less than one percent adding that they have market access to foreign markets such as Mozambique, Niger, Eswatin and Angola.

TBPL is a unique factory in Africa that is owned by the government through NDC and is specialized in fighting malaria.

The factory has the capacity to produce six million liters per year. Its construction is the result of diplomatic cooperation between the government of Tanzania and Cuba.



Ubungu Municipal council community health worker, Athuman Rajab explains about Marburg virus to students at Mbezi Inn secondary school recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN Guterres vows solidarity with Africa to end scourge of terrorism

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has reaffirmed the world body's solidarity with Africa in the fight against terrorism, while warning "trail of terror" is widening across the continent.

Terrorism tightens its grip by seeking out and exploiting weaknesses and instability in political, economic and security systems, he said.

"No age, no culture, no religion, no nationality and no region is immune. But the situation in Africa

is especially concerning," Guterres told a Security Council high-level debate on countering terrorism by strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

Despair, poverty, unemployment and unconstitutional changes in government continue to lay fertile ground for the creeping expansion of terrorist groups to infect new parts of the continent, he said.

The UN chief expressed deep concern by the gains terrorist groups are making in the Sahel and elsewhere.

"The trail of terror is widening, with fighters, funds, and weapons increasingly flowing between regions and across the continent, and with new alliances being forged with organized crime and piracy groups," he said.

Meanwhile, Guterres pointed out that the fight against terrorism is bringing African countries together.

"We see this across Africa, which is home to a number of regional counter-terrorism initiatives," he said. "From joint efforts in the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, Mozambique and beyond."

The United Nations stands

for 'Shule Bora' project from the President's Office Regional Administrative and Local Government (PO-RALG) said in the 2021/22 year of the implementation of the programme, it helped the government to commence the EPforR II which included providing training to 734 participants and successfully obtaining a percentage of 90.6 per cent.

Lawrence Sanga, 'Shule Bora' programme coordinator from MoEST said that 'Shule Bora' collaborates closely with EPforR in supporting the government to ensure it gets funds to achieve the intended goals by adhering to the criteria set.

"EPforR II focused on enabling the government to implement what if done well in accordance with the agreement with the donors, funds will be obtained through it. So the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation management systems in the provision of education to bring productivity and increase efficiency," said Sanga.

Sylvia Lupembe, head of government communication unit - in the MoEST said: "For the 'Shule Bora' programme and EPforR II communication has been a part of success since its inception, so the very early task was to prepare a communication plan to ensure that we communicate every time and provide accurate information to the media."

She explained that the organized meeting for media personnel was a continuation of the implementation of the communication strategy to ensure that the public is well informed on the progress of the programme.

The Education Programme for Results (EPforR) is an innovative system improvement programme implemented nationally, supported by international donors including UK aid, designed to encourage equitable access to quality learning in pre-primary and primary education in Tanzania. Through its technical assistance, EPforR supports evidence, planning and resource allocation so that, by meeting targets related to sector performance measures and reform, the government can ensure more funds are released into the education system.

Laura McInerney, programme technical leader from Cambridge Education Tanzania speaks on communication and media engagement approaches in delivering programme outputs during a meeting for 'Shule Bora Programme' awareness which brought together media people in Dar es Salaam recently.

Coast region 4th and Tanga was 7th nationally while for transition rates for secondary Coast region was ranked 2nd, Dodoma was 3rd, Kigoma 4th and Tanga was ranked 6th nationally.

Mara was ranked the second nationally with total disbursement of \$292,687.98, Coast region the third getting \$227,613.82, Tanga the fourth (\$201,391.49), Simiyu ranked Seventh position (\$178,929.29), Dodoma positioned at ninth (\$160, 12971), Kigoma ranked at eleventh (\$154,248.95), Singida is at 16th (\$125,038.01) while Rukwa at nineteenth (\$102,382.93) and Katavi at twenty fifth position (\$29,307.37).

Speaking during the 'Shule Bora' programme awareness workshop organised for media personnel in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Deputy permanent secretary, form Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Education), Franklin Rwezimula said the implementation of the EPforR II has witnessed major improvement of school infrastructures, especially classrooms, dormitories, teachers' houses and toilets.

He added that the ministry was performing well and successfully provided education to teachers, School construction, school renovation and classrooms; and urged the implementers and coordinators of this program to make sure you involve the media and give them information on every step of the implementation.

Winfrid Chilumba is a coordinator

Govt and UNIDO in new campaign to educate people on respiratory diseases

By Beatrice Philemon

THE United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ubungu Municipal Council has embarked on a new campaign to educate people on respiratory infectious diseases.

Athuman Rajab, Ubungu Municipal Council's community health worker, said yesterday that the campaign also includes educating students on Marburg virus.

"We have started with students and petty traders on what are the Marburg Virus, COVID-19 and cholera," said Rajab when speaking during an education session at Mbezi INN secondary school.

A total of 1812 students at Mbezi INN secondary schools and 1561 at Mshikamano primary school have so far been reached. They were educated on Marburg virus, how it spread and its symptoms," said Rajab, adding they were also educated on the symptoms of cholera and COVID-19.

Rajab said the training was conducted by community health workers, district health officers, nurses, and Ubungu Municipal secondary health coordinator, Christa Ndunguru.

He said they have also educated petty traders at the Mburahati market on Marburg virus, cholera and COVID-19 to help them take precautions and protect themselves from being infected.

The project is implemented through a one-year project dubbed 'Public Health and Social Resilience against COVID-19 and other communicable diseases with funding from the government of Japan.

It is executed by UNIDO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Jamilah Nyoni, Ubungu Municipal Council health officer said that Marburg virus is a serious and contagious disease caused by the Marburg virus.

Marburg symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, weakness, headache, muscle and joint pain, red eyes, sore throat, rash, stomach pain, bloody nose or gums, blood vomit and bloody diarrhoea. "We conducted similar educational programs at Magufuli bus terminal and Kiluvya primary school.

Headmaster, Mshikamano primary school, Rehema Missay said pupils are now aware of the diseases and their symptoms. He urged pupils to share the acquired knowledge with the parents and other community members. The school has a total of 1,561 pupils and 37 teachers.

Charles John, Mburahati market chairman said: "We are glad to be among people who were selected to receive the training. These efforts should be continuous to ensure a healthy community because there are many people who are not aware of the Marburg and its symptoms."

Joshua Martine, a Form Four student at Mbezi INN secondary school commended efforts by the municipal authority and stakeholders to educate them on the infectious respiratory diseases.

He said with the knowledge and skills gained from health workers, they will protect themselves from cholera and COVID-19. He stressed the need for the school management to ensure school premises are clean as well as availability of clean and safe water.

Education programme disburses 3.4bn/- to Local Govt Authorities in 9 regions

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE implementation of 'Shule Bora programme' disbursed a total of \$1,471,729.55 million (3.4bn/-) to local government authorities (LGAs) in nine regions to support execution of the education programme for results (EPforR II) in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

The seven-year (2021-2027) UK Aid funded government-led education support programme at a cost of £89 million (271bn/-), is aimed to reach at least four million school children across the country, improving systems and the environment to facilitate quality learning for all children.

The programme is implemented in nine regions are Tanga, Singida, Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi, Coast, Mara, Simiyu and Dodoma.

The programme is collaborating with the EPforR II which is implemented across the country under two ministries which are Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and President's Office Regional Administrative and Local Government (PO-RALG) with technical support from Cambridge Education in collaboration with other stakeholders ADD international, International Rescue Committee and Plan International.

The nine 'Shule Bora' regions performed well on to mitigate pupils dropout and grade repetition, to ensure they both boys and girls remain in school and are promoted equitably to the next grade and to ensure that boys and girls transition from primary to secondary level and also do so in an equitable manner.

According to the EPforR 2021/22: Performance of 'Shule Bora' regions report; all nine regions have managed to get 39.8 per cent being the share of the total funds available nationally for disbursement linked indicators (DLIs). The government has recorded achievement in the two DLIs which are improved primary survival rates (PSR) with gender parity and primary to secondary transition rates (TR) with gender parity respectively.

In specific terms, for survival rates Mara ranked 2nd, Simiyu 3rd,



Laura McInerney, programme technical leader from Cambridge Education Tanzania speaks on communication and media engagement approaches in delivering programme outputs during a meeting for 'Shule Bora Programme' awareness which brought together media people in Dar es Salaam recently.

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New initiative to uplift stalled reform agenda

ECONOMIC observers will have varying sentiments on the new initiative of reform signaled by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, as some will be urging that care needs to be taken on either opening up state systems to the private sector. This undercurrent of debate is unavoidable in the wake of the president's appeal to harmonise operating formats of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for greater transparency in revenue collection. It is a reform dimension recalling the early 1990s, not institution building of later years.

At that time a lot of effort was directed to diminishing what was hitherto an overwhelming presence of the public sector in production activities, most of which were loss making. Offloading such entities to the private sector wasn't overly difficult but there were limitations with the overall strategy and contractual obligations eventual buyers of those assets were supposed to observe. This led to a diminution of capable applicants worried over the conditions; inefficiency won.

With the change of top leadership in the mid-1990s the onus shifted elsewhere, to bring up regulatory systems to anchor operations of the budding private sector and the rise of foreign direct investments. For two decades the country remained strong in regulatory institution building while the public sector was being tugged along, often with massive infusion of public funds. All this has become part of strategic management culture, and it will be surprising to many if it starts being rolled back.

The demands of public organisations were not overly put

at issue for close to two decades until the government demanded greater efficiency and delivery of dividend from hundreds of such institutions easier used to recycle funds inwardly. What is now happening isn't a higher level of the sum of dividends the government needs but a change in the place occupied by the pivotal institutions in the country's economic system. It is in fact a sort of new agenda, of a different epoch in a way.

Obviously that proceeds from improving the performance modalities of current organisations, as just a few are on the firing line as it were, whose productivity and thus systemic usefulness is a question better occulted away. When it is raised it means that patience is running out on the part of the public authorities, and that is what appears to be the case. Thus issues come up of harmonising operational formats of the Tanzania Revenue Authority and the Tanzania Ports Authority, whereas the two would wish to be left in 'splendid isolation' of one from the other.

Even more pointed is the wish that the private sector really ought to run the port of Dar es Salaam, an idea that had to come from the very, anywhere below that level it would amount to virtual sacrilege to the old school, a lackey of foreign interests, to radicals. That pillar of political culture has lasted for well over half a century, as the 50 years of the Arusha Declaration were observed back in 2017, if without real fanfare. The socialism had long since been eclipsed but the 'commanding heights' of economy being in the hands of the state remained, now being dismantled, even if not too rapidly, chiefly by opening asset holding entities to capital investments.

Why the death penalty should be abolished

AS of the end of 2022, 53 countries retain capital punishment, 111 countries have completely abolished it de jure for all crimes, seven have abolished it for ordinary crimes (while maintaining it for special circumstances such as war crimes), and 24 are abolitionist in practice.

As Tanzania joins other countries to mark the World Day Against the Death Penalty last year, the Media and other stakeholders have recommended amendment of the Penal Code to give judges the discretion to hand over life imprisonment sentences instead of the death penalty in capital offences.

They urged the Parliament should amend Section 197 of the Penal Code to read life imprisonment instead of the current death penalty to give judges the discretion to decide otherwise, instead of the current trend where some feel that their hands are tied.

Indeed, judges should use their discretion to hand over life imprisonment sentences instead of the death penalty in capital offences as it is in records that courts do and can actually make mistakes, a chance that could see innocent people pay for the crime that they did not commit.

We believe, doing so, would help those wrongfully convicted to have a second chance for appeal and clemency.

We are aware of Section 197 of the Tanzanian Penal Code which specifies clearly that 'any person convicted of murder shall be sentenced to death,' but it also appreciates that there have been some judges who have issued

dissenting opinions in regard to the death penalty and thus sentencing those who would have other wisely been hanged, to life imprisonment.

We also appreciate all efforts by sitting presidents who have not signed any death warrants and not to mention of noble deeds to commute sentences for those on death row, a situation that has made Tanzania to retain its de facto stance ever since 1994. This for sure, deserves and accolade.

The decision by Zambia to abolish the death penalty is "a historic milestone", the UN team in the country said on Friday in a statement.

President Hakainde Hichilema announced the move on 23 December, last year which "followed years of advocacy efforts by concerned stakeholders, such as the National Human Rights Commission, civil society groups, development partners, the UN team and other partners.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of Ghana had stressed the need for the country to take formal steps to abolish the death penalty, and remove it from its statute books.

He has therefore called on relevant state actors to speed up work towards the complete repeal of capital punishment from the penal code.

The world has seen some testimonies over some of those on death row indicating that their confessions were done with influence of torture.

The interrogation process can be tricky and it is hard to prove sure on whether a convict testifies willingly or under influence of a harsh punishment.



Digital inclusion is vital for strengthening women's rights in Africa

By S. Mona Sinha

THE internet has a pivotal role to play in empowering women and girls across Africa, but preexisting forms of gender discrimination and marginalization are underpinning a widening digital gender divide.

The root causes preventing millions from getting online need to be urgently addressed, because until we close the technology gap, longstanding gender inequalities will be exacerbated, and new expressions of discrimination will manifest.

More women are coming online, but progress is slow

In a speech to the UN General Assembly for International Women's Day 2023, UN Secretary General António Guterres spoke about how "centuries of patriarchy, discrimination, and harmful stereotypes have created a huge gender gap in science and technology."

Warning that "gender equality is growing more distant" and will take 300 years to achieve on the current trajectory, the Secretary General called on governments, civil society, and the private sector to work collectively to bridge the digital gender divide.

ITU estimates that in 2022, 66% of the world's population used the internet. This is a 24% increase since 2019, with 1.1 billion more people coming online. Despite this substantial uptake, 2.7 billion people remain offline - the majority of whom are female.

According to GSMA's Mobile Gender Gap Report 2022, mobile phones are the primary way people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) access the internet, accounting for 85% of broadband connections in 2021.

But over 1.7 billion women do not own a mobile phone, and women globally are 14% less likely to have one than men, with the largest disparities in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Worryingly, GSMA found that globally the gender gap in mobile internet use has worsened from 15% in 2020 to 16% in 2021. And although women's uptake of mobile internet in LMICs continues to grow, adoption has slowed, with just 59 million women coming online in 2021 compared to 110 million the previous year.

This significant shortfall means many women and girls are missing out on the benefits of digital, social, and financial inclusion, and this is especially acute amongst those burdened with intersectional discrimination linked to characteristics like race, caste, religion, poverty, and disability.

Smartphones are key to connectivity



Smartphone ownership offers life-changing connectivity by opening portals to crucial resources, markets, and services for education, healthcare, business, and finance. Providing important and timely information that might otherwise be hard to obtain, handsets are a vehicle for formal and informal learning and enable social and civic networking and participation.

According to the UN, over 90% of jobs worldwide now have a digital component. Digital literacy expands a person's employment and economic prospects and facilitates greater earning potential. Without digital adoption and use, women have fewer employment opportunities and face additional barriers to workforce participation.

Unequal access to the digital realm is undermining women's economic independence, financial prospects, and decision-making power. It limits their life chances, increases their risk of gender-based violence and exploitation, and makes it harder to escape abusive situations or obtain justice when rights have been violated.

Barriers to internet access faced by women and girls

For many women and girls in the Global South, low literacy and digital skills are major barriers to phone ownership and use. They are more likely to live in poverty and have less schooling, and this translates into underconfidence in utilizing technology. A Web Foundation study found that women are 1.6 times more likely than men to report a lack of skills as a block to internet use.

Language exclusion is also a challenge. Nine in ten users in Africa have to switch to a second, often European colonial language, to use apps and websites, while over half of the world's 7,151 languages have no digital footprint - effectively shutting out those who only speak local dialects.

To overcome this, more local language internet services and operating systems are required, alongside video content tailored to women's contexts and needs.

Another hurdle is money. Global Digital Inclusion Partnership estimates that for 2.5 billion people, buying the cheapest available smartphones would cost over 30% of their monthly income. For many women, this is unaffordable, particularly as they are more likely to have lower earnings.

Mobile data is a burdensome cost, partly because of exorbitant pricing. African countries have some of the world's most expensive data due to issues such as high taxation in the telecom industry, and unavailability of infrastructure. Coming top on the continent is Equatorial Guinea, where one gigabyte can be a whopping \$49.67.

Only half of the 1.1 billion people in the Least Developed Countries have access to electricity - 13% of the global population - and many more face regular disruptions to energy supplies, making it harder to keep devices charged.

Especially in rural and remote locations, reliable and affordable electricity is limited or absent. With over half of Africa's women living in rural areas, energy scarcity too has a gender dimension.

Strengthening online safety

Harmful social norms in the offline world impede women's and girls' access to and experiences of the digital domain. Gender stereotypes and power hierarchies within households can result in males having priority over using digital tools.

Some communities view the internet as posing a risk to the traditional social order, with male family members acting as gatekeepers that control and monitor female access to devices and the internet.

