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Mbeya bids final farewell to journalist



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Unlocking export opportunities



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Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey



BoT: Economy improved in Q3, minerals sector stalled

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE performance of selected economic activities in Tanzania improved during the third quarter last year, while minerals sector recovery stalled.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) says in a consolidated zonal economic performance report released mid last week that the market value of livestock including cattle, goat and sheep sold in registered markets recorded a 28 per cent growth with volume and price increases, tied to high demand.

The value of fish sold in registered markets rose by 54.4 per cent on account of favourable weather and continued use of modern fishing tools, it stated.

The value of selected manufactured commodities increased compared with the corresponding quarter in 2020, largely supported by new establishments and increased capacity utilization, the central bank noted.

As for the mining sector, the value of minerals sold during the quarter was lower than Q3 the previous year by 10.3 per cent, from a decrease in gold, coal and limestone

HESLB's digital app to deliver loans in 24hrs



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (2nd-L) exchanges greetings with, among other dignitaries, former Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein (4th-R) at yesterday's launch of a Zanzibar High Court building Tunguu in South Unguja Region. The occasion was part of the run-up to Wednesday's climax of the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Zanzibar State House

By Guardian Reporter

LOANS administered by the Tanzania Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) will be digitally processed, as the board works to register 70,396 first year loans applicants, to receive their money in 24 hours once the processing starts.

Dr Veronica Nyahende, the HESLB director of loans planning and issuance, said in a statement yesterday that the registration will include taking finger prints, bank account details, photograph and students' enrolment details in universities. The registration exercise will be conducted in higher learning institutions beginning starting today (Monday January 10) to February 3, she said, noting that the digital disbursement solution (DiDiS) was set up in 2018 to ease delivery of loans to students from 10 days originally to 24 hours.

First year students who are to benefit from the loans and others who received the loans the first time in 2021/22 need to come up for registration, she said, noting that third-quarter payments for this year will be done digitally.

"Thus, it is important for students to register in order to receive the money," she elaborated, specifying that HESLB officials will be at universities starting today to coordinate the efforts alongside university

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...the value of traded forest products increased to 215.9bn/- from 192.8bn/- recorded in Q3 2020, a result of high demand for timber in construction and wood for furniture

activity, including the closure of Buzwagi Gold Mine, bringing down gold subsector recovery. Minerals sold in market centres declined by six per cent to 598.8bn/-, the report indicate.

As for the tourism sector, there was significant improvement reflected in rising numbers of visitors and earnings from national parks, following relaxation of travel restrictions in source countries.

Q3 electricity generation reached 2,093,347.7 megawatt hours (MWh), a nine percent stride from Q3 2020, it said, highlighting that natural gas production rose by 8.9 per cent to 16,051.0m standard cubic feet from the corresponding quarter of 2020.

During the period, the government continued to implement tax measures outlined in the 2021/22 budget and other decisions for strengthening tax revenue administration. As a result, revenue collection (inclusive of tax refunds) noticeably improved, reaching 95 per cent of the target, it affirmed.

Revenue collection in local government

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Maasai elders salute Samia, pray for rains

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ELDERS in the Maasai Pastoralists' Council met here at the weekend to support the efforts of Chief Hangaya (President Samia Suluhu Hassan) in strengthening relations with other countries and securing low interest loans, while also praying for rains at a popular traditional ritual spot.

Aman Lukumay, secretary of the council, said they conducted the special prayers due to extreme drought which causes their livestock to die due to lack of pasture, underlining that the loans have started to bear fruits by bringing development in the short term such as the construction of classrooms.

Regional Commissioner John Mongella assured the gathered Laigwanan that he would convey the greetings to President Samia, promising to address the problems they are facing.

CCM regional chairman, former senior police commander Zelothe Steven, said President Samia is a role model, and that the action of the elders to meet to support her efforts was commendable.

Philemon Mollle, a city trader, said there is no country which could succeed to achieve all its goals without borrowing, so what President Samia is doing is good for the nation.

He said the loans are bringing positive impacts, especially in the education sector as the regions are building enough classrooms as well as putting in place important infrastructures to support smooth teaching

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By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said that recent meetings by Union government and Isles ministers have resolved 18 contentious issues, with 11 matters likely to be fixed in near future.

Mwinyi said this when he held talks with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who paid him a courtesy call at the State House in Zanzibar on Saturday.

He expressed satisfaction with the Union government's support for Zanzibar especially with the Covid-19 recovery

Mwinyi, Majaliwa hold talks in Z'bar

■18 Union disputes solved, 11 pending

funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which he said would boost economic growth.

Dr Mwinyi informed the premier on

how Zanzibar's economy was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, expressing hope that the tourism sector was recovering

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Tanzania Building Agency engineer (R) pictured at Kendwa on Pemba Island yesterday briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on a health centre project being implemented there. The PM laid the foundation stone shortly later. Photo: PMO



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Dr Veronica Nyahende, the Higher Education Students' Loans Board's director of planning and credit, speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the digital credit payment system to benefit 70,396 first-year students set to receive loans. Photo: HESLB

HESLB digital app to deliver loans in 24hrs

FROM PAGE 1

officials conducting the registration. Extra information on localities and times of registration will be issued at HESLB offices in relation to each institution, she specified.

Leaders of student governments and university loans officials need to mobilise loans beneficiaries to prepare themselves to apply for loans without undue inconveniences, she stated, underlining that if this registration

exercise is successful, loan officials will do away with paper record keeping as they would be receiving the money as fast as possible.

HESLB was established via HESLB Act (Cap 178) of 2004 with the task of providing an education subsidy on loan basis for needy students and supervise repayment thereafter.

In fiscal 2021/22, the government has set aside 570bn/- for higher education students' loans to benefit a total of 168,000 students, the statement indicated.

Mwinyi, Majaliwa hold talks in Z'bar

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with a sharp increase in the number of foreign visitors.

The prime minister commended the Zanzibar leader for the measures he has been taking in strengthening the economy, especially in prospective utilisation of marine resources. The Union government was also investing in the development of the blue economy by similar strategies as those being applied in Zanzibar, he stated.

