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Ministry wants exam in hiring teachers, rolls out curriculum

The system will also enable the country to produce competent output accessing opportunities with greater ease thus stimulating development

By Guardian Reporter

NEWLY graduated teachers who wish to be employed in government schools and colleges will sit for assessment tests, the government has stated.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, made this affirmation in a press briefing on the improved education policy and newly introduced curriculum.

riculum.

Taking assessment exams will generate a climate of fairness in selecting who is to be employed, to remove complaints, he said, noting that those who apply to be hired as teachers have the same qualifications.

Not only has the government worked hard to overcome the challenge but the matter is cropping up in constituency politics as well,

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Mwanaidi Rajabu, a widow from Dar es Salaam's Kimara Temboni suburb earning "some form of income" chiefly from the retail sale of fried sardines, lines herself up for business yesterday afternoon near her residence. She said she earns "not so much but enough to carry me and my children along". She would not elaborate, but it was evident that little did she know that she was at work on the eve of International Women's Day, whose theme this year is: 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' with a focus on addressing economic disempowerment. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

SPORTS

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Yanga plots fifth consecutive NBC PL win to reclaim top spot

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'Respected' Man City now belong among European heavyweights, says Guardiola

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Tembo Warriors enter camp to prepare for AAFCON

NHIF, private hospital chiefs meet next week

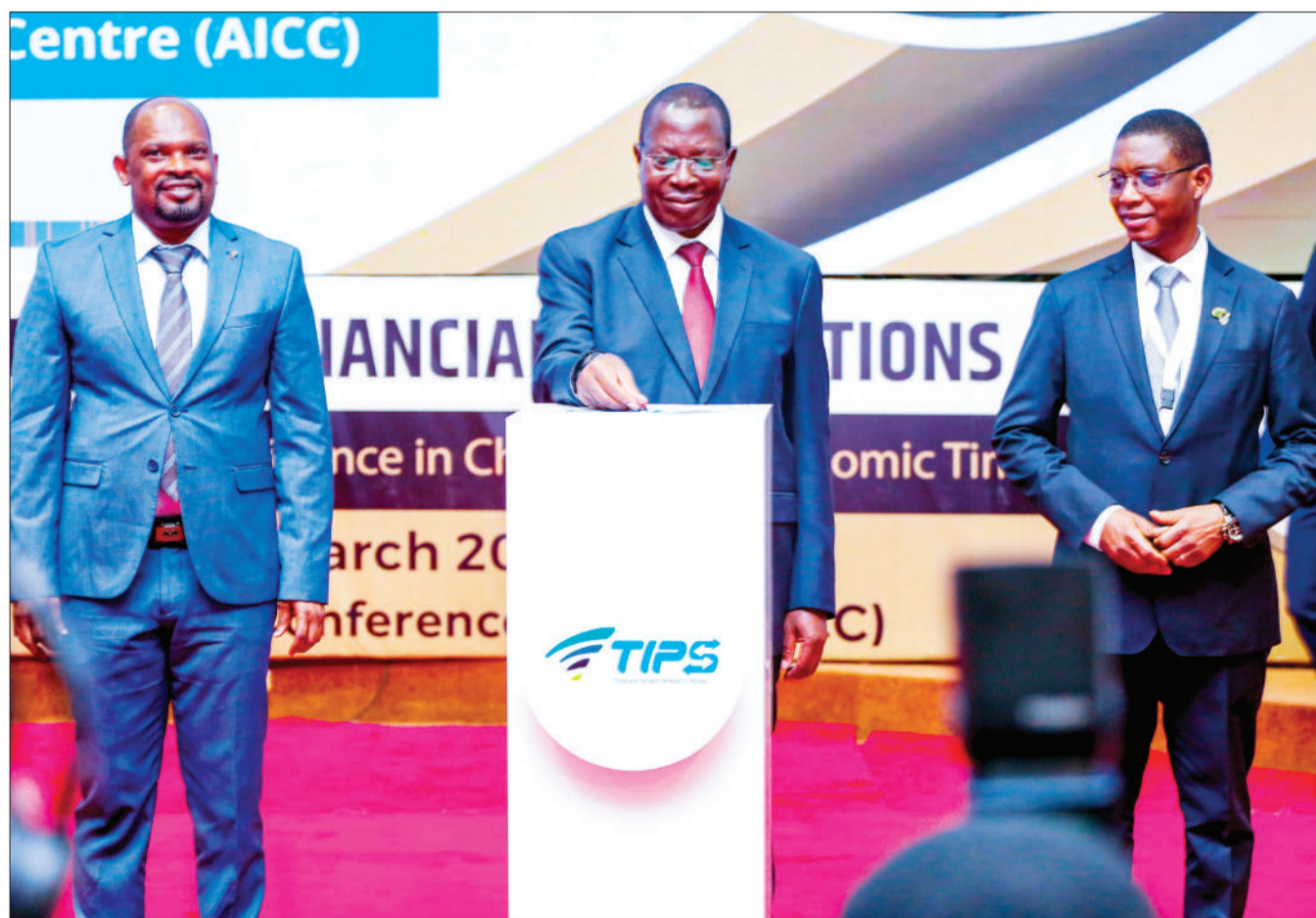
By Francis Kajubi

OPERATORS of private health facilities are early next week expected to meet

with top officials of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to sort out knotty issues on the fund's improved packages. Bernard Konga, the NHIF director general,

told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the meeting is expected to strike an agreement with private health

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango presses a knob in Arusha city on Wednesday to launch the Tanzania Instant Payment System. With him are Finance deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande (L) and Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba. Photo: VPO

Local project deals corridor: TIC leads Chinese investors

The East African region holds promise with good use of existing opportunities, where partnership with Chinese firms could help

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A delegation of more than 100 Chinese investors is in Tanzania to explore potential investment opportunities and projects for which they can enter into partnerships with local firms.

The delegation yesterday held a meeting with a large group of local investors and traders, convened by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the China-Africa economic and trade cooperation forum and the China-Tanzania economic, trade and investment exposition.

Mafutah Bunini, the TIC director of investment services, said the conducive investment environment has attracted many Chinese businessmen and their number is expected to double soon.

For many years, China has been leading in large investments since TIC started registering projects from the Far Eastern country, he said, noting that the meeting was intended to bring together the two

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VP: Control bad loans, cut credit access costs

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has asked banks and financial institutions to focus on ways to control bad loans even as they work to reduce credit access costs.

He was opening the 21st annual meeting for financial institutions that brought together numerous stakeholders by invitation from the Bank of Tanzania along with the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) here yesterday.

He said that the financial sector has the responsibility to participate in issues related to climate change as it affects productivity and income generation, in the agricultural sector, tourism, livestock, forests and natural resources.

The conference will feature virtual participation and is expected to generate insightful discussions on strengthening financial Sector resilience.

The VP also touched on the need for

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Ministry sets exams in hiring teachers, rolls out curriculum

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as the country inches towards civic polls and the general election, he stated.

He said the new curriculum has started to be applied for preschool and primary schools at Standard I-III along with Form One for technical secondary schools.

"We've 96 secondary schools—68 private and 28 public schools, offering technical education now applying the new curriculum for starters, so by 2028 the rollover will be completed," he said.

"We have done so after very long discussions involving stakeholders, we want to ensure that our children learn and acquire knowledge as per current needs while enabling graduates to employ themselves even after missing opportunities in the employment market."

With the new curriculum changes there will be 10 years of compulsory education where six years are spent at the primary stage and four years in secondary education.

"Here the government and parents will have a role to ensure that children start Standard One and complete Form Four," he emphasized.

sided, focusing on curriculum division into technical and general education, without specific affirmation on maintaining the language shift or adopting English at lower levels.

He elaborated that practical education will be an important part of the education system, to be provided according to the curricula at the relevant level, stressing that the government is working hard to ensure that it prepares and hires enough competent teachers for entrepreneurship.

"We're going to strengthen in-service training and teachers resource centres, whereby teachers will be scaling their skills and knowledge in their localities."

Atupele Mwambene, the ministry's director of policy and planning, said the major objective of having the new policy and curricular is to make education structure flexible in procedure to enable every Tanzanian to access education through various ways.

The system will also enable the country to produce competent output accessing opportunities with greater ease thus stimulating development, he added.

VP: Control bad loans, cut credit access costs

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expanding the scope of affordable loans for small and medium entrepreneurs in agriculture, livestock, fishing, mining and small industries.

Financial institutions need to strengthen efforts to control negative effects of sharp technological growth, like the confidentiality of information or security of the banking network.

There are also wider issues of the distribution of false information on the internet, as well as protecting consumers by working closely with stakeholders, he said, praising financial sector leadership for resilience during two decades of global economic disruptions.

Current IMF data shows that the banking sector is strong, has sufficient liquidity and is making profits, with loans to the private sector having increased by 22.2 percent in 2022/23 compared to 9.9 percent during fiscal 2021/22.

Private sector loans ratio to GDP stood at 18.2 percent for fiscal 2021/22, a slight rise from 17.6 percent in 2020, he said, while Finance deputy minister Hamad Chande said the government was pursuing efforts to strengthen the financial sector, in line with the decade long plan, 2020/21-2029/30.

The level of efficiency shown in the growth of loans to the private sector relate to advanced financial technologies and central bank measures, tied to current govern-

ment policies, he stated.

Emmanuel Tutuba, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) governor, said that the newly launched Tanzania Instant Payments System (TIPS) is designed to facilitate instant funds transfer across different payment systems providers, for banks and non-bank financial outlets.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation assists the TIPS initiative facilitated by the Bank of Tanzania, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and e-Government Agency, he said.

TIPS 'operational system is based on international standards in enabling financial transactions to be done quickly and at a cheaper cost, he told heads of financial institutions, mobile network operators and others.

Theobald Sabi, the Tanzania Bankers Association chairman, pointed at the grave effects of the Russian expedition in Ukraine, a core element in thematic discussions spread over efficiency in financial institutions in times of crises, financial sector stability via regulations, innovation and risk management.

Technological innovation in the delivery of financial services will be examined as a catalyst for resilience, with professional resource persons from local and international spheres sharing experience on the pertinent issues, he added.

Shock as hyena sneaks into a shop in Nakuru

NAKURU

A BUSINESSMAN in Kenya's Rift Valley town of Nakuru was "shocked" when he turned up for work early on Wednesday only to find a "strange animal" in his small shop.

Fredrick Omungu did not know what it was at first, but said he was scared.

"It clearly wasn't a dog - I thought it was a leopard or something else," he told the BBC.

Some neighbours came and identified the animal as a hyena, which under certain conditions can attack humans. "I was shocked and stayed far away. I've heard hyenas are dangerous and can kill people," Omungu said.

In less than 30 minutes, dozens of residents had gathered around his stall to see the stranded animal hiding under the makeshift counter.

It was unclear how the animal ended up in his stall in a populated area.

Omungu, who sells the leafy stimulant khat, which is known locally as miraa, as well as soft drinks, sweets and groundnuts, said

he had closed his business at around 20:00 local time the previous night and had arrived at around 07:00 the following morning.

The area is not far from the Lake Nakuru National Park, where the hyena is suspected to have strayed from at night.

Wardens from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) later came and captured the animal.

Conflicts between animals and humans are becoming increasingly common in Kenya and in recent times there have been reports of hyenas attacking people in different places across the country.

In Nakuru, some residents blamed the KWS for not taking enough measures to stop the animals from crossing the park into public areas.

But Mark Cheruiyot, a senior KWS warden from the county, told the BBC the fence, which at times has been vandalised, was being upgraded and it was unfortunate that the animal had got out of the park.

Omungu said he was worried for the safety of children at a nearby primary school that is even closer to the park than his shop.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki (C) has an audience in Berlin yesterday with representatives of several major German tourism firms interested in investing in Tanzania. It was on the sidelines of the just-ended three-day 2024 edition of ITB Berlin, reckoned as the world's largest tourism trade fair. The companies represented at the fair include hotels, tourism boards, tour operators, system providers, airlines and car rental companies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NHIF, private hospital chiefs meet next week

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service providers over fair NHIF cost covering for its beneficiaries.

He stated that seven private hospitals earlier boycotting NHIF card holders the service are the key interested parties in the meeting, having accepted to provide services to NHIF card holders while the key contentions are worked out.

"We are going to host a consensus meeting on Monday for the interest of our scheme beneficiaries," he said, underlining that 87 private facilities didn't boycott the new package.

They are attending patients with NHIF cards, he said, noting that the new package targets enabling health service providers to serve its members anchored in different economic backgrounds at competitive

market prices.

The new consultation fee package will see NHIF paying 25,000/- for its beneficiary to see an experienced specialized medical doctor at a regional referral hospital. The fee has been increased from 15,000/- that was previously paid for the same service, he elaborated.

The new package is meant to enable health facilities provide services at a competitive market rate thus serving many beneficiaries, he emphasized, highlighting that NHIF shall pay 20,000/- for seeing a specialized doctor at regional referral hospital or equivalent up from 15,000/- charged earlier.

NHIF will similarly pay a district hospital or equivalent in the private sector attending a patient with appendectomy 150,000/- for surgery, up from the current 110,000/-, pay

130,000/- for caesarean section and BTL, a surgical procedure that creates permanent contraception, or sterilization from 110,000/- earlier.

Rebuffing arguments of the major private hospitals he said that NHIF "has come to learn that some payments we used to make were overestimated compared to market realities," implying that upper level private hospitals ought to charge the same as regional referral hospitals.

"In that case, some changes have been made on the value of payments to health providers," he said, expecting that NHIF members will be able to make use of private health facilities in the same manner as any referral hospital.

NHIF has placed 200,000/- charges, down from 240,000/- to any service provider for a single case

of haemodialysis (treatment of advanced kidney failure), and pay 14,900/- down from 33,000/- to a health facility conducting erythropoietin (an injection under the skin) 2,000 IU for its beneficiary.

It will further pay 15,000/-, down from 66,000/-, to whatever health facility that offers an NHIF member with erythropoietin 4,000 IU section.

Through the new package, NHIF will provide 124 medicines from the national essential medicines list for Tanzania Mainland (NEMLIT), while imposing alternatives for 309 medicines routinely prescribed to align prescriptions with NEMLIT.

An addition of strength and formulation medicines to the list is expected in consideration of their availability on the market, he added.



A motorcyclist transporting a visibly bigger and heavier load of charcoal than he should have attempted to carry finds the going impossible yesterday along the muddy dirt road at Zejele village in Nondwa ward, Bahi District. The recent incessant heavy rains are mainly to blame for the situation. Meanwhile, he gave the going price as anything between 60,000/- and 80,000/- per sack. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavala

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groups of businessmen to exchange ideas on where they can put up joint ventures.

TIC statistics since 1997 show that China leads with \$11bn worth of investments, he said, elaborating that the chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce had assured him that another team of businessmen would be arriving soon to look for opportunities.

The meeting would set out procedures for investing, joint ventures, cargo clearance at the port, along with reinforcing awareness on investment laws, regulations and procedures, he stated.

Charles Itembe, the Economic

Local project deals corridor: TIC leads Chinese investors

Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) director general, said the flow of investors shows the significance of government efforts to attract new foreign investments.

EPZA hosts 35 companies with projects valued at \$2m, spanning sectors like mining and crop value addition, with the firms having created 20,000 direct jobs, he said, underlining the need for reinforcing investment incentives for higher foreign direct investment (FDI)

flows.

He referred to the strategic importance of the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) market where a vast market opportunity exists, while the United Kingdom is working on a protocol to enable farm produce in particular to enter its markets duty free.

The East African region holds promise with good use of existing opportunities, where partnership with Chinese firms could help, he

said, while Feng Zhenyu, the visiting CCC vice-chairman praised the investment environment, which attracted a large number of Chinese firms seeking opportunities and likely joint ventures.

Agricultural and mining sectors have vast opportunities, thus the delegation is meeting with government institutions and businessmen to see how to invest, while the TIC one stop centre is an additional attraction, he added



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a gas cylinder to Habiba Mohamed, a food vendor from the city's Mbaga Kiburugwa suburb. It was part of an ongoing sensitisation drive on the use of clean cooking energy. Left is Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Benoit Araman, whose firm is behind the initiative. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Worst affected countries vow to end malaria deaths

By Special Correspondent, Yaoundé

MINISTERS of health from 12 African countries with the highest burden of malaria have gathered in Yaoundé, Cameroon to extensively chart out ways to end the deadly disease in the continent.

Ending deaths from the disease remains a challenge despite a package of measures that have proven to be inefficient and not adapted to the continent.

Mali's minister of health and social development, Dr Col Assa Badiallo, urged the countries to unite forces.

"We call on civil society, communities, and private actors to participate even more so that more funds can be invested into the fight against Malaria," Badiallo said.

"Through mechanisms such as RAMEd [Editor's Note: the health insurance scheme for the most vulnerable], through private health

insurances and the compulsory health insurance scheme in Mali (AMO), our goal is that the entire Malian population can benefit from the available treatments," the minister said.

Collaboration was therefore among the latest recommendations; the ministers agreed to communicate better, strengthen political efforts and increase resources to fight Malaria as well as to improve national health research and innovation systems.

Approximately 70 percent of global malaria deaths occur in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.

The world's first malaria mass vaccine rollout recently started in Africa where the disease kills about 600,000 people every year.

Govt readying land use plan for ex-Ngorongoro residents

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

ABOUT 10,000 plots are set to be surveyed and aligned with land use plan in Handeni District, Tanga Region for people relocating from the Ngorongoro Conserved Area (NCA) to set up their permanent settlement.

Deputy Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development Geophrey Pinda said this yesterday when he visited the

areas.

Pinda said of the parcels, 5000 plots are for housing and 5000 are to be reserved as farms. He said 2500 residential plots will be surveyed at Msomera Village, 1500 plots at Kitwai B (Simanjiro) and 1000 plots at Sauni (Kilindi).

According to him, as of the end of last month, a total of 5,882 plots were surveyed, an equivalent of 118 percent of the target of 5000 plots in the villages of Sauni (Kilindi) and

Msomera (Handeni).

He noted that of the plots, 5,272 are for the construction of residential houses and thus making a total of 610 surveyed plots.

Pinda said as of last month, a total of 3,507 large farms were surveyed, an equivalent of 70 percent of the target of 5000 farms in the villages of Msomera, Sauni and Kitwai.

"We expect to achieve the goal of surveying the remaining 1,493 farms within two weeks," he said.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega advised land officers to sensitize the public on land use planning if land conflicts are to be contained.

The implementation of the project to survey and plan land use in the village of Msomera has successfully brought together communities voluntarily relocating from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

US tech giants absolved in cobalt child labour case

KINSHASA

A US court has absolved five major technology companies accused of aiding the use of child labour in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The case filed by former child miners and their representatives, Google parent company Alphabet, Apple, Dell Technologies, Microsoft and Tesla stood accused of facilitating child labour in their supply chains for cobalt.

The metal is used to make lithium-ion batteries that are widely used in electronics.

But in a 3-0 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia sided with the tech

giants, arguing that the companies only maintained a commercial relationship with their suppliers and that they had no power to stop the use of child labour.

The plaintiffs said that the companies were aware of the use of child labour in cobalt mines but did not act for fear of disrupting the supply of the metal.

DR Congo is the world's biggest producer of cobalt. A lot of the metal is extracted by artisanal miners who employ child labour and where safety is not observed.

More than 40,000 children work in hazardous conditions in cobalt mines in the Katanga province alone, according to the UN.

**Re-advertisement
BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-03-01	Supply and Installation of Dynamic Voltage Restores (DVR) 900kVA; 640V.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialised in design; supply & installation of dynamic voltage restores (DVR), CRB Certificate – Specialist Electrical Class 1 or equivalent. Experience working with similar works in last 5 years. Competence in DVR design and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry. Team with multi discipline members (Mainly – Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / E&I Engineer /Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. QA / QC officer should be NACE certified or equivalent. List of equipment's – Resource list – specifying quantities – List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).

The above services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate 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.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **15th March 2024**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLYING OF LENGTH/HEIGHT BOARDS
NO.CRS-Tanzania 001- FY24 – REQUISITION NO. TZ1244
Call for Tender of Supplying Length/Height Boards.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, was founded in 1943 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. CRS seeks to cherish, preserve, and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity, and justice, and embody Catholic social teaching as we work with local partners to promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. In Tanzania, CRS has served vulnerable communities for over 60 years and implements its programs through partnerships with the Government of Tanzania, International and local organizations, and community entities for maximum impact and sustainability. Today, the country's program supports the program in sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods, youth empowerment, integrated nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), early childhood development and integrated water resource management, and HIV/AIDS.

CRS Tanzania invites all eligible commercial companies in Tanzania to supply the following height/length boards.

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	Length/Height Boards – Wooden (plywood eucalyptus), 220 cm	70

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:
Portable baby/child/adult length-height measuring board is used to measure:
a) Recumbent length of a baby up to 24 months old, or from a minimum length of 8cm
b) Height of an adult and a child aged 24 months and up in vertical position.
Has a firm, flat surface.
Fold-up mechanism and low weight make it compact and easy to transport.
Parts are not lose or shaking during transportation.
Panels are secured with self-contained, spring loaded bolts.
Carrying when collapsed is facilitated by an integrated handle at point of equilibrium and/or removable shoulder/back strap/s.
Fixations of the shoulder/back strap/s on the board do not hamper horizontal set-up from lying flat.
Simple and fast set up, no tools (screwdriver, etc.) required.
No need for calibration, as all parts has prefixed position.
Long-lasting hard-wearing measurement scale is fully integrated with the device and is easy to read in low light conditions.
Orientation of numerals on the measurement scale: parallel to

the board, facilitating quick and easy reading of results (refer to the picture attached below).
Measurement scale is made of metal or another material with equivalent stretch and tear resistance characteristics.
Unit of measure: centimetres
Smallest graduation: 0.1cm.
Full measurement range with two extensions: 0 to 240cm
Accuracy: ± 0.2cm
Precision: ± 0.2cm
Width of the board: ca. 25cm.