Safety concerns also discourage online engagement, and not

without cause. A report by Equality Now found that governments are failing to effectively address an alarming increase in online sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls because national and international laws are not keeping up with advances in technology and cybercrime, leaving perpetrators unpunished.

Governments need to urgently review and update legislation and policies, and implement comprehensive laws that clearly specify the legal responsibilities that digital service providers have to people using their platforms, and for the content posted on their sites.

Equality Now and Women Leading in AI have launched the Alliance on Universal Digital Rights (AUDRI), a global campaign calling for "the adoption of a universal digital rights framework, rooted in human rights law and underpinned by an intersectional feminist, anti-discrimination analysis."

AUDRI has produced a set of Digital Principles that articulate how human rights should be applied to the digital sphere, with binding agreements buttressing these rights so that governments and the private sector can be held more accountable.

Strengthening digital inclusion for women and girls in Africa is crucial to upending harmful gender norms and stereotypes, and preventing backsliding on women's rights. Across the continent, digital technologies must be better harnessed to accelerate progress towards closing the gender equality gap.

To achieve this, state institutions, policy-makers, industry, and civil society have to collaborate to understand and eliminate the root causes hindering women's and girls' digital participation, and enact universal legal protections that foster a safe, inclusive, accessible online world for all.

A look at applicability of the new Tanzania Investment Act

To remove bureaucratic processes that saw investment procedures go at a snail's pace in the past and hinder ease of doing business in the country, the government has taken several measures to rectify, amend or enact new laws and regulations.

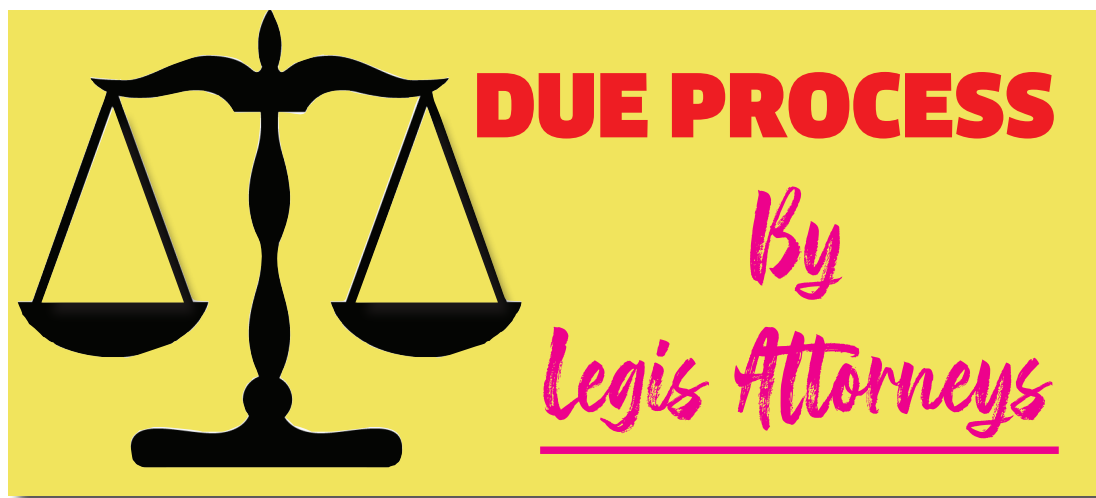
Among the laws caught in this web of changes is the old Tanzania Investment Act No. 26 of 1997 which has been repealed and struck out of the book of statutes with the new comer being the Tanzania Investment Act No. 10 of 2022 which entered the book of statutes in December, 2022.

In this article, what we intend to provide a quick review of the said law and its applicability in relation to the present world. In doing so, we shall revisit relevant provisions of the said new law and in the process, sometimes we shall do a comparative analysis of the repelled old law, namely Act No. 26 of 1997.

First and foremost, the Act has been divided into five parts, namely preliminary provisions and interpretations, Investment Centre and its duties, related condition for investment, rights and duties of government and Investors and lastly, miscellaneous provisions (other conditions).

The first part introduces relevant issues like definitions of terms that are used in the statute and identify the intended beneficiaries or stakeholders of this act and defines people or entities that are bound by this law.

Under section 2 (2) of the Act, it provides for two investors that are covered by this law. The first is foreign investor and the second is local investor. The law defines foreign investor as a foreign person or entity whose capital to be invested in our country should be not less than \$US 500,000 while local investor is a citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania or entity registered in Tanzania with majority shares being held by the locals. One thing to note is that this new Act has minimized the local investor capital from \$US100,000 to \$US 50,000 while the require-



ment of capital for foreign investor has remained the same like in the old law.

Motive behind this decrease of capital requirements for local investors is to encourage participation of more local investors in building our economy. The capital stated in the statutes can be measured not only on the monetary terms only but also assets or properties are counted as capital goods.

On the second part of the statute, the Act has retained the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) which is a government agency and among others, it now has the capacity to own property, sue and be sued and also do anything that an institute has powers to do but subject to its duties.

Also, TIC has powers to advise the government on matters related to investment policy. This center is not a new creation as it was also recognized by the old law.

The act also introduces the National Committee for Investment which now has recognized members according to their positions. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Committee and other members include ministers responsible for finance, land, local government, foreign affairs as well as the Governor of Bank of Tanzania, Commissioner for Revenue and others.

The task of this committee is to ensure favorable conditions for investors, to make different investments in Tanzania, lead the investment policy and give directives as to attain perfect national plan and policy with regard to investment, supervise larger projects with positive results to the nation and also create strategic plans and opportunities for special or specific

investment.

Section 6 (1) of the Tanzania Investment Act provides for the functions of the Investment Centre which in a nutshell are initiating and supporting measures that enhance investment climate in the country; collect, collate, analyse and disseminate information about investment opportunities and sources of investment capital.

Also, it is mandated to advise investors upon request, provide and develop investment sites, estates or land together with associated facilities and also assist and make sure that all investors acquire relevant permits, registration, approval and enable certificates provided by the Center to have full effect.

Another new issue that the Act has provided is that TIC will introduce new Integrated Electronic System whereby the said system shall connect several important institutes or agencies in one system to make it easy for one to acquire different licenses, permits, approval and consent which are required by investors. This is known as One Stop Center.

Once this system comes into full operation, it will assist and attract different investors since previously one had to go to more than five offices to be able to start an operation.

For example, one had to visit Business Registration and Licencing Authority offices, Tanzania Revenue Authority, Immigration Department, respective local government authority and even governmental agencies.

But with this new system, all these can be administered easily in the said system,

something which is very beneficial to an investor as it is less time-consuming than before.

The third part relates to conditions with regard to investment. For example, under section 18, it introduces timeframe for approval from other institutions which was a stumbling block before since there were many red tapes and routines in acquiring different permits and approvals.

The law provides that the Minister in charge of TIC can request an approval or permit from another institution or agency in relation to investment purpose. The law also provides that if the same is not replied within seven days, then the said approval shall be deemed to be granted, otherwise if rejected then appeal to the relevant ministry shall be lodged. Further application as for certificate of incentive shall be issued by TIC and the said application can either be first application or continuing application.

The fourth part deals with rights and duties of the investor and the government. One of the rights that can be found in this part is that the investor can seek loan from inside and outside the United Republic of Tanzania.

In case of a loan being sought in Tanzania, the government has a duty to assist the investor to achieve his or her purpose. The investor is required to adhere to the law and its regulation at the time of investment.

Also, the investor is required to file returns as required by the law and also to discharge his or her duties while making sure that the general public or customers are protected. Further, the investors are guaranteed and protected against nationalization of their capital against their will.

In the last part, it deals with other conditions in which the Act stipulates other issue like dispute resolution of whereby it provides mode to resolve disputes against the center and against the decision rendered by the center.

Section 33(2) of the Act identifies that any dispute against the TIC shall be resolved first through mediation and if not settled, then one can seek for alternative dispute resolution as provided by the laws of United Republic of Tanzania or International Arbitration in respect of investment or any mutual understanding agreements in which Tanzania is a signatory.

Now, something to take note is that this law encourages all disputes to be resolved at mediation stage since adjudication consumes a lot of time in court or arbitration. Further, the government does not want to bind the investor only to use local system to resolve disputes. Instead, parties may agree to refer the dispute to other jurisdictions depending on their understanding.

To sum up, the radical changes to support growth of investment sector are as follows: firstly, by reducing investment capital for local investors, secondly by introducing the integrated electronic system which makes it easier for one to establish or invest in Tanzania through TIC, thirdly providing a form of timeframe for other institutions and agencies to act upon request from the TIC via the responsible minister and if not within seven day the same to be regarded as an automatic acceptance or approval.

Lastly, the expansion of the committee with different ministers brings upon an easy way and perfect route for one to prefer investing in Tanzania to other country.

We call upon different state agencies to adhere to the law since no matter how beautiful a law is, if the state agencies do not adhere to the same or act bonafidely, the spirit within the said statutes shall be killed and the law shall not achieve the purpose for which it was enacted.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz

Samia's new message on press freedom at editors' meeting very commendable indeed

By Mark Mapambano

UNHINDERED flow of information—both offline and online—is a cornerstone of democracy, good governance and rule of law. And vibrant democracy is closely associated with high level of human capital development, lower political instability and higher economic freedom.

Also, democracy is closely tied with economic sources of growth such as high levels of education and lifespan through improvement of educative institutions as well as healthcare in any given society.

Early this week, senior journalists converged in Morogoro municipality for the 12th annual retreat of the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) where Nape Nnauye, Information, Communication and Information Technology minister delivered a message from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In his speech, the minister said the President gave him a message to deliver to editors to the effect that they should do their work without fear, bullying or favouritism in line with the rules of the profession, so that the media

helps to strengthen democracy.

"The President told me 'go and talk to the editors, tell them to work professionally without fear, without favouritism, or oppression because the media is important in strengthening democracy in the country'" he said.

The minister added that the president acknowledges the contribution of the media and highly appreciates cooperation with media outlets to foster reliable public information, unity and uplifting of economic activities.

To cut a long story short, a sitting president sends her minister in charge of communication and ICT to tell journalists to do their job freely without fear since uncensored journalism contributes to good governance and development.

This is a big deal for two reasons. First, the message comes from the Head of State and second, not all presidents in this world encourage journalists to carry out their duties freely. It is often not the case because apart from informing, educating and entertaining, media also play an oversight role which involves criticizing governments.

With great power like pres-



idency of a country, comes great opportunity for criticism. That is why leadership experts say there are ordinary leaders and great leaders. For, what separates great leaders from mediocre ones is their ability to face their critics with grace and deal with them in a productive way.

Ordinary leaders, especially politicians who masquerade as leaders or those who benefited from certain circumstances and landed certain positions, normally fail when it comes to the attribute of handling

criticism because they are somehow alleged to the same.

A person can possess lots of attributes needed to deliver great leadership but if the ability to take constructive criticism and feedback is lacking, then failure is almost guaranteed.

In this particular regard, President Samia is in sharp contrast from her predecessor John Magufuli who was hostile to the media, given the repressive legislations passed under his leadership plus his own utterances.

It should be remembered that the same Nape Nnauye who delivered President Samia's soothing message to editors this week was sacked by Magufuli from the same docket in 2017 as retribution for ordering a probe into the raid on a privately-owned Clouds television station by then president's staunch ally and powerful Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda.

While swearing in Dr Harrison Mwakymbe as Nnauye's replacement that year, Magufuli warned

journalists and media owners that there were limits to their press freedom, a statement which led to massive self-censorship.

"I would like to tell media owners - be careful, watch it. If you think you have that kind of freedom, (it is) not to that extent," Magufuli said.

The seemingly furious leader then went ahead to direct Nnauye's successor to clamp down on media organizations that publish or broadcast material deemed to incite unrest, saying his government would not allow a few individuals to destabi-

lize the country.

Comparatively, Magufuli saw criticism as incitement meant to destabilize his government while Samia sees the same as healthy and needed for speedier development of the country.

In this week's editors' meeting in Morogoro, Nnauye and his Constitution and Legal Affairs counterpart, Dr Damas Ndambaro, were awarded prizes by TEF in recognition of their contribution to the renewal of media vibrancy in the country.

One of the repressive laws passed under Magufuli, the Media Services Act of 2016, was tabled in Parliament for amendment last month by the government of President Samia. Among others, the proposed changes seek to relieve the Director of Information Services Department from the function of coordinating government adverts and remove criminal liability to journalists.

From "Watch it, not to that extent," to "Go ahead, work without fear or favouritism." The message by President Samia on media freedom at editors' meeting in Morogoro this week is indeed commendable.

"Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy", once said American broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite. By restoring our lost freedom of the press, President Samia is indirectly restoring our lost democracy.

The author is a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

Stampedes as destitute throng Pakistan's free flour distribution points

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

THE free Atta (flour) distribution scheme launched by the government to assist the inflation-hit communities during the holy month of Ramzan has left at least ten dead and over 100 injured as would-be beneficiaries rush to claim their 10-kilogram bags.

"We have been waiting in long queues to get a bag of flour since morning but to no avail, as the police resorted to baton charging the would-be beneficiaries. At least 20 people, including seven women, sustained injuries because police baton-charged the crowd," Abdul Wali, 35, a daily wage, told IPS.

A resident of Mardan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Wali said that he had no money to purchase flour and other items for daily use and had pinned his hopes on the free flour scheme. But owing to the rush of people, he didn't get it. Instead, the injured man was rushed to the hospital.

Wali, a street vendor, said he received first aid at the hospital, where his wounds were bandaged, but he has been forced to rest until he recovers.

On March 8, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced the government would provide 100 million people with 10kg of free flour during Ramzan in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces. He said it would cost Rs73 billion (about USD 257 million) to the national exchequer.

Since the beginning of flour distribution at the designated points, ten people, including two women, have died in their effort to get free bags under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

Pakistanis, hit by price-hikes, rush to the points each day, but half of them return empty-handed in the evening due to the number of people trying to claim their food parcels. Stampedes have a problem, especially in KP, where the poverty ratio is higher than in any other province.

"My father stood in a row to get the flour, but meanwhile, stampede started, and he died instantly," Ghufan Khan, a daily wage in Charsadda district, told IPS. His father, Wakil Khan,



A man collects his ration at one of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) collection points. The project, however, has resulted in deaths and injuries as people flocked to the collection points. Credit: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

55, an asthmatic, lost his life before he could get his flour ration.

Mismanagement at the distribution places is keeping the elderly and sick people away from points where the young and healthy people get the flour, he said.

On March 26, a tribal Jirga banned women from visiting the distribution points in Bara Khyber District in KP.

"Our women are getting harsh treatment, and therefore, we have decided that only male members of the deserving families would collect the bags," Shahid Khan Shinwari, a member of the Jirga, said.

According to him, the government should give cash amounts through banks to avoid maltreatment of the beneficiaries.

"As per local traditions, our women don't venture out in public, but poverty has hit the people hard, forcing them even to resort to begging. Government should take pity on poor people who have no option but to wait in the scorching sun to get flour," Shinwari said.

The situation in tribal districts located along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is very precarious because of the poverty, he said.

Nasreen Bibi, a resident of Peshawar, the capital of KP, is angry about the distribution mechanism.

"For the last three days, I have been visiting the point, but there was no chance of getting the stuff due to the massive crowd. I am scared and have stopped going there now," Bibi, a housewife, told IPS. A widow, she has to feed her six children. All are unemployed, and her oldest son, a mason, lost his job because the construction activities have come to a complete halt due to Ramzan, she said.

Young people are climbing over trucks loaded with flour and take away bags while the women are forced to be silent spectators, she explained.

Sharif visited several cities after reports of deaths and injuries, but there has been no improvement as the mechanism is problematic. On March 27, he inspected several places in Islamabad, but there have been no improvements so far.

Human rights activists are concerned.

"It is a gross violation of human rights. People are fighting for flour without caring for their well-being and health. I recommend that the government adopt the mechanism of former Prime Minister Imran Khan during Covid-19, where people received Rs12,000 through banks," Muhammad Uzair, a human rights activist, said.

On rainy days, the situation worsens when the people get wet flour that cannot be used, he said.

"We appeal to the government to realize the gravity of the situation and revert to cash assistance to save the women, children and elderly people from disrespect," he said.

He said that if the government didn't pay attention, the crisis may increase, and many people could lose their lives.

Even in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, people throng the distribution points early in the morning, but many lose hope and return to their homes.

"The government has enrolled 150,000 families in Islamabad, but the pace of distribution is at snail's pace, and police have had to intervene time and again to ensure order," Shah Afzal, 59, said.

Afzal, a dishwasher in a restaurant, lost his job during Ramzan. He said the flour distribution gave the impoverished community hope, but the system is faulty and aged people cannot continue to put their lives at risk.

IPS UN Bureau Report

From gamblers to big entrepreneurs: Why our youth should take the road less travelled

By Kilo Mgaya

IN a world where the lure of easy money through betting and gambling is ever-present, more than ever, many young people are drawn into these activities as a way of making quick, easy money. However, experts warn that the risks associated with these activities far outweigh the potential rewards. Instead, they advocate for the embrace of entrepreneurship.