Majaliwa assured Dr Mwinyi that officials from both sides of the Union would continue to seek formulas for the pending contentious matters.

Earlier, Dr Mwinyi exchanged views with Ummi Khamis Nderiananga, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Persons With Disability), assuring her that the Zanzibar government supports efforts to

improve the conditions of PWDs. Zanzibar is in the course of building vocational training colleges in Unguja and Pemba specifically for the disabled, he stated.

"It is important to empower them with vocational education so that they are able to employ themselves. We will also establish colleges for entrepreneurs," he said, promising to appoint more PWDs at different levels in the public service.

He commended the ministry for various efforts in supporting PWDs in Pemba and Unguja as well as cooperation extended to Zanzibar for marking the 58 years of the Zanzibar revolution.

The deputy minister expressed satisfaction with the way the Zanzibar government was working on PWDs issues, after she conversed with different groups of PWDs on various development matters during the past week.

Maasai elders salute Samia, pray for rains

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and learning for pupils.

Traditional elders from the pastoralist Maasai community known as Laigwanan from 10 regions in the country were camping in Arusha city for several days now, asking spirits to allow the pending long rains season to be available on time so as to rescue people and animals from drought, hunger and death.

The anticipated long rains is the dominant rainy season in many parts of the country, usually enveloping wide areas from mid-March to late May.

The elders said here at the weekend that

the severe drought being experienced has hit many parts of the country, plaguing the livestock community and exposing it to the threat of famine.

Aisack Lekisongo, chairman of the Laigwanan convention said yesterday that they have camped in a popular traditional area under a tree, for rituals and general prayers.

"We believe our prayers will soon be answered by God because this is a ritual tree," he said, elaborating that after the prayers, the rain will come and President Samia Suluhu Hassan will continue to lead the country to bring development to Tanzanians.

BoT: Economy improved in Q3, minerals sector declined

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authorities reached 99.2 per cent of the quarterly target, tied to enforcement of non-tax payments and enhanced use of electronic fiscal devices, the report intoned.

Cross-border trade continued to register a trade surplus, with a 27 per cent increase from Q3 2020, the report asserted, highlighting significant improvement in Mtwara port performance, with a 70.8 per cent hike in volume due to importation of petroleum products, while Dar es Salaam port recorded a 12.2 per cent increase. It relates to expansion of berths and dredging of the entrance channel, the report specified.

Financial sector deposits and loans improved during the quarter under review with deposits mobilised by commercial banks rising by 3.5 percent at the end of

September 2021, partly associated with increased use of agent banking services and mobile banking platforms, it stated.

Similarly, bank loans for various economic activities grew by 4.2 per cent, owing to gradual recovery of economic activities after COVID-19 challenges, with about 72 per cent of loans directed to personal; wholesale and retail trade; plus agro-sector related activities.

The stock of grain (maize, paddy and sorghum) held by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) stood at 150,056.9 tonnes at the end of September, from 109,767.3 tonnes at the end of Q3 2020, with the NFRA purchasing 42,673.1 tonnes

of maize from farmers in the southern highlands and south eastern zones, it stated.

Similarly the Cereal and Other Produce Board, which stocks maize, paddy, sorghum, wheat, maize flour and rice, held 34,090.7 tonnes at the end of September.

BoT said the value of traded forest products increased to 215.9bn/- from 192.8bn/- recorded in Q3 2020, a result of high demand for timber in construction and wood for furniture. The southern highlands zone dominated the subsector by contributing about 90.7 per cent of the total value of forest products, it added.

Use affordable technology to bring about change, DC Msafiri calls on investors

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

KIBAHA district commissioner Sarah Msafiri has called upon more investors to invest in latest and affordable technology to improve people's lives.

DC Msafiri said that over the weekend when launching the Solar Water Desalination plant worth 700/- was installed at Madewell Charitable Health Centre, Kibaha, in Coast Region.

She said investing in latest and affordable technology such as solar energy will help to reduce operation costs to the institute and assure clean water all the time.

"I would like to thank Germany's company - DEG & Develop PPP for designing the machine that use simple technology to help the institute and the surrounding neighbours," she said.

DC said that the Germany Company has promised to sponsor fully five water projects in the region noting that her office in collaboration with RC's office's was working to see possible ways of submitting proposals.

Msafiri said further that the new technology will help to improve other services and protect the environment.

For his part, Medewell Charitable Health Centre CEO Jaabir Rajani said the installation of the treatment plant was a great success and the long dream of the institute.

He said the water project has multiple advantages including additional water could be used for irrigation.

Apart from that, the waste water after purification can be used in fish ponds and other uses.

Rajani said the project was the first to be implemented in Tanzania mainland after that of Zanzibar Island.

"I would like to thank the collaboration between our Centre, government and The World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian

Services (WIPAHS), to ensure people get health care services. WIPAHS through MEDEWELL has been supporting healthcare services," he said.

He said the solar water desalination plant launched can desalinate up to 100,000 litres of water per day.

He said already WIPAHS through MEDEWELL has drilled 300 water boreholes wells.

Rajani said so far, WIPAHS has drilled 2000 water boreholes across the country adding that for this year, about 100 water boreholes will be drilled.

Samuel Kinyanjui, the Water Kioski Co-founder and Director said the project was one of big projects implemented outside Germany in the fight against Covid-19.

He said there are 33 other similar projects implemented in other parts of the Africa continent so far.

He said after being designed in Germany the machines were assembled in Kenya before transported to Tanzania.

Under the Wali-Ul-Asr Education Centre (WEC), WIPAHS has built different learning institutions. These are Umme Abiha Nursery School (UANS), Kibaha English Medium Primary School (KEMPS), Wali Ul Asr Girls Seminary (WISEM), Wali Ul Asr Boys Seminary (WBS), Coast Teachers Training Institute (CTTI) and Muslim Teachers Training College (MTTC).