The device has:
a) A large foot/head piece which provides a stable base for vertical set-up and is used as head board for horizontal set-up, and
b) A smoothly gliding measuring slide/wedge.
Measuring slide/wedge can be locked or has some kind friction feature to assure accurate and precise measurement. Measuring slide/wedge wobbles maximum about 0.2 cm, over full length, allowing repeated accurate reading.
Exact points where to read are clearly marked with pictogram or arrow on the measuring slide/wedge.
No sharp edges or corners.
Smooth finishing allows easy cleaning and safe use.
Designed for heavy duty use in demanding circumstances.
Durable, resistant to effects of excessive humidity and high temperature, water splash proof and shock resistant.
Board can be made of light, strong, durable material, resistant to the conditions described above.

ITEMS SUPPLIED WITH:
a) Removable, adjustable, shoulder/back straps.
b) Instructions for use, maintenance and troubleshooting in English, Swahili; appropriately illustrated with pictograms and graphic elements.

WEIGHT AND VOLUME (for 2 boards):
Estimated weight: 19.1kg
Estimated volume: 0.14m³

Bidders are invited to compete for the specified in the table above as part of this tender notice and the following conditions must be met in the tender document:
- Submit your best financial offer for Anthropometric Equipment
- Specify the possible minimum time for delivery.
- Clarify the validity of the offer.
- Provide a copy of the Registration Certificate
- Specify if the prices are VAT-inclusive or exclusive.
- Submit 3 professional references.

Bid written in English addressed to the attention of the CRS / Tanzania Program. Requisition # TZ1244

Must be submitted to the following e-mail address: tz_quotes@crs.org on or before **March 22, 2024, 5:00 P.M.**

All bidders are advised that this tender does not constitute in any way a commitment on the part of CRS/Tanzania or its agents, for any service requested.

'Tech, innovation key to unlocking EAC's full potential'

By Guardian Reporter

DEVELOPMENT stakeholders have been called on to work together to enable more East Africans benefit from Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) opportunities and improve their livelihoods.

Hendrina C. Doroba, division manager in charge of education and skills development at the African Development Bank (AfDB) East Africa regional office made the call in Nairobi on Wednesday at the 3rd East African Community Conference.

She said that by accelerating development and diffusion of STI in East Africa will not only lead to the growth of innovative solutions to regional challenges but also drive commercialisation of such innovations for industrial development.

Doroba said that there is still much to be done to harness the region's full potential and accelerate socio-economic transformation as outlined in the EAC Vision 2050 and Agenda 2063 of the Africa we want.

"Today, East Africa's innovation level is insufficient to reach ambitious levels of inclusive growth and development due to prevailing technological and innovation constraints, which include financing, and information asymmetries that need to be addressed to harness STI full potential fully," she said.

Doroba, said that the situation had been worsened by the slow global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian-Ukraine war.

"A critical pathway in responding to these challenges and ensuring that STI works for East Africa is the urgent need to train the next generation of scientists and innovators, who should take the lead in driving the region's development agenda," she said.

Doroba who represented AfDB East Africa Director General Nnenna Lily Nwabufu at the conference's opening session, said that any inclusive growth and sustainable development calls for the growth of innovations to promote creation of new enterprises, increase productivity, support new jobs and drive economic prosperity.

She said that the slow progress in building skilled workforce in STI has adversely affected the community's ability to transform its economies and increase productivity and competitiveness.

"It is essential to note that the quality of learning at all levels of skills development, particularly in science, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is low compared to other regions. For example, for Africa as a continent, of all students who graduated from higher education institutions in 2021, those in STEM fields were on average 21.7 percent compared to 25.6 percent in other regions," she said.

"Addressing this could be made possible by combining our interventions with the power of science, technology, and innovations through enhancing the capacity of our high education and research institutions and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for homegrown solutions to our development challenges."

Prof Walter Oyawa, director general of Kenya's National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation called for increased efforts in science diplomacy and science communication to enhance appreciation of STI by various stakeholders.

Prof Oyawa said that there was a need for scientists and innovators to communicate more with politicians on the need to allocate more resources to investments in STI, noting that this would yield immense benefits for the region as has been the case with developed countries.

He said that mistrust in science and technology had escalated among members of the public, adding that the reduction in trust was responsible for rejection of vaccines and genetically modified organisms among other technologies.

Dr Sylvance Okoth, executive secretary of the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), said that EASTECO has developed STI policies, strategies and regulations to operationalise various aspects of EAC policy instruments in its quest to promote the development, management and application of science and technology in partner states.

"This STI conference is therefore one of the interventions through which science and technology promotes EAC integration agenda, as it accords stakeholders an opportunity to come together to exchange scientific information, and in the process, create new linkages and strengthen bonds of collaboration," he said.



Chief Sheikh Dr Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally addresses a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, part of the thrust of his remarks being on the need for traders to desist from hiking the prices of foodstuffs and other basic items during the upcoming Holy month of Ramadhan. Muslims worldwide observe the month with fasting, prayers, reflection and community. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Seven in court over sugar, edible oil smuggling in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

SEVEN people yesterday appeared before the Kinondoni Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam facing four charges of sugar and edible oil smuggling.

The prosecution side led by State Attorney Anderson Lukosi assisted by Auni Chilamula read the charges before Veneranda Kaseko, Principal Resident Magistrate and Resident Magistrates Nabwike Mbaba and Ramadhan Rugemalira.

The accused who are residents of Kunduchi in Kinondoni District are businessman Mustapha Bakari (30) and mechanic Mohamed Nassor (25) and Abdulmajid Kheri (17).

Others are drivers Erick Mwangemba (25) and Justin Mollé (35), together with fishermen Mbaraka Mwanjovu (23) and Hamad Hamad also known as Katoto (23).

Reading the charge sheet, the state attorneys said that the accused Nassoro and Kheri were on February 11 at Kunduchi area found

transporting 20 sacks of sugar illegally.

Chilamula read four counts namely fraudulent tax evasion, conveying uncustomed goods, failure to produce documents of uncustomed goods and possession of uncustomed goods.

It was alleged that the first count of fraudulent tax evasion is contrary to section 148(e) of the Customs (Management and Tariff) Act.

The court heard that on February 11, this year, at Mtangani-Kunduchi area within Kinondoni District in Dar es salaam Region, Mwangemba imported 20 bags of sugar via unauthorized customs entry port and as result evaded payment of custom duties of over 2.3m/-.

The prosecution further claimed that in the aforementioned dates and locations, Mollé, Mwanjovu and Hamad illegally imported 100 gallons of cooking oil via unauthorized customs entry port and as a result evaded payment of custom duties of over 4.02 m/-.

It was further alleged that on

the same date and place, Bakari imported 50 gallons of cooking oil via unauthorized customs entry point and as a result evaded payment of custom duties worth 2.01m/-.

The court also heard that in the second count, Mwangemba on February 11 this year, at Mbezi Shule area within Kinondoni District in Dar es salaam, being in charge and the driver of Motor vehicle make Toyota Mark II with registration number T 497ANT, was found transporting 20 bags of sugar which he knew to be uncustomed goods.

Nassor and Kheri in the aforementioned dates and locations were alleged to have been found conveying 20 bags of sugar which they knew to be uncustomed goods using a vehicle with registration number T 956 BBF contrary to the law.

It was alleged that Mollé and Mwanjovu were found conveying 50 gallons of cooking oil which they knew to be uncustomed goods using a vehicle with registration

number T 194 DHE contrary to the law.

In the third count, Chilamula claimed that all accused persons failed to produce documents of uncustomed goods contrary to section 149(a)(b) & 154(i) of the Customs (Management and Tariff) Act.

In the fourth count, it was alleged that the accused persons were found in possession of uncustomed goods contrary to section 146(d) (iii) of the Customs (Management and Tariff) Act and that all accused were found in possession of 40 bags of sugar and 100 gallons of cooking oil which they knew to be uncustomed goods with intention to evade tax worth 10.7m/-.

The accused were not allowed to enter a plea because Kinondoni Magistrate's Court does not have powers to hear such economic sabotage cases.

The prosecution side told the court that investigations on the case were ongoing and it was adjourned until March 21 for mention.

S. Africa beefs up airport infrastructure investment

JOHANNESBURG

THE Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), which owns and operates the country's nine principal airports, has allocated more than 21 billion rands (1.12 billion US dollars) for airport infrastructure development over the next five years, Minister of Transport Sindiwe Chikunga said Tuesday.

"This investment primarily targets refurbishment, efficiency improvements and statutory compliance measures, with the aim of enhancing asset availability, airport safety and passenger experiences across our airports," she said at a media briefing on the state of South Africa's aviation sector.

ACSA is set to embark on the development of a new cargo terminal at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, she added.

Infrastructure expansion will also be implemented at the country's other airports, including those in Durban, George, Cape Town and Gqeberha, to enhance the airports' capacity and effectiveness, according to Chikunga.

"After a period of turbulence and uncertainty regarding the full extent of the pandemic's social and economic impact, I am pleased to confirm that the worst is over and our aviation sector's recovery is on a positive trajectory," she said.

"This investment primarily targets refurbishment, efficiency improvements and statutory compliance measures, with the aim of enhancing asset availability, airport safety and passenger experiences across our airports"

DEV RECOVERIES LIMITED NOTICE OF SALE BY TENDER PROCESS. Includes contact info for NIC Life House 4th Floor, Wing C and details of two properties for sale: TEMI INVESTMENT LIMITED and ARUSHA CITY SECONDARY SCHOOL.

SUMMONS TO APPEAR (RULE 1, ORDER V. CPC & ACT NO. 49 OF 1966) IN THE DISTRICT COURT (RESIDENT MAGISTRATE) OF TANGA DISTRICT. CIVIL CASE NO. 1298 OF 2024. TANZANIA NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY ATTORNEY GENERAL PLAINTIFF VERSUS BIN SOUA CO., LTD. DEFENDANT.

Female employees graduate from ATE's empowerment programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

A TOTAL of 76 female employees of different companies yesterday graduated from the Female Future Programme organized by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE).

During the ninth graduation of the training programme in Dar es Salaam, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, commended the companies that supported their female employees to participate in the training.

She said that the government will continue to support ATE's programmes, especially since it is in line with the government's plans to promote gender equality.

She noted that the theme of the graduation ceremony, which coincided with ATE's 6th General Assembly "Investing in Women to Accelerate Development", was timely as her ministry prepares to launch the National Gender and Development Policy.

She said the policy would be officially launched today at the climax of International Women's Day celebrations.

Prof Lucky Yona, one of the lecturers at the East and South African Administrative Training College (ESAMI), said the students were taught how to lead, how to speak at high-profile meetings and forums, and other skills meant to develop their leadership skills.

ATE Chief Executive Officer,

Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, said more than 400 students from various companies in the country had already completed the training.

She said the training had been the gateway for women to take up leadership positions, adding that even the next intake of students who will start the training later this year was already full.

Five female employees of Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, were amongst the graduated who attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, AngloGold Ashanti's Vice President for Sustainability and Corporate Affairs in Africa, Simon Shayo, said since the training began, GGML has enabled 23 female employees to develop their skills.

Some of them have been promoted, while two have reached senior management positions within the company, he said, adding that the training has been a springboard for the company as it has increased collaboration and gender equality.

He said some of them had also been able to compete internationally in their positions, including female engineers.

"GGML has continued to support this training to strengthen gender equality; but this issue has also continued to be properly implemented by the employees themselves from their hearts," he said.

Ugandan pupils win regional tech innovation competition

By Guardian Reporter

IN a display of innovation, Team Imperial Tech from Rise and Shine Secondary School in Ntinda, Uganda, has emerged this year's regional champions of the Sahara STEAMers Grand Demo Competition.

Organised by the Sahara Group Foundation and Asharami Uganda in collaboration with STEMCafe, the event also saw teams from two Tanzania's secondary schools showcase their innovations.

Securing the second and third positions were Team Smart Blind Walking Stick from St Georges Girls Secondary School, Nairobi, Kenya, and Team Young Genius from Oshodi High School, Lagos, Nigeria, respectively.

Team Smart Blind Walking Stick developed an advanced solution to aid visually impaired individuals, utilizing Arduino, distance sensors, and a buzzer.

Team Young Genius developed an innovative domestic drainage system to address the issue of drainage blockage by automating the drainage cleaning process, thus keeping the environment pristine.

Two Tanzanian schools participated Team KATONE from Tambaza Secondary School came with its water salinity and alkalinity monitoring solution, an advanced sensor that delivers precise real-time water level data.

Team Young Girls from Kisutu Secondary School came up with water salinity and alkalinity monitoring device. This innovative tool detects contaminants promptly, allowing for a timely response to safeguard water quality for both consumption and environmental preservation.

Team STF from Tambaza Secondary School with came up with a vehicle alcohol detection system that effectively prevents drunk drivers from driving.

Ejiro Gray, director of Sahara Group Foundation, expressed immense delight at the pupils' commitment and determination throughout the stages of the programme.

The annual event aims to foster excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education among secondary school pupils across Africa.

Gray said the competition, now in its second year, attracted over 200 pupils from various African countries. Participants underwent an intensive nine-month

programme designed to cultivate practical knowledge and skills necessary for generating innovative solutions to real-world problems.

Reflecting on the nine-month programme, she highlighted its success in inspiring creativity and critical thinking skills among pupils, fostering a new wave of problem solvers for Africa.

She said this year's edition saw teams from Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania showcase prototype designs spanning diverse sectors, including home automation, agriculture, security, energy, health and transportation.

The event also featured impressive innovations from the runners-up. Team Smart Blind Walking Stick from St. Georges Girls Secondary School in Nairobi, Kenya, developed an advanced solution to aid visually impaired individuals, utilising Arduino technology and distance sensors.

Team Young Genius from Oshodi High School in Lagos, Nigeria, came up with an innovative domestic drainage system aimed at automating the cleaning process to maintain environmental cleanliness.

"Through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives like Sahara STEAMers, they continue to pave the way for a brighter tomorrow, where the brilliance of African youth shines as a driving force for positive change and progress," she said.



Through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives like Sahara STEAMers, they continue to pave the way for a brighter tomorrow, where the brilliance of African youth shines as a driving force for positive change and progress



Kulwa Nyirenda (L), a coordinator with Geita Gold Mine who has recently completed Female Future Programme training, receives a certificate from the Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima at an event held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Looking (from 2nd-L): Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities); Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) vice chairperson Imelda Lutebinga; former ATE chairman Almas Maige; Prof Lucky Yona, a lecturer with the Arusha-based Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rare giant owl brings in money at night

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Muheza

OWLS are often considered elusive and rarely seen due to a combination of their natural behaviours and physical adaptations. Equally rare is humans spending sleepless nights just to have a glimpse of one.

But at Amani Nature Forest Reserve in Tanga Region, groups of people forego sleep to see a rare owl is almost a daily ritual.

According to conservators here, this is because the bird happens to be of a very rare species, almost extinct elsewhere in Africa and can only be spotted here by

undertaking lengthy forest treks at night.

"The Usambara Vosseier Eagle Owl which is endemic to Amani Nature Forest Reserve is also known as the global weather machine as it can predict rain, drought and other natural calamities," said Aloyce Mkwangwa, an assistant researcher.

Mkwangwa addressed members of the Journalists Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) who visited the forest recently under the auspices of USAID Preserve Natural Resources activity.

In other African countries, he said that such species of owl previously used to be seen in parts of Malawi and Mozambique.

However, it has since become an endangered species, now only perching on trees found within the Usambara Mountains in the North-Eastern range of Tanzania.

Describing the unique features of the rare owl, the tour guide at Amani Forest Gabriel Ponera said it is larger than other owls, has silent flight and landing, produces different hooting sounds and its body strongly vibrates in the process.

The Usambara eagle-owl is documented by birds watchers as a large flying mammal spotting yellowish-brown upper parts that are barred with darker brown and creamy white under parts, with tanned blotches on the breast and

irregular black bars on the belly.

"The owl is very much sought-after by tourists who travel from every corner of the world to simply get a glimpse of the nocturnal eagle," said Ponera, adding that it takes a series of night forest trekking exploits for visitors to be able to view the large bird.

Alphonse Nyululu, acting chief conservator at Amani Nature Forest Reserve, said the owl can however be found on both wings of the forest including the part which falls on the Lushoto District side as well as the adjoining Nilo Reserve.

"The rare owl is currently a prized species of wildlife for the Amani Nature Forest Reserve," he said.



China-Africa Economic and Trade Investment Promotion Association president Qin Jinwei speaks at a meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was jointly coordinated by the Tanzania Investment Centre, the 7th China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation Development Forum and the China-Tanzania Economic, Trade and Investment Fair. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Diamond miner appeals to govt to rein in intruders

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

THE Williamson Diamonds Limited (WDL)-Tanzania's large-scale diamond producer-has called on the government to help fight invaders who affect both security and operations in the area.

Benard Mihayo, WDL public relations manager, made the appeal here on Wednesday during the signing ceremony of an agreement on implementation of various development projects through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Worth 1bn/-, the agreement was entered between WDL and Kishapu District Council in Shinyanga Region.

Mihayo urged the government and leaders from 12 villages

surrounding the mine to heighten security and control the invasions or else the situation may become worse with the mine ceasing its operations.

Responding, Kishapu District Council Chairman William Jijimya acknowledged the challenge and promised that the council will come up with new measures to help improve security. "Apart from heightening security at the mine, the council will also increase awareness to the public to avoid invading the mine as well as protect the implemented development projects for them to continue benefiting communities," he said.

Speaking during the signing event, Kishapu District Commissioner Joseph Mkude thanked WDL for its continued support that stimulates

development in the district.

He said in 2023, the company issued 1.2bn/- for the implementation of various development projects under CSR which include construction of roads, servant houses at Seseko Health Centre, classrooms and science laboratories.

"This year the company has issued 1bn/- to implement 16 development projects whereby 60 percent of the funds will go to strategic projects and 40 percent to projects in the 12 villages surrounding the mine," he said.

He said the strategic projects include construction of 200 business stalls at Maganzo village at a cost of 260m/-, toilet pit latrine which will cost 20m/-, construction of a fence at Maganzo bus station

worth 32m/-, installation of eight solar lights at a cost of 24.4m/- as well as a banner at the stand.

He said the council will also repair the road leading the stand at a cost of 32m/-, procurement of 1,346 desks for various secondary schools and 21,000 desks for primary schools at a cost of 200m/-.

Mkude said that development projects which will be implemented in the villages that surround the mine involve construction of two classrooms at Buchambi Primary School at a cost of 48m/-, completion of Mpumbula dispensary which will cost 76.6m/-, an outpatient building at Maganzo Health Centre at a cost of 72.6m/- and other projects on education, health as well as construction of Songwa village office.

Investing in Women: Accelerating Progress for Sustainable Development - Enabel's Impact in Tanzania

The investment in women transcends mere economic considerations; it represents an investment in the future of humanity. Prioritizing investments in women is a vital imperative in the narrative of progress and development, leading to a more inclusive and equitable society. The empowerment of women consistently emerges as a cornerstone in numerous studies, yielding thriving communities, bolstered economies, and prosperous societies. By unleashing the full potential of women and girls, we unlock the boundless potential of humanity.

In recent years, Tanzania has made significant strides towards gender equality and women's empowerment. Enabel stands as a key figure in Tanzania's advancement of women, driving progress for the past twenty-five (25) years. Through targeted programs and strategic alliances, Enabel has played a pivotal role in catalyzing positive transformations, creating opportunities, and amplifying the voices of Tanzanian women. Enabel's dedication to advancing women in Tanzania is deeply rooted in its gender-transformative approach which goes beyond mere recognition of disparities but seeks to transform underlying power dynamics and social norms that perpetuate inequality and discrimination. Furthermore, the acknowledgment of the role women play in fostering sustainable development and economic prosperity is a driving force in all its initiatives.

The focus on economic initiatives is indicative of Enabel's commitment to advancing women's empowerment in Tanzania. Enabel implements programs that help women overcome financial obstacles, particularly in rural settings, through financial resources, vocational training, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Through these initiatives, women can establish and expand their businesses, thus improving their livelihoods and contributing to the economic progress of their communities.

The Wezesha Binti Program, which Enabel launched with the support of the Government of Belgium, is aimed at empowering girls and vulnerable boys in Tanzania's Kigoma region. Through a supportive and gender-equal environment, this initiative aims to empower young individuals, with a particular focus on young women. The program gives them the education and skills they need to pursue viable employment opportunities in the region. The program, which is designed for girls and young men aged 14-19 in Kibondo, Kasulu, Buhigwe, Kigoma Rural, and Kigoma Urban districts, enables them to access secondary education and vocational training. The initiative fosters participation in various entrepreneurial sectors by nurturing girls and young women in Kigoma, which emphasizes adaptability and innovation.

Mr. Koenraad Goekint, Enabel's Resident Representative in Tanzania, articulates the organization's vision for this program, stressing the importance of education, secondary education completion, and skills development for sustainable employment among young women. Enabel in Tanzania is dedicated to creating gender-balanced environments for youth and entrepreneurs while collaborating with stakeholders to offer vocational training aligned with market demands, nurturing young entrepreneurs capable of creating employment opportunities.

The program involves giving targeted assistance, disseminating information, raising awareness and the construction, rehabilitation, or enhancement of school facilities. It focuses on enhancing secondary education quality through teacher training, material provision, and implementation of life skills curriculum. By equipping youth, particularly young women, with market-relevant skills, the project aims to enhance their employability and entrepreneurship, improving access to quality vocational education and training for vulnerable groups in Kigoma.