Starting a small business is never easy but it can be an excellent way for young people to gain experience and build a foundation for future success. Entrepreneurship provides an opportunity for young people to develop valuable skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity while also providing a platform to innovate new ways of doing business and leverage on technology to reach a wider audience.

The rise of e-commerce platforms and social media has provided an unprecedented opportunity for young entrepreneurs to create brands that resonate with their target market and reach a global audience. By starting small, young entrepreneurs can learn from their mistakes, refine

their approaches and develop a solid foundation for long-term success.

In addition to starting small, young entrepreneurs should also take advantage of financing programmes offered by Tanzanian banks that target youth empowerment. These programmes can provide financial support needed to get a business off the ground while also offering valuable resources such as mentorship, networking opportunities and business development training.

Ultimately, the pursuit of easy money through betting and gambling is a high-risk activity that often leads to financial ruin and can have negative impacts on mental health and relationships. By embracing entrepreneurship and starting small, young people can develop the skills and mindset needed to succeed in the long term while also contributing to the growth and development of their communities.

The road less travelled may be challenging but it offers greater rewards and opportunities for growth and success. Young people should resist the lure of easy money and instead embrace entrepreneurship.

Starting a successful business does not

necessarily require millions of shillings in capital. While some businesses may require significant capital investment, there are many examples of successful businesses that started small and grew over time through hard work, dedication and smart decision-making.

It is important to remember that success in business is not just about how much capital one has, but also about factors such as market demand, product or service quality, effective marketing, customer service and strategic planning. By focusing on these critical factors and leveraging their strengths, even small business owners can achieve significant success over time.

One of the best ways for young people to come up with a business idea is to identify a problem that needs solving in our communities. By identifying challenges and creating solutions that address them, young entrepreneurs can make a positive impact on their communities while also building a successful business.

This approach, known as 'social entrepreneurship', has gained popularity in recent years. Social entrepreneurs are driven by a desire to solve social or environmental prob-



lems and they use their businesses as a vehicle to create positive change.

In addition, stakeholders can also play a role in promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career path for young people. This can include working with educational institutions to provide entrepreneurship training and resources, supporting business incubators and accelerators and advocating for policies that support small business development.

In Tanzania, like many other developing countries, youth un-

employment rate is a growing concern. Each year, between 800,000 and one million young people enter the job market but only a small fraction of them, around 40,000, secure formal salaried employment. This has created a crisis as more and more young people are left without work and struggling to make ends meet.

Investing in young entrepreneurs is not only a smart business decision but also a way to support the growth and development of the economy. Young

entrepreneurs are the drivers of innovation and change, and they have the potential to create new products and services that can disrupt entire industries.

While it is true that stakeholders and policymakers can play a significant role in promoting and supporting youth entrepreneurship, the ultimate responsibility lies with young people themselves to take the initiative and seize the opportunities available to them.

Aspiring young entrepreneurs should begin by identifying their

passions, interests and skills, and looking for potential business ideas that align with these factors.

Networking and building relationships with other entrepreneurs and industry experts can also provide valuable insights and connections to help bring their ideas to fruition.

The author is a senior public relations manager at CRDB Bank Plc. He can be reached at kilo.mgaya@gmail.com. The views expressed in this article are his own and have no relationship with the Bank.

Two years of Samia: LSF registers milestone success

By Guardian Reporter

ACCESS to justice is undoubtedly among the sectors that have seen a remarkable improvement in the country in the two years that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been in office, which is a direct result of robust oversight and administration of policies in the legal realm and their onward implementation.

For more than ten years now the Legal Services Facility (LSF), a basket fund that channels funding on an equal opportunity basis to organizations that provide legal aid and paralegal services in the mainland and Zanzibar, has continuously implemented its Access to Justice Program across the country to support the country achieve its goals with Vision 2025.

In the two years of President Samia's tenure, LSF has channeled a total of 12.3bn/- to more than 200 organizations towards implementing its Access to Justice Programme, with part of the funding being directed towards projects that address conflicts through alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

Funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the European Union mission in Tanzania, the programme facilitates the provision of legal aid services in communities through paralegals who work in every district and ward. Along with legal aid services, this programme has further integrated access to justice in its entirety and has incorporated important niches such as health, education, mining,



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents a certificate of acknowledgment to the LSF's chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala during the Women in Law and Development in Africa's (WILDAP) 25th anniversary in Dar es Salaam on October 20th, 2022.

and agriculture.

In ensuring that access to justice through free legal aid services remains at the core of the programme, between 2021 and 2022 a total of 138,031 people received the services which are provided by paralegals handling disputes including inheritance, land, matrimony, and gender-based violence which all amounted to 72 percent of all cases reported to paralegals. Specifically, women reported a total of 79,654 cases, and 74 percent of them were resolved while the remaining 26 percent were referred to higher instruments of justice including courts.

In the two years also, an annual average of 7 million people were reached with legal education both in the mainland and Zanzibar, of whom women made up more than 56 percent proving categorically how these services significantly benefit them as well as girls.

Legal education is provided by some 4,195 paralegals that are funded by LSF and are

found in nearly every ward. Legal education has successfully functioned as a crucial tool for empowering communities and directing them away from the abuse of human rights and lawlessness which are traditionally pegged on the lack of legal awareness.

The essence of the Access to Justice Programme is formulated on four strategic areas of focus which include increasing accessibility of quality legal aid services where LSF aims to improve the efficiency of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in communities, ensure ordinary citizens can access legal aid services all over the country, expand collaboration between legal aid providers and pertinent stakeholders with the intent to enhance the quality of conflict resolution and promote comprehensive access to justice.

The programme works to empower communities with the legal knowledge sufficient to enable citizens to claim and use their rights. This end is be-

ing achieved through community-gear legal education initiatives that centre on a broad spectrum of legal topics so that everyday people have an increased understanding of the law and can use it to reclaim their rights when they are encroached upon.

The third, strategic area entails building an environment that is conducive to access to justice and this specifically interrogates reforming laws, policies and other frameworks to allow them to function compatible with ever-changing societal fundamentals, and also resolve existing challenges in communities.

The programme also seeks to strategically ensure that access to justice remains sustainable through the availability of financial resources which are instrumental for this outcome, empowering civil society organizations to carry out their mandates effectively, and seeking funding opportunities to guarantee the continuity of these crucial services.

The National Development Vision 2025, which is currently being implemented through the third National Five-Year Development Plan (2021/22-2025/26) which aims at "Realizing Competitiveness and Industrialization for Human Development", is the primary roadmap intended to lead the nation to its objective of an improved standard of living for all by 2025.

In its 2022/23 fiscal year budget estimates speech, the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs stated that between July 2021 and March 2022 improvements in access to justice in the country, particularly through enhanced availability of legal aid services, have benefitted 1,455,566 people (529,079 women, 514,051 men, and 412,436 children) all of whom received these vital services directly. This is an increase of 1,133,124 people which is 351 percent compared to 322,442 people who accessed legal aid services between July 2020 and March

2021. The other part of the LSF funding has directed financial resources to special economic concerns in agriculture, mining and the marine economy all of which specifically seek to benefit women in deliberate efforts to improve their economic situations by helping them take advantage of various sector-specific opportunities.

Resolving conflicts has significantly reduced the backlog of cases in courts thus proving that if alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are improved cost-saving and efficiency will be objectively achieved, and that they will consequently enhance the overall access to justice environment, particularly at the community level.

In addition to being at the forefront of the legal aid sector, LSF also ensures that it helps nurture a legally-empowered society that recognizes and respects gender equality among all groups.

Working with the Tanzania Police, LSF facilitated the review of the Police General Order (PGO) which has proceeded to improve the functioning of the institution. This process also enabled the formalization of police gender desks which have been instrumental in defending and protecting the rights of women and children across the country.

It is worth noting that these two years have witnessed deliberate efforts to put in motion a process under which amendments to a broad spectrum of laws to bring them into synchronization with various changes was effected thus allowing the possibility of ushering social, economic, political and cultural transformations that are aimed at enhancing good governance. More than 450m/- was spent in facilitating the amendments to the PGO, and publishing and disseminating copies of it to all police stations in the country.

This period has also seen LSF carrying out various projects designed to improve the economic fortunes of women in their communities as avenues for extracting them from barriers to their progress including gender-based violence.

Empowering women and girls is fundamental to the implementation of LSF's Access to Justice Program, and the organization has placed maximum priority in uplifting women with inspiration from the fact that President Samia is a woman, thus pointing to verifiable evidence that there is room for women to excel in many areas.

LSF has also helped improve delivery of legal aid services with the introduction of the Haki Yangu app which links more than 1,000 paralegals to the app's users with 4,500 people to date taking full advantage of the app, and 315 cases already received and resolved including matrimonial, land, child maintenance and inheritance disputes.

This platform has additionally enabled users to expand their knowledge of the law while paralegals also use it to access learning opportunities that help them to upscale their skills and thus continue to provide quality legal aid services.

The government in partnership with LSF and other legal aid sector stakeholders in the country recently launched the Mama Samia Nationwide Legal Aid Campaign which is intended to promote access to justice especially for the less privileged, mostly women, children and other special groups.

The campaign's strategic output focuses on providing human rights education, fighting gender-based violence, resolving conflicts through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and building the capacities of both people and institutions engaged in the provision of legal aid services.

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IN Tanzania, a workshop named after the ancient Chinese craftsman Lu Ban is providing vocational skills training for local youths who are brimming with excitement as they work in an automobile workshop wearing blue overalls.

Operating under the state-run National Institute of Transport (NIT) in Tanzania, the Lu Ban workshop under the framework of the forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has already attracted 39 students, mostly those pursuing automobile engineering and locomotive technology studies.

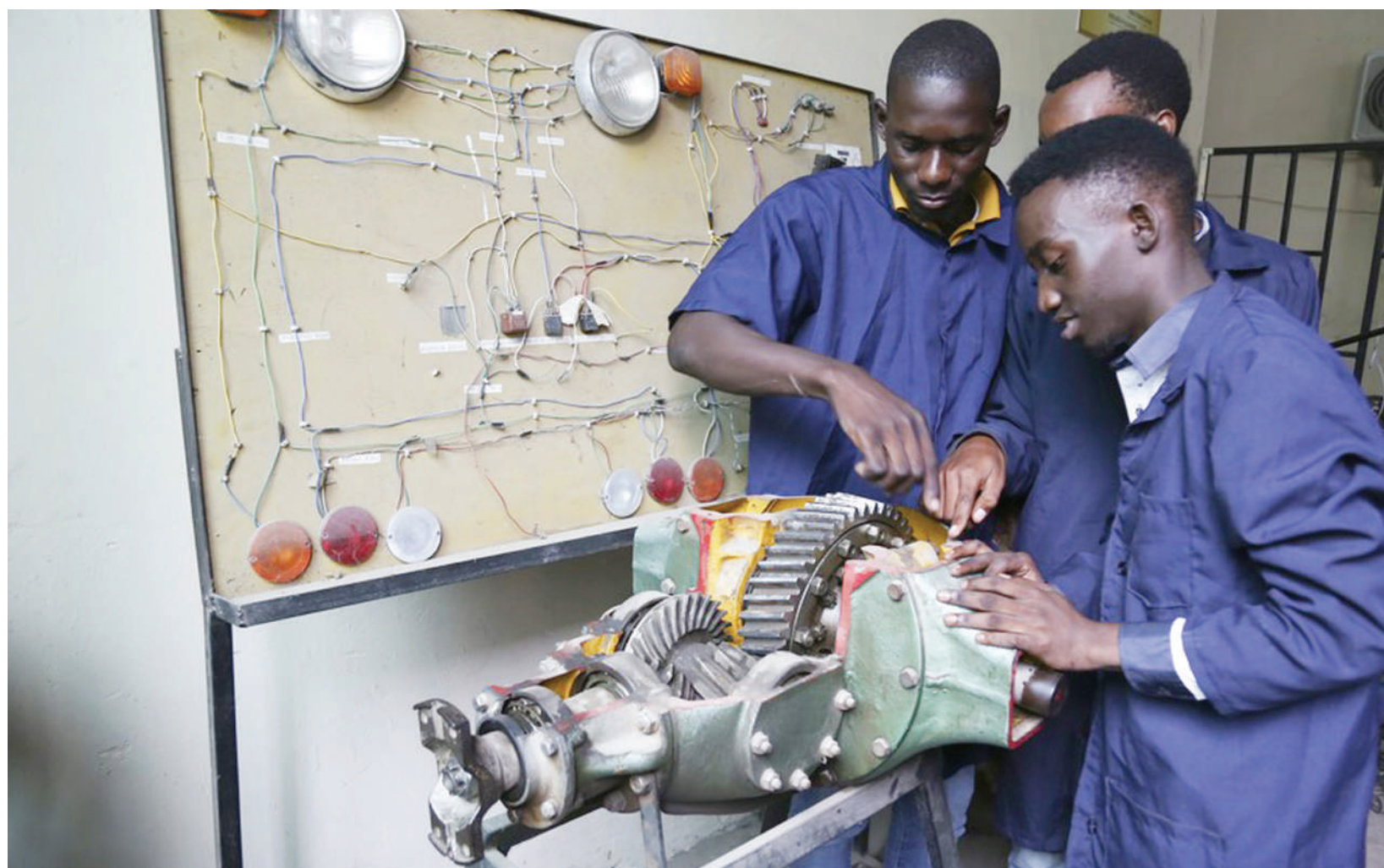
Twenty-one-year-old Odhiambo Joseph Awino, one of the beneficiaries of the Lu Ban workshop training project, said that the Lu Ban workshop has exposed him to a lot of skills from China.

"The skills and knowledge I am getting from the Lu Ban workshop will give me more exposure and experience in the automobile field," said Awino, a first-year student at the NIT studying automobile engineering and locomotive technology.

He said the Lu Ban workshop training project was not only exposing him to automotive skills but also to Chinese culture, as he was learning the Chinese language as part of the programme.

Awino, a resident of Mwanandege village in the Mkuranga district, Coast region, said he welcomed more projects like this in Africa, adding that since the world has advanced in technology, Africa should not be left behind.

"If we get enough skills, 10 or 20 years to come, we should not rely much on external aid," said the young student, who also hoped that the training could be extended to other disciplines apart from automotive engineering. "I thank



Students learn vocational skills in Dar es Salaam recently

Chinese Lu Ban workshop injects new vitality to Tanzania's youth engineers

our Chinese partners. It has been an honour, and I feel very lucky to be part of this Lu Ban workshop training project. I thank China for not being selfish and bringing this training project to Tanzania."

Awino's fellow students Lewis Leonard Ntabwa, 20, a resident of

Mabibo Mnarani in the port city of Dar es Salaam, and Isaya Edward, 18, a resident of Tegeta, also in Dar es Salaam, told Xinhua that they were thrilled to be part of the Lu Ban workshop training project.

"We are looking forward to being skilled engineers after we complete

training under the Lu Ban workshop project," beamed Ntabwa and Edward, both first-year students at the NIT studying automobile engineering and locomotive technology.

With the training they were getting, mostly online from the Luban workshop, they were confident that

they will become employable anywhere in Tanzania after completion of their training.

"We thank China for showing their cooperation with Tanzania, and Africa in general, by deeds and not words," said Ntabwa, adding that he was looking forward to getting em-

ployed in the standard gauge railway currently under construction.

Faraja Nyangassa, assistant lecturer in automobile engineering at the NIT, said the Lu Ban workshop training project was introduced at the NIT in October 2022 to both teachers and students by learning the Chinese language before they moved to learn automotive skills.

Nyangassa said the difference between the Lu Ban workshop and traditional workshops is that the Lu Ban workshop is dealing with the assembling and disassembling of modern vehicles, and it is more practical than traditional workshops.

"A student who completes training with the Lu Ban workshop can assemble and disassemble modern vehicles single-handedly," he said.

Jefferson Benjamin Maisson, a lecturer in mechanical engineering and automobile engineering at the NIT since 2019, welcomed more Lu Ban workshops to Africa because they will bring more benefits.

"The Luban workshop is introducing to Africa new automotive engineering technologies. These new engineering technologies will help Africa to develop," said Maisson.

The China-Tanzania Automotive Lu Ban workshop and China-Tanzania Automotive Academy were jointly established on Feb. 16, 2022, by China's Zibo Vocational Institute, the NIT, and Sunmaker Training Institute.

The project aims to provide more high-quality education and teaching resources for Tanzania's automotive engineering and other related majors, and to cultivate talents proficient in automotive-related majors.

BY CHARLES MPAKA

Malawi: Cyclone Freddy devastates communities, heightens food insecurity

IN Sonjeka village in Mulanje district, which lies on the border with Mozambique in southern Malawi, destroyed crop fields stretch almost interminably after floods ripped through them when Tropical Cyclone Freddy pounded the country.

One of those fields lying in waste with its drying maize stalks flattened to the ground, if not ripped off altogether, belongs to Eliza Mponya.

A field close to a hectare in size, this has been the lifeline for the single mother and her four children.

Not that it gives her all the maize which the family needs for the whole year, but it still gets Mponya and her children enough to carry them close to the next harvesting season.