I would like to thank Germany's company - DEG & Develop PPP for designing the machine that use simple technology to help the institute and the surrounding neighbours



Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Simai Said Muhammed (L) exchanges greetings with Zanzibar's Small and Medium Industrial Development Agency director, Soud Said Ali, shortly before the minister laid the foundation stone for the agency's headquarters building at Maruhubi in Zanzibar at the weekend. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

Govt determined to address schools' infrastructure challenges - Dr Mwinyi

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said the inauguration of new classrooms at Sebleni primary school is an example of his government's intention to address infrastructure challenges facing various schools in the Isles.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks here at the weekend at the function to inaugurate six classrooms in Unguja urban West Region.

He said the construction of classrooms in collaboration with regional officials and the people were efforts to address various challenges facing schools in the country.

He said the aim of the government is to make sure all children; both in rural and urban areas get education in conducive environments.

He said the increasing population and settlements thereof has also

increased the needs for more school buildings and classrooms, hence necessitating the government, in cooperation with the people to build Amani and Sebleni primary schools that were not existent in the past.

He said in the 58 years since the Revolution, the government has done great efforts to increase the number of schools to cater for the increasing number of students.

He also said the government, in collaboration with UNICEF and Education above All based in Qatar has signed an agreement for a project to cost USD 3 million, aimed at returning to school children of 7-14 years of age who are excluded in the official schools system.

He added that the government will continue supporting efforts by officials and members of the public for the construction of various educational infrastructures.

He also said that his government plans to use part of IMF supplied funds for reducing classrooms shortage challenges, by constructing 1,131 classrooms including those initiated by people's own efforts.

He said the money will also be used to refurbish primary and secondary schools as well as building 1,963 pit latrines in both Unguja and Pemba including 10 teachers' houses in small islands, purchase of 8,000 desks for 24,000 primary school students.

For his part, the Minister for

education and Vocational Training, simai Mohamed said, thanked the government saying despite the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, the government was able to pay salaries for all teachers' and other workers in the education sector.

He said great development discerned in the Isles has been made possible by the existing peace and solidarity in the country.

For hnis part, Kwahani Member of Parliament, Ahmada Yahya Abdulwakil (Shaa) said the classrooms have been the result of efforts and vision of the Zanzibar president, dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, who was himself the MP for the constituency from 2015 to 2020.



Tribal chiefs in Kilimanjaro Region hold a meeting at the weekend in preparation for a cultural festival for the region lined up for Moshi municipality on January 22, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan expected as chief guest. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

Hundreds attend TBC journalist Sikagonamo's burial in Mbeya

HUNDREDS of Mbeya Region residents including those from neighbouring regions attended the funeral of the former Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) reporter and chairman of Mbeya Press Club (MBPC) Festo Sikagonamo.

The burial took place at the weekend at his home village of Kilugu, Ileje Ward, Busokelo district in Mbeya region and attended by various government officials and other people.

Sikagonamo died on the night of January 7 this year while receiving treatment at Mbeya zonal referral

hospital (MZRH). He was admitted for one week because of chest problems, according to family members.

Among official who attended the funeral included Songwe Member of Parliament, Philip Mulugo who said late Sikagonamo was very much instrumental for his winning the parliamentary seat.

Mulugo said his contribution in the media industry was huge and he

will be remembered on how he was performing his duties professionally.

He also contributed 500,000/- assistance to late Sikagonamo children's education.

TBC head for southern highlands zone, Gift Ambwene said the Corporation has lost a professional journalist who was also very innovative and it will be difficult to fill the gap.

He said TBC has provided 3m/- to

cover for late Sikagonamo's funeral expenses.

Speaking on behalf of MBPC, Ulimboka Mwakilili said among the legacies left behind by late Sikagonamo includes the provision of education of budgeting starting from the family level.

Late Festo Sikagonamo died at the young age of 43 and has left behind a widow and three children Grace, Ushindi and Gabriel.

Outgoing agriculture minister: Promote locally made fertiliser

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

Former Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda has advised the management of Minjingu fertiliser factory to work with agricultural experts to conduct a comprehensive awareness campaign so that the input can be known to more people and increase productivity.

Prof Mkenda made the call yesterday while speaking to the factory's management and regional experts during a visit to the factory.

"Within two weeks we should promote this fertilizer so that next season more people will use it," said Prof Mkenda

He also said that it is good that the fertilizer revolution was carried out through mobilization by the district commissioners and the governor.

He urged the research institute TARI in collaboration with experts to ensure they encourage class farms that will help encourage the use of the Fertilizer.

"This fertilizer should be sent to the southern regions that produce the most food crops," he explained

He also asked the factory management to use the media to advertise the Fertilizer and advised the factory to produce leaflets that experts and the Governor and district commissioners could use to promote it.

The factory's director Tosk Hans said the factory had 10,000 tons and the southern regions had 2000 tons where the fertilizer was hampered by bad weather.

The Minjingu phosphate deposit is located 106 km southwest of Arusha, along the Arusha-Dodoma highway. It is of guano-sedimentary origin, hence biogenic in nature, and is believed to have formed during the Pleistocene age from the remains and droppings of flamingo birds that inhabited the lake Manyara region millions of years ago. Some flamingo birds still inhabit the lake to date.

The Minjingu deposit was discovered in 1956 by Gold Fields

Mines, a South African company that was conducting a geophysical survey over the lake area. Subsequent to several field surveys and detailed laboratory analyses of samples taken from the area, a statutory mining company by the name of Minjingu Phosphate Company (MIPCO) was established under the auspices of the Tanzania State Mining Corporation (STAMICO). The company's main roles were to mine and process the Minjingu Phosphate Rock (MPR), and to supply it to the Tanzania Fertilizer Company (TFC) factory in Tanga where it was further processed into chemical phosphate fertilizers such as Single Super Phosphates (SSP) and Triple Super Phosphates (TSP).

However, due to some managerial challenges as well as change of country policy, The Tanga factory was closed down and the government later privatized MIPCO and renamed the company Minjingu Mines and Fertilizer Ltd (MMFL). MMFL has been mining and processing the Minjingu ore into powder for direct farm application in Tanzania and for the export market. Due to the proven effectiveness of the MRP as a direct farm application fertilizer, MMFL later decided to change its brand name to Minjingu Organic Hyper Phosphate+.