The ambassador of Belgium to Tanzania, H.E Peter Huyghebaert, has emphasized the value of the long-standing partnership between Tanzania and Belgium as well as the program's goal of empowering youth, particularly young women and girls. He made a further connection between this objective and addressing the serious problem of gender-based violence in schools, acknowledging it as a primary barrier to children's access to an education. In addition, he emphasized that access to high-quality education helps women, and their families live better lives and have better health.

Hon. Tobias Andengeny, the Regional Commissioner of Kigoma, underlines the importance of the program in improving the lives of young people, particularly girls and young women aged 14 to 29 in the beneficiary districts. The government's pledge to empower women and advance education is aligned with this initiative.

In the sphere of justice and improving human rights provision, Enabel has recently signed an agreement with the Legal Services Facility (LSF) for the Improved Access to Justice for Women through Legal Aid (IMPAWLA) initiative, funded by the European Union under the Gender Transformative Action in Tanzania: "Breaking the Glass Ceiling Program". IMPAWLA serves as a comprehensive legal aid and empowerment program, focusing on addressing inequality in access to justice and enhancing the capacity of organizations like LSF to provide quality legal aid services and advocate for a supportive legal aid environment in Tanzania, particularly for women and girls. The initiative also aims to revolutionize Tanzania's access to justice landscape through strategic partnerships, making it a fundamental right for all Tanzanians.

In the regions of Tabora, Pemba, Singida, Kigoma and Katavi, Enabel supports women in the beekeeping value chain through the Beekeeping Value Chain Support Program (BEVAC), which is financed by the European Union. This program facilitates access to essential resources for successful beekeeping operations, including high-quality beehives, equipment, bee colonies, and protective gear for women beekeepers, enabling them to establish and sustain profitable beekeeping enterprises. Furthermore, the BEVAC Program is designed to establish market connections and enhance market access for women engaging in the beekeeping value chain. By partnering with local entities, Enabel assists women in obtaining buyers and markets for their honey and bee products, which leads to income generation and economic enhancement for women beekeepers. The collaborative efforts of Enabel go beyond technical and economic boundaries to tackle social and environmental aspects of beekeeping. The program promotes biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience by emphasizing sustainable practices. Enabel promotes environmental stewardship and conservation through beekeeping practices by spreading awareness of the significance of bees and the role of women beekeepers in protecting the environment.

The Inclusive Cities program financed by the European Union under its Green and Smart Cities program serves as a crucial driver for economic empowerment and gender parity, with a primary focus on enhancing the accessibility of high-quality Business Development Services (BDS) and financial resources.



The President of Tanzania H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan, alongside the Embassy of Belgium in Tanzania's Head of Cooperation, Ms. Fanny Heylen and Enabel in Tanzania's Resident Representative Koenraad Goekint during the launch of the WaSKIRP project in Kakonko District, Kigoma in 2022



A woman entrepreneur, part of the BEVAC program from Tabora Region, promotes and sells her produce during the World Bee Day celebrations held in May 2023 in Singida Region.

Concurrently, it endeavors to fortify the value chains of significant economic sectors. By means of targeted initiatives and strategic collaborations, Inclusive Cities is dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs and nurturing inclusive economic advancement in its operational regions of Mwanza, Tanga, and Pemba.

Central to this initiative is the augmentation of both the availability and utilization of top-tier Business Development Services (BDS) alongside ensuring the accessibility of financial services and investment capital within key economic sectors. Acknowledging the indispensable role BDS plays in fostering business expansion and innovation, Inclusive Cities is committed to furnishing women entrepreneurs with personalized assistance and resources tailored to their specific

requirements. Through workshops focused on capacity building, mentorship schemes, and technical aid, Inclusive Cities equips women with the requisite skills, knowledge, and support to prosper in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Furthermore, this program is dedicated to enhancing the value chains within pivotal economic sectors by focusing on improving accessibility, relevance, and quality of skills development and promoting entrepreneurship. Acknowledging the pivotal role of value chains in fostering economic progress, Inclusive Cities endeavors to elevate the competitiveness and longevity of value chains within sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Through initiatives encompassing skills development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship promotion, Inclusive Cities equips women with the essential knowledge and expertise

required to excel in critical economic domains. By imparting training in areas such as agribusiness management, digital literacy, and strategies for accessing markets, Inclusive Cities empowers women to actively engage in value chains, thereby fostering innovation and advancement.

Enabel in Tanzania has also led efforts to address key challenges in clean water and sanitation, particularly impacting women and youth. Through the Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WaSKIRP), Enabel aims to improve access to safe water and sanitation services while empowering women and youth to utilize water for socio-economic advancement.

WaSKIRP focuses on enhancing access to clean water and sanitation facilities in Kigoma Region communities, prioritizing the needs of women and youth to alleviate their disproportionate burdens. The project aims to reduce time spent on water collection, allowing for more education, income-generating activities, and community involvement. Investments in water supply systems and infrastructure such as boreholes, piped networks, and stone arch bridges facilitate access to clean water and lessen the burdens faced by women and youth.

Moreover, WaSKIRP promotes improved hygiene practices and sanitation behaviors, particularly among women and youth, through education campaigns, training sessions, and community engagement initiatives. By empowering women and youth as agents of change, WaSKIRP seeks to mitigate waterborne diseases and improve overall health outcomes.

Enabel's support extended to agriculture through the Sustainable Agriculture Kigoma Regional Project (SAKIRP), enhancing cassava and beans' value chains in Kigoma. SAKIRP aimed to strengthen food security and empower women by providing training and resources. It equipped women with skills to boost productivity and adopt sustainable farming practices. SAKIRP facilitated access to resources, promoted post-harvest engagement, and enhanced women's leadership in farming communities.

Persistent challenges, such as limited access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, and market fluctuations, underscore the ongoing need for sustained attention and support in women's development efforts. Enabel is poised to strengthen collaborations with governmental bodies, civil society entities, and private sector participants, thereby amplifying its impact. By fostering such partnerships, Enabel is committed to ensuring the enduring effectiveness and expansion of all current and forthcoming initiatives in the domain of women's empowerment.



Enabel's Resident Representative in Tanzania, Koenraad Goekint and Legal Services Facility Tanzania Executive Director, Lulu Ngwanakilala, signed a €5 million grant agreement financed by European Union in Tanzania, Witnessing the event were Hon. Christine Grau, EU Head of Delegation to Tanzania and Hon. Peter Huyghebaert, Ambassador of Embassy of Belgium in Tanzania on the 6th of March 2024

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If reforms fail, Africa risks facing massive climate finance shortfalls

YET another bleak report from multilateral financial institutions and their wider development partnership networking has lately warned that Africa will be US\$2.5 trillion short of the finance it needs to cope with climate change by 2030.

The idea behind the projection is that most climate financing is expected to be in foreign grants, especially by multilateral agencies like the Global Fund, a specialised window of the World Bank.

It is also expected to be in the direct funding of projects by agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme.

The idea often repeated by UN officials that Africa has contributed but minimally to greenhouse gas emissions while seeing some of the worst impacts is true, while it leads to few practical remedies.

It is even plausible to say that there is too much implied in that formulation, namely, that climate change impacts arise entirely from earth warming.

In part, the phenomenon touches off droughts but also induces massive rainfall whose tapping appropriate infrastructure could expedite to massive benefit.

The strident appeal about climate financing is partly anchored in UN agencies seeing global salvation from innumerable woes as tied up with vaster multilateral financing.

There is a conditioned fixation with redistribution of global resources that takes energy away from focusing on how to generate internal capacities.

One reason here is that progressives in charge of most of these agencies are not especially keen on seeing major private firms take up infrastructure or land.

They would rather see public sector predominance along with all its curbing of financial sector flows,

with most available assets seldom cited as fixed property against which banks can lend - in this case, to environmental projects.

Africa attracts a lowly two per cent of global investments in clean energy but needs US\$2.8trn of investment in the sector by 2030.

This is going by an assessment by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Its chief economist, Hanan Morsy, last week spoke on the consequences of under-funding.

The warning ought to have focused on the consequences of under-reforming, for under-funding will be unavoidable.

Each African on average produced emissions in any particular year that come to less than a quarter of the global average.

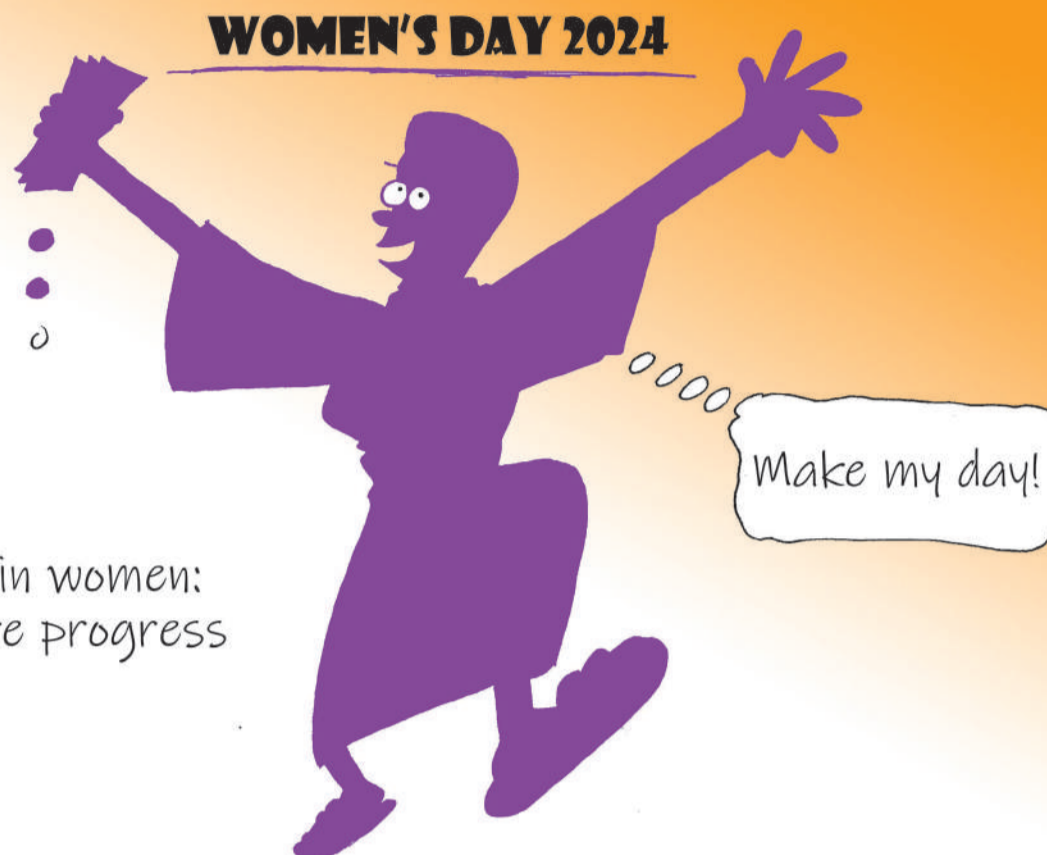
However, it is also noted that more trees are cut for charcoal in African countries than the global average.

It is additionally true that, for three long decades, UN volunteer agencies have privileged so-called good stoves which break up easily due to their clay component.

This ignores a cheap and limitless supply of coal dust, combined with all manner of waste. Hardly any proper project to that extent exists, and now gas marketing is solidly in place for clean energy that is not as affordable.

Speaking recently at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the UN official noted that the climate financing situation is further compounded by the heavy public debt, as African countries pay 1.7 percentage points higher in interest on debt than other countries do.

It looks unacceptable that countries are spending more servicing their debt than on climate action, but then they can't stand against public sector predominance, which is the source of most of the debt. It amounts to a chorus of errors, one might say.



King Charles' cancer diagnosis: What it means for many in UK

By Sylvia Hui

FOR Anna Gittins, three months would have spelled the difference between life and death.

The elementary school principal from Hereford in western England was shocked when she found out that she had advanced colorectal cancer in 2022. But when she contacted her local hospital, she was told that no one would be able to see her for three months "due to high demand and low capacity of senior doctors".

"I have just been diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer, metastasized to my liver. I don't have three months to wait," she said, using another term for colorectal cancer. She was just 46.

Now, metastasis is commonly described as the spread of a disease-causing agent or organism - a pathogen - from an initial or primary site to a different or secondary site within the host's body. The term is typically used when referring to metastasis by a cancerous tumour.

Experts say metastasis is generally distinguished from cancer invasion, the latter being the direct extension and penetration by cancer cells into neighbouring body tissues.

Gittins had access to private health care and has since undergone surgery and chemotherapy. "I consider myself so lucky, but there are so many people who will die needlessly when more prompt treatment would help them," she said.

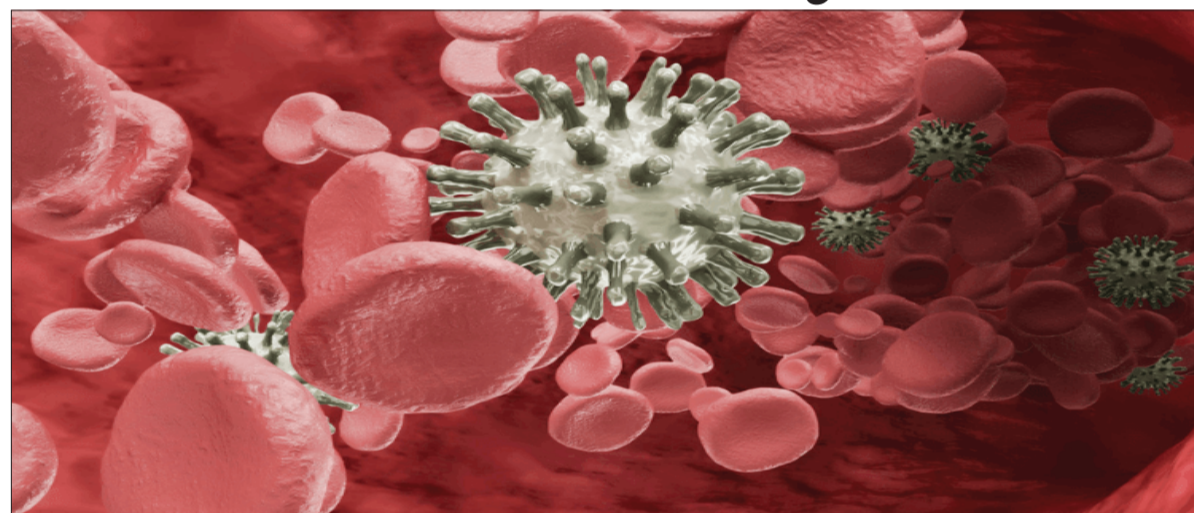
She added: "And that is not fair. Not in a country like ours."

Gittins is among thousands of people with cancer let down by Britain's National Health Service, a once-revered institution now widely seen to be in acute crisis blamed on years of underfunding and staff shortages.

Waiting times to diagnose and treat cancer across the UK have worsened in recent years and are near record highs - and experts say too many cancers are diagnosed too late. Experts meanwhile warn that the burden of cancer will grow as the country's population ages.

Palace officials' recent announcement that King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer has highlighted the issue. Officials didn't say what form of cancer Charles has, only that it was discovered during a recent corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate.

The 76-year-old monarch's decision to openly share his cancer diagnosis was widely praised, and experts said it was a powerful reminder that cancer affects one



in two people in the UK. The news triggered a "King Charles effect" - immediately boosting visits to cancer information and support websites nationwide.

But many couldn't help compare the swift treatment Charles received, days after he was diagnosed, with how ordinary Britons fare at public hospitals.

Public health officials aim for 75 per cent of patients with suspected cancer to receive a diagnosis within four weeks of a doctor's urgent referral. They also say that 85 per cent of cancer patients should wait for less than two months for their first cancer treatment.

But experts say that the last time all such waiting time targets were met in England was in 2015, the delays being even worse in poorer parts of the country like Northern Ireland.

According to the independent think tank Nuffield Trust, one in three patients in the UK are waiting for more than two months to start treatment after an urgent referral for cancer assessment. Radiotherapy UK meanwhile says that, in total, 225,000 people have waited for too long since 2020.

Survival for common cancers in the UK consistently lags behind countries with similar universal health care systems and per capita spending on public health, a recent report by the charity Cancer Research UK has found.

Apart from longer waits, people with cancer in the UK also received less chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment than countries such as Canada, Australia, Denmark and Norway. This is going by another study by the charity.

"It's quite worrying that we treat less in the UK than in comparable countries. For lung cancer, for example, 28 per cent of patients get chemo in the UK. In Norway it is 45 per cent," said Naser Turabi, director of evidence and implementation at Cancer Research UK.

Turabi pointed to lack of investment in both equipment and specialist staff in the past 15 years, resulting in the UK ranking near the bottom among 36 developed countries for its number of CT and MRI scanners.

"We know that we have an aging population, but there is no specific commitment from the government to meet the demand that we know is coming," he said.

"We can't even provide online bookings for screening appointments. The digital infrastructure is 20 years out of date," he added.

Kathy McAllister, a cancer survivor, is so frustrated with the NHS inefficiencies that she has retreated as a cancer awareness campaigner.

The former marketing director from Belfast, Northern Ireland, said she waited for at least two months to start treatment after she was diagnosed with late-stage colorectal cancer in 2019. She added that she only managed to secure a follow-up scan after treatment because she persisted in chasing it down with hospital bosses.

"It is just a wait at every stage," said McAllister (53), elaborating: "You expect cancer should be such a priority, that once you see a doctor they are going to put arms around you, you are going to be looked after, but you are not. You are just another number because they are so overwhelmed."

Cancer care is not the only part of the NHS (National Health Service) - the publicly funded healthcare system in England and one of the four National Health Service systems in the UK that is in crisis.

Millions of people struggle to book appointments with their general practitioners or dentists, hospital emergency departments are regularly overwhelmed, and record numbers of people are stuck on waiting lists for routine treatments.

The Covid-19 pandemic worsened the situation, but the NHS - a huge institution employing more than 1 million people - has long struggled to cope as public funding shrinks and life expectancy grows.

Many blame the crisis on the austerity policies of successive Conservative governments, which have cut budgets in health, social welfare and education during 14 years in power.

Asked about the delays in cancer care, NHS England said more people than ever are being diagnosed at an early stage of cancer and more treatment options are available.

The agency said in a statement that, over the past year, nearly 3 million people received potentially life-saving cancer checks, compared to 1.6 million a decade ago.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who has made cutting waiting times a key priority, has blamed an unprecedented series of strikes by doctors and nurses for the lack of progress.

Tens of thousands of doctors have walked off their jobs multiple times since late 2022 to protest deteriorating conditions and demand better pay, which unions say does not keep pace with surging inflation. Last month saw junior doctors stage a strike for six days, the longest such disruption in NHS history.

McAllister, the cancer survivor, wants cancer care to be a focal point ahead of Britain's general election, expected to take place this year. She is calling on the government to draw up a cancer plan and devote as much focus and urgency to cancer as they did to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is just shocking that every time cancer waiting times come out they get almost ignored. We have become a bit numb to those statistics," she said, adding: "We need people to stand up and say, 'It isn't good enough!'"

* AP, Agencies

Tanga water green bond image of changing times

SOMETHING took place in Tanga early this week, as the Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA) issued the first ever sub-national water infrastructure green bond in East Africa, valued at 53.12bn/-.

Ministerial authorities and a range of stakeholders are believed to have expressed confidence that the transaction will enable the financing of water supply infrastructure and environmental conservation within Tanga city and nearby townships.

While the extent to which this dream will be realised remains to be seen, the perspective is surely assuring.

The respective (water sector) authorities say that the ten-year project revenue bond is to be listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, with what looks like an attractive yield of 13.5 per cent per annum to be paid every six months.

Buyers of such instruments ask keen questions but a rapid inspection of key holders can be said to be sufficiently demonstrative of a viable market instrument.

For one thing, this bond issue effort involved at least a major commercial bank from the start, as NBC Bank was the lead transaction advisor, in which case it accepts its format.

This is in itself a significant plus in generating confidence among prospective buyers, alongside corresponding agencies involved in what is officially known as an alternative financing framework.

There is a range of financial institutions tied to multilateral and bilateral aid agencies bent on developing green finance instruments.

These provide covering finance in like manner as statutory guarantees or reinsurance do to green finance transactions. That makes it easier for

local investors or financial institutions to pick up such tabs.

The green bond transaction is new and the beneficiary isn't as much of a big-name environmental entity as, say, a solar energy enterprise. Small wonder, then, that there is a split in views as to what this particular initiative represents.

One side is the multilateral dimension seeking to justify it by the environmental or conservation aspect in that water is cardinal to all such projections.

On the other hand, top officials say the government adopted the Alternative Project Financing strategy in 2021 owing to the need to broaden its domestic revenue base to finance development projects including in such sectors as water, energy, healthcare and agriculture.

Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango demanded that the Treasury Registrar's Office get various infrastructure agencies and regional authorities to prepare the issuance of such bonds to propel development projects.

More public entities would do well to take a cue from recent remarks by a Finance deputy minister that the bond issuance was part of the government's Alternative Project Financing strategy and could be profitably used in financing local development projects.

The idea is that such projects should not rely on government grants - in the same manner as the private sector and corporate entities operating in the same market.

Yet, for this to be the case, the Treasury will have to provide overall guarantees for all such transactions, as other stakeholders remain advisers and provide it with fall-back options. Trying to avoid inclusion of the Treasury could easily be taken for a hidden dagger.

The Montessori approach: A paradigm shift to early childhood excellence in Tanzania

By Adonis Byemelwa

In a groundbreaking exploration of early childhood education, philosopher and Italian psychology expert Maria Montessori's revolutionary approach has become a beacon of hope for Tanzanian preschool students.