By her estimation, this year, she would have harvested maize that would have lasted the family until the end of November.

"We had good rains here, and we were lucky because my son found piece work in Mozambique, and we managed some fertiliser through what he earned.

"But now, after all the hard work and just when we were close to reaping the rewards, we have this damage. It's heartbreaking," she says.

Malawi is in a mourning period, courtesy of the worst natural disaster to have struck the country in recent memory.

Exactly a year after the battering by tropical storms Ana and Gombe, whose devastation the country is yet to recover from, Tropical Freddy hit rather more brutally.

After barreling through Madagascar and Mozambique, the cyclone stormed into Malawi on March 11, 2023. From the afternoon of March 12, rain poured over 10 of the 13 districts in the southern region of the country for the next 72 hours.

Rivers broke their banks; furious waters gorged through unlikely landscapes, and, beyond anyone's expectation, several mud avalanches pushed down giant boulders from mountainous areas that, in some cases, swept away entire villages and crushed homes and people below at night.

President Lazarus Chakwera declared it a state of disaster, calling for help, a plea to which both local and the international community have responded generously.

The scale of the destruction is unprecedented in any natural disaster Malawi has experienced. A draft situation report which the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), a government agency, released on Wednesday, March 29, shows that up to 2.2 million people have been affected thus far; 676 have been killed, and 538 are missing - many of them feared to have been buried in the mudslides and rubble of collapsed buildings



Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs shows that 2.2 million people have been affected, with 676 killed and 538 missing after Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi earlier this month. Credit: Red Cross

or washed away to unknown lands.

At the appropriate time, the police will declare the missing people dead, DoDMA says.

According to the report, up to 2,000 people are nursing various degrees of injuries, some while still in the over 760 evacuation camps that are hosting over 650,000 that have been displaced in the affected districts.

Up to 405 kilometres of road infrastructure have been damaged, and 63 health facilities and close to a million water and sanitation facilities have been affected.

The worst hit of all sectors, according to the report, is agriculture, the mainstay of Malawi's economy. Over 2 million farmers have lost their crops and livestock, and over 179,000 hectares of crop fields have been destroyed.

Mponya's field is among those counted.

Her maize crop would have been ready for harvest sometime towards the end of April.

Now floods have harvested it, and Mponya is broken.

"I have never experienced anything like this in my life," she tells IPS.

On March 23, 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture launched its own assessment of the damage the cyclone has caused to the agriculture sector in the region. It is yet to release its report on the assessment and the interventions that it will undertake to bail out the affected farmers.

However, in effect, the cyclone has worsened the food security situation for millions of people for the year. This comes against the backdrop of the government distributing food to 3.8 million food-insecure households, an exercise meant to see them through to the next harvest, which is now struck by the storm.

In an earlier forecast, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), a USAID-supported global food security monitoring activity, said the southern region could register a decrease ranging between 30 and 50 percent in the harvest of

maize, Malawi's staple crop and a key factor in the economy.

This, it said, would leave poor households running out of food stocks by end of August instead of October, as it usually happens with most such households in a good harvest year.

FEWSNET cited limited and delayed access to fertiliser for most subsistence farmers who rely on the government's fertiliser subsidy programme that was rocked by logistical and procurement challenges in this growing season and due to high prices of the commodity on the normal market, which drove the farm input out of reach for most of them.

FEWSNET compiled the report before Cyclone Freddy lashed the country.

Christone Nyondo, a research fellow at MwAPATA Institute, a local independent agricultural policy think-tank, says the cyclone has effectively struck a blow on household food security in the region and the country.

According to Nyondo, families that have lost their food crops will struggle to cope with-

out external help. He, therefore, suggests assistance for the affected farmers to replant short-duration maize varieties.

He further says crops that can still do well when planted under residual moisture should be promoted to provide a short-term coping mechanism for the households as they recover.

However, Nyondo argues that Malawi needs to invest in long-term and enduring disaster-proactive measures considering that these natural shocks will keep occurring in the face of climate change.

According to Nyondo, an agricultural economist, for a long time, Malawi has focused much of its efforts on post-disaster recovery. It is high time the country did a deep rethink of its policies and invest significantly in early warning systems and forward planning based on intelligence gathered from these early warning systems, he says.

"The specific interventions to safeguard food security will vary by season by the nature of the predicted disaster. If the predicted disaster is a wide-

spread drought, then forward planning in terms of strategic investments in irrigation infrastructure will be key," Nyondo tells IPS via email.

He adds: "But, in any case, we need to invest more in irrigation, storage and other critical infrastructure without waiting for disasters. That's the surest way of safeguarding our food security. Yes, it will be expensive but it will also be necessary."

Back in Mulanje district, Mponya has no idea how she will recover.

Unlike some people in her village, she has not suffered any damage to her house or the loss of any member of her family. But she says it is a tragedy of her life that for the first time as a farmer, the 51-year-old will harvest almost nothing from her field after months of toil, leaving her to face a year-long struggle for food.

Asked whether she has a way out, Mponya stares blankly and then says, "I don't know what to do."

IPS UN Bureau Report

RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



Radio One

WALL PUTTY MANUFACTURER LAUDS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS QUALITY

By Francis Kajubi

BOSPHORUS Manufacturing Limited has said abundant raw materials available in the country had made it simpler for manufacturers to run their businesses smoothly.

The building material manufacturer that trades as YAPFIX hailed the current conducive business environment created by the government for both local and foreign investors.

The company's director Necmetin Keles told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the Turkey originated company has been operational since the past seven years and still sees more investment opportunities especially in the construction sector.

Keles was speaking on the features of the company's rebranded wall putty

currently supplied on the local market. He emphasized that the company's priority is manufacturing the quality of the products.

"We have been in Tanzania for almost seven years now supplying the market with quality and durable construction materials. We are glad to reintroduce the Yapfix wall putty that has unique features to serve for low, middle and high income earners," he said.

The company has employed 35 people of which locals are 33 working in different departments. With its factory based in Boko suburb of Dar es Salaam, it manufactures an average of 150,000 Yapfix wall putty bags weighing 25 kilogram each a month.

The company has invested an estimated 2bn/- in production of four different products Yapfix wall putty, tiles adhesive,

grout and decorative plaster.

Ale Kaaya, the company's marketing manager said that Yapfix wall putty has a deserved quality for residential and commercial properties developers as it has a durability of up to eight years.

According to him, the wall putty is waterproofing and can serve as a decorative plaster for both residential and commercial properties.

He said the wall putty is easy to apply and trim, resistant to weather conditions and water repellent, gives the building a natural and decorative look.

"Yapfix wall putty is easy to apply either by brush, roller or trowel. It has excellent bonding on all concrete and masonry, it reduces wall water absorption and is non-corrosive for steel and construction elements," said Kaaya.

He asserted that the wall putty attracts a smooth final surface, low shrinkage and therefore absence of cracks and fissures and it is produced in nine main colours. The putty is flex white adhesive and non-slump for both interior and exterior walls.

"Our objective is to become a runner's provider of choice in Tanzania's growth by creating value for our customers, business partners, employees, and other stakeholders through governance policies," said Kaaya.

Erick Mahali, sales and marketing officer said that one bag of wall putty can be used to paint a wall covering between 20 and 25 square meters.

"We have a supply network across the country. Our products are affordable and we work with agents to ease the distribution of the products," said Mahali.



Necmetin Keles, Bosphorus Manufacturing Ltd director, shows journalists one of the machines used in the production Yapfix wall putty in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is the company's marketing manager Ale Kaaya. Photo: Jumanne Juma.

EABC partners with stakeholders to push for zero waste production

Property Watch Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) have joined forces with a number of local firms and manufacturers to push for zero waste in a bid to attract environment protection.

EABC has partnered with GIZ-GFA, Azania bank, Salinero hotel, Coca-Cola Bonite Bottlers, A to Z Textiles Mills, Tanzania Coffee Association and Tanzania Horticulture Association in realizing the true impact of the initiative on the environment.

Speaking during the announcement of the initiative held mid this week, Moshi district commissioner Kisare Makori

said the government is committed to promoting an enabling environment for business and realization of sustainable development goals through protection of the environment.

"We are proud that Kilimanjaro is the first region in Tanzania to celebrate the International Day on Zero Waste." He said.

He called for public sensitization campaigns and closer collaboration among actors on Zero waste and environment conservation initiatives.

Arumeru district commissioner Emmanuela Kaganda, urged investors to take up business opportunities in the circular economy such as waste recycling.

EABC executive director, John Bosco Kalisa said "The United Nations General Assembly formally recognized the importance of zero-waste initiatives and proclaimed 30th March as International Day of Zero Waste."

According to him, waste generation globally is rising and estimated at 2.24 billion tonnes equivalent to a footprint of 0.79 kilograms per person per day.

With rapid urbanization and population growth, annual waste generation is expected to increase by 73% from 2020 levels to 3.88 billion tonnes in 2050 according to the World Bank.

Article III of the Treaty for the establishment of

EAC tasks Partner States to take a coordinated approach to protect the environment for sustainable development.

Businesses in East Africa under the umbrella of EABC are committed to championing the circular economy and Zero waste initiatives to create more jobs for the youthful population.

For instance, the Polyethylene Terephthalate Recycle Company in (PETPRO) Tanzania targets to collect and recycle 12.5 million tons of plastic waste and create 5,000 jobs.

Immediately after the event, over 100 officials from East African Business Council GIZ-GFA, Azania Bank, Salinero Ho-



EABC executive director, John Bosco Kalisa

tel, Coca-Cola Bonite Bottlers, A to Z Textiles Mills, Tanzania Coffee Association, Tanzania Horticulture Association, Zaidi Recyclers and the general public joined efforts to clean the Manyema Market

in Moshi Municipality.

During the event, Bonite Bottlers handed over a donation of cleaning equipment and gears to the Kilimanjaro district commissioner.

TGFA tasked to transform JNIA to meet international standards

Property Watch Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged officials at the Tanzania Government Flights Agency (TGFA) to ensure that Terminal I at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), in Dar es Salaam is up to international standards in the eyes of foreign visitors.

Majaliwa made the remarks during his inspection tour at the JNIA Terminal I to assess the ongoing refurbishing of the aircraft parking lot and the maintenance of the state-owned planes.

Addressing TGFA officials and workers after the inspection mid this week, Majaliwa instructed TGFA director general, John Nzulule to ensure the work is accomplished as soon as possible since the government has already reimbursed funds for the construction.

"The government has already given the go-ahead to start the construction of the maintenance workshop which I am told will enable two large aircraft to park at one time for maintenance," he said.

The Premier went ahead to instruct the deputy minister for Public Service Management and Good Governance, Ridhiwan Kikwete and its permanent secretary Juma Mkomi to follow up the workers benefits for their work motivation.

Earlier, welcoming the PM to address the TGFA officials and construction workers, deputy minister Ridhiwan Kikwete told the PM that the government provided 2.5bn/- for the first phase of the TGFA offices project that has been completed and is now operational.

For his part, TGFA chief executive officer, said the completion of the building has helped in boosting up the Agency responsibilities for the ministry's departments' offices at JNIA as it now has ample spaces to accommodate pilots, aircraft engineers, aircraft services providers and other staff.

He said the second phase involves the construction of an area for aircraft maintenance and is expected to start shortly as the building permit has already been obtained.

PAC censurs flaws in BRT III project

Property Watch Reporter

THE Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has noticed some flaws in relation to the construction of the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) project Phase III implemented along the Mfugale fly-over in Dar es Salaam.

The shortfalls identified by the committee during its inspection earlier this week is based on the road's divergence connecting the Mandela and Nyerere highways thus doubted that it might lead to heavy traffic jams upon its completion.

"The main aim of building this road is to help reduce traffic jams and ease city transport, but on how it has been built, we have seen that it will lead to heavy traffic jams especially for trucks going to

the port. If that happens, the purpose of building it will be meaningless," said the committee's chairperson, Naghenjwa Kaboyoka.

She said the committee has already advised TANROADS to urgently fix the shortfalls before the project is completed next year.

"Many trucks pass along this road to and from the Dar es Salaam port area using the road below, hence there is a possibility of huge congestion along it," she added.

TANROADS chief executive officer, Rogatus Mativila said the agency has received PAC advice and will work on it.

"We shall work on the advice by revisiting the road design. But also we are considering building a fly-over at the Buguruni



Rapid transit bus

junction," he said.

The PAC also noticed the existence of some public institution officials is playing a critical part in holding back the project implementation.

PAC Chairperson said so far the project was supposed to be 15 per cent

complete but was behind at 10 per cent and the reason is its being stalled by some public institutions.

"Officials from other public entities should not be the key campaigner of holding back this project. In different occasions, there might happen misun-

derstandings but you need to address them under the common ground of serving for the people," she said.

She called upon the public institutions in question to stop raising issues that hold back the project, as in doing so a lot of public funds are being wasted as

well as delaying the entire BRT project," she added.

The contract for BRT Phase III project was signed March 17 last year and work officially started later in August and was lined up for completion within 20 months, costing more than 230bn/-.

The Maasai village turning into new tourist attraction

By Mnaku Mbani

Four kilometres from Mikumi town, there is a Maasai village where the sounds of cattle, sheep and goats are heard in the morning, when they are getting out from the herds for grazing, and during evening when they are returning back.

The Maasai community has been living in this village for many years and their main economic activity being livestock keeping; the only main source of their livelihoods.

They depend on livestock as the main source of foods and incomes through selling to their animals to local markets. The integration of Maasai and livestock has been existing since modern human existence.

The grass wall and roofs covered huts are also spread across the village, where Maasai and their families are living. It is rarely to see houses built with cement or earth materials at the village, because of the nature of Maasai culture.

In the traditional nomadic lifestyle of the Maasai, houses are built that are semi-permanent and cannot withstand the harsh weather conditions. The materials used (grass, twigs, cow dung, anthill soil) degrade very quickly and it is usually the women and children who carry out the constantly needed repairs.

All houses together make up a boma that is usually surrounded by a large thorn fence.

Men and boys are responsible for livestock grazing and security at family and community levels, while women and girls are staying at home, responsible for all household duties, in accordance with Maasai culture.

In a nearby village, there is Mikumi National Park, one of 22 national parks managed by Tanzania National Parks Authority (Tanapa), where tourism and conservation activities are being carried out.

For years, Maasai community at the village were seeing Mikumi National Park as a curse, as predators including lions, cheetahs, hyenas and leopards were sometimes at-

tacking and killing their livestock when grazing nearby or inside the park.

This caused some of the Maasai community to blame the existence of the national park.

However, instead of seeing Mikumi National Park as a threat to their livelihood, Marogo Meleni Leng'aje (29), a father of three saw it as an opportunity.

Leng'anye family migrated to the village from Kisaki in Morogoro rural district seven years ago seeking for greener pastures. By that time, he was just graduated his secondary school education.

The year later, Leng'anye applied for a tour guide studies at Mikumi Vocational Education Training Authority (Veta) college.

After months of training, he managed to get a chance for a field attachment at Mikumi National Park.

At the end of his field attachment, he started hunting for a job in different tourist services companies.

"I spent two years looking for an employment opportunity unsuccessfully, until I decided to think outside the box," he said. "The thing that came to my mind was to venture into self-employment."

He said, he saw an opportunity within the Maasai culture due to their appreciation by foreign tourists.

"I therefore thought of establishing cultural tourism activities at our village through mobilizing my fellow villagers," he said during an interview with The Guardian during the media tour held in Mikumi organized by Association of Environmental Journalist in Tanzania (JET) and Internews East Africa.

"Many were impressed with my idea, although the acceptance was a bit challenge during the start."

He said he mobilized some youths at the village to start advertising their village in different tourist hotels.

"We published brochures with pictures, explanation of the history of Maasai tribe, our traditional houses and costumes which we distributed in different places where they receive tourists including Mikumi National Park and

tourist hotels surrounding the park," he said.

He said they constructed number small Maasai houses which were equipped with traditional facilities including beds.

He also mobilized Maasai women at the village to start making different products using beads for selling to visitors, mainly foreign tourists.

He said after months, the village started to receive foreign tourists who were passing by after visiting the Mikumi National Park.

"We were showcasing how to make fire using traditional methods and we allowed them to enter into constructed houses to take pictures as well as dancing and they paid us," he said.

The activity has managed to create employment to dozen of women and youth at the village who are also earning income by performing different activities ranging from Maasai dances, photography, arts and crafts.

"I am using the income I am getting from my cultural tourism activities to buy cattle and fattening them, before resale at higher profit," he said.

He said he has managed to sponsor four Maasai youths from the village to pursue different language courses including Portuguese, English, French, and Spanish to enable them to communicate with visitors speaking different languages.

Another achievement is that he has managed to raise funds to construct a classroom for early childhood education for pastoralist children at the village.

Leng'anye is planning to build a hotel with traditional Maasai houses, to accommodate visitors who are visiting the village to maximize incomes.

However, he said he is currently facing many challenges including poor infrastructure in reaching his village, dangerous animals from the park and lack of water supply.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), tourism centred on cultural attractions and products - is one of the fastest-growing segments of the tourism industry, accounting for an estimated 40 percent of all tourism worldwide.