Within two weeks we should promote this fertilizer so that next season more people will use it

AgResults
INNOVATION IN RESEARCH
AND DELIVERY

LAND O'LAKES
VENTURE 37

Request for Application for Competitors for the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project

On behalf of the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project, the Project Manager (PM) Land O'Lakes Venture 37 invites your organization to participate in a prize competition through which the Project aims to test Pay-for-Results mechanism approaches to scaling up innovative technologies, tools, and approaches to increase dairy productivity through the use of improved input. The competition will take place in the coastal region of Tanzania, and specifically the regions of Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, and Morogoro (excluding Kilombero and Ulunga districts).

Land O'Lakes Venture 37 is calling for applications from potential Competitors who are established entities from the private, parastatal, and non-profit sectors to participate in the project for sales period 3.

The RFA outlines the competition background, objectives, and rules, and includes an application form. In submitting an application, your organization consents to the RFA terms, including the application procedures and instructions.

Please note the deadlines for receipt of the application, with all required signatures and certifications, is due no later than **1700 Hrs. EAT on February 28, 2020**. Application documents must be submitted in one email to **AgResultsTanzania@gmail.com** or By Postal Address to Land O' Lakes Venture37 P.O Box 10517, Dar Es Salaam or By hand-delivered to Veterinary Complex;131 Nelson Mandela Road, Dar es Salaam. *Please indicate "Competitor RFA-AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Project" in the subject line of the email or on the cover page.*

The Project management team will review applications according to the criteria described herein. The applicants whose applications meet the selection criteria will be invited to participate in the competition.

We encourage you to submit an application and join us for a chance to win prizes and contribute to the development of a dairy sector in Tanzania. Should you have any questions or comments please direct them to **NMrema@landolakes.com**. We appreciate your timely response to this RFA and look forward to cooperating with you on this important project.

Get a copy of the RFA on the below link:

<https://agresults.org/news-and-blog/10-blog/227-request-for-applications-for-sales-period-3-competitors-for-the-agresults-tanzania-challenge-project>

thps
Tanzania Health Promotion Support

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR USED VEHICLES

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR USED VEHICLES

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under non-governmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health and community systems for comprehensive quality health services including HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; prevention of GBV; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNHCAH) services; laboratory and health management information systems (HIMS).

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS), located at Coco Plaza building 3rd floor, through MAJEMBE AUCTION MART intends to offer for sale its used vehicles at Public Auction to the highest bidder the below listed used vehicles. The auction will be on Saturday 22nd January 2022 at Masaki area, in the open space near Coco Plaza building as from 10:30AM.

The used vehicles are as shown on the list below.

S/N	Tender Reference No.	TYPE OF USED VEHICLE	REG.NO	STATUS
1.	THPS/VDSP/2021/01	Toyota RAV4 S/Wagon	DFP 8365	Running
2.	THPS/VDSP/2021/01	Nissan Patrol S/Wagon	DFP 5604	Grounded
3.	THPS/VDSP/2021/01	Nissan Patrol S/Wagon	DFP 5808	Running

AUCTION REQUIREMENT

- The vehicles are sold on "as is" basis and Tanzania Health Promotion Support, (THPS) shall have no further liability after sale.
- Vehicles may be inspected from 08:00 to 16:30Hrs as from Wednesday 19th January, 2022 to Friday 21st January 2022.
- The buyer shall pay 25% of the agreed price either on the auction day or on the deadline of 24th January 2022 at 1:00Pm, while the remained amount shall be paid within 14 days from the auction day otherwise the process will be repeated and the 25% of the total amount paid will not be refunded. Payment shall be deposited to Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) Account Number: 0150237214202, CRDB Bank, Oysterbay Branch and only payment slip will be submitted as a proof of payment. No cash transaction will be allowed.
- The buyer will be allowed to take the vehicle(s) after paying the full amount of the agreed price and buyer shall be fully responsible for paying ALL taxes (including VAT) and any other charges which may arise from the purchase of the vehicle (s). The buyer will present the plate numbers and all documentations as evidence that he/she has paid all the required taxes during taking the vehicle at THPS premises.

For more information, please contact:
THE CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
TANZANIA HEALTH PROMOTION SUPPORT
COCOPLAZA BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR
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Innocent Mwanga, NMB Bank Plc's northern zone sales manager, makes a presentation in Tanga city at the weekend on the bank's support to the education sector in Tanzania. This was at an NMB-sponsored symposium organised by a Tanga WhatsApp Group, the thrust being on exchanging ideas on ways to raise the standard of education in Tanga Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari,

Mtwara

'Take advantage of proximity and export food to Comoros'

TANZANIAN traders, especially those based in Mtwara region, have been challenged to take advantage of proximity to the Comoros to export food to the islands that import from countries such as Brazil and Madagascar.

Mtwara Regional Commissioner Brigadier General Marco Gaguti said yesterday that instead of waiting Ship to unlock business between two countries, Mtwara traders should immediately start to use boats to feed Comoro.

"It's about 300 kilometers to Comoro from Mtwara, but due to lack of transport, our counterpart

Comorian import food staff from Brazil and Madagascar, those food staff are plenty available in our region...the issue here is absence means of transport, to keep waiting Ships in order to start business, the deal will not materialize," Gaguti said, adding:

"Let's start with boats as the government and other shipping agencies trying to respond on this... its great opportunity to link the two countries; along with the use of boats we will be broadening the

chance to have a cargo Ship."

Chairman of Mtwara Chamber of Commerce, Investment and Agriculture TCCIA, Kizito Galinoma said that lack of ship from Mtwara to Comoro hinders business growth between the countries.

"We had an order of supplying food staff to Comoro, but the barrier is lack of ships...our fellows decided to import from Brazil and Madagascar to fill their gap. We need to address this challenge and also to utilize our Mtwara port," said

Galinoma.

Hasnein Murji a trader said that, a business opportunity appears from Comoro need good plan to utilize for the benefits of both sides.

"It's a matter of government to communicate with businessmen from Zanzibar who owns cargo ship, so that they can reschedule their route to Mtwara and later Comoro. I don't have sure if boats will bridge the gap. We actually need reliable transport," said Murji.