Focused on fostering essential skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic, Montessori's philosophy has not only stood the test of time but has proven to be a catalyst for societal growth, individual development, and active community participation.

As Tanzania grapples with the challenges of public-school children graduating without fundamental literacy and numeracy skills, Montessori's century-old method emerges as a potential solution, raising a critical question about national investment priorities.

Twaweza Research Institute's 2018 study, involving 197,451 children in 4,750 primary schools, revealed a stark reality: 38 percent of children aged 9 to 13 were unable to pass second-grade exams. Alarming disparities were evident, with 42 percent of children from low-income households passing compared to 58 percent from wealthier families.

This educational crisis not only affects children in their formative years but extends into adulthood, leaving young people in rural areas unable to sign documents or read. The root of the problem lies in the historical neglect of early education, dating back to the 1980s when the foundations were entrusted to religious institutions, often labeled "peraperatori."

Despite the initial mockery of preparatory, early education in Tanzania became synonymous with basic activities, drawing little emphasis on academic development. However, some children emerged from this system with foundational literacy and numeracy skills, setting them on a path to success in primary education.

With approximately 16 million children in Tanzania, constituting 27 percent of the total population, the challenges persist. Despite efforts to formalize early education in 1995,



public schools still grapple with teaching materials, overcrowded classrooms, and a shortage of competent teachers for young children. The perception that early education is insignificant further exacerbates these issues.

The Montessori Method, with its emphasis on self-reliance, creativity, and collaborative learning, could potentially reshape the narrative of early childhood education in Tanzania. Amba Chen's 2019 research in China, showcasing over 10,000 schools using the Montessori system, highlights its success in rapidly enhancing reading, writing, and counting skills compared to traditional curricula.

Maria Montessori's philosophy revolves around purposeful, hands-on activities that address negative behaviors hindering a child's reading development. By engaging children in thought-provoking activities that bring joy and fostering collaboration with talented peers, Montessori aims to ignite curiosity and a love for learning.

In Tanzanian Montessori classrooms, students of varying ages coexist, collabo-

rating with a range of learning materials. The absence of a traditional teacher's board underscores the emphasis on peer-assisted learning and self-directed exploration. Teachers act as facilitators, circulating to assess each student's abilities and guide their progress.

Montessori exams prioritize practical demonstrations of a child's capabilities rather than rote memorization, aligning with a global shift towards competency-based assessments. This approach challenges the traditional examination model and encourages a deeper understanding of concepts.

While the number of Montessori teachers in Tanzania remains limited due to specialized training requirements, these educators are becoming champions of a transformative educational paradigm. With advancements in science and technology, many Montessori schools are integrating modern methods and computer programs to enhance early childhood skills.

Moses Anney, a graduate teacher with a Master's Degree in Education, empha-

sizes the transformative impact of Montessori schools on children's creativity and confidence. His research in Dar es Salaam underscores the rapid acquisition of reading and writing skills within a few months of enrollment. Adequate investment is crucial, given the significant costs associated with creating and preparing learning tools in the Montessori system.

Research conducted in the United States by Dr. Carolyn Jean in 2004 further substantiates the efficacy of Montessori methods. The study reveals a 70 percent faster comprehension rate in reading, writing, and counting skills among preschool students using the Montessori system compared to those following traditional curricula.

As Tanzania witnesses an increase in enrollment for early childhood and first-grade students, the nation stands at a crossroads. The juxtaposition of China and the United States, which have prioritized early education as a cornerstone for future innovation, prompts reflection on the untapped potential within Tanzania.

In examining the global landscape, countries that have prioritized early childhood education, such as China and the United States, stand as exemplars of success. Their robust investments in nurturing young talents and fostering critical thinking skills from an early age have borne fruit, contributing significantly to their technological and innovative advancements.

These nations recognize that the foundation laid in the formative years shapes the trajectory of a child's intellectual and creative potential, ultimately influencing the nation's progress.

Contrastingly, Tanzania's historical flirtation with pre-primary education under labels like "peraperatori" has resulted in a system that lacks emphasis on critical thinking.

The graduates of Montessori systems, like the accomplished Mosses Anney, possess the potential to be transformative forces within the education system. However, the underutilization of their expertise in remote areas and the neglect of their valuable contributions undermine the broader impact they could have on reshaping the national education landscape.

Therefore, the Montessori Method serves as a beacon of hope for Tanzania's education system, challenging traditional norms and advocating for early childhood excellence. The nation stands at a pivotal juncture where strategic investments in Montessori-inspired education could unleash the untapped potential of every child, transcending socio-economic backgrounds.

To transform the educational paradigm, it is imperative to recognize and harness the capabilities of Montessori graduates like Mosses Anney, ensuring their expertise is not left to languish in remote areas but is instead strategically utilised to mark significant, positive changes in the Tanzanian education system.

By Beatrice Philemon

As the world celebrates the International Women's Day (IWD) today, this year's theme - 'Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress' - highlights the need to ensure gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment as well as their rights to healthier lives. The theme is a wakeup call to women as requires them to start from where they are to achieve their desired economic development goals.

Located in Keko-Mwanga 'B' slums in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, the Women in Social entrepreneurship (WISE) is implementing an economic empowerment project which has seen most of women transforming to better living standards.

WISE implements the project with financial support from a South Korean based -Charity organization 'Holt Children's Services Incorporation'.

Salome Peter, a single mother of five, is one of the project beneficiaries, she says: "I was at zero in almost everything. From the way I used to think, act, make decisions, commitments and even to my own appearance. I was living like a car that lost its direction and I had no hope. As I was uneducated, I didn't have the necessary life skills, especially in business. This hindered me from lifting my family from dire poverty."

Narrating, she says at Keko slums women would always meet during traditional dances and strangely, contributions will be made for happy hours such as those but nothing about economic freedom is discussed.

"But my encounter WISE has totally changed my life. It is through WISE that I started meeting with fellow single mothers for purposes of discussing business and other economic empowerment activities," adds Peter who is now running a small food vending business.

Salome received a number of business and life skills training from WISE which have helped her to have purpose

Empowering women with business, life skills key in achieving desired development goals



Salome Peter proceeds with food vending business close to her house. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

in life. The training taught me how to develop my vision, goal achievements, developing a business plan, how to attract and retain customers, investment and savings.

WISE exposed me to various life skills such as producing batik, liquid soap, cakes, catering and decoration techniques. Through these activities, I generate a good income.

They linked me with customers, financial institutions such as Village

Community Banks (VICOPA), district loan departments, banks, and fellow single mothers who managed to be successful in their lives and business as well.

After some time, I pulled myself together and set to work figuring out my next steps.

"I started focusing on my goals, started a small food vending business and joined a group of fellow single mothers who were providing

lunch services to primary school pupils," narrates Peter.

She told The Guardian that the gained skills helped her to improve her business, thus being able to earn up to 20,000/- per day as a benefit. I started saving with the goal of building a single room. What energized me more was the ability to achieve that goal by the end of 2022, I now have a place I can call a home.

From the skills I gained, I was able to keep my business records and identify new opportunities in my area. I began several small businesses including installation of a Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) water system where I sell water for domestic purposes.

"I also have a garden where people come to buy vegetable every day. I am still proceeding with food vending business. I can afford to meet my family basic needs from the saving that I make, I plan to both extend part of my house and purchase a motorcycle for business purposes.

I can confidently confess that my encounter WISE totally changed my life, says Salome whose story resonates with many women in Tanzania. Data shows that 60 percent of women in the country live in extreme poverty.

The majority of women are employed in the informal sector which is characterized by low-quality jobs, poor employment terms, low compensation, little protection and without social security.

WISE believes that any woman, despite the circumstances they are in, can succeed if she has the self-starter attitude, gets appropriate training and has fiscal discipline can transform her life and livelihood.

In honour of 2024's International

Women's Day theme Invest in Women: Accelerating Progress, WISE encourages all women to start where they are. What is needed is multiple formal and informal mechanisms, such as catchment strategies that can enhance inclusion of women in the economic empowerment processes. Thus, economic freedom will indeed give women a voice and dignity, which are universal human rights.

WISE Executive Director Dr Astronaut Bagile says Salome Peter is among 25 single mothers from poor households in Keko-Mwanga 'B' slums who have benefited from a three-year project dubbed the economic empowerment project.

The main goal of the project is to improve the income and quality of life of single moms' households by providing economic empowerment program, to enable women to start and manage business ventures, conduct financial literacy and link them with resource organizations.

According to her, Holt injected \$200,333 for the implementation of the project.

Dr Bagile lauded a South Korean based charity organization 'Holt Children's Services Incorporation' for the financial support that in turn has helped single mothers to transform their lives something that was not the case in the past.

Under the project, they have managed to support single mothers who are living in poor household, abandoned with their husband, help them to set up their own business and improve their livelihood.

They also provide women with mentorship and coaching on various aspects relating to the business they have.

Bangladesh witnessing surge in female motorcycle users

By Zahidur Rabbi

IN a nation where traditional gender roles have long dictated societal norms a quiet revolution is underway on the streets of Bangladesh. In recent years, as more and more women are seizing the opportunity to use motorbikes daily, certain cultural perceptions and stereotypes are being effectively challenged.

This changing trend can be attributed to several factors. First of all, women's demand for autonomy and independence in their daily lives is increasing. Motorcycles offer a convenient and cost-effective means of travel, allowing women to navigate congested city streets and rural roads with ease.

Sadia Afrin, a textile engineer and an admin of the female biking community 'Yamaha Riders Club-Girls', recounts her journey from a novice rider to a seasoned adventurer.

"Back in 2017, I started with a humble Scooty. But as my confidence grew, I upgraded to a Yamaha Fazer v2 in 2018" she said. Despite facing initial scepticism, Sadia persevered, finding solace and empowerment in the liberty offered to her by her upgraded transportation.

"Though some individuals used to make a lot of comments, it seems like more and more people are accepting of women who ride bikes. The female bikers in our group actively participate in social welfare as members of the Yamaha Riders Club," Sadia added.

Regarding her adventures on a bike, Sadia further added that in 2022 she completed a bike tour to Manali, India and also travelled from Tetulia to Teknaf in 21 hours.

Similarly, Alifa Kashem, a restaurant owner and a trainer of Yamaha Riders Academy, fuelled by a desire for freedom and safety, obtained her motorcycle licence in 2016.

"I have fear about using public transportation as women are often harassed there," Alifa explained. "That is why I thought if I get a bike, I can travel freely. My family was completely against me riding a bike. I observed my uncles and father riding motorcycles. 'Why can't I use it if they can?' was the question I asked myself."

She also added that her husband was her biggest supporter when she made her decision to embrace biking as a mode of transportation.

The journey of both Sadia and Alifa reflects the evolving landscape of female mobility in the country, where women are being empowered by their right to move freely and independently.

In response to this growing trend, companies like ACI Motors have stepped up to support and empower female riders. As a leading distributor of Yamaha motorcycles in Bangladesh, ACI Motors recognises the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in the biking community.

In an interview, Subrata Ranjan Das, Executive Director of ACI Motors, shared insights into the company's initiatives aimed at promoting female riding.



Sadia Afrin, an admin of the female biking community—Yamaha Riders Club-Girls'

ership.

Das said Bangladesh is a liberal country. Motorcycle sales are increasing day by day. Slowly, women are also including themselves in financial roles and activities. So, it is only natural that female motorcyclists will increase.

Even if we go back 7 years ago, the number of female bikers was very small. Some used bikes only as a job responsibility. However, the scenario is changing. Now we see female motorcycle owners as one of the growing trends in Bangladesh.

He added that both motorcycles and scooters are getting popular but in the context of Bangladesh, the male-female ratio is not balanced. Bangladesh has close to 50 lakh motorcycles registered. Compared to that we only have

30 thousand female motorcycle users in my estimation.

However, both motorcycles and scooters are getting popular. Yamaha has sold motorcycles to about a thousand female users so far.

Das said that most of the ladies prefer fewer cc bikes or scooters at first. Slowly, some of them later on switched to high-end bikes. The Yamaha R15 is popular among experienced female bike owners.

"We think female riders should increase and promote female riding. We have a total of 10 training centres around the country among which 9 are outside Dhaka. We have trained over two thousand female riders so far and the numbers are increasing," he added.

The Yamaha Riders Club also has

a girl wing. They regularly organise group tours and social activities. We also provide test drive opportunities at universities when we provide them sponsorships in any events.

In your view, what are some of the main challenges female motorcyclists encounter, and what can be done to overcome these obstacles?

He added: "We have a social and financial barrier when it comes to the challenges. Moreover, females also face difficulties whenever they use public transport. The challenges females face when it comes to mobility must be solved. I think banks should come forward and provide more friendly schemes when it comes to female bike users. Female users also love using scooters. Also, Bangladesh does not

have a good supply chain for scooters. So, the scooter import duty can be reduced to promote female riding.

"I think motorcycles are freedom. It gives you mobility. Be it a necessity or a passion, motorcycles are a good choice when you ride safely. There is also an opportunity to go for a long drive on a weekend to reduce stress," he said.

Involvement in female rider communities can provide support and confidence to female riders. And if you are thinking about a place to learn, you can always come to us or any other companies as all of us are enthusiastic about providing support for our female riders. Even if you cannot afford a motorcycle, you can always learn to drive it which may prove helpful in the future.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Let's explore IWD to bolster LPG use at household level

By Angellah Bhoke

IT is usually marked with pomp and colour. This is the International Women's Day (IWD)—a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

Women from across the globe converge to honour and recognize the achievements of women besides advocating for gender equality.

But, beneath the beautiful faces of the women displaying smiles and dancing to the tunes of music, thousands among them are battling with respiratory diseases caused by the effects of continuous use of charcoal and firewood.

In Tanzania, only 19 per cent of women residing in the urban areas exclusively use Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), while only 0.4 per cent of the rural population use LPG. With the current population standing at

62million people, more efforts are needed to support usage of LPG as a clean source of energy.

Stakeholders including the government need to make people understand that there are clear benefits to households that use LPG. For instance, use of LPG causes minimal household pollution and negative health impacts.

LPG is clean, sustainable, has low emissions and can control the number of deaths caused by exposure to smoke. Furthermore, LPG has the potential to substitute charcoal and wood fuels and contribute positively towards Tanzania's attainment of the SDGs including Energy, Climate change, Health and Gender equality.

Replacing biomass fuels with LPG will reduce pressure on forest reserves, which is a significant challenge in Tanzania which is said to lose an estimated 400 hectares

annually to deforestation. Using LPG saves time as opposed to using charcoal or firewood. This provides an opportunity for users to get time to attend to other duties. It is also important to note that LPG can be used anywhere even in areas where there is no electricity connection.

Implementing President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives on the use of clean cooking energy by institutions will perhaps be one of the milestones that Tanzania will make towards ensuring success of the campaign. Institutions such as schools, hospitals, hotels and restaurants are among the biggest consumers of firewood.

In Tanzania, LPG companies have been strategically involved in developing programmes targeting women folk across the east African region. Among them is Taifa Gas Tanzania Limited, which is supporting women from various socio-economic backgrounds.

For instance, the company has enabled schools, prisons, Food vendors, VICOBAs, among other entities to be able to access gas, which otherwise would have been difficult for them to access. Last year, the company launched the 'Utunzaji wa Mazingira na Matumizi ya Nishati Safi' campaign, aimed at supporting to amplify President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts on the use of clean energy. Beneficiaries of this programme have been regions such as Morogoro, Coast and Dar es Salaam.

As the world moves towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, President Samia has also been leading the country's efforts and has shown commitment to fulfilling the sustainable Development Goal number 7 of providing affordable and clean energy that is reliable, sustainable, and modern for all Tanzanians by the year 2030.

Stakeholders need to see these positive efforts and come in numbers to support the President's efforts.

It is important for the general population to be informed that the use of cleaner fuels, such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) reduces the frequent use of firewood and charcoal and consequently the burden on the forest resources by up to 20 percent. The UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative launched the Global Liquefied Petroleum Gas Partnership (GLPGP) under the premise that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) was the preferred cooking solution. LPG is a by-product of oil and natural gas refining and meets the World Health Organization's Tier 4 standards for thermal efficiency, carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, fine PM emissions, safety, and durability. LPG has also been shown to have a lower Global Climate Change Potential than charcoal.

Whereas there has been a slow but steady increase in the LPG market, that there is need for the government and the private sector LPG stakeholders to promote the sector as an alternative energy carrier of choice in meeting the challenges of energy security in Tanzania, while recognizing the LPG role in providing a quick and effective solution to household energy requirements. Given the strongly positive effects that increased uptake of LPG as an alternative to traditional biomass-based cooking and household energy use can have, and the important it would make towards achieving the SDGs, more attention needs to be given to the sector to enable citizens to get more information about this source of energy.

Only through joint efforts will the general public know that LPG is one of the most safe, secure and affordable energy sources in the country.

Africa Energy meet calls for end to energy poverty in the continent

CAPE TOWN

THE Africa Energy Indaba 2024 opened in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa, Tuesday, aiming to drive the energy agenda across the globe and eradicate energy poverty on the African continent.

More than 4,000 participants attended the 16th edition of the Africa Energy Indaba, featuring the theme "African Energy Transitioning from Aspiration to Action - Delivering a Sustainable and Prosperous Future." Government ministers, investors, industry experts and energy users gathered here to discuss and pursue lasting solutions for energy transition.

The three-day event also featured at



South Africa's Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe (Rear) speaks at the Africa Energy Indaba 2024 in Cape Town

least 156 notable speakers and more than 200 exhibitors who introduced cutting-edge technologies and solutions that will drive the continent's renewable energy transition and foster change in the energy sector.

While delivering a keynote address, South Africa's Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe said the plan is to achieve a just energy transition from high to low carbon

emission on the African continent.

"We consistently expressed our desire to eradicate energy poverty not only in South Africa, but on the African continent, and to achieve a just energy transition from high to low carbon emission," Mantashe said.

He noted that among the challenges affecting a reliable energy supply in South Africa were limited grid capacity, the intermittent nature of renew-

able energy and the decline in the Energy Availability Factor (EAF) due to aging infrastructure. EAF is the percentage of maximum energy generation that a plant is capable of supplying to the electrical grid, limited only by planned and unplanned outages.

"Hence, the South African government continues to invest efforts and resources to arrest the decline in the EAF and resolve the grid capacity

challenges, while on the other hand, it continues to invest in baseload energy sources to guarantee access to affordable and reliable energy supply for the people of South Africa," said the minister.

"The reality of the matter is that climate change and energy security are two sides of the same coin," Mantashe said. "As we transition from high to low carbon emissions, we must ensure that we address energy poverty, ensure energy security and leave no one behind."

Africa Energy Indaba Managing Director Liz Hart emphasized that Africa needs to set its path in the energy transition.

"African countries ... still have a long way to go to catch up with the developed nations of the world," she said. "In this context, while Africa must join the global drive toward limiting greenhouse gas emissions, its own just transition towards a low-carbon economy must be done in a manner that recognizes and addresses the deep energy deficit across African economies."

The Africa Energy Indaba is Africa's premier energy conference and exhibition dedicated to driving energy investment, trade and innovation across the continent. Held annually, the event brings together industry leaders, policymakers, investors and stakeholders to discuss key issues, explore opportunities and shape Africa's energy future.

The term "Indaba" comes from the Zulu language, which means a meeting to discuss a serious topic.

South Sudanese see huge prospects in learning Chinese language

JUBA

SEVERAL South Sudanese are rushing to enrol in free Chinese language lessons because of the immense opportunities the language offers in a country where job opportunities are scarce due to the prevailing economic hardship.

Amou Santo Domic, 20, is among the new students enrolled since January at the Chinese Language Learning Center at Juba Day Secondary School under the China-Aided Phase II Technical Cooperation Project of Education in South Sudan.

She said on Saturday during the visit by a high-level delegation from China's Ministry of Commerce to inspect the China-aided projects in South Sudan that she enrolled in the Chinese language course to grasp a little bit of the language before her trip to China in July for her degree studies in petroleum engineering at Nanjing University of Science and Technology.

"The reason why I am here is I will be going to China in July for my studies. I heard from a South Sudanese who went before me to China that the Chinese people value their language more than anything," Domic said in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

She said proficiency in Mandarin provides limitless opportunities because of the huge presence of Chinese-owned companies in South Sudan and across the African continent.

The Chinese delegation led by Kong Dejun, the director-general of the Agency for International Economic Cooperation in the Ministry of Commerce of China, arrived in Juba Friday to inspect the progress made in several China-aided projects, including the



South Sudanese students demonstrate writing skills of Chinese characters at the Chinese language center in Juba Day Secondary School in Juba, South Sudan

Technical Cooperation Project in Education with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction of South Sudan.

Phase II of the project involves developing, reviewing, printing, and providing textbooks for some primary and secondary schools in South Sudan, organizing capacity-building programs for the teachers and the educational administrators, developing and providing an evaluation system for the usage of the textbooks, and dispatching Chinese teaching personnel to Juba to facilitate

the Chinese language and cultural exchange programs. Mayiik Deng Mayiik, 27, who has been among the pioneer students since the inauguration of the Chinese language learning and cultural exchange program in July 2021, said learning the Chinese language has endeared him to many Chinese people whom he likes to tease in fluent Chinese language. "We see many Chinese companies in our country; if I learn the Chinese language very well, I will get an opportunity to go and work in the oil

fields and some other Chinese companies, which is a very good decision," he added.

Mayiik said he would encourage more young South Sudanese to take up the opportunity to learn Mandarin despite it appearing to be tough for first learners.