Marogo Meleni Leng'aje (29) speaks to Mnaku Mbani, The Guardian business editor during a recent interview.

It intersects with heritage and religious sites, crafts, performing arts, gastronomy, festivals and special events, among others.

"Countries around the world are harnessing their unique mix of tangible and intangible heritage and contemporary culture to boost economic growth and sustainable development through cultural tourism, which can lead to job creation, regeneration of rural and urban areas, and the protection of natural and cultural heritage," says UNWTO.

Cultural tourism is a continually evolving sub-sector, which continues to be transformed by changing lifestyles, burgeoning forms of culture and creativity, and traditional and digital innovation, according to UNWTO.

Cultural tourism is also a major pillar of employment globally and is considered by many countries around the world as a core priority to stimulate job creation, notably for youth.

The tourism sector as a whole is estimated by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) to contribute 330 million jobs - one in ten jobs around the world - while cultural tourism alone accounts for a significant share of tourism employment.

Cultural tourism permeates across the whole cultural ecosystem, sustaining employment around cultural and natu-

Outlook

According to future market insights, the global cultural tourism market is set to reach US\$ 5,931.2 million in 2023.

Over the next ten years, sales in the market will rise at 14.4 percent Compounded Annual Growth Rate. This will take the global cultural tourism market size to US\$22,772.0 million by 2033.

The growing interest in exploring different cultures is driving the global market forward. Besides this, increasing affordability due to rising disposable income will boost the market through 2033.

TRA to recruit 2,100 workers to enhance revenue collections

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) is set to recruit additional 2,100 workers across the country to enhance revenue collections.

Richard Kayombo, TRA's Director of Tax Payers Services and Education revealed this on Wednesday in Morogoro when presenting a report on the authority's responsibilities at the 12th Annual Editors Retreat organized by Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

He said that the authority faces shortage of staff in various districts, saying the newly recruited staff have helped to reduce the problem, noting that the authority had a large shortage of staff in various districts in the country but the new jobs that were provided last year have helped to eliminate the existing gap.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for increasing the number of staff at TRA; efficiency has increased to a large extent. There are districts that had only two employees; we have only two employees in Ulanga Morogoro who were also forced to work in Malinyi District," he said.

Kayombo said 60 percent of the country's annual budget comes from TRA, asking the public to cooperate with the authority by exposing tax evaders.

He said revenue collections between July and December last year reached 100.2 percent, expressing hopes to surpass the set goals for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Kayombo said to improve performance, TRA has upgraded the five districts of the Dar es Salaam—Ilala, Temeke, Kigamboni, Ubungo and Kinondoni into tax regions.

He asked Tanzanians to expose tax evaders because apart from denying the government of its revenues, smuggled goods pose health risks to consumers.

"There are various counterfeit products that are seized by TRA and when examined, they are not suitable for human consumption. Such products may cause diseases like cancer and many others. Tax evaders sabotage the country's economy," he added.

Kayombo explained the need for Tanzanians aged 18 years and above to have a tax payers' number (TIN). He said young people with TIN will not be required to pay taxes until he/she starts business. He said in countries like the UK, children are given TIN numbers as they are born.

He said TRA has simplified processes to get the taxpayer's number whereas they have come up with an online system (Taxpayers Portal) where a businessman can log in and get various services without using a middleman.

graphical positioning to facilitate cross-border trade," she said.

"This project is a necessary first step to the eventual upgrade and expansion of the broader Central Corridor transport network," she added.

Minister for Works and Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa said the government has up to date constructed 1379 kilometers from 720 reached by previous phase.

"I would like to assure Tanzanians that all projects are implemented as planned insisting that there is no project that is dormant," he said.

Tanzania needs 20,000 kilometres of Railway network to link with the regional rail network that is necessary for competitiveness and global region integration.

Currently, Tanzania's railway system has two existing networks, one linking the East African nation to Zambia and the other connecting it to Kenya and Uganda.

Govt commits 23trn/- for the SGR project

By Correspondent James

Kandoya

THE government has disbursed 23trn/- as of this month in construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) targeting at transforming the country's railway transport into a regional hub.

Tanzania also wants to get profit from its railway network by renovating its meter gauge railway from its long coastline and upgrading existing rickety railways to serve growing economies in the land-locked heart of Africa.

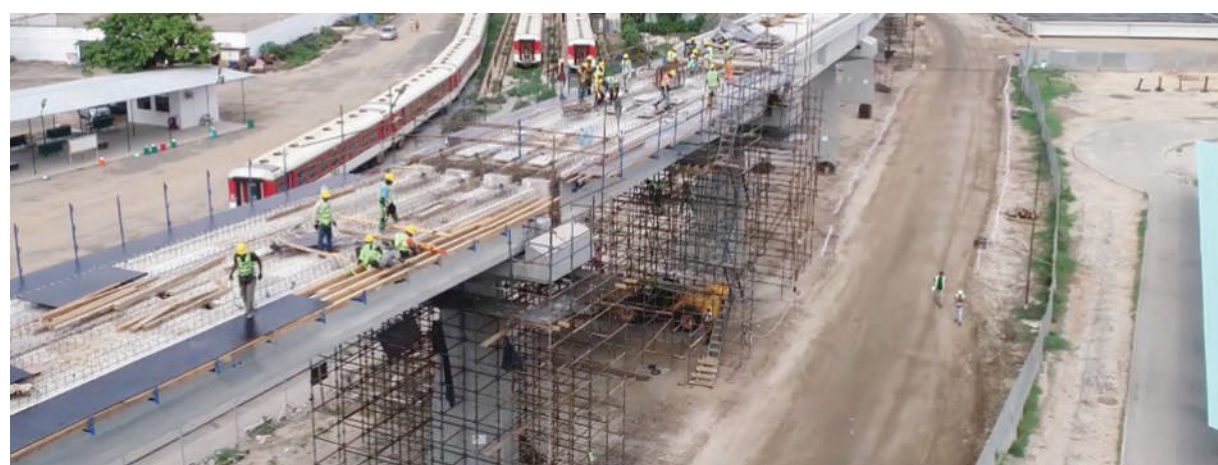
TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa said objective of electrified Standard Gauge Railway is intended to create an international route connecting Tanzania's

eastern port of Dar es Salaam, via the Tanzanian interior, with two western branches that split at Isaka.

"Our purpose is to get people and goods where they need to be, and to support county's economic prosperity," he said.

Rail has lower fuel costs compared to road transport, especially when shipping a high volume of freight. Rail also has less cost associated with drivers and typically has better costs for drop trailer programs.

Kadogosa said SGR will link Tanzania, from the port of Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean to the port of Mwanza on the shore of Lake Victoria in northern Tanzania, and from



The ongoing construction of the Dar es Salaam -Morogoro SGR route

there to neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"This is first ever biggest project implemented in the country since our country's independence,"

When assumed office, President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan put more emphasis on construction of SGR which had started for the first phase and second phase's railway infrastructure.

Construction of other phases such as Makutupora-Tabora section (294 km) Tabora-Isaka section (130km), and Tabora-Kigoma section (506 km) are going on.

Both the SGR and the Tanzania - Intermodal & Rail Development Project (TIRP) aimed at improving the rail network for regional and global economic integration.

TIRP project worth U.S. \$ 300 mil-

lion approved by the World Bank (WB), is implemented by the government, through Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC).

The project is designed to increase the reliability of the rail infrastructure and the train operations; strengthen logistics in the port of Dar es Salaam and the rail terminals; and strengthen rail operations

The project was part of the government's effort to create a reliable open access railway infrastructure on the Dar es Salaam-Isaka section of the East African Central Corridor and to strengthen the country's rail agencies' ability to manage the infrastructure, the traffic operations, and the network regulation.

Others were relaying rail tracks, building new intermodal termi-

nals, repairing or reconstructing bridges and supporting the institutional transformation of the sector.

Speaking after witnessing the signing contract for the Tabora-Kigoma section between the TRC and Chinese companies last year, president Samia said Tanzania's investment in the SGR had now reached \$10.04 billion, including the latest contract.

She said the new railway would reduce cargo transportation costs between the Dar es Salaam port and the DRC from a minimum of \$6,000 per tonne to about \$4,000 once it becomes fully operational.

Meanwhile transportation time would fall from 30 days by truck to 30 hours in 2027.

"Upon completion of the SGR, Tanzania will be in a better position to utilise its strategic geo-

CONSTRUCTION

AMERICAN TYCOONS SCOUT FOR ICT, AGRITECH DEALS IN KENYA

NAIROBI

American investors have given priority to deals in ICT, apparel and agriculture after the Biden administration targeted Kenya as a key trading partner on the continent to “develop durable solutions that advance supply chain resilience” for the world’s largest economy.

The businessmen attending a two-day investment meeting in Nairobi are scouting for multibillion-dollar deals with Kenyan firms in the presence of President William Ruto on Thursday, organisers said.

The majority of the US entrepreneurs, who have been accompanied by top Biden administration trade officials for Africa, are largely hunting for deals in ICT, agricultural technology as well as apparel and textiles, the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)-Kenya said.

Maxwell Okello, the AmCham Kenya chief executive, said ICT remains the biggest area of interest for the US investors at a time Nairobi is “slowly bringing into a reality” its “Silicon Savannah” tech hub dream.

“We see depth in terms of American companies participating in or looking at that space [ICT],” Mr Okello said on the sidelines of the two-day AmCham Business Summit which started on Wednesday.

American firms are further keen on deepening investment in farming space with their sights on agritech and mechanisation, while opportunities in value addition for apparel - Kenya’s largest export to the US - are also of interest, he added.

The annual Summit, which Dr Ruto is scheduled to attend on Thursday, comes after Washington



Agriculture technology farmer man using tablet computer analysis data and visual icon

disclosed it was looking at Nairobi as part of a wider strategy to strengthen its supply chains which have been broken in recent years following Covid pandemic curbs and economic sanctions as a result of Russia’s brutal war in Ukraine.

“Supply chain resilience is at the heart of all our trade initiatives including the IPEF [Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity]... and the Americas Partnership,” President Joe Biden’s 2023 Trade Policy to the Congress, published March 1, reads.

“The Administration is also highlighting this issue bilaterally, including with partners like the European Union and Kenya, and in multilateral fora like the G7, G20, and APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation].”

US Ambassador Meg Whitman said Kenya, a gateway into the East African region, is increasingly positioning Nairobi as “the premier destination” for technology and innovation investments on the continent.

“It’s an exciting time to be doing business in the region, creating more jobs and promoting US-Kenya shared prosperity,” Ms Whitman said.

“Kenya’s largest export market is the United States. And we feel Kenya is ready for export liftoff as it diversifies.”

Trade between the two countries is fairly balanced with Kenya exporting goods estimated at Sh81.17 billion to the US under the more-than-two-decade-old Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), while buying consignments valued at about

Sh93.43 billion in 2022, according to provisional official trade data.

The two countries have planned to hold the second round of talks for the proposed US-Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership in April in Nairobi after Washington hosted the opening round last February.

“The skill, the entrepreneurship and the hard work of our people is our oil,” Trade Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria told the Summit. “We must remember that Kenya is not just Kenya. Kenya is a gateway to the market.”

During the 2013 General Election, the Jubilee presidential aspirant put out a strong campaign that centred on digitising the economy and unlocking millions of job opportunities for young people.

The two principals, Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto, who have since fallen out acrimoniously, presented a colourful manifesto that promised to break away from the analogue generation and proposed a new digital way of doing things.

This included public Wi-Fi access in major towns by 2017, more incubation hubs for ICT start-ups and a buy-local policy for public offices to procure local software and hardware from Kenyan companies and cleaning up, and digitising government databases.

While some of the objectives have been met with varying degrees of success, key challenges that face Kenya’s ICT sector remain and, in some cases, impediments to growth in the sector have multiplied.

Last year the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) rebased Kenya’s economy which more than doubled the contribution of the ICT sector from Sh123 billion to Sh258 billion. KNBS said

the sector’s contribution to the economy was undervalued in previous estimates due to shortcomings in the data-measuring process.

New outputs being measured now include activities from telecommunication companies, radio and television broadcasting, publishing activities, and internet service providers among others.

However, the bulk of this new value, up to Sh325 billion is attributable to revenues made from telecommunication companies raising concern that the sector’s glowing success relies disproportionately on just one sub-sector.

This raises the question of the fate of other sub-sectors in the industry, particularly as ICT innovation in developed parts of the world accelerates toward new technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, blockchain, the internet of things, and 5G connectivity.

Kenya’s much-coveted position as the Silicon Savannah of the region has understandably come under question in recent years particularly as large ICT conventions previously hosted in the country are now held in Kigali, Rwanda.

At the same time, the public sector similarly appears stuck in the doldrums and progress has been slow and disparate. Even today, some government websites for example are yet to update their security certificates despite requiring citizens to provide sensitive personal information to access public services.

New laws such as increasing value-added taxes and excise taxes on digital services and hardware as well as the introduction of a digital services tax have only led to higher price increases for Kenyans and led to a widening of the digital divide. The same goes for laws like the Computer Crimes and Misuse Act of 2018 and the ICT Practitioners Bill 2021 which was rejected by the president last month which has cast doubt on the commitment of Parliament to ease the price of doing business for the ICT sector.

Meanwhile, key actors in the sector such as the Communication Authority and Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) are slow to implement policy interventions that are well within their mandates and that can greatly improve the sector.

It took a decisive push from the Central Bank of Kenya CBK to motivate the country’s leading telcos to establish interoperable mobile payment platforms.

By Correspondent Daniel Sembereya

INVOLVEMENT of people from the grass-root in the preparation of the national budget is very paramount in getting a gender responsive budget.

Tanzania Gender Network [TGNP]’s Executive Director Lilian Liundi said this in Dar es Salaam this week when officiating a four day seminar on how to prepare a gender responsible budget that brought together Local Government leaders and head of departments.

She said that this seminar that has involved Ward Councillors, Community Development Officers and head of departments from Ubungu, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam City Council and Kishapu District Council of Shinyanga has become possible because of the support of COADY.

Liundi said that main objective of the seminar was to increase more understanding on the impotence of making a budget, plans and policies that observe gender among the decision makers.

Identify the gaps present in an area of advocacy and empower them with skills in the area of protection for future benefits.

Again according to Liundi, the specific objectives of the seminar among others were to cement the skills and know-how of domestic decision makers on implementing policies and programmes that observe or take into account gender issues.

To also do gender analytical, follow up and development evaluation.

The participants also needed to give feedback about the success stories and challenges faced after the previous seminar held last year.

Also to brain storm with the mentioned officials who are the key players in their respective



Participants of a four-day seminar on gender responsible budgeting held this week in Dar es Salaam.

Why gender responsible budget vital to all groups

areas on the importance and need of coming up with a GRB that will address the many challenges occurring in the Tanzanian society.

Liundi noted “Communities need to be empowered to challenge constraints to their participation in decision making on budgets related to their priority needs. Adding:

Citizens must be involved in all phases of the budget process and cycle. Government officials and institutions must be provided with adequate GRB knowledge and skills so they can use the available democratic systems and structures to empower communities to engage in GRB.”

The Tanzanian constitution and laws require the use of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) to promote gender-balanced and integrated national economic plans.

She said “Normally the formulation of the national budget starts at the village level where community budget needs are identified, though women’s needs are often marginalised.”

From the village level, also the budget is discussed at the Ward,

District, and Region up to the national level.

Liundi further said that a gender responsive budget is like a tool that makes a follow up to see if the existing policies focusing at ensuring there is gender equality, are reflected in the formulated budgets. Saying that many issues regarding gender if are not reflected in the budget would be difficult to implement them.

She further said that when talking about a gender responsive budget, it does not mean that it is for women only, but rather it is a budget that is meant to address all questions facing all people, females and males at all levels.

For her part, facilitator during the seminar Rebecca Kisenha has commended the government for continuing to support efforts in preparing gender responsible budget.

However, she has urged the government that when preparing its national budget needs to be specific for specific groups rather than being too general.

For example, when the govern-

ment allocates a budget to construct a school, it should put a gender sensitive budget that considers the needed infrastructures conducive for all people with disabilities. Gerezani Ward Councillor Fatuma Ally who is one of the participants to the seminar has commended TGNP for the training on how to prepare gender responsible budget during budget preparation.

“This is the second time I am attending such training and I have gained a lot from these training.”

“Having attended these two trainings I have been able to convince the Councillors’ Committee agree to scrap around Tsh 560 million from the agriculture budget and added to the health and education budgets because of their importance to the urban dwellers.”

Special Seat Councillor Semeni Mtoka apart from commending TGNP for the training, she said that because of the importance of the topics of the seminar she has suggested such training be organised even to people in rural areas where needs of the communities are identified.

CRS pledges to advocate socioeconomic changes

By Guardian Reporter

THE Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has commemorated its 60th anniversary in Tanzania as it pledges to remain committed to human development affairs by responding to issues of public concern.

CRS is out to fight disease in all its capacities, taking part in poverty alleviation initiatives and nurturing people for peaceful and just societies.