Cargo ship docks at Mtwara port to export 59,000 tonnes of coal

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari,

Mtwara

THE first big cargo ship, 200-metres wide has docked at Mtwara port to export 59,000 tonnes of coal to India.

This follows major improvements conducted at the port including the construction of a new gate worth 157bn/-.

Mtwara Port acting manager Abilah Salem said the big ship named Star Freight has arrived from Pakistan and will carry the consignment of coal which marks as a major step in trade and economic development.

Speaking here during the weekend, Salem said the improvements done at the Mtwara port has started to attract big ships, something which will further open up opportunities, stimulate economic activities and increase revenue to the government. "This new gate has a capacity to accommodate ship with a capacity on 65,000 tonnes, this is to say with our previous gates such the ship would not be accommodated, the coal which is set to be exported belongs to Ruvuma Coal Mine, and we will take only seven days to board in all the cargo" he explained.

Adding: "We mark this as great success toward our strategy in utilising the port after the government's initiatives to invest the 157bn/- in construction of this new gate."

Mtwara District Commissioner Dunstan Kyobya said that the arrival of cargo ships has unlocked exportation of coal and will cultivate economic activities within Mtwara district and the nation at large.

"The huge investment done by our government to construct the new gate has started to bear fruits...today

the history has been written, the door has been opened, on behalf of people of Mtwara district we thank for the government all the efforts it is taking to support development of the south regions and people," he added.

He said the arrival of the ship in the port of Mtwara indicates an increase in trade as well as employment for residents of the region.

Tanzania Port Authority Master Abdallah Mwinganno said the docking of the ship has opened doors for other shipping companies to bring their ships for exportation of coal, cashew nuts and other produce.



This new gate has a capacity to accommodate ship with a capacity on 65,000 tonnes, this is to say with our previous gates such the ship would not be accommodated, the coal which is set to be exported belongs to Ruvuma Coal Mine, and we will take only seven days to board in all the cargo



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING FOR WATER SUPPLY SOURCING SERVICES FOR EACOP PROJECT REF. ECP-21-C-016

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable Valuation contractors that have demonstrable capability, proven experience, willingness and ability to express their interest in providing the following services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Engineering of groundwater/well based systems and/or tie-ins to existing water network systems includes a desktop study, site investigations and detailed Engineering. Scope is summarised in detail below:

DESKTOP STUDY (tie-ins to existing water network systems)

- Collect and review of any existing documentation, including: 1/ geophysical and hydrogeological studies carried out earlier by Ministry of Water or any other entity; 2/ available maps, aerial photographs, reports and other water resources data of previously drilled boreholes;
- Carry out Field reconnaissance survey including:
 - Field geologic traverses to identify geological and hydrogeological conditions
 - A census of existing wells, boreholes, watercourses and water features within a 3 km radius of the required supply point (SITE), or proposed well development area if remote from SITE;
 - Survey of existing wells and boreholes, including water level and basic water quality measurements;
- Report including:
 - Hydrogeological and Piezometric maps; including location and depth of existing wells
 - Conceptual study of well design (when possible to do it from a desktop study);
 - Detailed additional site investigations programme needed for well design.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

- Geophysical investigations to be conducted on the selected potential sites identified, in order to find the water bearing zones. Site investigation report shall include:
 - Program of investigations and justifications of the selected investigation techniques
 - Data interpretation, including: 1/ Aquifer geometry & hydraulic and recharge characteristics, 2/ Aquifer chemistry and factors that influence chemistry; 3/ Feasibility of developing the groundwater resources including expected number of wells, locations, depth, etc..

DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN

- Design of water Well, Water Well Pump, Piping, surrounding facilities and equipment, Water Storage,...
- Detailed Drawings, technical specifications

DESKTOP STUDY (groundwater/well based systems)

Collect and review all relevant data from responsible basins and water supply authorities regarding the existing supply network, e.g. size of the pipes, materials of construction for the pipes, quality of water etc.

REPORT including:

- Analysis of all data collected in terms of feasibility of connection to the existing distribution networks
- Field walkovers to establish existing network locality with respect to SITES;
- Condition assessment of existing infrastructure i.e. pipe condition, booster pumps etc.
- Establishing potential location(s) for tie-ins;
- Water quality sampling and analysis
- Conduct Topographical survey for routes for pipeline
- Site investigation report including the above information's

DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN

- Design of network system from point of connection to SITE while considering domestic connection to local community, rising mains, gravity mains, reservoirs/storage tanks, off-takes and distribution network;
- Detailed Drawings, technical specifications

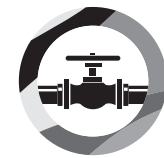
The work will be done in a range of locations across the country

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
 - Proof of registration with Brela ORS and CRB.
 - Application for registration with the EVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
 - Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
 - Description of past experience in providing engineering of water supply: VWell development and/or tie-in to existing water network.
 - List of previous projects: description, client, location,...
 - List of owned equipment and systems, qualified and experienced personnel
 - Proof of financial capability to undertake the proposed scope of services
 - Description of H3SE and Quality policy
 - Copy of Anti-corruption and compliance policies

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to adeline.mmari@external.totalenergies.com. (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 24th January 2022**. Email Reference should be ECP-21-C-016/EOI

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



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSTRUCTION FOR WATER SUPPLY SOURCING SERVICES FOR EACOP PROJECT REF. ECP-21-C-015

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable Valuation contractors that have demonstrable capability, proven experience, willingness and ability to express their interest in providing the following services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Construction of groundwater/well based systems as follows:

1. Drilling of Pilot Boreholes prior to full development of the wells for production purposes
2. Drilling Activities
 - Drilling preferably using a rotary type Machine.
 - The rig and the drilling method adopted must be suitable for drilling through both unconsolidated material, and hard, compacted rock.
3. Well Construction includes but not limited to:
 - Procurement of the necessary equipment: Pumps, casings, piping, solar panels, water storage tank,...
 - Installation and joining of casings and screens
 - Installation of cement seal and Gravel pack
 - Disinfection and well cleaning
 - Above ground facilities (shelter, Fence etc.)
 - All the necessary tests: Pumping tests, water and soil samples tests, ...
 - All activities shall be in compliance with Tanzanian environmental regulations,
 - Activity, Completion Records and Reports