Chol Makur Malek, 47, a soldier with the engineering department of the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF), said he was inspired by his friend Mayiik to enroll in a Chinese lan-

guage course in February this year. He said he hopes one day to be sent by his superiors for training in China, adding that learning the Chinese language in advance is a necessity.

Ustaz George Kenyi, head teacher at Juba Day Secondary School, said the Chinese language center has been a blessing because it has realized the very essence of the cultural exchange program agreed upon by the two countries.

Kuyok Abol Kuyok, undersecretary of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, said language does not only break barriers, but it creates opportunities.

He said Phase II of the China-Aided Technical Cooperation Project in Education is soon coming to an end, adding that they are working with their Chinese counterparts to develop Phase III.

"In this Phase III, we are very ambitious because we feel that the success of this particular project (Phase II) should be the foundation for us to move on, so we want to, except for all the other major components of the technical cooperation, have three classrooms for the language learning and cultural exchange, one for the beginners, middle learners and one for advanced learners," Kuyok said, disclosing that they want Chinese language learners to be allowed to visit China and interact with Chinese people. "I think it will be a very good opportunity for them."

By Telesphor Magobe

Investment and compliance with legal requirements, best land use practices

THE Environmental Management Act, 2004 states that every person in Tanzania has a right to a clean, safe and healthy environment as well as a duty to protect and conserve the environment. Visitors coming to Tanzania have also such a right and a corresponding duty to engage in environmentally-friendly activities so that they may enjoy their lovely stay in the country.



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafu

Human factors are major causes of environmental degradation, including unfriendly investment practices that lead to the deterioration of the environment and depletion of natural resources. A report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) says the way land resources - soil, water and biodiversity - are mismanaged and misused threatens the health and continued survival of many species on earth, including "our own".

The report warns: "At no other point in modern history has humanity faced such an array of familiar and unfamiliar risks and hazards, interacting in a hyper-connected and rapidly changing world. We cannot afford to underestimate the scale and impact of these existential threats."

The report further says by 2050 a persistent, long-term decline in vegetative productivity is observed for 12-14 per cent of agricultural, pasture and grazing land and natural areas - with sub-Saharan Africa worst affected.

To mitigate such effects we need to engage in best agricultural practices. A native or foreigner interested in investing in various sectors of the economy in Tanzania must ensure he or she complies with the Environmental Management Act, 2004 and its Regulations, 2019.

A cleaner production principle requires a person who owns or operates a facility or premises which generate hazardous and toxic waste to minimise the waste generated by adopting specific cleaner production principles.

One of those principles is the improvement of a production process through conserving raw

materials and energy by eliminating the use of hazardous and toxic raw materials and reducing toxic emissions and hazardous waste to a level prescribed in applicable national environmental quality standards.

Significant efforts both at national and global levels have been made to protect and conserve the environment and protect ourselves and our mother earth in general against catastrophes whose long-term consequences we are incapable of reversing. We can particularly think of the effects of global warming caused by increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, food insecurity, loss of vegetation cover, increased risk of zoonotic diseases

caused by a pathogen that has jumped from an animal to a human being, the rise of sea water level, wildfire and pollution.

Section 72 of the Environmental Management Act provides that all land users are responsible for the protection, improvement and nourishment of land and for using it in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable manner. The Act further provides for obligation to sustainable land use, pollution prevention and control, prohibition of water pollution, litter and waste management, management of liquid waste, management of gaseous waste and environmental quality standards.

It is crucial for investors who are key stakeholders

to participate in environmental protection and conservation and ensure land is utilised productively and that any land use complies with the principles of sustainable development [Section 3(1)(e) of the Land Act, 1999].

Section 81(3) of the Environmental Management Act prohibits a person having a permit or a licence to implement any project or undertake any activity without an environmental impact assessment certificate issued under the Act. The aim is to evaluate and determine the potential environmental consequences of the project or activity before it starts, taking into account human, socio-economic, cultural and health aspects.

Speaking on human

failure to take care of nature and how unforgiving nature is in terms of irreversible adverse consequences, Pope Francis said on January 15, 2015: "God always forgives, we men [and women] forgive sometimes, but nature never forgives. If you give her a slap, she will give you one. I believe that we have exploited nature too much."

The Pope was referring to natural catastrophes that cause damage and human deaths, including the deaths of domestic and wild animals and also the destruction of our houses, farms, roads, bridges, beautiful buildings and beaches. There are also catastrophes caused by our negligence or failure to take precautions. The Pope repeated similar words in his Encyclical Letter entitled "Fratelli Tutti" (We are all brothers and sisters) issued on October 4, 2020.

In paragraph 34 Pope Francis says "If everything is connected, it is hard to imagine that this global disaster is unrelated to our way of approaching reality, our claim to be absolute masters of our own lives and of all that exists. I do not want to speak of divine retribution, nor would it be sufficient to say that the harm we do to nature is itself the punishment for our offences."

"The world is itself crying out in rebellion. We are reminded of the well-known verse of the poet Virgil that evokes the 'tears of things', the misfortunes of life and history." In these beautiful words the Pope was referring to the pandemic which has plagued the world and affected the normal rhythm of life in many parts of the world. It has particularly destabilised world economies, human interaction, food production and employment.

This reminds us the duty we have to protect and conserve the environment. In paragraph 17 the Pope says "To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet, we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home... In this shallow, short-sighted culture that we have created, bereft of a shared vision, it is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit

under the guise of noble claims".

We are living in a world in which environmental destruction is increasing at an alarming pace, particularly pollution. People are littering the environment and some plastic products are carried by water and deposited to lakes and seas/oceans. Some of the plastic particles have been found in fish, according to an article published in the Journal of Waste Resources and Recycling in November in 2019.

"We are increasingly detecting microplastics in the waters and fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes. A fish with a gut full of plastics cannot be a healthy fish and can, in fact, starve to death. We know this problem is increasing in severity," says Gail Krantzberg, a professor in the Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology at McMaster University.

The Guardian newspaper (the UK online international edition) of March 24, 2022 reports that "Microplastic pollution has been detected in human blood for the first time, with scientists finding tiny particles in almost 80 per cent of the people tested... Huge amounts of plastic waste are dumped on the environment and microplastics now contaminate the entire planet..." A previous study reported by EurekaAlert in October 2013 found microplastics in the human food chain "as particles made of polypropylene (PP), polyethylene-terephthalate (PET) and others were detected in human stools."

According to this study, researchers from the Medical University of Vienna and the Environment Agency Austria monitored a group of participants from countries across the world, including Finland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, the UK and Austria. Their findings showed that "every single stool sample tested positive for the presence of microplastic and up to nine different plastic types were identified."

The microplastics reported are small particles of plastic less than 5mm and are used in various products for specific purposes as well as being created unintentionally by the breaking down of larger pieces of plastic through weathering, deg-

radation, wear and tear.

According to the authors of a New England Journal of Medicine article, Frederica Perera of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and Kari Nadeau of the Stanford University School of Medicine, air pollution is associated with increased risks of infant mortality, adverse birth outcomes, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, developmental disorders, and lifelong health problems, including reduced cognition, mental health problems, and autism. "Its health impacts remain enormous and low- and middle-income countries bear the brunt of this burden. Despite its enormous health, social and economic impacts, pollution prevention is largely overlooked in the international development agenda."

An update to The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health shows that there were nine million deaths caused by pollution in 2019 (equivalent to one in six deaths worldwide), the same number as in 2015. "Deaths from modern pollution have increased by 66 per cent in the past two decades, from an estimated 3.8 million deaths in 2000 to 6.3 million deaths in 2019."

The study shows excess pollution deaths have led to \$4-6 trillion economic losses in 2019, equating to 6-2 per cent of the global economic output. It also shows pollution's deep inequity, with 92 per cent of pollution-related deaths, and the greatest burden of pollution's economic losses, occurring in low-income and middle-income countries. All these are consequences of environmental destruction.

It is only through environmental protection and conservation that we are sure of minimising such consequences and of living in clean and healthy environment. It suffices to say that if we want nature to care for us, we must first care for it by engaging ourselves in best practices for whatever project we implement or activity we undertake. We can do this better if we "think globally and act locally" - that is, instead of waiting for major decisions to solve world problems, we should implement environmentally-friendly solutions in everyday decisions and actions.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: Across: 1 an immature person, 6 past participle of deal, 7 regions of towns, 8 a large plate or dish, 10 the day of a month, 11 the length of a time that a person has existed, 13 a northern sea duck, 14 a marquee in India. Down: 1 a dealer in supplies and equipment for ships and boats, 2 imagined, 3 rent, 4 run or travel in a great hurry, 5 let it stand, 9 a unit of work or energy, 11 very dry, 12 extremely wicked and immoral.

Word search puzzle with a grid and a list of words including YEMEN, EVICTED, VASSAY, CENTI: VIE, EASE: OYO, KENYA, KNEE, NOISE, ART: MBE, RED: RYE, SENSE, SOLVE, TONE, EVEN, TAMIL, TOM: MOM, and Yesterday's solution.

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, followed by the Radio One logo.

EAST AFRICA'S CEMENT MARKET SKYROCKETS: PROJECTED TO REACH \$2.96 BILLION BY 2032

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IN the dynamic landscape of East Africa, the cement market has surged to impressive heights, boasting a substantial size of US\$ 2.63 billion in 2023, as the region continues its developmental trajectory, projections indicate a soaring ascent, with the market anticipated to soar to US\$ 2.96 billion by 2032.

As reported by the Global Newswire on Tuesday this week, such trajectory reflects a steady growth rate, showcasing resilience and promise, with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 1.34 percent expected during the period spanning 2023 to 2032, and that a confluence of factors is propelling the market forward into a new era of growth.

A recent cement survey dubbed: "East Africa Cement Industry Report 2024-2032: Focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, and Rwanda," highlights that the surge in infrastructural development, the inception of large-scale housing initiatives, and the surge of rural-to-urban migration spurred by rapid urbanization collectively serve as pivotal drivers

behind the market's burgeoning expansion.

In fact, at the epicenter of the market's propulsion lies an undeniable surge in construction activities, reverberating across the region with resounding impact.

Positioned at the vanguard, governments wield their influence by strategically allocating investments towards a myriad of infrastructure endeavors, spanning the expansive spectrum from roads and bridges to ports, airports, and railways, thereby orchestrating a symphony that fortifies the market's momentum and steers it towards unprecedented growth trajectories.

Off course, these monumental projects serve as the catalysts propelling the demand for cement, the quintessential cornerstone of construction endeavors, thereby catalyzing the flourishing of the cement market.

On the other hand, the report noted that East Africa stands as a beacon of demographic dynamism, boasting one of the world's most rapidly expanding populations. As the populace burgeons, the imperative for additional infrastructure amplifies, spanning the gamut from housing, schools, and hospitals to various public amenities.



An artistic rendering of the National Housing Corporation's groundbreaking project, the Iyumbu Satellite Centre, the first of its kind in Dodoma. The grand project involves the construction of 300 houses spread across 234 about 95 hectares. File Photo

Therefore, Cement emerges as the linchpin within these ambitious construction ventures, spearheading the surge in demand across the region.

Furthermore, East Africa is steadfastly endeavoring to embark on a journey of industrialization and economic diversification. As the manufacturing sector gains traction and expands its footprint, the requisite for cement escalates exponentially to fuel the construction of factories, warehouses, and industrial infrastructure.

This symbiotic relationship between industrial expansion and cement demand reverberates across diverse sectors, ranging from textiles and food processing to manufacturing, thereby accentuating the fervor driving the surge in cement demand to unprecedented heights.

Cement stands as an indispensable cornerstone within the realm of construction and engineering endeavors, functioning as a vital binding agent.

In fact, urbanization leads

to a surge in population in cities, creating a higher demand for housing, as more people are migrating from rural areas to urban centers, the need for residential buildings, apartments, and housing complexes is increasing in the region.

Moreover, office buildings, shopping centers, hotels, and industrial complexes are being constructed to cater to the expanding urban economy. Cement is an essential material in these construction projects, contributing to the growth of the cement market

in East Africa.

Besides, as urban areas are expanding, there is also a need to modernize and upgrade existing infrastructure and buildings to accommodate the growing population and changing needs. This includes renovation, expansion, and redevelopment projects that require cement.

The report has also has that the competitive landscape of the market is characterized by the presence of both local and international players.

At present, key players are investing in new cement plants, expanding existing facilities, or acquiring other cement companies. They are also diversifying their product offerings to cater to a wider range of customer needs.

This includes introducing blended cement products, such as Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC) or composite cement, which offer improved sustainability, enhanced performance, or reduced environmental impact.

Moreover, the leading players are investing in research and development to enhance cement formulations, improve manufacturing processes, and introduce innovative products, which includes developing specialized cement for specific applications, such

as high-strength cement, self-healing cement, or cement with low carbon emissions.

Providing high-quality, innovative solutions helps cement manufacturers attract customers and maintain a competitive advantage.

Derived from a meticulous blend of materials such as limestone, clay, shells, and silica sand, cement manifests as a finely powdered substance and central to its production is the intricate process of calcination, wherein the raw materials undergo rigorous heating within a kiln, yielding transformative chemical reactions.

This transformative journey culminates in the creation of clinker, a novel compound prized for its innate ability to confer strength, resilience, and steadfastness upon structures. Cement's unrivaled attributes render it indispensable within the construction industry, catalyzing the creation of robust and enduring edifices and infrastructure.

The key companies in the East African cement market are said to be Bamburi Cement Limited, ARM Cement PLC, East African Portland Cement PLC (EAPC), Dangote Cement Plc and Mombasa Cement Limited.

Govt out to enhance profitability of public entities

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's aim isn't to engage in business competition with the private sector. Instead, it seeks to transform public entities into commercially viable ventures, ensuring customer satisfaction and profitability.

Industry and Trade Permanent Secretary, Dr Hashil Abdallah, made the remarks yesterday to clear the air following economists' fear over the government's transformation plan of making the public institutions operate commercially and profitably.

"Our intention is to make commercial public institutions compete in creating corporate minds so that they could offer better services, attract more customers and eventually earn profit," underscored Dr. Abdallah.

"The government is not there to do business and compete with the private sector, but to facilitate doing business."

Speaking earlier, economists cautiously welcomed the government's transformation plan of public institutions, saying the entities should be businesslike and not pro-business per se.

In doing so, according to economists who spoke to the media yesterday, it will distinguish them from the private sector in terms of price of services and thus help them enjoy economies of scale as they stand a chance to win more customers' hearts.

Going by the World Bank, the effectiveness of public institutions depends on the trust that citizens and businesses bestow upon them.



Kambarage House, headquarters of the National Housing Corporation, stands as one of the public entities targeted by the government for profitability enhancement measures. Photo: NHC courtesy

Operating profitably could provide a room for public parastatals to stand on their own feet and reduce a burden on the government as they will need less or no subsidies for their survival, but instead, pay dividends to the government.

As a matter of fact, the office of the Treasury Registrar (TR) has been mandated to ensure state entities operate productively.

Until April 2023, in the country there were 298 public institutions, 248 of which the government is the majority shareholder, with the rest being the minority

shareholders, according to the Treasury Registrar, Nehemiah Mchechu.

Speaking recently in Arusha, President Samia Suluhu Hassan warned that exit doors were open for loss-making state entities under the coming reforms.

Economist from the University of Dar es Salaam, Prof Abel Kinyondo, was of the view that the public institutions should be business-minded, but not pro-business per se.

For the public institutions to thrive, he suggested, they should borrow a leaf from the private sector, but not have

the same intention of maximizing profits, for their main objective is to maximize service delivery.

"Public institutions should not incur loss when it comes to service delivery nor should they maximize profit at the expense of citizens," cautioned Prof Kinyondo. "Efficiency, quality and standards can make public institutions attract more customers and achieve economies of scale."

Economist from Dodoma University, Dr Lutengano Mwinuka said the main objective of the public institutions is to offer services, but for them to be efficient, they need to use the private sector management practices.

"There is a notion that the government should not do business. However, the reality is that the business component cannot be avoided, if public institutions are to be efficient," asserted Dr Mwinuka.

It is on those grounds that the neo-conservative ideology of neo-classical welfare economics underscores the linking of the public agency efficiency to managerial ability, authority and accountability by the adoption of managerialist (businesslike) principles and practices.

Such principles and practices include strategic planning and management, customer service, quality assurance, performance management and risk management.

However, for the public institutions to bring windfall and unlock their real value, Dr Mwinuka stressed the need for inviting collaboration from the private sector

when necessary, an advice that the government has greeted well.

An Economist and business expert, Dr Donath Olomi, said: "Even if the main objective of the public sector is to deliver services to citizens, it has huge potential in bringing positive impact to the economy."

For the public entities, which according to official data contribute 20 percent of employment in the country and below one percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to have more impact, they need to be creative in their operations.

For the sector to do even better, Dr Olomi stressed the need to shift the public accountability focus from inputs and process to outputs and outcomes.

For this to be realized, he said, those entrusted to head the public institutions should have business mindset and should be competitive enough to lead a particular entity.

He added: "We need the results-oriented systems of government management through streamlined processes of decision-making designed to allow greater autonomy."

Mchechu had previously disclosed to this reporter his office's intention to establish a system where it functions akin to a holding company for state-owned entities. This initiative aims to streamline their operations, ultimately maximizing the government's returns on the significant investment of Sh70.67 trillion in these organizations



Property of the week

THE TPA Tower, a masterpiece completed in 2018 by Estim Group. Serving as the headquarters for the Tanzania Port Authority, this commercial marvel stands tall at 157 meters, claiming the title of the second tallest building in Tanzania.

Spanning 40 floors and boasting two basement facilities, including a spacious conference hall accommodating up to 1200 individuals simultaneously, TPA Tower offers unparalleled

amenities. Venture to the top floor and experience the city from a new perspective with the captivating views from the revolving platform.

Distinguished by its exclusive steamer-shaped design, this architectural gem is not only visually striking but also a symbol of innovation. As a true landmark in Dar es Salaam, the TPA Tower is a testament to exceptional construction and design excellence.

CHINESE CORPORATION CONSTRUCTING MODERN STADIUM IN KENYAN CAPITAL

Nairobi

CHINA Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) has begun work on a 60,000-seat stadium in Nairobi, Kenyan broadcaster NTV reports.

The Talanta Sports City will be one of the main venues for the 2027 African Cup of Nations football tournament.

CRBC is carrying out the work on an engineering, procurement, construction basis, and aims to complete it in 20 months.

Ababu Namwamba, Kenya's sports minister, appointed the Kenyan Defence Forces to manage the project in September last year, and President William Ruto said he would personally inspect the project to check that its workmanship was flawless.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Ruto said: "I have agreed with the Ministry of Sports and the Minis-

try of Defence that this stadium will be built to world-class standards with military discipline. I will therefore expect our defence team to ensure that all the timelines we have agreed are met by the contractor.

"I also expect that there will be weekly and bi-weekly supervision and I will be here myself every three months until this facility is completed."

Namwamba added: "Unlike the rest of the stadiums in the country, Talanta Sports City's design will be a compact layout aimed at enhancing the electric atmosphere, providing Kenyan teams with a distinct advantage in every home game."

The stadium, the first project of its type to be built in Kenya since the Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani. This was completed in 1987 and hosted the All-Africa Games. The ground will be able to stage football and rugby matches, and music concerts.



A giraffe roams Nairobi National Park, with the city in the background. Photo: Alexmbogo/ CC BY-SA 4.0 Deed

Does this US state have too much construction work?

Idaho

The US state of Idaho has been growing its population climbed 9 percent since 2019, but the Idaho Statesman reported the multi-billion-dollar construction industry could be stretched severely thin due to a lack of workers.

Reports said developers in the area have expressed concern over the squeeze, particularly as large projects like Micron's US\$15 billion expansion and a Meta data center build are set to occupy a large percentage of the state's more than 70,000 construction workforce.

That number of Idaho construction workers is nearly double the figures from 2011, but experts still anticipate some massive projects may hamper construction activities on the whole.

Wayne Hammon, CEO of the Idaho chapter of the Association of General Contractors (AGC), spoke to the state's Economic Outlook and Revenue Assessment Committee in January.

He noted that the industry, while segmented by specialties, is affected by out-of-sector activities.

"All parts of the construction industry are interconnected," said Hammon to state officials. "When the single-family market gets hard, it impacts [other segments], too."

With more major projects, Hammon anticipated high labour prices and shortages. "The same guys that build roadways and bridges also build airports," he said.

Everything combined, Hammon said the record numbers of construction employees in-state comes with a caveat. Even though labourer numbers are rising, in a growth area like Idaho's Treasure Valley region, there are also increased salaries.

Hammon added, "We've seen a 15-20 percent increase in salaries just last year alone."

Currently under construction near Boise, the state's capital and largest city, is a \$15 billion memory chip fabrication plant for Micron, a US-based computer memory and data storage producer.

"We love our friends at Micron," said Hammon, noting approximately \$5 billion of the investment will go directly into construction.

However, the massive scale and speed of the project ("They want to get it built in four to five years," said Hammon), plus incentives provided by Micron to the project's labourers, might accelerate a cost and worker squeeze.

"At its peak, there are 4,000 construction workers on this one job alone," said Hammon, who said he expects max site attendance in 2025 or 2026. This summer, though, the number of workers will be approximately 1,000.

Incentives for journeymen (\$10 per hour above base pay) and for workers that reside more than 150 miles away from the site (\$240 per diem, six days per week) means more workers are likely to sign on to the project, which will take labour away from other schemes.

Hammon also noted the area's housing shortage and questioned if there was enough capacity to accommodate the incoming surge of labourers.

"All problems that will impact Boise for a long time," said Hammon, noting Micron's ambitions to open the fab plant in five years could be ambitious. "There are not enough RV parks, not enough open apartments to house these people."