CRS president and chief executive officer, Sean Callahan said in a statement released yesterday that, “As CRS globally turns 80, it is a great honor to set its operations in Tanzania for 60 years on, working side by side with the local Catholic Church, our partners and the communities we serve and it continues to be a great responsibility given the trust bestowed on us.”

He said CRS has been serving Tanzanian communities since 1962.

At a time when humanitarian aids are urgently required, CRS continue supporting locally-catalysed change at a wider range by working hand in hand with interfaith leaders, national partners and local communities in their pathway to prosperity and resilience against the negatives effect of today’s main challenges, including gender issues, youth access to markets and finance, food insecurity and climate change.

CRS Tanzania 60th anniversary celebration started on Tuesday with a memory wall showcasing CRS’ most notable accomplishments from the past 60 years in Tanzania.

The interactive market stalls showcase CRS’ current programmes, speeches from the CRS President, CRS Tanzania country manager, a church representative, and a government official as well testimonials from staff and partners, and a contemporary poetry performance.

In support of the ministry of health’s commitment to ensure the health and well-being of all Tanzania citizens in the fight against Covid-19, CRS will facilitate a Covid-19 vaccination booth at the event.

The CRS Tanzania has been working with the most vulnerable people in remote and underserved communities in Tanzania since 1962.

Today, the country programme supports projects in health, nutrition and early childhood development, gender inclusion, youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, climate change, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

WORLD

SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

Zambians attend virtual event

WASHINGTON

The two-day second Summit for Democracy organised by the US and co-hosted by Zambia along with South Korea, Costa Rica and Netherlands kicked off.

President Joe Biden on Wednesday urged unity among democracies in the face of Russia and China as he committed nearly \$700 million to halt global democratic backsliding and forged an alliance against surveillance technology.

Biden invited 121 leaders for his second, largely virtual "Summit for Democracy," including the prime ministers of close US partners Israel and India who both defended their records after charges of creeping authoritarianism.

Local delegates participated in the mostly virtual event in the country's capital Lusaka and weighed in on the importance of the event. "The US is the oldest democracy that we have. So which means that we can also learn not only from the good side but also for the challenges that they are having. So I just think that it's a good reference you know. We are not looking for the perfect system but we are looking for a system where we can definitely learn" said Heremengildo Mulhovo, attendee from Mozambique.

"For me the way I look at the US, the US is always an ally for Africa. It depends on how your government actually relates with the US. So for economic purposes and growth, I think that if our democracy is strengthened more, we may have the benefits of these

other countries coming to support us" said Mubita Mwangala, lecturer at the University of Zambia.

First conceived by Biden as a way to restore US credibility after Donald Trump's norm-shattering presidency and the attack on the US Capitol, the Summit for Democracy has taken a new urgency as Ukraine fights back a Russian invasion and as China goes on a diplomatic offensive.

After criticism that the first summit was too US-focused, Biden tapped leaders on each continent – from South Korea, Zambia, Costa Rica and The Netherlands – as co-hosts.

"We must embark on a new journey to revive democracy, which is currently under attack," said South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who announced his country would spearhead the third Summit of Democracies.

Biden, who will address the two-day summit more formally on Wednesday, announced \$690 million to promote democracy overseas, a US official said.

The US funding will back programmes to stage free elections, advance independent media and strengthen action against corruption and follows a commitment of \$424 million offered at the first summit.

The Biden administration also announced a joint effort with around 10 partners to counter the misuse and proliferation of spyware – which the United States fears has become a growing tool of China as its technological clout increases.

The effort comes two days after Biden



banned the US government from using commercial spyware programmes and as Biden's Republican rivals lead a controversial push in Congress to ban TikTok, the popular Chinese-owned video-sharing app.

- Netanyahu, Modi hail democracy - Just on Tuesday, Biden voiced alarm about Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed to weaken the judiciary, unleashing massive protests with critics accusing him of denigrating democracy.

Netanyahu, who put the measures on at least temporary hold in the face of a general strike, told the summit that the alliance with the United States was "unshakable" and called Biden "a friend of 40 years."

Addressing foreign critics, Netanyahu promised that Israel "was, is and will always remain a proud, strong and vibrant democracy as a beacon of liberty and shared prosperity in the heart of the Middle East," and said he wanted a compromise that protects civil liberties.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, courted by the United States as a bulwark against China, also extolled the virtues of democracy days after the opposition chief was expelled from parliament over a conviction for defaming the right-wing leader.

Modi called India the "mother of democracy" – a title more frequently taken by Greece – as he pointed to the ancient Sanskrit epic the Mahabharata's call for leaders to exercise power through consultation.

"Democracy is not just a structure; it is also a spirit," said Modi, whose government is also accused of a growing clampdown on media.

Biden declined to invite a number of

leaders over concern on their records including Turkish Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who faces reelection in May after two decades in power, and, alone among European Union members, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, an outspoken critic of liberal values.

Close US partners who failed to make the cut include Bangladesh, Singapore and Thailand.

- Democracy 'under assault' -

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned bluntly that the world was undergoing a "dramatic upheaval" in which democratic values are "under assault," pointing to rising attacks and restrictions on media and human rights defenders.

"Today, we see more and more despotism and less and less enlightenment," Guterres told the summit.

"History has shown time and again that autocratic leadership is not the guarantor of stability; it is a catalyst of chaos and conflict."

The United States has identified China as the sole long-term adversary to the US-led liberal international order and invited Taiwan to the summit, despite not recognizing the self-governing democracy.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said the summit "hypes up confrontation" and will "stoke division in the name of democracy."

Russia's ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Antonov, accused the United States of hypocrisy, pointing to the country's problems of "racism, gun violence, corruption and social inequality."

"We have seen the disastrous consequences of the attempts to forcibly export American democracy to Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan." **Agencies**

Paul Rusesabagina: Hotel Rwanda hero and government critic arrives in US

WASHINGTON

PAUL Rusesabagina, an outspoken critic of the Rwandan government, has arrived in the US after being freed from prison in Kigali, the White House says.

He rose to prominence after being portrayed as a hero of the 1994 Rwandan genocide in the 2004 film Hotel Rwanda.

In 2021, he was sentenced to 25 years on terrorism charges by a court, in what supporters called a sham trial.

His release earlier this week followed US government diplomatic pressure and talks brokered by Qatar.

"Our family is finally reunited today," his daughter Carine Kanimba tweeted about her father's arrival in San Antonio, Texas, along with a photo of him looking tired, but smiling.

"Thank you to EVERYONE who worked soooo hard to bring him home," she said.

White House National security adviser Jake Sullivan said Mr Rusesabagina's family and friends "had long waited for this day to come".

"I'm grateful to those we worked closely with in the Rwandan Government to make this possible," he wrote on Twitter.

The former hotel manager was allowed to return to the US - where he is a permanent resident - after his sentence was "commuted by presidential order", the Rwandan government said upon his release.

In recent years, he had become a fierce critic of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame and in a 2018 video message, Mr Rusesabagina called for a change of government.

He was arrested in 2020 when, according to his supporters, a private jet he believed would take him to Burundi instead landed in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

In September 2021 he was found guilty of backing a rebel group behind deadly attacks in 2018 and 2019 in Rwanda.

The Rwandan genocide lasted 100 days from April 1994, when 800,000 people, mostly from the Tutsi ethnic group, were massacred by extremists from the Hutu community.

Mr Rusesabagina left Rwanda in 1996 and his story remained largely unknown for a decade, while he worked as a taxi driver in the Belgian capital, Brussels.

He was featured in a 1998 book about the genocide, but it was the 2004 Hollywood blockbuster, where he was played by Don Cheadle, that brought him global fame.

The then hotel manager protected some 1,200 people from the violence after they sought shelter.

Japanese PM to lead panel for resolving birthrate crisis

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will lead a panel of experts to reverse the country's critical decline in birthrate, which dropped to its lowest level ever in 2022, local media said yesterday.

Along with Kishida, the expert panel will comprise Masanobu Ogura, Japan's minister in charge of policies for children, groups working with children, and labor union representatives.

Later this week, a policy to provide more support for parents, including raising child-rearing allocations and easing outlays on higher education borne by parents, will be compiled, public broadcaster NHK said.

The draft policy will set the parameters of the budget and how it will be financed, with the plan to inform a subsequent comprehensive policy package.

According to recent statistics from the health ministry, the birthrate in Japan in 2022 plummeted to a record low since 1889, with the number of newborns dropping 5.1 percent from the previous year to 799,728.

The falling birthrate and rapidly aging population are simultaneously hollowing out Japan's taxpaying labor force, leading to Kishida vowing to double budget outlay for child-related programs.

Money allocated to help with child-rearing, coupled with ever-increasing massive outlays for social security costs related to the increasing population of seniors, who comprise a higher proportion of the population than in any country globally, is adding to the country's fiscal woes.

Japan's public debt stands at double the size of the country's gross domestic product and is the worst among developed countries.

Agencies

Kamala Harris Ghana trip ends, pledges \$1B to advance women's economic participation

ACCRA

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris announced Wednesday in Ghana a \$1 billion initiative to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa as she wrapped up the first leg of her tour of the continent.

Harris' office unveiled the programme, largely funded by the private sector, in the capital Accra. The U.S. vice president then left Ghana for Tanzania.

Scheduled to last until April 2, her tour of Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia comes on the heels of a December U.S.-Africa summit in Washington, D.C., where President Joe Biden called for a broad partnership with Africa as the U.S. seeks to assert its presence on the continent in the face of growing influence from China and Russia.

Harris has already announced several aid packages, including



US Vice President Kamala Harris delivers a speech at the Kotoka International Airport, March 26, 2023 in Accra, Ghana.

\$139 million for economic and cultural development in Ghana and a \$100 million investment in coastal West African countries facing the risk of spillover jihadist violence from the Sahel.

The African Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative includes nearly \$400 million

from the private sector "to help bridge the gender digital divide."

"Improving the economic status of women and girls is not only a matter of human rights, justice and equity, it is also a strategic imperative that reduces poverty and promotes sustainable economic growth," the U.S.

vice president's office said. More than \$500 million, again from the private sector, will also be used to support women's economic empowerment in Africa, the statement said.

On Tuesday, the vice president called for more investment in innovation in Africa, particularly in

the digital economy, good governance and democracy.

"We're +all-in on Africa," she added, repeating the words of Joe Biden during the U.S.-Africa summit last year.

Harris is expected later this week in Zambia, the last stop on her Africa tour. **Agencies**

Barreto at Vector Consultancy in Brasilia.

His reputation as an anti-corruption crusader has been marred by an alleged attempt to receive gifts of jewelry from the king of Saudi Arabia valued at \$3.2 million that were seized by customs officials in 2021 because they had not been declared.

Bolsonaro must also calibrate his plans with the popularity of his wife Michelle, who is emerging as a charismatic figure running PL outreach to women. Barreto said her ambitions may provide an outlet for the ex-president's supporters if legal probes lead electoral authorities bar him from seeking office. **Agencies**

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Bolsonaro returns to Brazil to lead right-wing opp to Lula

BRASILIA

BRASIL'S far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro, who never conceded defeat in last year's election, returns from self-imposed exile in Florida on Thursday to lead the opposition to leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Thousands of supporters are expected to welcome him at Brasilia's airport when he arrives around 7 am (1000 GMT) from Orlando. Authorities have beef up security, closing traffic along the capital mall to prevent the risk of violent protests.

Before boarding a plane in Orlando, Bolsonaro played down his leadership role and said he will use

his experience to help his party, the Liberal Party, campaign in local elections, adding that the October vote he lost was a closed chapter.

"We have turned a page, and now we will prepare for next year's election," he told CNN Brasil.

Bolsonaro left for the United States two days before he was due to hand over the presidential sash to Lula on Jan 1. He said he needed rest, but critics say he was avoiding the risks of over a dozen legal investigations he may face in Brazil.

Legal probes have focused on his attacks against Brazil's voting system and alleged role in encouraging supporters to storm government buildings in Jan 8 riots that recalled

the 2021 assault on the US Capitol. Bolsonaro, who holds former US president Donald Trump as his political idol, attended the Conservative Political Action Conference this month in Washington where he questioned the result of the October election narrowly won by Lula and said his mission in Brazil was "still not over."

The 68-year-old populist will head from the airport to the headquarters of the conservative Liberal Party (PL), which became the largest in Brazil's Congress riding Bolsonaro's coattails in the last election.

His return to Brazil is eagerly awaited by the party's leader Valdemar Costa Neto, who wants Bolso-

naro to become the leader of the opposition to the Lula administration and lead the PL into municipal elections next year.

Costa Neto has said Bolsonaro was losing political capital by staying in Florida and expects his party to triple its slate of elected mayors across Brazil with the help of the former president, who can draw crowds by firing up anti-Lula sentiment.

"Bolsonaro will lead the opposition and travel around Brazil preaching the party's liberal values and helping the PL grow," he told Reuters, outlining a plan for a right-wing comeback in the 2026 presidential elections.

Probes

Mobilizing the 58 million voters who backed him last year will not be an easy task for the former army captain, according to political analysts. Plenty of potential rivals on the right have the advantage of holding public office in coming years.

"If Bolsonaro cannot quickly show that he can lead, the right will look for other leaders, like the governors of Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais," said Andre Cesar at Hold Legislative Advisors, a public policy consultancy.

Bolsonaro has also hurt his standing with many center-right parties after the Jan 8 riots by his supporters and probes into his attacks on Brazil's democracy, said Leonardo

'Fraud in UK public spending soars under poor oversight'

LONDON

BRITAIN'S government has lost tens of billions of pounds to fraud in recent years, with most public bodies unable to grasp the scale of the problem, the independent public spending watchdog said yesterday.

The National Audit Office (NAO) said government accounts pointed to fraud worth a total of 21 billion pounds (\$25.87 billion) in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years - up from 5.5 billion pounds in the previous two years.

Of that, 7.3 billion pounds related to temporary COVID-19 schemes, much of which comprised loans to businesses.

The cost of fraud may be much higher still, the NAO said, pointing to figures from the Public Sector Fraud Authority which estimated fraud and error across government at between 33.2 billion pounds and 58.8 billion pounds for the 2020/21 year alone, excluding pandemic-related spending.

The NAO said most government departments had little ability to counter fraud or even understand how big the risk was.

"There has been a substantial increase in the level of fraud reported in the annual reports and accounts we audit," said NAO head Gareth Davies.

"In addition to the loss of taxpayer money, it creates the risk that people come to perceive fraud and corruption across government as normal and tolerated. If not tackled, this could affect public confidence in the integrity of public services."

Britain's standing in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index fell sharply last year, which it ascribed to "recent decline in standards in government and controls over the use of taxpayer money".

It highlighted the government's "VIP lane" for fast-tracking personal protective equipment contracts at the height of the pandemic, which it said systematically favoured companies with connections to the governing Conservative Party.

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt said on Wednesday that tackling both tax and state benefit fraud were priorities for the government.

The opposition Labour Party's deputy leader Angela Rayner said the report showed a "dereliction of duty".

"This government have completely abdicated their responsibility to crackdown on this criminality, leaving public bodies without the resources to combat it effectively and protect the public's money," she said.



Pope to spend 'few days' in hospital due to respiratory infection

ATICAN CITY

POPE Francis has a respiratory infection and will need to spend "a few days" in hospital for treatment, the Vatican said in a statement on Wednesday, amid concern for the 86-year-old's condition.

The 86-year-old pontiff was taken to Rome's Gemelli hospital after complaining of breathing difficulties over the past few days, the statement said. Tests showed he had the infection but did not have COVID-19, it said.

"Pope Francis is touched by the many messages received and expresses his gratitude for the closeness and prayer," the Vatican said.

Francis, who this month marked 10 years as pope, is sometimes short of breath and generally more exposed to respiratory problems. He had part of one lung removed in his early 20s when training to be a priest in his native Argentina.

His latest hospitalization comes ahead of a Palm Sunday service on April 2 that marks the start of a hectic week of ceremonies leading to Easter Sunday on April 9, throwing into doubt whether he would be able to lead them as customary.

Francis' health has attracted increased scrutiny in the past two years, during which he has undergone colon surgery and begun using a wheelchair or a walking stick due to chronic pain in one knee.

The Vatican had initially said the pope had gone to hospital on Wednesday for a scheduled check-up. But Italian media reported he arrived in an ambulance after cancelling a television interview at the last minute.

Francis had attended his weekly general audience in St Peter's Square in the morning, appearing in good health.

'We need him'

In Argentina, the faithful offered prayers for the recovery of the pope, who has not returned to his homeland since leaving for the Vatican a decade



ago.

"If the Pope could listen to us, I would tell him that we need him because the reform that he faced is not finished," said Marcela Mazzini, a professor at Immaculada Concepcion Seminary in Buenos Aires, where the pope, then called Jorge Mario Bergoglio, studied.

The country that the first Latin American pope left behind faces intense political division, 99 percent inflation and near 40 percent poverty.