The work will be done in a range of locations across the country

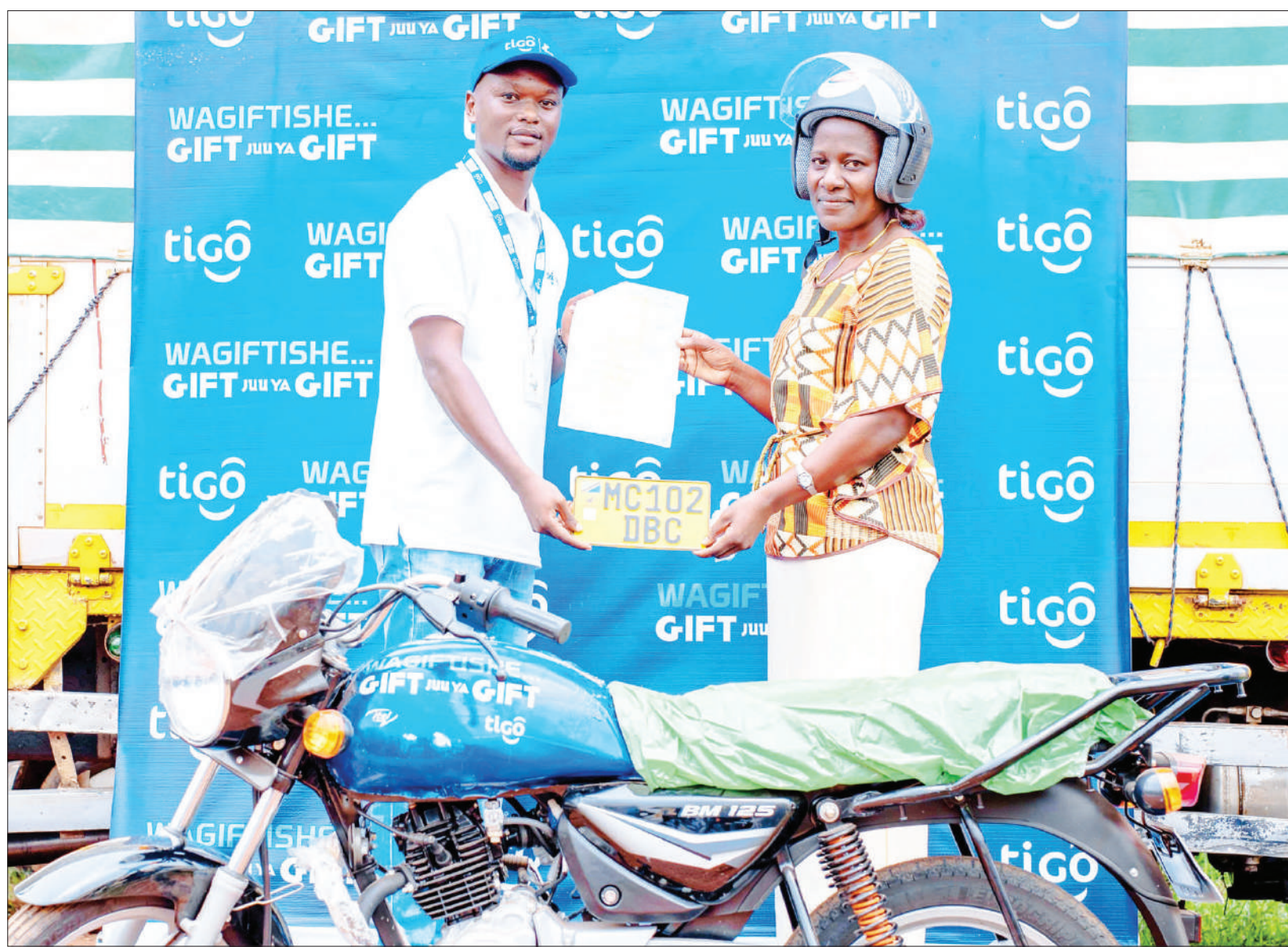
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

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

- Proof of registration with Brela ORS, CRB and ministry of water as a drilling company
- Application for registration with the EVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Description of past experience in providing water well development: Pilot holes, well drilling, well completion, above ground installation,...
- List of previous projects: description, client, location,...
- List of owned equipment and systems, qualified and experienced personnel
- Detailed description of the drilling Rigs: type, capacity, certificates,...
- Description of H3SE system: HSE plan, HSE procedures, HSE records, example of risk assessment,...
- Description of the quality system
- Proof of financial capability to undertake the proposed scope of services
- Copy of Anti-corruption and compliance policies

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to adeline.mmari@external.totalenergies.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 24th January 2022**. Email Reference should be ECP-21-C-015/EOI

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



Amani Sailoja (L), Tigo's sales manager in Biharamulo, presents a motorcycle to Flora Rutabingwa for emerging a winner in the firm's ongoing 'wagiftishe gift juu ya gift' promotion draw held in Bukoba municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt signs 4.3bn/- water projects to serve 37,269 villagers in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Region has signed 10 agreements worth 4.3bn/- out of Covid-19 funds for the implementation of clean and safe water projects in 10 villages to benefit a total of 37,269 people.

Speaking here yesterday after witnessing the signing event between Shinyanga Region RUWASA Manager and various contractors, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Sophia Mjema called for the projects to be completed to the value for money standards.

She said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has released the funds for the implementation of water projects in the region saying they should be completed in time as per agreements signed.

"After the completion of the projects, I would not like to see they are being sabotaged, or people connecting themselves to the water service illegally, or vandalism to their infrastructures, as I want them to be sustainable for present and future generations," the RC said.

She also called on the Shinyanga Region residents to take care of the water infrastructures for them to last long.

For his part, Shinyanga Region RUWASA manager, Eng Juliety Payovela said in implementing the water projects, they have entered into agreement with 10 contractors.