A Micron building. The US data storage producer is making a \$15 billion investment in a fabrication site in Idaho, US. Photo: File

EllisDon set to begin work on \$1bn Ontario hospital



Trillium's rendering of the proposed extension: Photo GCR courtesy

OTTAWA

INFRASTRUCTURE Ontario and Trillium Health Partners

have picked Canadian firm EllisDon for a US\$958m contract to finance and build a hospital extension in Etobicoke, the

suburb between the neighbouring cities of Toronto and Mississauga. The Mississauga-based con-

tractor will develop the "The Future Home of the Gilgan Family Queensway Health Centre".

This will involve building a nine-storey tower containing more than 350 beds, as well as creating more space for specialised treatment, including convalescence and physiotherapy services.

EllisDon was prequalified in May 2022, after it demonstrated that it had the experience and the financial capacity to carry out the work.

Altogether, the extension will add 56,000 sq m to the Queensway Health Centre. It will be made up of private rooms rather than wards, and will come with a standalone central utility plant and a car park.

Karli Farrow, the chief executive of Trillium Health Partners, said in a press statement that the historic project would "serve our community for generations to come".

She said: "Once completed, The Gilgan Family Queensway Health Centre will have space for over 350 beds, allowing us to increase our hospital's capacity to provide quality health care from Milton to Toronto. This milestone brings us one step closer to more beds, shorter wait times, and greater specialisation closer to home." and cities is a promising one.

New York training school accused of issuing counterfeit safety certificates

New York

SIX people have been accused of running a construction safety training school in the US that issued certificates to some 20,000 students who did not undertake the 40 hours of training required to earn them.

The six, who were employed by Valor Security & Investigations between December 2019 and April 2023, are alleged to have issued cards in exchange for fees of between \$300 and \$600.

So far, 19 people, including a New York City Housing Authority foreman, have been charged with acting as conduits between Valor and its clients.

The company and four individuals have also been charged with the reckless endangerment of Ivan Frias, a construction worker who was killed after falling from the 15th floor of a New York site in 2022. It is thought that Mr Frias was not provided with fall protection training.

Some of those seeking certification are alleged to have received them within an hour of asking. In April 2023, a press release from the Manhattan district attorney's office quoted a text message from Valor to a candidate saying a 40-hour certificate could be issued "tomorrow after 5pm".

Valor is alleged to have claimed that safety training was completed in New

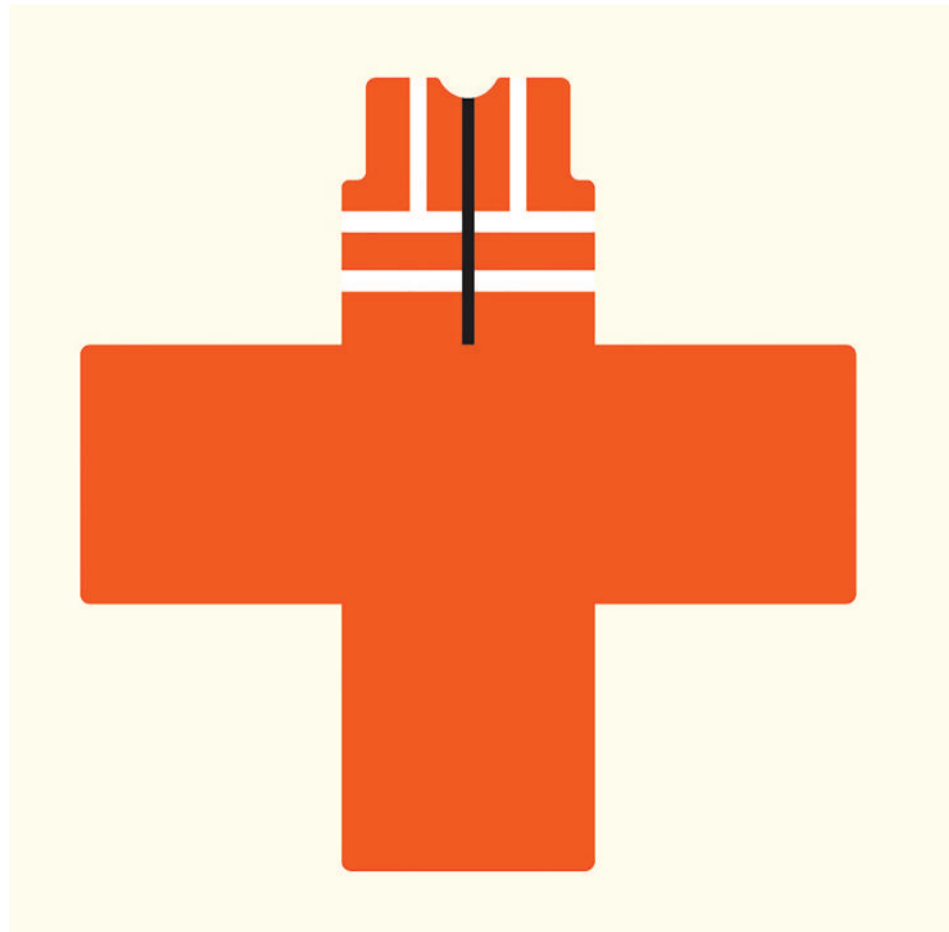


Illustration by Denis Carrier/GCR

York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania by the same trainers on the same day.

Those conducting training are alleged to have submitted fraudulent resumés to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in order to achieve teaching certificates.

It is further alleged that money paid for the courses was used by Valor's president to buy multiple properties, a yacht, cars and jewellery.

Alvin Bragg, Manhattan's district attorney, said: "In the construction industry, fraud can mean life or death - not only for the individuals working on the site, but for the general public that moves around them."

"We also allege that the death of one recipient, Ivan Frias, may have been prevented if not for the defendants' reckless failure to train him."

Jimmy Oddo, New York City's department of buildings commissioner, added: "Building construction-related fatalities dropped to a nine-year-low in 2023, thanks in part to the city's construction safety training requirements for workers on larger work sites."

"Construction safety training is helping to save lives, but the actions of these defendants could have undermined this progress in the interest of quick profits."

CONSTRUCTION

UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES: EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MINING AND BEYOND

By Clay Mwaifwani

I am intrigued by minerals and the narratives surrounding them, especially those written by female storytellers. Jade Davenport, in her remarkable book 'Digging Deep,' unfolds a captivating story of South Africa's mining history, showcasing her exceptional storytelling prowess. When a woman shares her tale, birds stop singing to listen to her words.

In her book, Jade Davenport suggests that everything humanity consumes is either farmed or mined. Initially, I pondered whether she might be over-hyping the mining industry, but upon reflection, I totally agree, everything we consume is either farmed or mined. As we commemorate International Women's Day (IWD, 2024), let us take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate women in agriculture and mining—the very women who provide the sustenance for our lives. How we treat women reflects how we value our own survival.

In my work with NGOs, I've attended numerous meetings where the inequitable and discriminatory nature of land laws towards women has been a central topic, prompting calls for amendments that align with the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5). As a trained lawyer I know the provisions within land laws, and binding precedents, all guaranteeing women equal rights to land as men. Despite this legal progress, the realities in Tanzania show that women often use but do not own, control, or make decisions about land, which in turn restricts their wealth accumulation.

Likewise, women in small-scale mining encounter barriers in acquiring licenses. Despite the laws offering equal opportunities for licensing, social norms often deter women from applying. Additionally, women in small-scale mining struggle to access bank loans, unlike their coun-

terparts in agriculture who can secure loans using land certificates as collateral. This disparity underscores the need for continued efforts towards gender equality in land ownership and economic empowerment for women.

One day, I met with women working with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB). To my right was a young lady from the Tanzania Women Miners Association (TAWOMA), who quietly told me, 'Soon, we small-scale miners are going to launch our own bank.' I questioned whether the small-scale miners' bank could offer loans to women in small-scale mining with their primary mining license as collateral, just like the agriculture's bank offers loans to women in farming activities with their farming land as collateral.

The young lady replied, 'I doubt it. Small-scale mining projects are usually unbankable due to the lack of comprehensive geological data. Assume the borrower defaults, and the bank wants to sell the primary mining license, who would be interested in a project that has previously failed to yield profits? It's obvious that the same lending criteria governing other banks will apply to the miners' bank.' I interrupted with a question; 'but that is the miners' bank, it can't be that inconsiderate to miners.'

The young lady disagreed, saying, 'It's not a matter of inconsideration; it's the nature of the banking business. Banks trade in money. The crucial question is: what measures is the government implementing to make small-scale mining projects bankable? Do you see the government integrating domestic financing and small-scale mining? Is Geological Survey of Tanzania adequately surveying the mining areas? Without comprehensive geological surveys and easily accessible geological data, most women will struggle to secure financing for their small-



scale mining ventures, stalling their progression to medium and large-scale mining.'

Our conversation shifted to the pressing issues of workplace safety. The young lady stated: 'It's apparent that women in agriculture often face exposure to highly hazardous pesticides (HPPs), while those in artisanal small-scale gold mining endure a dusty and excessively noisy environment during ore crushing and hazardous mercury exposure in gold processing, without Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).'

In response, I questioned, saying, 'But when these women accuse employers of not issuing them with PPEs, the employers say women don't want to use PPEs. How do we address that?' It's like she knew what I would say; with a smiley face, she replied, 'everyone says they love women, but kindness is the language of

love that the deaf hear so well. Our love for these women outweighs excuses; it is our duty to protect them, as their exposure to health risks endangers not only themselves but also their children in the long run.' She insisted, and that was too wise; I couldn't help but feel cross-examined.

When she unlocked her phone to request a ride, I interrupted: 'Why depart without talking about women in large-scale mining? We've witnessed the mechanized operations firsthand, where the discriminatory sociocultural beliefs against women have no room. Yet, the women are barely represented. What's the cause?' She cut me off, asserting, 'To attain gender parity in mechanized large-scale mining, we must strengthen girls' enrollment in scientific disciplines and subsequent academic pursuits in colleges.'

As I nodded in agreement, she elaborated, 'We saw a small number of women in large scale mining because women are underrepresented in fields like engineering, and geology. Until when girls can dream and our educational system nurture those aspirations, female engineers will remain scarce. Let science not be the preserve of the privileged; let the dreams of rural Tanzanian girls soar when schools in their villages boast adequate resources like libraries, laboratories, electricity, computers and free Wi-Fi.'

I couldn't utter another word; the ride arrived, and to my surprise, the driver was a woman, as young as her passenger. I murmured to myself, 'The internet is a game changer. Few years ago, when Uber and Bolt didn't exist, only taxis did, and they were male-dominated. But now, with technology, women merely need smartphones to get passengers.'

As I pondered further, I realized that technology has facilitated women's en-

try into professions once dominated by men, but this transformation occurred due to technological innovations elsewhere in the world. However, my concern persists: we shouldn't always rely on thinkers in developed countries to empower women in our societies. We must chart our own course, whenever possible.

As I made my way to the bus station, a sudden thought struck me: 'she mentioned that a girl can only dream when the education system nurtures her aspirations'. But I continued thinking that how can we encourage girls to dream when they can legally marry at the age of 14 or 15?

Why do we permit a girl who cannot obtain a driver's license to obtain a marriage certificate? Why do we allow a girl who cannot choose a village chairperson to choose a husband? If we consider her too immature to participate in civil affairs, why do we assume she can manage marital ones?

Despite my desire to advocate for laws and policies that treat women with the necessary sensitivity, I couldn't shake the reminder that the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 still hasn't been amended to raise the age of marriage for girls to 18, despite years of court appeals ordering so. Nevertheless, I reminded myself not to lose hope; International Women's Day serves as a reminder of the unwavering duty we have to the women of our country. With this in mind, I returned home, determined to spread awareness about everyone's duty to the women of Tanzania.

Mwaifwani (pictured) is a skilled lawyer who serves as a project coordinator at the Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT), he can be contacted at +255 (0) 758 850 023 or via email at claymwaifwani09@gmail.com.



Halotel officials visit Malaika Orphanage in Dar es Salaam, distributing essentials for International Women's Day 2024. Photo by Correspondent Zuweni Shame

Firm's generous donation empowers orphanage

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

HALOTEL Tanzania's unwavering dedication to empowering women, girls, and education shines through its generous donation to Malaika Orphanage, exemplifying its ongoing mission to make a meaningful difference in the community.

Speaking at the orphanage center yesterday, Sharon Kessy, an officer from Halotel's Customer Care department, emphasized that the donation was part of the celebra-

tion of International Women's Day 2024. The initiative aimed to engage in activities fostering creativity, learning, and personal connections.

Sharon highlighted Halotel's recognition of the importance of supporting and empowering women and girls. Therefore, the company chose to commemorate the occasion by bringing joy and positivity to the lives of young girls in need.

"We believe in the power of giving back to the community, especially on significant occasions like

International Women's Day. By spending time with these incredible children, we hope to inspire, uplift, and encourage them to dream big and reach for the stars," Sharon remarked.

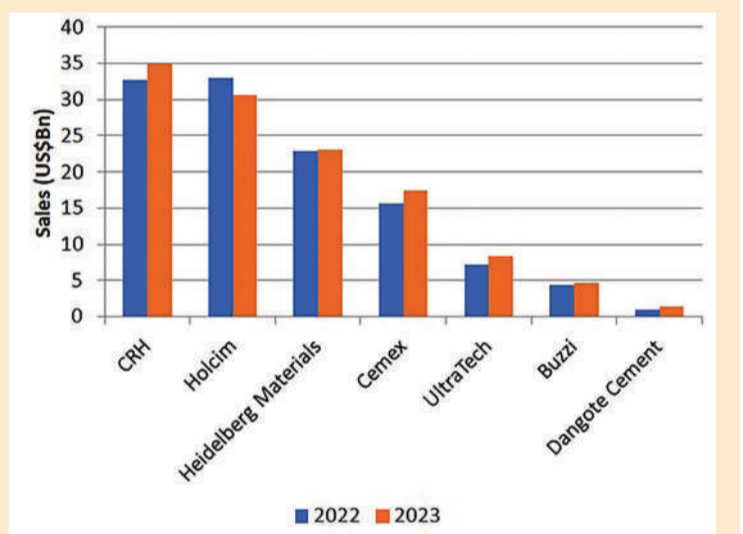
She emphasized that through various initiatives, Halotel strives to create a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Najma Manji, the executive director of Malaika Orphanage, urged other stakeholders to follow Halotel's example by supporting

orphaned children, enabling them to live, learn, and pursue their dreams.

"We care for more than 120 children. Hence, this donation is very supportive to us because we really need them to sustain these children's lives. Others should follow such footsteps and support children," Najma stated.

The donation included over 600 bags of food, as well as related items such as sanitary pads, hygiene utensils, and sugar.



Graph 1: Sales revenue from selected cement producers in 2022 and 2023. Source: Company reports. Note: Figures calculated for UltraTech Cement.

Cement producers learn, adapt, enhancing profits

London

CEMENT producers appear to have doubled down on the lessons they learned in 2022 by seeking profits wherever they could in 2023, despite stagnant markets in certain key places. Even with sales volumes of cement going down for most of the multinational cement companies covered here, revenues and earnings rose through price rises or business realignment.

Heidelberg Materials can often be relied upon to sprinkle a bit less sugar on its financial commentary compared to some of its competitors. Thus, it is always worth reflecting on what it says.

In its view, in 2023, high inflation rates across the globe, increased financing costs, and persistently high energy and raw material prices significantly impaired construction activity and thus demand for our building materials. The decline in demand in private residential construction, which was massive in some cases, could not be offset by a solid development in industrial commercial construction and infrastructure projects.

Heidelberg Materials is likely to be holding back its cement sales volume numbers until it releases its full annual report for 2023 towards the end of March 2024.

However, Holcim and Heidelberg Materials reached similar sales volumes of cement in 2022 and this looks likely to have continued in 2023, or even gone further. Holcim divested its India-based and Brazil-based operations in 2022 and Africa-based ones in South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda in 2023.

Heidelberg Materials has also slimmed down, albeit at a slower pace, with the sale of its businesses in Southern Spain in 2022 and The Gambia in 2023.

Note that CRH and Holcim have swapped places in terms of sales revenue from 2022 to 2023. 65 percent of CRH's sales came from its Americas divisions.

The outlier here is UltraTech Cement. It increased its sales volumes as the India-based market continues to push forward. Dangote Cement, meanwhile, delivered a surprise with a fall in volumes, due to poor trading at home in Nigeria.

WORLD



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar exchanges greetings with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul during the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting, in Seoul on Wednesday. ANI

India is working on major corridors both to its east and west, says Jaishankar

TOKYO

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasised that India is working on major corridors both to its east and west, and once completed, these corridors will connect the Atlantic to the Pacific through Asia.

Speaking at the Raisina Roundtable organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in Tokyo yesterday, Jaishankar highlighted the major corridors on which India is currently working.

"India is today working on major corridors both to its east and west. They include the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative through the Arabian peninsula and the international north-south transport corridor and towards east the trilateral highway in southeast Asia and the Chennai Vladivostok route, which also has polar implications...these corridors when completed will connect the Atlantic to the Pacific through Asia," he said.

Jaishankar further said that India and Japan have converging views on the need for collaborative connectivity.

"Two nations (India and Japan) have converging views about the need for transparent and collaborative connectivity," he said.

In his address, Jaishankar also stressed the need to strengthen our defence capabilities.

"As the voice of the global south, India is conscious of the responsibility, our development efforts today span 78 nations across different continents, can India and Japan coordinate in regards to their developmental systems?...Maritime safety and security have become particularly pressing concerns," he said.

Shedding light on the ongoing tensions in the Red Sea, he said, "We can see that at the Red Sea, we have just had the first casualties there in shipping. It is also necessary to strengthen our defence capabilities for the benefit of the larger region..."

On Wednesday, three crew members were killed in a Houthi missile strike on a cargo ship off southern Yemen according to US officials.

Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack, that set the Greek-owned, Barbados-flagged ship True Confidence on fire on Wednesday, some 50 nautical miles (93 km) off the coast of Yemen's port of Aden.

The Houthis have been carrying out attacks on commercial and military shipping in the Red Sea since November, halting the global trade routes.

The Houthis initially said that they would target Israel-linked ships in a show of solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, but later expanded their targets to include vessels linked to the United Kingdom and the US.

Jaishankar is currently on a visit to Japan from March 6-8. Prior to this, he visited South Korea, where he met the top leaders during his stay.

He is in Japan for the 16th India-Japan Foreign Minister's Strategic Dialogue with his Japanese counterpart, Yoko Kamikawa.

The two ministers are expected to discuss issues of bilateral, regional and global importance, and exchange views on cooperation for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, according to MEA.

ANI

Special visa program for US-affiliated Afghans faces demise

WASHINGTON / UNITED NATIONS

A programme that resettles in the United States Afghans who worked with the US government could grind to a halt later this year, stranding tens of thousands at risk of Taliban retribution following the 2021 US troop pullout from Afghanistan.

The congressionally-authorized limit of 38,500 Special Immigration Visas (SIVs), which offer a path to US citizenship, is expected to be reached sometime around the August anniversary of the withdrawal, and it looks unlikely that the divided US Congress will approve a Biden administration request for 20,000 more.

"We have somewhere around 8,000 (SIVs) left," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told a briefing. "We have urged Congress to raise the cap and allow us to meet our obligation to those Afghans who put their lives on the line for the United States."

Once the remaining SIVs are issued, more than 10,000 applicants and their families cleared for final vetting and interviews outside Afghanistan would be unable to begin new lives in the United States, said a State Department official who requested anonymity.

Agencies



'For next 10 years it will be PM Narendra Modi only'

NEW DELHI

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah while speaking at the Republic TV Summit 2024 yesterday emphasised the good work put in by the government in the last 10 years and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to govern for the next ten years.

Asked about the political outlook for the next ten years Home Minister Amit said, "There is a dynamic democracy in our country which evaluates performances and gives its mandate depending on that. The mood and mandate in the past used to be based on caste, creed and religion and on the basis of appeasement.

Now PM Modi has established politics of performance. Performance will determine who stays in power, the country will give an opportunity to those who perform. If we perform well, we will stay in power, if we do not control our drawbacks then we will not win.

Because you have asked about the next 10 years, I can tell you that for the next 10 years it will be Prime Minister Narendra Modi only."

The Home Minister also hit out at RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav for raising question on the absence of the Prime Minister's family

"People who are trying to lower the level of country's politics by talking nonsense, the public is giving them a befitting reply each time. I have seen Modi ji very closely, have worked with him for a long time. In a sense, Lalu ji has rightly said that Modi ji has no family. Because those who have families, try to make their sons and daughters Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers" Amit Shah said

"Modi ji has worked only and only for the people of the country for 40 years. Even after being Chief Minister and Prime Minister for 23 years, I have not seen him taking leave. I have seen PM Modi working diligently from 5 am in the morning to 1 am in the night. And it is a result of that there is such a large cadre with him" the Home Minister added.

Amit Shah further said there has never been any allegations of corruption against PM Modi.

"In a democracy, the people of the country answer every question raised against the government. Leaders who scammed the citizens are now absconding. In 23 years of Modi ji's tenure, first as the Chief Minister and then as the Prime Minister, there has not been a single allegation against him. Even the opposition cannot blame Modi ji for anything, such is the transparency with which he works" Amit Shah said

"We have had our government at the centre for 10 years. But even our opponents cannot blame Modi ji for even 4 annas worth of corruption. We have governed with transparency," Amit Shah added.

ANI

Biden, Trump woo Haley voters, 2024 election's new prize

NEW YORK

DEMOCRAT Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump are scrambling to win over supporters of Nikki Haley, a constituency that could be crucial to sending either man back to the White House.