"I think you won't go away without coming to Argentina first," said engineer Santiago Goggi, 40, obliquely referring to the pope's eventual demise as he sat on the seminary steps. "You have to come see us."

The son of Italian immigrants, the future pope lived modestly when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, travelling by public transport and keeping a low profile when he visited the poor in shanty towns, where many still remember him.

At the city's cathedral, Daniel Saco, a 59-year-old former catechist, said Francis "must be asking himself if he can or can't go on. He must be praying and asking all of the Catholic world to pray for him. He always says 'Pray for me,' and must be open to what God dictates to his conscience."

'Health conditions'

The leader of the world's nearly 1.4 billion Roman Catholics suffers from diverticulitis, a condition that can infect or inflame the colon, and was operated on at the Gemelli hospital in 2021 to remove part of his colon.

He said in January that the condition had returned and that it was causing him to put on weight, but that he was not overly concerned. He did not elaborate.

Francis told Reuters in an interview last year that he preferred not to have surgery on his troublesome knee because he did not want a repeat of long-term negative side effects from anaesthesia that he suffered after the 2021 operation.

Last July, returning from a trip to Canada, Francis acknowledged that his advancing age and his difficulty walking might have ushered in a new, slower phase of his papacy.

But since then he has visited Kazakhstan and Bahrain and made a trip last month to Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

He has also committed to visiting Hungary in late April, Portugal in August and the French city of Marseille in September. He has said, if it can be arranged, he would want to then fly from Marseille to Mongolia.

After praising his late predecessor Benedict XVI's historic decision to resign on health grounds in 2013, Francis has indicated he would follow the example only if he were gravely incapacitated.

Asked by Italian Swiss television RSI in an interview broadcast on March 12 what condition would lead him to quit, he said "A tiredness that doesn't let you see things clearly. A lack of clarity, of knowing how to evaluate situations".

Putin calls for preventing acceleration or too sudden slowdown of inflation

MOSCOW

DOMESTIC demand trends should be in line with inflation guidelines, President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with cabinet members on Wednesday.

"The dynamics of domestic demand should be in line with the Bank of Russia's guidelines on inflation, and it is important to prevent both an acceleration and excessive slowdown [in the inflation rate]," he said. "I will not give the latest figures [on inflation], but you are quite aware of this yourselves," the president noted.

Putin also urged that steps be taken to ensure sustainable growth in domestic demand. "In the current situation, it is becoming a leading factor in economic growth, coming up front and center," he said.



Ethiopian PM says efforts underway to address regional security concerns

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the country's government is undertaking various efforts to peacefully address local and regional peace and security concerns.

The prime minister made the remark Tuesday while presenting his government's six-month performance report to the House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR), the lower house of the Ethiopian parliament, involving peace and security, economic and social matters.

Responding to questions from members of the parliament regarding peace and security issues along Ethiopia's border areas with Sudan and South Sudan, Ahmed said his government is closely working with the governments of the two countries to address border issues through dialogue.

Noting that the issue with Sudan is mainly attributed to a lack of proper border demarcation, Ahmed said the two countries have already established a joint ministerial committee to oversee the matter.

Regarding peace and security situations across the East African country, the prime minister underscored his government's readiness and commitment to addressing all underlying threats in a peaceful manner through dialogue and peaceful ways.

Ahmed, in particular, disclosed ongoing efforts to peacefully resolve the brutal conflict with the armed rebel group Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), also known as Shane.

He said the conflict in the western part of Ethiopia's Oromia region has displaced people and brought general misery to many people while also affecting development activities in the region.

He also disclosed the ruling Prosperity Party has formed a committee to oversee possible peace efforts with the rebel group, which was designated as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian parliament in May 2021.

The decision to peacefully address ongoing conflicts in different parts of Ethiopia is said to be part of the government's commitment to bringing a durable solution through dialogue with armed rebel groups.

On Nov. 2, 2022, the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) signed a cessation of hostilities agreement to end the conflict in the country's northern region.

The peace efforts came on the backdrop of a two-year brutal conflict that left tens of thousands dead and millions more in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.



Regarding peace and security situations across the East African country, the prime minister underscored his government's readiness and commitment to addressing all underlying threats in a peaceful manner through dialogue and peaceful ways

Botswana's northern citizens derive economic benefits from living side by side with wildlife



his photo taken on May 10, 2021, shows a buffalo along the Chobe River in Kasane, Botswana. (Photo by Tshkiso Tebalo/Xinhua)

GABORONE

IN the northern part of Botswana, wildlife roams freely thereby creating a serious human-wildlife conflict. Wildlife destroys crops, and properties and even poses a threat to the residents.

However, this co-existence between humans and wildlife has also brought extraordinary and life-changing benefits to the residents of these wildlife infested communities.

Mababe community, situated some 925 km northwest of Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, has benefited from the country's Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) program, which aims to achieve a balance between wildlife conservation and rural development.

"CBNRM has delivered positive conservation, rural development and governance impacts,"

said Bofelese Ruthamo, the chairperson of Mababe Zokotsama Community Development Trust, adding that at least 250 people have been employed in lodges utilized by tourists who visit his community to view wildlife.

Botswana is renowned for its spectacular wildlife and pristine wilderness areas, with tourism as the country's second largest foreign currency earner, behind diamond mining. It is also home to some 130,000 elephants, more than any other country in the world.

To keep the balance between the local economy and wildlife conservation, Botswana has proved hunting as a tourism activity, although it has always been controversial.

According to a 2019 International Union for Conservation of Nature report titled Informing Decisions on Trophy Hunting, prices paid for hunts differ enormously, from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars.

Nchunga Nchunga, the board member of the Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, told Xinhua: "In 2022, my community Trust managed to earn 4.6 million pula (an estimated 350,000 U.S. dollars) from international hunting," adding that the money was used to meet the communities' socioeconomic needs such as houses, mortuaries.

In 2014, former President Ian Khama of Botswana put in place a moratorium on hunting citing species decline. However, President Mokgweetsi Masisi lifted the ban in 2019. "In fact, a driving force behind the change was the demonstrated economic benefits of legal hunting," said Uyapo Ndadi, a human rights lawyer based in Gaborone.

Cited as well, Ndadi added, were increases in human and wildlife conflicts experienced over the five years of banning and the inability of the country's Department of Wildlife and National Parks to adequately respond to problematic animals.

A recently circulated video shows an elephant bull violently slamming a resident of a Botswana hunting community into the ground with fellow residents watching helplessly.

They screamed to scare the elephant bull away, but the wild animal did not stop its deadly attack. While at hunting lodges where hunters stay and dine, local people are employed as chefs, waitresses, car-washers, professional hunters and trackers, said Gakemotho Satau, the coordinator of Okavango Cultural and Development Initiatives Trust.

"Local people use their income to support their families and send their children to schools. This helps to alleviate poverty," Satau said.



Dar es Salaam junior hockey players put their skills to show at a training which took place at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

All set for African Junior Athletics Championships' trials, says AT

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATLETICS Tanzania (AT) says all is set for tomorrow's trials, to be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, seeking to select athletes for the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Junior Championships slated for early next month in Zambia.

William Kallaghe, AT vice-president, said they expect 100 to 120 junior athletes to compete in the trials which will see the best-performing athletes gain a chance to represent the country in the Zambia showdown.

Kallaghe could not issue the number of athletes set to represent the country in Lusaka, saying it will depend on those who meet the qualifying time set by the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA).

He said the selected athletes will enter camp the day after the trials and will be under coaches Alfred Shahanga and Asha Khatibu.

"All is set for the trials with the sole purpose to select athletes that will represent the country in the Africa Junior Athletics Championships in Zambia, the event will involve U-18 and U-20 athletes, we have also unveiled two coaches that will train the team," he said.

Many local junior athletes compete in field events and the qualifying time set by CAA are 10.6/10.84 and 11.9/12.14 for 100 meters in men's and women's categories respectively, qualifying for 200 meters for men and women are 21.5/21.74 and 24.5/24.74 respectively.

The qualifying time for 400 meters for men and women is 48.2/48.32 and 55.33/55.44, while for men's 800 meters qualifying time is 1.51.50 and women's time is 2.10.00. In 1500 meters, men's qualifying time is 3.49.00 and women's time is 4.29.00.

The qualifying time for 3000 meters race for men is 3.49.00 and 9.40.00 for women, in 5000m event men's time is 14.19.00 whereas women's time is 16.40.00, in the 10,000m race qualifying time for both males and female athletes is 30.50.00.

Tomorrow's trials come after many junior athletes had failed to reach the qualifying time in the just-ended East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR), which saw Tanzania finish third.

The national athletics governing body, through its act-



Female athletes battle it out in the National Championships which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

ing secretary-general Jackson Ndaweka, said no U-20 athletes attained outright qualification for the Zambia showdown.

Ndaweka said only one local athlete attained the qualifying time in the EAAR Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In the regional athletics showdown, Tanzanian athlete Eliah Chani won a medal in the long jump category, having posted 6m29cm.

The AT official said invitations have been extended to all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar for the trials.

The CAA Junior Athletics Championships will be held at National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka from April 19-23 and junior athletes from more than 50 African nations are expected to battle it out in the showpiece.

Tanzania's athletics legend Suleiman Nyambui issued his opinion on the Tanzania team, suggesting that the trials should be postponed to another date.

According to the legend, the approach will give coaches ample time to prepare U-20 athletes for the trials.

Nyambui, the former AT secretary-general, said in case the trials take place on the planned date, senior athletes should be included to push the juniors to work hard.

He also advised all local athletics coaches to work together so the country can have many athletes in the continental junior championships.

He made several recommendations to AT, some of which are intensive training for athletes before the trials.

The official further recommended that AT should be given full technical support by all local athletics coaches.

Nyambui was adamant the selected athletes should enter

camp outright and that there should be mutual communication between all athletics stakeholders.

The legend noted: "Up to now only one local female athlete has attained the qualification for African Junior Athletics Championships, I have seen the qualification time set by CAA."

"It is difficult for our junior athletes to attain them, for that reason, I'm calling upon all local athletics coaches to use their brains so the country can have many junior athletes in the Zambia showdown, we must work together, put our egos aside, it's time for the nation's pride," he said.

Responding to Nyambui's suggestions, Ndaweka said the former's opinions are good but they are out of time.

He said CAA communicated to AT that deadline to send names of athletes who attained qualifying time for the Zambia showdown is April 3, thus, any trial happening after the mentioned date will not be acceptable.

Ndaweka acknowledged that it is tough for many EAAR U-20 athletes to attain the qualifying time for African Junior Athletics Championships.

"I must confess, the CAA Junior Athletics Championships qualifying time are very difficult this year, not only difficult to our local athletes but also to many others from the EAAR region, including the seniors, there are few of them that can attain the time," the AT official revealed.

"Of all athletes who competed in the EAAR Championships, few female athletes qualified for the 1500m and 5000 meters while few males qualified for 100m, 200m, 1500m, and 5000 meters," Ndaweka pointed out.

The AT official stated: "Postponing the trials for one week to give coaches chance to prepare their athletes well is a good idea

but it is out of time, CAA has written us that all performances must be achieved from January 1, 2023- April 2, 2023."

"All performance must be achieved during an official competition organized in conformity with World Athletics (WA)," he said.

He said the only hope for Tanzania is in the 800m and 1500m categories and added that some potential U-20 athletes did not compete in the EAAR Championships.

"Depending on the outcome of the trials, we plan to send six to eight athletes in the U-20 category to CAA Junior Athletics Championships in Zambia," the AT official noted.

"We have hope in our athletes who did well in 800m and 1500m and there are also some U-20 athletes with the potential of qualifying but they did not compete in the EAAR Championships, we hope they can do well in the trials and attain the qualifying time," he said.

For the U-18 athletes, Ndaweka said there is no qualification time attached to this group but AT will send only athletes who have the potential to become prominent in the sport.

"U-18 has no qualification time but as AT we are not after quantity we are after quality, so we will only send athletes, who are showing the potential of becoming prominent in the industry, to CAA Junior Athletics Championships in Zambia," the AT official revealed.

He noted: "We are doing this because U-18 is the stage where a coach can either make or break an athlete, taking an athlete whilst fully knowing that he/she will not perform well helps to break that athlete."

"Poor performance, in most cases, makes an athlete lose hope and interest completely," he said.

Fountain Gate Academy ready for CAF Schools Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Fountain Gate Academy says it is ready for the finals of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Schools Championship slated for April 5-8 at King Zwelithini Stadium in Durban, South Africa.

Fountain Gate Academy, located in Dodoma, is Tanzania's sole representative in the maiden CAF School Football Championship.

The school's Managing Director, Japheth Makau, said the team is well prepared for the finals.

"Our team is ready for the maiden CAF Schools Championship, we aim to hoist the country's flag high, and we will do our best to bring pride to our country," he said.

He said after the CAF African Schools Football Championship, his team will start preparations for FE-ASSSA Games and World Cup for Schools slated for later this year in Rwanda and Spain respectively.

Fourteen teams are expected to compete in the Schools Football Championships. Fountain Gate Academy emerged as the winner of the CECAFA Zone Qualifiers which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last month.

They beat Awaro Secondary School of Ethiopia by 3-0 courtesy of goals scored by Mary Siyame, Rede Julius, and Winfrida Hurbet.

A statement from CAF said all teams should report for the finals two days before the showdown.

The 14 teams set to compete in the boys' category are CEG Sainte

Rita of Benin, Clapham High School of South Africa, Complex Scolaire of Guinea, CS Horizon of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tunisian side, E Cole Hedi Ayadi, Royal Giants of Uganda, and Salima Secondary School of Malawi.

The girls' category consists of Anse Boileau from Seychelles, CEG from Benin, CEG Mfilou of Congo Republic, Ecole Omar Bin Khatab of Morocco, South African side Edendale Technical and Fountain Gate Academy.

The CAF Schools Football Championship is a brainchild of the confederation's president Patrice Motsepe who said Africa needs to invest in young football talents.

The CAF African Schools Football Program is a partnership involving CAF, African governments, and Football Associations from 41 participating countries.

The program also involves the provision of education, coaching, football, and skills development courses.

The CAF African Schools Football Program received a donation of USD 10 million from The Motsepe Foundation which will be used as prize money.

The winning schools will use the prize money to provide football infrastructure and educational, and other skills development facilities at these schools.

One of the objectives of the program is to the social impact of football in the communities and countries where the schools are - using the game to change the face of Africa.

TAA promises to support workers' participation in sports



Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) players are pictured with the authority's Director General, Mussa Mbura (5th R), immediately after Mbura was presented with trophies won by the institution in the 2022 Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) Games, May Day competition, and other sport bonanzas. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Airports Authority (TAA) has disclosed that it will continue to honour sports promotion at working places.

The authority has moreover pledged to allow its staff to participate in sports activities that are legally organized by the country's recognized sports federations.

Mussa Mbura, TAA Director General, stated so while receiving more than 10 trophies won by the institution's teams in the 2022 Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) Games, which took place in Morogoro and Dodoma.

He also received other trophies won by TAA

teams in a sports bonanza, organized by the institution and took place at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) grounds.

He explained the benefits of workers' participation in sports, noting it keeps them healthy and boosts their efficiency and productivity in their working places.

"TAA promises to continue providing maximum cooperation by presenting many players to participate in various sports tournaments because we all know that sports are healthy, happy, and build relations with others, therefore I advise you to continue participating," Mbura said.

He moreover pledged to increase the sports budget and purchase various

sports equipment like bicycles to be used in the cycling race to be organized by the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Mbura, further, promised to pay a visit to a sports club formed by the Transportation sector, now camping to prepare for the May Day tournament slated for April 14-29 in Morogoro.

Mbura Tenga, TAA Secretary-General, had earlier thanked the agency for fielding many players in various sports tournaments.

Tenga noted that the TAA has turned into a role model to the other 14 institutions forming the transportation sector that has gained such an achievement.

Fury, sadness in Indonesia after FIFA pulls Under-20 World Cup

JAKARTA

INDONESIAN football players, fans and pundits reacted with anger and sadness Thursday after FIFA pulled the Under-20 World Cup from the host nation weeks before it was due to kick off, following protests against Israel's participation.

The humiliating loss came after two influential governors advocated banning Israel from the competition.

Indonesia and Israel do not have formal diplomatic relations, and support for the Palestinian cause in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation runs high, fuelling local opposition to hosting the Israeli team.

FIFA's decision to find a new host -- thereby nixing Indonesia's automatic qualifying spot -- puts the country's most popular sport back in the doldrums and facing another bout of isolation.

Some of the archipelago nation's football prodigies took to social media with fury and heartbreak after losing the chance to play at what FIFA bills as the "tournament of tomorrow's superstars".

"Energy, time, sweat, and even blood we have put in, but in a moment failed because of political reasons. Here's our big dream that you've destroyed," wrote 19-year-old striker Rabbani Tasnim.

An Indonesian FA video showed players with heads bowed and their coach in tears after receiving the news late Wednesday that FIFA would seek a new host.

"We, the players, are now affected, not just us but all footballers," said 18-year-old striker Hokky Caraka.

On Thursday morning, flower boards for the players popped up outside the FA headquarters in central Jakarta, including one that read "do not give up on your dream".