Payovela said there are over 500 villages in Shinyanga region and RUWASA provides water to 315 villages and that in 2021/22 Budget they expect to spend 16bn/- for implementing 46 water projects.

For his part, John Ntlimbo from Jonta Investment Ltd, speaking on behalf of fellow contractors, told the RC that they will implement the projects to quality standard and in time.



After the completion of the projects, I would not like to see they are being sabotaged, or people connecting themselves to the water service illegally....

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Mwanza City sets aside 1.5bn/- for thirteen storeyed buildings

IN a strategy to solve the classrooms shortage for secondary schools in the City of Mwanza, Mwanza City Council has set aside 1.5bn/- for construction of 13 storeyed buildings that are currently in various stages of completion.

Speaking to this paper, Mwanza City Executive Director, Sekiete Yahya Seleman, said Nyamagana District is the first one to build more storeyed structures for classrooms

from its internal funds.

"The 13 structures that will house 64 classrooms are being built from the Council's internal funds through the Covid-19 project and every classroom will take in 50 students,"

said Sekiete.

After the completion of the structures 3,200 students will be accommodated in the 64 classrooms thereby greatly reducing the classrooms shortage challenge

in the City of Mwanza.

He added that various people have hailed the government on its storeyed buildings approach to accommodate classrooms, and called on City Council officials to

build more such buildings.

"Need for more classrooms is still with us as the number of students keep on increasing every year, so more classrooms will also reduce students' congestion in classrooms

to enable proper learning and teaching," said Sophia Shangwe and Athumani Seiph Nyakabungo residents in the city.

Some students from Mwanza City's various schools said the issue of classrooms congestion has been a great challenge to them, and hence the storeyed buildings approach is a good step in building more classrooms in a confined space," said Anwary Matogoro a Form II student at Mlimani Secondary School.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant:-

APPLICANT NAME	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS/NATIONALITY	SHARES
AIBRA GROUP LTD	Application Services Licence	IBRAHIM MUSSA (tanzanian) ZAITUNI HAMIS MUSHI (tanzanian)	70.0000000000 20.0000000000

Pursuant to section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communication Act,Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of the licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice.Such comments will be taken into consideration

Comments should be submitted to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P.O.Box 47414414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 241 2009
Email: dg@tcra.go.tz

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA
COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

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APPLICANT NAME	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS/NATIONALITY	SHARES
Radian Limited	Application Services Licence	Freddie Fadhili Manento (tanzanian)	50.0000000000

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Email: dg@tcra.go.tz

Waryuba commends firm for embarking on CSR initiatives

By Guardian Reporter, Katavi

SUMBAWANGA District Commissioner Sebastian Waryuba has commended Airtel Tanzania for embarking on corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives which touches the needy especially children living in orphanages.

Waryuba made the remarks over the weekend when receiving food stuffs donated by Airtel Tanzania to Katandala orphanage center in Sumbawanga town.

The donated food stuff included cooking oil, wheat flour, rice, sugar and cleaning detergents. The donation is part of the company's special campaign—'Let Them Smile' conducted through the festive season under the umbrella of 'Tunakula' initiative.

"I take this opportunity to commend the company's management and the entire staff for coming up with the campaign that shows love and care to children during this festive season. I fully support your efforts and call upon other institutions to do what Airtel is doing," said Waryuba.

He added: "Children living at orphanage centers need love and care just like others. Finding time to come to donate food stuff to them is commendable. Just as per your campaign—'Let Them Smile', you have seen how the children are happy and smiling. Airtel has done something that should be emulated by other corporate institutions in supporting surrounding communities."

Speaking after hand over event, Airtel Zonal Manager for Rukwa Region, Bartholomew Masatu said that for a number of years the company through its 'Airtel Tunakujali' programme has been supporting the needy in the society by donating various humanitarian assistance aimed at showing love and care to people living in difficult conditions.

He said that Airtel launched a festive season campaign last year aimed at supporting 12 orphanage centers across the country.

"The donation we are giving here today is part of our continuous support to the less privileged and the needy people within our society. People living in such conditions are humans like us, they also need care and love just like others," said Masatu.

Speaking on behalf of the Katandala orphanage center manager, Sister Lucy Maganga said: "We truly appreciate the humanitarian assistance we have just received from Airtel. I understand that there are other orphanage centers in the country but you have chosen us. This is a blessing to us. As you can see, all these children here are all orphans; they need to be fed and provided with other basic needs including quality education and medical treatment. We alone cannot afford to offer all these services; we need support from individuals and institutions like Airtel."

She called upon the company to continue visiting and assisting the orphanage center, saying the visits make children feel cared and loved.



We truly appreciate the humanitarian assistance we have just received from Airtel. I understand that there are other orphanage centers in the country but you have chosen us



Bartholomew Masatu (L), Airtel Tanzania's sales manager for Rukwa Region, pictured in Sumbawanga at the weekend presenting foodstuffs and various other items to Sumbawanga district commissioner Sebastian Waryuba (in blue). It was a 'Let them smile' festive season donation by the firm to the district's Katandala Orphanage. Right is the centre's head, Sister Lucy Maganga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

MAIZE traders in Manyara and Arusha regions are stranded with tonnes of the cereal with prices spiraling downwards in what they blame on hesitancy of their main market—Kenya.

Speaking to this paper at the weekend, a prominent maize trader in Manyara Clement Fissoo said maize is plentiful in the two regions and there is no one to sell to.

The trader who mostly exports maize to Kenya said that one kilogramme of maize sells for between 600/- and 650/- in Manyara and Arusha and 720/- in Kenya.

He said there is a lot of maize and there is no buyer and those

Traders stranded with stockpiles of maize as Kenya market falters

currently buying a sack for between 57,000/- and 58,000/-.

He mentioned that the reason for the decline in crop prices is that Kenya is getting more maize from Uganda again at a cheaper price.

He cited another reason that Tanzanian maize was claimed to be toxic when tested in Kenya.

Fissoo said he was a victim of the nine tons of maize he sent to Kenya which was rejected after being reported to have higher levels of toxins.