Haley dropped out of the Republican presidential nomination contest on Wednesday but did not endorse Trump and said it was now up to him to "earn" the support of voters who did not initially back him.

Almost 570,000 voters in three key battleground states - Nevada, North Carolina, and Michigan - voted for Haley in the Republican nominating contest, a small but potentially significant group in races that have been decided by tiny margins in recent elections.

Haley won 250,000 votes in North Carolina's primary, for example, a state that Trump won by less than 75,000 votes in 2020.

Both Biden and Trump quickly put out statements on Wednesday calling on Haley voters to join their team - although they used vastly different tactics.

Biden commended Haley on "speaking the truth" about Trump, while Trump said he had "trounced" her in the Super Tuesday Republican contest.

"Donald Trump made it clear he doesn't want Nikki Haley supporters. I want to be clear: There is a place for them in my campaign," Biden said in a statement.

In his Truth Social post, Trump added that he "would further like to invite all of the Haley supporters to join the greatest movement in the history of our Nation," and described Biden as an enemy who is destroying the country.

Trump has derided Haley throughout the campaign - including using sexist and racist language. And many of her voters have wondered if they still have a place in the Republican Party, which has coalesced around Trump, despite his repeated lies about having won the 2020 election against Biden, and the Jan 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol.

Still, some experts say there's little precedent for Republicans like Haley's supporters to automatically come out for a Democrat in a general election.

"The next several months are going to be about the two candidates trying to convince people to come home to their regular party," said Hans Noel, an associate professor of government at Georgetown University.

"Right now, the numbers are really high for Haley voters to say 'I would never vote for Trump.' But almost certainly most of them will come around and either vote for Trump or they might not vote at all," he said, citing historical precedent.

Political strategists believe a significant number of Haley voters were Democrats or Democratic-leaning independents who crossed over to vote in Republican primary contests, to try to deliver a blow to Trump.

Still, a bevy of anti-Trump groups will be working hard to convince Haley voters to get behind Biden.

Reed Galen, a co-founder of the Lincoln Project, a prominent anti-Trump group of current and former Republicans, said Haley had shown that there are up to 30 percent of Republican voters who do not like Trump, a figure that would represent about 11 million registered Republicans nationwide.

Galen said his group will target them between now and November's general election, aiming \$50 million at an anti-Trump, pro-Biden persuasion campaign focused on battleground states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Arizona.

The digital and TV ad campaign will focus on abortion rights, the blow to US prestige abroad under Trump, and his failure to fully support Ukraine in its war against Russia.

PrimaryPivot, another pro-Haley group, changed its name to Haley Voters for Biden just after Haley dropped out of the



President Joe Biden (R) and Donald Trump

Russia has no anti-American sentiments; both countries are not enemies - Peskov

SIRIUS

RUSSIANS and Americans are alike and their countries are not enemies, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Knowledge First educational marathon, held within the World Youth Festival, Peskov (pictured) noted that there are no anti-American sentiments in Russia, but Moscow does not like US politicians, who insult Russia.

Asked by an American journalist about the current state of affairs between Moscow and Washington, Peskov said: "We are very grateful that you are here today."

"It proves that sooner or later the realization that the peoples of America and Russia are not enemies will eventually come," he continued.

"We have no anti-American sentiments," Peskov stressed. "We do not like American senior officials and politicians, who keep insulting our president."

"America is currently the most powerful country in the world," Peskov stressed.

"They are wonderful people, who are very much like us, who create a lot [of innovations] for the world."

"There are numerous people around the globe taking advantage of what is being created in America, it includes our country, and that's okay," Peskov added.

The World Youth Festival is taking place in the Sirius Federal Territory in far southern Russia on March 1-7, 2024.

More than 300,000 people from 190 countries have applied to take part. Participants in the festival's regional program will visit 30 Russian cities on March 10-17. TASS is the event's general information partner.

Agencies



South Africa requests new UN court orders to end starvation in Gaza

THE HAGUE

SOUTH Africa asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Wednesday for more urgent orders on Israel to end "widespread starvation" in the Gaza Strip.

The move followed South Africa's earlier allegation in a case to the ICJ over Israel's military operation in Gaza, which it claimed breaches the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, or the Genocide Convention.

In its latest request, South Africa said that it is "compelled to return to the court in light of the new facts and changes in the situation in Gaza - particularly the situation of widespread starvation brought about by the continuing egregious breaches" of the Genocide Convention by Israel and its "ongoing manifest violations of the provisional measures" indicated by the court in January.

South Africa urged the court to take more emergency measures and to modify its earlier orders "in order urgently to ensure the safety and security of 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, including over 1 million children."

It also urged the ICJ to do so without holding a hearing, in light of the "extreme urgency of the situation."

Xinhua

UK Budget: Hunt, Sunak bet on tax cuts to revive election chances

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Conservative government announced a 10-billion-pound (\$13 billion) cut in labor taxes on Wednesday, paring emergency reserves to pay for it, in what could be the last budget ahead of an election it looks doomed to lose.

The budget fell short of the big give-away which the right wing of the party had been hoping for. Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer nonetheless said the budget was the "desperate act of a party that has failed."

Finance Minister Jeremy Hunt cut the rate of social security contributions by two percentage points for the second time in just over three months, in a move worth several hundred pounds a year to some 27 million workers.

He also widened access to child benefit payments, froze fuel duties, extended relief on alcohol and support for low-

income households in a total 13.9-billion-pound package designed to ease cost of living concerns that are high on voters' minds.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his party trail Labour by around 20 percentage points ahead of a general election that must take place before the end of January but is widely expected in the second half of this year.

"Because of the progress we've made, because we are delivering the prime minister's economic priorities, we can now help families not just with temporary cost of living support but with permanent cuts in taxation," Hunt told parliament in a speech interrupted several times by opposition jeering. The government's forecasters estimated he now had just under 9 billion pounds of "fiscal headroom" - the space available for future spending or tax cuts while meeting a goal of putting public debt on a downward path by the end of a five-year period.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) said the headroom represented only "a small fraction" compared with the risks that Britain's economy does not follow its central forecasts. Paul Johnson, the head of the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank, said Hunt's plans were dependent on borrowing forecasts that showed the budget deficit narrowing sharply. "Take this with a pinch

of salt. What we got again today was tax cuts today, paid for by some completely uncertain spending plans for the future," Johnson said on social media platform X.

Financial markets were little moved, in stark contrast to the bond market rout of September 2022 sparked by sweeping tax-cutting plans of Sunak's shortlived predecessor Liz Truss which had to be swiftly reversed. Her demise saw Sunak become the fifth Conservative prime minister since the party won power 14 years ago.

"There was lots of low-level sensible stuff in today's budget but nothing to really move the needle either economically or politically," said Colin Asher, senior economist at Mizuho Bank in London.

Some lawmakers in the ruling party had been hoping for more relief, notably on the main rates of income tax, and called on Hunt to do more in coming months.

China accelerates building of new quality productive forces

By Yang Junfeng

CHINA will strive to modernize the industrial system and develop new quality productive forces at a faster pace, according to a Government Work Report submitted on March 5 to the national legislature for deliberation.

The country will consolidate and enhance its leading position in industries such as intelligent connected new energy vehicles, step up development of hydrogen power, new materials, innovative drugs, and other cutting-edge sectors, according to the report.

Recently, local governments across China have been outlining their "roadmaps" to foster the development of new quality productive forces at local "two sessions" meetings, the annual meetings of provincial-level lawmakers and political advisors.

Beijing is actively building an international science and technology innovation center. Anhui province is accelerating the development of three major science and technology innovation hubs in quantum information, fusion energy, and deep space exploration.

Moreover, Heilongjiang province is implementing digital transformation in manufacturing, empowering small and medium-sized enterprises with digital capabilities, and promoting pilot demonstration projects in intelligent manufacturing.

What do "new quality productive forces" mean?

The term refers to contemporary advanced productive forces that are generated by revolution-



Technicians debug reception robots in a workshop of a tech firm in Zhangye, northwest China's Gansu province. (Photo by Yang Xiao/People's Daily Online)



Intelligent robotic arms work in a workshop of a new energy vehicle manufacturer in Ganzhou, east China's Jiangxi province. (Photo by Zhu Haipeng/People's Daily Online)

ary technological breakthroughs, innovative allocation of production factors, and in-depth transformation and upgrading of industries. It takes the qualitative change of laborers, labor materials, labor objects and their optimal combination as the basic connotation, and the improvement of total factor productivity as the core indicator.

Technological innovation can give rise to new industries, new models, and new driving forces, which are the core elements for developing new quality productive forces.

In 2023, generative artificial intelligence (AI) emerged as a shining star in the tech world. By the end of 2023, China had released over 200 large AI models, with more than 20 of them approved

to provide services to the public.

Most of the large models available to the public are general-purpose foundational models. Their greater competence is to empower intelligent industrial production and accelerate the development of new quality productive forces.

Liu Qingfeng, chairman of China's leading AI and speech technology company iFLYTEK, noted that generative AI is one of the most significant technological innovations in recent decades. It has the potential to change the ways of content production, human-computer interaction, traditional business models, and the structure and competition pattern of industries.

A well-planned layout of industrial chains can effectively support

the enhancement of new quality productive forces by optimizing resource allocation.

As a representative of new quality productive forces, the low-altitude economy has become an important direction for cultivating new momentum for development. Today, China has developed a relatively complete industrial chain of the low-altitude economy, which has generated agglomeration effects.

Taking Shenzhen in Guangdong province as an example, by the end of 2023, it has gathered more than 1,700 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) companies with an annual output value of 96 billion yuan (\$13.34 billion). Chinese civil UAV manufacturers, represented by DJI, are strongly competitive in the global market.

According to a DJI executive, DJI's success benefited from the supporting and well-developed industrial chain in Shenzhen. With the continuous improvement of the entire Pearl River Delta's electronic consumer goods industrial chain, DJI's production capacity has been further strengthened.

To develop new quality productive forces, it is necessary to promote the digital economy, facilitating the deep integration of the digital economy with the real economy. In recent years, new technologies such as big data, the Internet of Things, and new energy have been widely applied in the transportation industry, expanding the scope of intelligent transportation applications.

Anhui Transport Consulting & Design Institute Co., Ltd. (ATCDI) developed a design system that

automatically generates drawings for commonly used bridge structures. The system has been in operation for over a year and has generated more than 7400 drawings, significantly reducing the workload of frontline designers.

"Fostering new quality productive forces in the field of engineering information technology, such as intelligent manufacturing, digital design, as well as 3D laser scanning and inspection, can enable us to build bridges and roads more efficiently, thus better benefiting the people," said Nie Wenhua, deputy director of the ATCDI digital innovation center.

Currently, some regions in China are focusing on the building of industrial chains for new quality productive forces, so as to enhance the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains.

The municipal government of Beijing has proposed to promote the high-quality development of the new energy vehicle industry and actively establish industrial chains of key components, such as motors, batteries, electronic controls, and automotive-grade chips. The government of Shandong province said that it would carry out actions to promote the high-quality development of iconic industrial chains. It would implement 100 major scientific and technological innovation projects in fields such as integrated circuits and industrial machinery.

Some regions are working to remove barriers and bottlenecks that hinder the development of new quality productive forces, and have made innovative allocation of production factors a key focus of their work this year.

China works to further improve payment convenience

By Zhao Zhanhui

CHINA'S State Council Information Office hosted a policy briefing on March 1, at which relevant officials from the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and other departments were invited to introduce China's efforts to optimize payment services and enhance payment convenience.

Zhang Qingsong, deputy governor of the PBOC, noted that the PBOC, in collaboration with other departments, has drafted a document on further improving payment services and enhancing payment convenience, with a focus on improving the weak links in payment services for elderly people and foreigners in China.

The document has recently been reviewed and approved by a State Council executive meeting, Zhang added.

The document highlights six key measures: promoting the usability of foreign bank cards in key places, continuously improving the cash payment environment and enhancing foreign currency exchange and cash services, making payment services more friendly to the elderly and foreigners, better protecting consumers' right to choose payment methods, encouraging banks and payment institutions to further optimize the account opening process, and carrying out diverse and targeted promotional activities.

In recent years, mobile payment has been developing rapidly in China. Yet some foreigners coming to China face



A merchant showcases a "change pack" provided by the Xinxiang branch of Zhongyuan Bank. (Photo courtesy of Xinxiang Daily)

challenges with mobile payment, such as the difficulty in binding their overseas bank cards and limits on spending amounts.

Zhang said the PBOC will request and instruct payment institutions such as Alipay and Tenpay to streamline their operating procedures, improve the efficiency of binding overseas bank cards, and simplify identity verification while ensuring the security of personal information.

Besides, the PBOC will also guide major payment institutions to raise the single transaction limit for overseas

travelers using mobile payment from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and lift the annual cumulative transaction limit from \$10,000 to \$50,000. According to Zhang, efforts have been made to make foreign wallet apps usable in China, and 13 such apps have been introduced to China by Alipay and Tenpay so far.

According to statistics, nearly 4 million foreigners used mobile payment in China last year, who made over 70 million transactions totaling more than 10 billion yuan (\$1.39 billion).

"We highly respect the practice of foreign nationals in China making large

payments using bank cards. In major commercial areas, airports, and railway stations, we are guiding commercial banks and payment institutions to expand the acceptance of foreign bank cards," Zhang said.

The PBOC is comprehensively improving foreign currency exchange, ATM cash withdrawal, and other related services. Additionally, to address the difficulty of getting change for cash payments, it has required commercial banks to provide "change packs."

"For example, a 300-yuan pack contains nothing but small-denomination notes," said Zhang. "No matter if it's a taxi driver or a restaurant owner, they can exchange for these packs to make it easier to provide change."

Many foreign visitors to China have complained about the difficulty of using cash to pay for cultural and tourism services and products. To address the issue, China's National Development and Reform Commission, China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the PBOC have jointly issued a notice requesting strict crackdowns on the refusal of cash payments in RMB. The notice aims to ensure sufficient overall cash supply and a reasonable denomination mix in major cities and tourist attractions.

Departments attending the briefing

said they will implement comprehensive measures and work together to create a favorable payment environment.

Liu Bin, director general of the Current Account Management Department of China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said the administration will keep encouraging more foreign currency exchange institutions to provide better exchange services for foreigners coming to China, and further meet their needs for mobile payment and online consumption.

The establishment of hardware and software facilities required for mobile payment, bank cards payment and cash payment at tourist attractions will be advanced, said Shi Zeyi, a person in charge of the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Gao Bo, a person in charge of the Transport Service Department of China's Ministry of Transport, noted that the Ministry of Transport has adopted a series of targeted measures, including accelerating the popularization of online ticketing, to facilitate both domestic and foreign nationals in purchasing tickets online using various identification documents such as ID cards, passports, and permanent residence permits.

'Two sessions' offers window for international community to understand China

By He Yin

THIS year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It is critical for achieving the goals set in the 14th Five-Year Plan. The "two sessions" this year, the annual meetings of China's national legislature and top political advisory body, has received broad attention from the international community.

By observing the "two sessions," the international community can deepen its understanding of China's democracy, gain insight into the pulse of China's high-quality economic development, and better grasp the opportunities of cooperation between China and other countries.

Observing the "two sessions" helps the international community understand China's governance. The "two sessions" are a vivid practice of China's whole-process people's democracy, and offers an important window for the international community to understand China's modernization of national governance.

Some foreign scholars believe that by understanding the "two sessions," one can understand how Chinese democracy operates effectively. The deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC)

and members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) actively fulfill their duties and responsibilities, with the voices of the people coalescing into a consensus on national governance.

According to statistics recently released by the State Council Information Office, government departments under China's State Council handled 7,955 suggestions from the NPC deputies and 4,525 proposals from members of CPPCC, accounting for 95.7 percent and 96.5 percent of all suggestions and proposals submitted. The departments rolled out over 2,000 policy measures based on some 4,700 suggestions and proposals last year.

China's whole-process people's democracy has not only a complete set of institutions and procedures, but also full of participation and practices. It has taken root in China as a political institution, a mechanism of governance and a lifestyle of the people.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the NPC and the 75th anniversary of the CPPCC. Through observing the "two sessions," the international community will gain a profound understanding of the wisdom and strength of China's governance.

Observing the "two sessions" helps the international community under-



Chinese and foreign journalists raise their hands to ask questions at a press conference of the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, March 3, 2024. (Photo by Lei Sheng/People's Daily)

stand the quality of China's economic development.

Achieving high-quality development is one of the essential requirements of Chinese modernization. Over the past year, China's economy has recovered. With an economic growth of 5.2 percent, higher than the global projection of around 3 percent, China ranks among the top in major economies worldwide. It fully demonstrates the strong endogenous impetus, resilience, and potential of the country's economic development.

China is vigorously implementing its innovation-driven development strat-

egy and promoting the accelerated development of new quality productive forces, which will continuously inject new impetus into high-quality development.

Against the backdrop of a sluggish global economic recovery, the international community looks forward to China's "two sessions" further releasing positive signals of an economic rebound and improvement.

Foreign media believe that China's current goal is to improve people's living standards through high-quality development and the country is driving the transformation of its economic

development towards an innovation-driven model, and accelerating coordinated digital and green transitions, which will set an example for the sustainable development of the global economy.

Observing the "two sessions" helps the international community understand the will of China to cooperate with other countries.

China has implemented five measures to facilitate the entry of foreign nationals into China, lifted all entry restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector, accelerated the implementation of 24 policy measures to stabilize foreign investment, signed free trade agreements and investment protection agreements with more countries, and steadily promoted high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with relevant parties.

These measures have sent a clear signal of China's unwavering commitment to further opening up at a higher level, demonstrating China's determination and confidence in providing new opportunities for the world through its own new development.

How China will promote higher-level opening up and enhance its ability to participate in the international circulation has become one of the hot

topics drawing attention from the international community at this year's "two sessions."

The international community is particularly interested in China's development direction set by the "two sessions" and expects China to continue contributing to promoting peace and prosperity. International observers said that they look forward to gaining a deeper understanding of China's plans and actions in addressing global challenges through the "two sessions," and they expect China to provide more stability and certainty to the world.

China's "two sessions" will allow the international community to see that the country firmly stays on the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics, and solidly advances whole-process people's democracy. China is also resolutely pursuing high-quality development to achieve Chinese modernization and promoting high-level opening up to drive common development of the world. Through these efforts, China will make greater contributions to world peace, development, and human progress.

National swimming team begins preps for All-Africa Games

By Guardian Correspondent

THE national swimming team has officially started training in Dar es Salaam to prepare for the All-Africa Games that will begin on March 8 this year in Accra, Ghana.

Speaking to The Guardian in the city yesterday, the side's head coach Alexander Mwaipasi said they are waiting for domestic swimmer Collins Saliboko who was in his training camp in the United States.

"Once our swimmer, Collins, joins us, we will start our training to prepare for the Games," Mwaipasi disclosed.

He said that they have planned

to get good results in the All-Africa Games which are expected to be tough.

The coach said he has ensured his players undergo intensive training that will see to it they excel in the Games that involves teams from various African nations.

Saliboko said he had practiced and prepared well when he was at his camp in the United States.

"I have planned well to see to it my team garners success, we are aiming to represent the nation well through this sport," Saliboko revealed.

The national swimming team is led by top local swimmers Sophia Latiff and Saliboko.



Taifa Stars interim head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco'.

Tanzania to face Bulgaria, Mongolia in newly introduced FIFA Series

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team will be the only team from the CECAFA Zone that will play in the newly introduced 2024 FIFA Series.

Taifa Stars will confront a team from the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)- Bulgaria and Mongolia from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) during the tournament slated for March 22-25, 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The 2024 FIFA Series will be the first edition of the FIFA Series, an invitational association football competition promoted by FIFA that features friendly matches between national teams from various confederations.

The inaugural edition will feature five different series, taking place across four host countries during the FIFA match window from March 18-26, 2024.

The other African teams that will take part in the different FIFA Series include; Algeria, South Africa, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, and the Central African Republic.

Tanzania will open their campaign against Bulgaria on March 2nd at the Dalga Arena, the same day hosts Azerbaijan face Mongolia.

Taifa Stars will return to action on

March 25, 2024, against Mongolia, while Azerbaijan face Mongolia.

The FIFA Series, a friendly competition, was first announced as a FIFA initiative in December 2022 under the name FIFA World Series.

It was later confirmed by FIFA president Gianni Infantino on March 16, 2023, following his re-election as President during the 73rd FIFA Congress which took place in Kigali, Rwanda.

Meanwhile, the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) has confirmed that Kenya's senior national team, Harambee Stars will feature in a four-nation tournament that will also involve hosts Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The four-nation showdown is set to be played during the upcoming FIFA international window from March 18-26 in Lilongwe.

What makes the matches different is that the teams would not usually face each other as they would be unlikely to qualify for a major tournament or face each other in qualifiers.

The friendlies will also take part in one host nation with FIFA hoping that it will allow more international football interaction, making a concrete contribution to global football development.



Tanzania's national amputee football team's player (2nd R) races past Cameroon's performers when the teams took on each other in the 2020 Amputee Football African Cup of Nations which was held in Dar es Salaam.

Tembo Warriors enter camp to prepare for 2024 AAFCON

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FIFTEEN players making Tanzania's national amputee football team are camping in Arusha to prepare for the coming Amputee Football African Cup of Nations (AAFCON) slated for next month in Cairo, Egypt.

Tanzania Amputee Football Federation (TAFF) president Vincent Kaduna said the continental showdown will be held from April 19-29.

He said this is the third time that the country is

competing in the AAFCON finals organized by the Confederation of African Amputee Football (CAAF) for the first time.

Tembo Warriors first participated in the continental showpiece in Angola in 2019 and, in 2020, it took part in the tournament that was hosted by Tanzania. In both tournaments, Tembo Warriors ended fourth.