Indonesians inundated the Instagram page of Central Java governor Ganjar Pranowo -- one of the leading candidates in next year's presidential election -- with negative comments after he opposed Israel's participation.

Bali's governor had also joined the anti-Israel chorus and around a hundred conservative Muslim protesters held an anti-Israel rally in Jakarta this month.

"Very painful" - But there was popular support for the tournament the country was handed in 2019, with many viewing it as a source of national pride.

Jakarta pledged to guarantee Israel's participation despite its pro-Palestinian stance, yet opposing voices became too loud for FIFA.

"This is truly a very painful incident for the Indonesian people. Those who made the noise and made us fail... must be held accountable," said Akmal Marhali, expert at football watchdog Save Our Soccer.

Indonesian officials said losing the tournament could cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars.

FIFA threatened further sanctions and could exclude Indonesia from 2026 World Cup qualifiers that begin in October. It was banned for a year in 2015 over government interference.

AFP

Barca thrash Roma, Arsenal beat Bayern to reach Women's Champions League semis

LONDON

BARCELONA booked their place in the Women's Champions League semi-finals by thrashing Roma 5-1 on Wednesday as Arsenal came from behind to knock out Bayern Munich 2-1 on aggregate thanks to a 2-0 win at the Emirates.

Tournament favourites Barca had been held to a slender 1-0 advantage from the first leg in the Italian capital last week.

But last season's runners-up stormed into a 3-0 lead before half-time in front of 55,000 at the Camp Nou.

Swedish international Fridolina Rolfo struck twice in the first half either side of Mapi Leon's spectacular long-range effort.

Asisat Oshoala netted from close range immediately after the break and Patri Guijarro headed home the fifth from a corner.

Annamaria Serturini pulled one back for Roma against a Barcelona side who have won 100 percent of their games in the Spanish league and only suffered one defeat all season, against Bayern in the group phase.

Barca have now reached the semi-finals in five consecutive seasons and will face either defending champions Lyon or Chelsea in the last four.

"We can't hide that our aspirations are at the max," said Barcelona coach Jonatan Giraldez.

Olympique (Lyon) and Chelsea are the best in Europe, it's a reality and it will be difficult, but it's true that playing the second leg at home gives us a feeling of strength."

- Arsenal blow away Bayern - Arsenal overcame a 1-0 first leg defeat to reach the last four for the first time in 10 years in front of a record crowd of over 20,000 for a Women's Champions League game in England.

Despite the absence of injured star forwards Vivianne Miedema and Beth Mead, the Gunners blew Bayern away in the first half.

AFP

Indonesia stripped of hosting Under-20 World Cup by FIFA

GENEVA

INDONESIA was stripped of hosting rights for the Under-20 World Cup on Wednesday only eight weeks before the start of the tournament amid political turmoil regarding Israel's participation.

FIFA said Indonesia was removed from staging the 24-team tournament scheduled to start on May 20 "due to the current circumstances" without specifying details.

The decision followed a meeting in Doha, Qatar between Indonesian soccer federation president Erick Thohir and Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, soccer's world governing body.

Israel qualified in June of last year for its first Under-20 World Cup. But the country's participation in the official draw for tournament groups, scheduled to be held Friday in Bali, provoked political opposition this month.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation and does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel, while publicly supporting the Palestinian cause.

Indonesia's host status for the tournament was cast into doubt last Sunday when FIFA postponed the draw.

It is unclear who could now host the tournament, which was scheduled to be played in six stadiums in Indonesia.



FILE - A view of the trophy displayed on the pitch prior to the final match between Ukraine and South Korea at the U20 World Cup soccer, in Lodz, Poland, Saturday, June 15, 2019. (AP Photo)

Argentina, which did not qualify for the tournament, is reportedly interested in hosting.

"A new host will be announced as soon as possible, with the dates of the tournament currently remaining unchanged," FIFA said.

The Indonesian soccer federation could be further disciplined

by FIFA. A suspension could remove Indonesia from Asian qualifying for the 2026 World Cup. The continental qualifiers start in October.

FIFA seemed to remove all blame Wednesday from Thohir, the former president of Italian club Inter Milan -- the team Infantino supports -- and a former co-own-

er of the Philadelphia 76ers.

FIFA staff will continue to work in Indonesia in the months ahead, the governing body said, "under the leadership of President Thohir."

Thohir said as a member of FIFA, Indonesia had little choice but to accept the decision.

"I have tried my best,"

he said in a statement. "After delivering a letter from President Joko Widodo and discussing it at length with the President of FIFA, Gianni Infantino, we must accept FIFA's decision to cancel the holding of the event that we are both looking forward to."

He said although he'd conveyed all the concerns and hopes of Indonesia's president, soccer lovers as well as the players from the Under-20 Indonesian national team, "FIFA considered that the current situation cannot be continued."

Soccer and public authorities in Indonesia agreed to FIFA's hosting requirements in 2019 before being selected to stage the 2021 edition of the Under-20 World Cup. The coronavirus pandemic forced the tournament to be postponed for two years.

But Indonesian President Joko Widodo said Tuesday evening that his administration objected to Israel's participation. He told citizens that the country agreed to host before knowing Israel would qualify.

However, the removal of the hosting rights by FIFA has raised concerns within Indonesian soccer.

Arya Sinulingga, an executive committee member of Indonesia's national soccer association PSSI, was concerned about further repercussions.

"This is a sign that we are not able to carry out

what has been asked (by FIFA) ... among other things that there should be no discrimination," Sinulingga said in an interview with a local television, "What we are most worried about right now is that we will be ostracized from international events, especially from world soccer activities."

He said that "it can happen and it will be very detrimental to us in many ways."

"We have something that is bigger than losing our right to host the Under-20 World Cup. We have to face it in the near future, and that could effect the future of our sport," Sinulingga said, "We are now fighting not to get sanctioned, but people should know ... this is too hard."

Israel qualified for the tournament by reaching the semifinals of the Under-19 European Championship. The team went on to lose to England in that final.

Israel plays in Europe as a member of UEFA after leaving the Asian Football Confederation in the 1970s for political and security reasons.

FIFA bills the men's Under-20 World Cup as "the tournament of tomorrow's superstars."

Diego Maradona, Lionel Messi and Paul Pogba are previous winners of the tournament award, and Erling Haaland was the top scorer at the 2019 edition.

AP

Levy faces deepest crisis of Tottenham tenure as Paratici ban adds to chaos

BY MATT LAW

Daniel Levy's Tottenham Hotspur crisis has deepened after managing director of football Fabio Paratici's ban from football was extended across the world by Fifa -- less than 24 hours after Spurs had released a video of him talking about the departure of Antonio Conte.

Paratici's 30-month ban from Italian football, for alleged malpractice by his former club Juventus, now covers all football-related activities -- administrative, sports or any other -- at national and international level, which rules him out of playing any part in Tottenham's search for a new manager, player transfers or contract negotiations with Harry Kane.

The decision threw Spurs into chaos on Wednesday, with Paratici's future now in serious doubt and the club admitting they had been blindsided by Fifa as they attempt to find out the full impact of the worldwide ban.

In a statement on Wednesday night, Tottenham said: "This committee deliberation has been taken with no advance notice to any of the parties involved. We are urgently seeking further clarification from Fifa as to the details of the extension and its variance from the FIGC [Italian Football Federation] sanction.

"We should like to make clear that when Fabio conducted the interview on club chan-

nels yesterday neither he nor the club had any indication of this decision being made by Fifa, based on the fact the FIGC sanction was taken on 20 January 2023 and remains subject to an Appeal on 19 April 2023."

Sources rate this as the worst crisis Levy has faced in his time as chairman of Tottenham. Both the men's and women's teams do not have a permanent manager, Paratici is banned worldwide, Harry Kane's future remains in doubt, the stadium still has no name and a season ticket price hike has been considered.

Telegraph Sport also reported on the fact that Tottenham had booked Beyoncé in for an extra concert date at the club's stadium without a licence and a source said: "This is by far the worst it has ever been for Levy."

All of this comes after Tottenham's accounts last month revealed that Levy had banked a pay rise of more than £500,000 and the club's directors, among whom Paratici is named, earned almost £3 million more than the previous year.

A source added: "On top of all the problems that are obvious for everyone to see, staff morale levels are at an all-time low and Levy has isolated himself. It's a mess."

Tottenham have identified Julian Nagelsmann as the club's No1 target to replace Conte, but candidates will not be encouraged to make any

sort of commitment to Spurs during the current chaos.

It is understood that Paratici has 10 days to request the grounds of the Fifa decision, during which time the Italian could be allowed to work and has the opportunity to appeal before Fifa's Appeals Committee.

But after that Paratici will have to wait for the outcome of that appeal and the Juventus appeal against the initial punishment the club and Paratici faced for alleged malpractice, which is due to be heard on April 19.

Confirming that Paratici's ban had been extended across the globe, a Fifa statement said: "Fifa can confirm that following a request by the Italian FA, the Chairperson of Fifa Disciplinary Committee has decided to extend the sanctions imposed by FIGC on several football officials to have worldwide effect."

The Tottenham

Hotspur Supporters' Trust released a statement in which they reiterated the need for the club to address fans over the direction and strategy of the club.

"This news [on Paratici] adds further to the extremely concerning situation at the club," said the Trust. "No manager, no director of football and uncertainty around our star player and our end of season finish. Fans deserve to hear a clear statement of strategy from THFC so they can be reassured by the board on their plan to bring success and stability to the club."

Paratici's situation could be worsened by an Italian court case that has been postponed until May 10. The preliminary hearing of a criminal investigation into the capital gains and salary manoeuvres of Juventus and individuals who worked at the club, in which Paratici has been named among the

defendants, started on Monday but was almost immediately put back by just over six weeks.

That means he could still face punishment even if the Juventus appeal on April 19 is successful and sources believe it is increasingly likely Paratici will leave his Tottenham role at the end of the season or sooner.

On Tuesday, less than 24 hours before Fifa confirmed his worldwide ban, Tottenham released a video in which Paratici supported the decision to part company with Conte and replace him until the end of the season with his assistant Cristian Stellini and Ryan Mason.

Paratici also said that Tottenham need the club's fans, many of whom are furious with the current situation, for the final 10-game run-in as Spurs try to cling on to a top-four place and prepare for next Monday night's trip to Everton.

Other than facing an-

ger from fans over the managerial situation and Paratici's future, Levy will face a huge backlash if he goes ahead with proposals to increase the price of season tickets.

Telegraph Sport has been told that consideration has been given to announcing a sizable price increase for season tickets, which are already among the most expensive in the Premier League. Such a move would provoke anger from fans who have not seen the club lift a trophy for 15 years.

Spurs have insisted that there has been no confirmation of a price rise and it now remains to be seen if the club are forced into a re-think given the crisis that has hit all levels of the club.

Earlier this month, Tottenham Women sacked head coach Rehanne Skinner, with assistant coach Vicky Jepson taking interim charge.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

All set for African Junior Athletics Championships' trials, says AT

PAGE 18

Raja CA, Simba SC clash in CAF CL dead rubber



Morocco's Raja Club Athletic midfielder, Mohamed Zrida (R), outfoxes Tanzania's Simba SC winger, Pape Ousmane Sakho (C), as the outfits took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C clash which was held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 18. Raja Club Athletic commanded a 3-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJA CLUB ATHLETIC

points clear atop the group standings going into the final-day fixture against the Tanzanian runners-up.

The home side has won all their two games in their backyard, they opened their campaign with a 5-0 thrashing of Vipers SC before beating Horoya Athletic Club 2-0 early this month to maintain a perfect record at Mohamed V Stadium.

Raja Club Athletic have won the CAF Champions League on three separate occasions and CAF Confederation Cup twice, with their last continental success coming back in 2021.

A victory over Simba SC would certainly send out another statement of the Moroccan football giant's intention to go all the way once again.

The other Group C match will involve another dead rubber between hosts Horoya Athletic Club and Vipers SC. Both teams are only playing to avoid finishing last in the group.

Horoya Athletic Club are sitting third with four points and they only need to avoid a defeat to keep Vipers SC from the former's position.

The Ugandan outfit kicked off the Group Stage as the outsiders to qualify for the quarterfinals.

That is how it has turned out for the away team, which has picked up just two points from their five matches in Group C.



Uganda's senior national soccer team's head coach, Milutin Sredojevic 'Micho'.

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

IT is all settled in Group C of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League as Morocco's Raja Club Athletic and Tanzania's Simba SC will battle it out with nothing else but pride at stake at Mohammed V Stadium today night.

The Tanzanian outfit secured second place and a quarterfinals ticket after claiming nine points from the doubleheader against Uganda's Vipers SC in the third and the fourth round and a statement victory over Horoya Athletic Club, beating the Guinean giants 7-0 two weeks ago at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC will again be missing Augustine Okrah, Mohamed Outtara, Ismael Sawadogo, and Jonas Mkude through injury, among other reasons.

Meanwhile, left full-back

Mohamed Hussein is suspended for an accumulation of bookings, Gadiel Michael could therefore come in for a rare start.

Though there is little at stake in this clash, Simba SC head coach Robert Oliveira

may opt for his strongest side in an attempt to avoid a repeat of what happened when the two sides met in Dar es Salaam in February.

Raja Club Athletic, on the other hand, remain the only unbeaten side in Group C,

drawing away to Vipers SC and winning four of their five matches to sit top of the section on 13 points, just two points of a maximum tally.

The team, led by Mondher Kebaier, is thus four

FUFA backs Micho after win over Tanzania amidst calls for his sacking

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

UGANDA's Cranes head coach Miltutin Sredojevic has renewed his relationship with FUFA after securing a 1-0 win versus Tanzania in the 2023 AFCON Qualifiers' Group F tie that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

The unequivocal support of Sredojevic, alias 'Micho', within FUFA is slightly bizarre yet also very real.

To date, no matter the situation or crisis he appears to be faced with, there has been no danger of the Serbian losing his job.

Amidst calls for his sacking in the recent past, at least FUFA has put on a thick skin, absorbed all the pressure, and given Micho full support.

Earlier this week, FUFA called for a press conference and everyone expected that Micho would be sacked.

However, in the press briefing held at FUFA House on Thursday morning, FUFA President Moses Hassim Magogo confirmed Micho will carry on with his job.

"As Ugandans, we may not be happy about the results the National Team is getting but we must also face the reality. The transition of teams is a reality and the only route you can take to get back," he said.

"If you look at the team that played against Tanzania, 13 of them are products of the FUFA Juniors League we started in 2015. We must give them the necessary support and hope the results can get better," the FUFA boss noted.

Magogo indicated assessment will be done after the qualification campaign.

"We don't want to make rushed decisions. As FUFA, we are giving ourselves time and we will make an assessment after the qualification campaign," the official noted.

The Serbian tactician returned on July 27, 2021, and has been in charge of the team for 29 matches, including friendlies.

Out of the 29 games, Micho has managed to win eight, notched a draw 11, and lost 10.

In his first spell (2013-2017), Micho guided Uganda's Cranes to the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations, breaking a 39-year jinx.

Ruvu Shooting optimistic of surviving relegation despite facing tough fixtures

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



Ruvu Shooting's head coach, Mbwana Makata.

RUVU Shooting FC head coach Mbwana Makata remains optimistic his outfit is to hold on to its place in Premier League next season despite playing tough fixtures ahead.

Makata's side has five games remaining in the league which will witness the squad taking on Simba SC, Azam FC, Singida Big Stars, Dodoma Jiji FC, and Tanzania Prisons, with the opponents standing on the Coast Region club's way to survival.

Ruvu Shooting is placed 17th in the Premier League's standings having collected 20 points after taking part in 25 clashes this season.

The squad has emerged victorious in five ties, notched a draw in five, and lost 15 games while becoming a squad that has recorded the fewest goals scored (16).

Ruvu Shooting has set up its camp in Dar es Salaam preparing for the game against Tanzania Prisons to be played at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on April 9.

In the last game that Ruvu Shooting took part in at the same venue, the outfit won 2-1 against Mbeya City FC while showcasing clean and fast football.

Makata stated despite having used the break to correct mistakes, it has slowed them down and now it looks like his outfit is starting all over to prepare for the

difficult matches to come.

He noted so far he sees that there is still a lot of work to do for his defenders and attackers.

The tactician revealed that he continues to work in the areas to ensure that they, in the next game, continue to win and ensure discipline is high.

"You saw the last game we played well and got a win, but due to this break the players went to rest, which means that the pace has slowed down," the tactician pointed out.

The gaffer added: "We are starting again realizing that our chances to stay in the Premier League are limited and we have to win in the upcoming games."

"The big problem lies in defense and attack because in this season's Premier League matches, we have allowed many goals and scored few," the tactician revealed.

"We have even done so in the friendly games we played during the international break."

"I have to work on those areas before the NBC Premier League games resume," Makata disclosed.

The tactician stressed: "We have to make sure that we fight hard to survive for next season's top tier, with everything in our hands to make sure we are not relegated to Championship League next season... I'm optimistic we will survive."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