The team's Manager Zaharani Mwenemti mentioned the players in camp as Bashara Alombile, Hassan Ame, Ali Abdallah, Abdul Amiri, Anthony Manumbu, Richard Swai, Alifack

Msomi, Juma Kidevu, and Emmanuel Nakaru.

Others are Saleh Mwipi, Kassim Mbaruku, Salim Bakari, Rodgers Kadal, Akhafan Kiyanga, and Frank Ngairo.

Tembo Warriors' technical panel comprises head coach Salvatory Edward, assistant coach Khalfan Mbonde, Technical Director Robert Manyerere, team doctor Abdallah Suleiman, and team manager Mwenemti.

Leaders who will accompany the team to Cairo are TAFF president Kaduma, vice president Athuman Lubandama, and secretary-general

Iddi Lulinda.

He said the Cairo finals which will be used as the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers has attracted 19 African teams and the draw will be made today.

Mwenemti hailed the government for its full support of amputee football development in the country and promised that Tembo Warriors will fight for honours in the championships.

He said the upcoming tournament will be another important milestone to showcase the excellence of domestic players to the fans and the society in Africa and the world.

"This will be the third time that Tembo Warriors will compete at the AAFCON finals, we will know our opponents tomorrow when the draw will be made," the official noted.

"We are very geared for the tournament as our ultimate goal is to bring home a trophy and qualify for the World Amputee Football Cup for the second time in a row," Mwenemti said.

"Our movement is growing in the country thanks to the government for its support to amputee football in the country," the team manager revealed.



Bluefins Swimming Club's swimmer Imaan Kimario is pictured featuring in the recent Taliss-IST Championships held in Dar es Salaam. Imaan will be part of the Bluefins team that will compete in the coming Isamilo Swimming Championships to be held in Mwanza. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Dar boxer all out to excel in 2024 World Olympic Boxing Qualifying tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's boxer Lucas Chagalawe has promised to heroically fight for the country in the World Olympic Qualifiers taking place in Busto Arsizio, Italy.

He had got off to an impressive start in his pursuit of success, having defeated Venezuelan Diego Pereira.

Chagalawe stunned his opponent Pereira amid round 1 in the Men's 80kg category, knocking the latter down twice and forcing the referee to stop the contest.

"I'm happy I won my fight, I realized he wanted me to play his game but I was ahead of him and released my power punches to stop him," Chagalawe was quoted by the Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT).

The Heavyweight boxer's

coach Mohammed Bakari was happy that the former followed his instructions.

"I told him don't let your opponent recover, hit him hard to either keep him dazed or knock him out," Bakari said.

In an interview, BFT secretary-general, Makore Mashaga, said he is happy with the performance shown by Chagalawe and he is optimistic that the boxer will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

"Chagalawe is a hardworking boxer, I'm sure if he will continue with what he is doing, he has a high chance of qualifying for the Olympics," he said.

After participating in the 2024 World Olympic Boxing Qualification showdown, Chagalawe will join Tanzania's other boxers in Ghana for the All-Africa Games.

Africa's other boxers, who also

won the 2024 World Olympic Boxing Qualification bouts that took place on Monday, were Togo's Light-Heavyweight boxer Prewa Pawabadi who beat Carlos Gongora of Ecuador 5-0, Namibia's Featherweight pugilist Tryagain Ndevelo 5-0 winner over Turkey's Batuhan Ciftci.

Morocco's Africa Featherweight champion Soulimane Samghouli was a 5-0 winner against Britain's Farid Walidazeh and Tunisia's Islem Ferchichi outpointing Finland's Emma Jokiahio by a unanimous decision.

Africa's 10 losers were Algeria's two-time Africa Championships' Bantamweight silver medallist Fatma Zohra, who was beaten 4-1 by Zeynab Zahimova of Azerbaijan.

Ethiopia's Yadesa Leta lost 5-0 to Makhmud Sabyrkhan of Kazakhstan, Togo's Coleti Yetong-

nom lost to Puerto Rico's Angel-Lyris Lopez by points, Uganda's Light-Heavyweight boxer Yusuf Nkobeza went down on points to Romania's Paul Aradoae.

Algeria's Featherweight fighter Hichem Maouche lost 5-0 to Commonwealth Games' champion, Irish boxer Jude Gallagher. Algeria's Olympian Light-Heavyweight pugilist Mohamed Houmri lost 5-0 to Poland's Rafal Percynski, Ethiopia's Light-Heavyweight pugilist Seyfe Kebede lost 5-0 to Petar Marcic.

Namibia's Light-Heavyweight fighter Gebhard Ipinge went down 5-0 to Yojerlin Cesar from France, Morocco's Light-Heavyweight Mohamed Assaghir was knocked out in the first round one by Austria's Lucky Aimufua Osare.

Senegal's Seydina Konate was stopped in the first round by Mexico's Hector Aguirre.

Spain prosecutors seek jail for Real Madrid coach Ancelotti over tax

MADRID

SPANISH prosecutors on Wednesday called for Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti to be jailed for four years and nine months, saying he had failed to declare earnings to the tax office.

The Madrid state prosecutor's office accused the 64-year-old Italian of having cost Spain's treasury more than one million euros in undeclared earnings from image rights in 2014 and 2015.

"Although he himself declared himself to be a tax resident in Spain and indicated that his home was in Madrid, he only declared in his tax returns the personal remuneration received from Real Madrid," the tax office said in a statement.

It accused Ancelotti of allegedly setting up a "confusing" and "complex" system of shell companies to hide his extra earnings from his image rights as well as from other sources such as real estate.

Prosecutors also alleged that the Real Madrid coach "simulated" the transfer of his image rights to entities "without any real activity" based outside of Spain to maintain "opacity vis-a-vis" the Spanish treasury.

He earned 1.24 million euros (\$1.3 million) in 2014 from the sale of his image rights and 2.96 million euros in 2015, according to prosecutors.

A Spanish court in July ordered Ancelotti -- regarded as one of the greatest coaches of all time -- to stand trial over the affair, but no date has been set.

A judge leading the investigation said Ancelotti had "acknowledged" the actions that deprived the treasury of money, according to a 2023 court document seen by AFP last year, which could open the door to an agreement with prosecutors to settle the case without trial and avoid prison.

"What I can say is that this is an old story that I hope will be resolved soon," Ancelotti told reporters on Wednesday after Real Madrid scraped through to the Champions League quarter-finals with a 1-1 second-leg draw against RB Leipzig, progressing 2-1 on aggregate.

"I don't have any problems, I'm very calm," he said.

Spain has cracked down in recent years on top football players who have not paid their due.

Star players Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo were both found guilty of tax evasion and received prison sentences that were waived for being first-time offenders.

Former Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho received a one-year suspended sentence after reaching a guilty plea for tax fraud in 2019.

Colombian superstar artist Shakira in November agreed to receive a three-year suspended sentence and pay 7.3 million euros in fines to settle a tax fraud case and avoid trial.

AFP

Drama after deluge as USA set up Gold Cup final with Brazil

SAN DIEGO

THE United States beat Canada 3-1 on penalties after their CONCACAF women's Gold Cup semi-final ended 2-2 after extra-time, to reach the final of the CONCACAF women's Gold Cup where they will face Brazil.

USA goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher went from villain to hero in minutes after giving away a penalty in the last minute of extra-time but then saving three spot kicks in the shoot-out.

The dramatic finale came at the end of a game which had been played in farcical conditions for the opening 45 minutes.

Brazil comfortably beat Mexico 3-0 in the earlier semi-final in San Diego before a torrential downpour brought the USA-Canada clash into doubt.

There were large patches of standing water across the field at Snapdragon Stadium and once the game got underway it was almost impossible to play normal football on the surface.

With the ball stopping in the water and players sliding around, Mexican referee Katia Garcia went to the sideline for discussions with officials but the game continued in monsoon-like conditions.

Inevitably when the opening goal came, the conditions had a major influence on it -- Vanessa Gilles' ill-advised back-pass stopped dead in a puddle and Jaedyn Shaw pounced on it and slotted home.

At half-time ground staff did their best to push the water off the field but there was a delay to the start of the second half with the rain having caused problems with the referees communication equipment.

As the half progressed, the surface did improve but the quality of the game did not with the USA continuing to play route one direct football.

Canada had a big appeal for a penalty turned down after Jessie Fleming went down under challenge from Tierna Davidson.

But eight minutes from the end of normal time, Canada drew level thanks to a powerful header from Jordyn Huitema who rose superbly to angle home a cross from Ashley Lawrence.

AFP

'Respected' Man City now belong among European heavyweights, says Guardiola

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Manchester City have earned their place among the perennial contenders for Champions League glory after reaching the quarter-finals for a seventh consecutive season on Wednesday.

Guardiola could even afford the luxury of resting a host of star names in a 3-1 victory over FC Copenhagen at the Etihad that completed a 6-2 aggregate rout.

Goals from Manuel Akanji and Julian Alvarez killed the tie as a contest inside 10 minutes before Erling Haaland drilled in his 29th goal of the season.

Mohamed Elyounoussi briefly reduced the Danish champions' deficit to 2-1 on the night, but Copenhagen were outclassed over two legs as the European champions remain on course for another treble.

City conquered Europe for the first time in the club's history last season, but Guardiola acknowledged his side are now seen as favourites for the competition ahead of the likes of Real Madrid and Bayern Munich.

The English champions have not lost a Champions League game at the Etihad since 2018 and became the first side in the competition's history to score three or more goals in



Manchester City's Norwegian striker #09 Erling Haaland shoots to score their third goal during the Uefa Champions League round of 16, second-leg, football match between Manchester City and FC Copenhagen at the Etihad Stadium, in Manchester, north west England, on March 6, 2024. - AFP pic

nine consecutive home games.

"The important thing is being there (in the quarter-finals) seven years in a row, it's quite impressive," said Guardiola.

"We are well-respected from our opponents. The numbers are there - our consistency.

"I remember when I arrived, we didn't believe, the club didn't believe we could do it because we didn't have the hierarchy in Europe like teams in Spain or Germany. It was a question of time, a process.

"The problem is the managers in modern football don't

have time. They gave me time, our hierarchy, so credit to them to accept the process. Now we are a team that believe we can do it."

Guardiola showed he had one eye on Sunday's top-of-the-table Premier League clash at Liverpool as he made seven changes from the side that beat Manchester United at the weekend.

Night off for key trio - Kevin De Bruyne, Phil Foden and Bernardo Silva were among those to spend the 90 minutes on the bench to rest up ahead of the

trip to Anfield.

But City were still a class apart and aided on their way into the last eight by some comical Copenhagen defending.

Akanji made a sweet connection with Alvarez's outswinging corner but was given far too much room in the centre of the box to find the top corner.

Worse was to come for the visitors as former Liverpool goalkeeper Kamil Grabara let a simple shot from Alvarez slip through his grasp.

The 2,500 strong visiting

support from Copenhagen refused to be downhearted as they kept a flat atmosphere at the Etihad going, and they had something to cheer on the half-hour mark.

Former Southampton and Celtic winger Elyounoussi drove forward with purpose and exchanged a slick one-two with Orri Oskarsson before firing into the far corner.

Haaland had been having a quiet night until he sprang into action in first-half stoppage time.

The Norwegian was picked out by Rodri before chopping onto his favoured left foot and firing in at Grabara's near post.

That took Haaland's total to 41 Champions League goals, matching the tally of City's all-time leading goalscorer Sergio Aguero, but in just 37 appearances for three different clubs.

City took their foot off the gas in the second period and could have been punished but for some smart goalkeeping from Ederson to deny Magnus Mattsson.

But Guardiola's men are rounding ominously into form for those trying to dethrone them in England and in Europe.

City have won 18 and drawn two of their last 20 games in all competitions and remain the side to beat when the draw for the Champions League quarters and semi-finals takes place on March 15.

AFP

Madrid 'suffer' in Leipzig draw to reach Champions League quarters

MADRID

REAL Madrid scraped through into the Champions League quarter-finals with a 1-1 second-leg draw against RB Leipzig on Wednesday, progressing 2-1 on aggregate.

The record 14-time champions were far below their best but did just enough over the two legs of the last-16 clash to edge out their Bundesliga opponents.

Despite Leipzig shading the game, Vinicius Junior opened the scoring in the 65th minute after being set up well by Jude Bellingham.

Willi Orban quickly levelled for the visitors but they could not find a second goal to force extra-time at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said his team suffered and did not approach the game well mentally.

"We played badly, with little intensity, with worries ... the psychological aspect conditioned our game a lot," Ancelotti told Movistar.

"We played against an opponent with quality, who had nothing to lose, and we had the brakes on from start to finish -- we suffered, but the important thing was to get to the quarter-finals."

Ancelotti warned his players before the game they needed to be at their best to progress and showed his cautious side by playing four midfielders behind Bellingham and Vinicius.

The Italian brought Aurelien Tchouameni forward into defensive midfield, also deploying Eduardo Camavinga, Fede Valverde and Toni Kroos, as he looked to protect the 1-0 first-leg lead.



Vinicius Júnior wheels away in celebration after scoring the tie's decisive goal. Photograph: Eurasia Sport Images/Getty Images

However Ancelotti's gameplan stunted Madrid's own attacking game without completely stifling Leipzig's.

"It was not our best day, but we have to be happy because the objective is complete," Madrid captain Nacho Fernandez told Movistar.

"When things don't go as you want, you have to battle, to fight, to play games like today's that make you grow and learn."

The German side had the better of the first half, albeit without carving out clear chances until just before the break.

Andriy Lunin palmed away a strike from Xavi Simons, on loan from Paris Saint-Germain, while Lois Openda rifled a shot into the side netting.

Ancelotti shifted back to a more typical set-up

for the second half, introducing Rodrygo at half-time for Camavinga.

It opened up the game at both ends and Vinicius began to have more influence after a quiet first half -- albeit not always for good. The Brazilian

was booked for barging Orban in the back and then shoving the Leipzig captain.

Vinicius' frustration quickly turned to joy though when Bellingham burst forward, showing superb timing

to release the forward, who fired into the top corner at the end of a smart counter-attack.

Toni Kroos started the break and despite being outnumbered, Bellingham and Vinicius showed their decisive

quality to send the hosts ahead.

Madrid's delight was short-lived though, with Orban levelling just three minutes later.

The Hungarian defender's excellent diving header from David Raum's cross set up a gripping denouement.

Madrid striker Joselu, on as a substitute, sent a tame effort at Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi before Dani Olmo hit the woodwork.

The former Barcelona youth player's lob dropped on to the crossbar and out of play as thousands of Madrid fans held their breath.

Europe's most crowned side were taken to the wire on a nervy night by Marco Rose's side, only founded in 2009, but steeled themselves and held on to progress.

"If you add the 180 minutes up, we clearly had the better chances -- I don't know how they scored today," Leipzig defender Benjamin Henrichs told DAZN.

"We played so well and it's so tough that we're out."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Respected' Man City now belong among European heavyweights, says Guardiola

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Zimbabwean forward Prince Dube. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Wantaway Prince Dube bids farewell to Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

ZIMBABWEAN striker Prince Dube has officially decided to part ways with the NBC Premier League outfit, Azam FC.

This development happened after Dube wrote a message thanking Azam FC for the 'love and support' they have shown him throughout four seasons with the club.

Dube took to his Instagram account to say goodbye to Azam FC on Thursday morning a few days after informing the club about his intention to terminate his contract.

The Zimbabwean striker disclosed: "It's with mixed emotions that I announce my departure from Azam FC. These four years have been an incredible journey, filled with challenges, victories, and cherished memories."

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone associated with the club, from the management to the coaching staff, my teammates, and most importantly, the fans," Dube stated.

He noted: "As I move on to a new chapter in my career, I carry with me the lessons learned during my time at Azam FC."

"The support I've received from the fans has been nothing short of amazing and I will forever cherish the memories we've created together," he insisted.

"I believe in the strength and potential of this club, and I do not doubt that it will continue to achieve great things."

"I wish Azam FC, my teammates, the coaching staff, and the fans all the success and happiness in the world. Thank you for the incredible journey," he concluded.

On Monday, Azam FC confirmed that Dube wants to leave the club, terminating his contract that was due to expire in 2026.

The club's Head of Information and Communication, Thabit Zakaria, revealed the development in an official video post.

"Azam FC confirms receiving a contract termination letter from Dube requesting that he wants to leave after joining the club in 2020," Zakaria said.

"He has submitted his letter to the management, which has already responded. The contract he signed before the start of this season keeps him at the club until 2026," the official stated.

He maintained: "As such, until now, he has two and half years to serve at the club and the management has maintained that he can leave only if the terms of the contract are adhered to."

Zakaria revealed Dube's release clause is set at \$300,000 giving the players the option to pay the agreed figure in full should no club express interest in meeting that demand.

The 27-year-old joined Azam FC in 2020. He was signed by Highlanders and hit the ground running before injuries slowed him down.

While reasons why the Zimbabwe international wants to leave the club have not been revealed, multiple reports are linking him with a switch to Yanga.

Yanga plots fifth consecutive NBC PL win to reclaim top spot



Yanga's footballers are pictured taking part in drills at Avic Town in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for this season's NBC Premier League and other tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

IMPERIOUS in the NBC Premier League and with a CAF Champions League quarterfinals ticket, Young Africans SC seeks a fifth straight league win this evening, when they visit Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

The last time these sides met was back in September last year at Azam Complex Stadium, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, went on to win 1-0 - a result that saw them take the lead in the league standings.

Since the reverse fixture, the lead in the NBC Premier League standings has changed hands a few times, and Yanga will hope that a win against this opponent will once again propel them to the top of the

pile.

Yanga is currently positioned second one point shy of league leaders Azam FC and is seven clear of third-placed Simba SC, although the former does have the significant advantage of having four games in hand on Azam FC.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi's side finished the CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign with a 1-0 loss to Egypt's Al Ahly in Cairo last week, which ended the former's 13-match unbeaten streak

in all competitions.

In the league, though, Yanga is riding a 12-match unbeaten streak dating back to early October, during which time the club won all but one game.

The host Namungo FC is coming into the match on the back of a morale-boosting 1-0 home win over Kagera Sugar on Tuesday. The result ended the Lindi outfit's five-game winless run.

Ahead of this encounter, Namungo FC head coach Mwinyi Zahera concedes Yanga is on another level

but insists that he has great trust his players can get good results as he looks to avoid being dragged down to the relegation battle.

The Congolese coach noted: "We didn't have good results in the previous games, it doesn't mean that we weren't giving up a proper fight, if you look at our team on a game-by-game basis, there was a change in performance."

"We should not drop points again, we need to be out of the relegation battle, we are not yet safe because

we are just a few points ahead of the teams below us," the tactician revealed.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Namungo FC have met in nine league matches since the 2020/21 season.

Namungo FC is yet to register a victory in this rivalry while the five first meetings ended in stalemates.

If Zahera's side is to get anything from this fixture, the side will have to sort out an attack that has scored just 16 goals in 19 matches this season.

Azam FC retakes top spot in PL after dramatic draw with Coastal Union

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC clawed way back to the top of this season's NBC Premier League table after a thrilling 1-1 draw with Coastal Union at the Azam Complex Stadium at Chamazi, Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Coastal Union took the lead in the 68th minute through a goal by Semkufo Charles, sending a wave of nervousness through the home crowd.

However, Azam FC's star player, Feisal Salum, popularly known as 'Fei Toto', rose to the occasion, equalizing for his side ten minutes later.

This crucial goal not only secured a vital point for Azam FC but also propelled them back to the top of the table.

With 20 games played, they now boast 44 points, one point ahead of their arch-rivals, Yanga, who have played four fewer games.

Following the hard-fought draw against Coastal Union, Azam FC's assistant coach, Bruno Ferry, reflected on the challenging encounter:

Ferry acknowledged: "The game was very difficult, but we fought hard to secure a point. It wasn't an easy feat, as our opponents, Coastal Union, were well-organized."

He elaborated on the technical bench's approach: "We came into this match prepared to manage the game effectively and maintain good performance throughout the entire 90 minutes."

"However, the second round of the



Azam FC's left-back, Pascal Msindo (R), negotiates his way past Coastal Union's forward Roland Beakou as the sides locked horns in this season's NBC Premier League tie at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. The duel ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

season presents a different challenge, with teams battling to avoid relegation," the French gaffer stated.

"This inevitably makes the matches tougher - there are no easy teams or games. Coastal Union, for instance, are vying for a top-four finish, adding

another layer of difficulty to the encounter," Ferry revealed.

Ferry also expressed his satisfaction with the performance of midfielder Feisal Salum, stating: "Feisal Salum is an exceptional player, and having someone of his caliber on the team is

invaluable."

"Modern football demands players who can step up and make a difference when the going gets tough, and that's exactly what Feisal brings to the table," Ferry noted.

Fei Toto's goal also cemented his position as the league's leading scorer with 12 goals.

He is closely followed by Yanga's Burkinabe midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki, who has 10 goals.

Meanwhile, Charles Semkufo continues his impressive form for Coastal Union, adding another goal to his tally, which now stands at four.

Despite dropping points, Coastal Union held onto fourth place in the table with 27 points, level on points with Tanzania Prisons.

However, Coastal Union has a slightly inferior goal difference compared to Prisons, who earlier secured a convincing 2-1 victory over Simba SC.

This match marked the 19th round of the NBC Premier League season. As of now, the league has seen a healthy mix of competition, with Coastal Union, winning seven, drawing six, and losing six games on average.

Azam FC's dramatic comeback against Coastal Union demonstrates the former's resilience and determination to reclaim its place as a champion.

With the league still in its early stages, the fight for the title promises to be an exciting one, filled with twists and turns throughout the remaining season.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