"When we get to Kenya the maize

is tested for toxin and they can test the whole vehicle and find it missing but another line they measure up to the middle and find the poison and they reject the entire consignment," said Fissoo.

He said they rejected it and claimed that it is not suitable for human consumption and even chickens cannot consume such maize.

The trader said most of the toxic maize in the Manyara Region comes from Dareda in Babati and Giting in Hanang.

Despite the low price he said the farmers' costs this year have returned as he sells even 50,000/- per sack and earns a small profit he says there is no dispute that he is a farmer.

John Michael, a retail maize trader said he sells a bucket of maize for 10,000/-.

Managha Village resident Marco Bura said in their village maize sells for 9000/- for one 20 liter bucket.

He said they expected prices to rise further due to the drought but it was still low.

HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Directors of Kairuki Health and Education Network (KHEN) is looking for a qualified and well experienced Tanzanian to fill the position of **Vice Chancellor (VC)** for Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU).

Qualifications: Applicants must be in possession of MMED and/or PhD degree (in health related fields) or equivalent qualifications from an accredited University; an academic rank of at least Associate Professor; an outstanding record of academic leadership in teaching, research, and publication as well as an outstanding record of experience in providing community service. The candidate must also have proven integrity and management experience of academic institutions.

The **Tenure** of office will be five (5) years. **Remuneration** will be according to the HKMU salary scales and the University's policy on fringe benefits.

Application Procedure: Interested and qualified applicants for the above post are requested to email their application letter, curriculum vitae, three names of his/her referees and to attach copies of their certificates to: The Chairperson, HKMU Vice Chancellor Search Committee, vc.searchcommittee@hkmu.ac.tz by **15th February 2022**.

This advert can also be downloaded from the HKMU website: www.hkmu.ac.tz

NI provides 57m/- worth of COVID-19 protective gear to 17 Tanzania regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children has handed various items for protection against COVID-19 to 12 mainland regions and five of Zanzibar.

The items provided by Nutrition International (NI), an international organisation were channeled through Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) as part of efforts to protect health service providers during their countrywide campaign to provide Vitamin A Drops to children.

Speaking here at the weekend during the handing over of the items to representatives from the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) and the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs

and environment), the Government Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aifello Sihalwe said the items will assist health workers who are at the front line including Community Health Workers (CHW).

He said due to Covid-19 challenges the government continues providing protective gear against the disease's infections for health workers at health centres countrywide.

"As for now the items have been provided to 12 Mainland regions including Dodoma, Geita, Kagera, Morogoro, Katavi, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Singida, Tabora and Tanga and all five regions in the Isles.

"The regions have been picked due to their poor health services delivery," he added.

Acting TFNC Director, Dr Ray Masumo thanked the government of Canada through its organisation

- NI for continuing supporting the government in its war against Covid-19 and other nutrition challenges.

He the current aims is to make sure that by 2-25 all children in the country should be reached and in the Vitamin A drops campaign.

For his part NI Country director, Dr Daniel Nyagawa said they have decided to hand over the items to the government as a display to support the government's various efforts in the fight against Covid-19.

Receiving the items on behalf of PORALG, Dr Mwanahamisi Hassan, the Director of Medical Services said the protective gear will assist front line health workers in the war against Covid-19 infections.

The items handed over included 6,000 cartons of masks, 6,000 litres of hand sanitizers all valued at 57m/-



Sheikh Khamis Mataka (C), co-chairman of religious leaders, addresses journalists on the sidelines of a meeting of the clerics held in Dodoma city at the weekend. He is with Tanzania Episcopal Conference deputy secretary general Father Chesco Msaga (R) and Christian Council of Tanzania secretary general Rev Moses Matonya. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Winners of Vodacom Tanzania's 'Show Love, Tule Shangwe' promotion drive hold their gifts in Mbeya city yesterday shortly after receiving them from the firm's business strategic manager, Magreth Lawrence (3rd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Pakistan Navy Ship to hold two-day free medical camp in Dar es Salaam

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) ALAMGIR is scheduled to hold a free medical camp as part of goodwill in Dar es Salaam from January 11 to 12, this year.

In a statement, the Pakistan High Commission to Tanzania said the two-day free medical camp will take place in Dar es Salaam, noting that the medical camp conducted will be part of the collaboration between the two governments in the health sector.

It further said that the ship has professionals including

pediatricians, dentists, pathologists, surgical specialists and an anaesthetist.

"The medical team of the Pakistan Navy is excited to invite and extend the free medical services to the friendly people of Tanzania as also the Pakistan Diaspora members living in the country," reads in part

The medical teams involve medical specialists, surgical specialists, anaesthetists, pediatrician, dentists, pathologists as well as medical laboratory investigation facilities.

Some of the tests that they will conduct include Blood CP, Blood ESR, Serum Bilirubin, and Anti HCV Antibodies by Rapid Method (ICT).

Others are Serum Urea and Creatinine, Cardiac Enzymes, Urine Routine Examination, Stool Routine Examination and Typhidot Test.

Other tests will include Blood MP, S ALT, Blood Sugar, Serum Amylase, Serum cholesterol, HIV by Rapid Method (ICT), Serum Triglyceride, Urine Sugar and Urine for Protein.



United Republic of Tanzania Ministry of Water

Belgian Development Agency

CANCELLATION

Public Works Contract Enabel TAN1403211-10026

Enabel, The belgian Development Agency regrets to inform the General public and all interested bidders that the call for bids for public works Contract Enabel TAN1403211-10026 is cancelled. With this notice, all procedures or arrangement that were made related to the said tender are also cancelled, bids collected will not be considered.

The tender for public works contract had the following details:

Lot 1: Construction of Kidyama Water Supply Scheme

This is a groundwater development project intending to serve communities in the peripheral of Kasulu Town and some parts of the urban areas. Under this contract the program seeks to construct a groundwater pumping station, riser main pipeline, a storage tank, and distribution network.

Lot 2: Construction of Nyanganga Water Supply Scheme

This project seeks to pump water from Mkuti River in Uvinza District to serve a growing population of Nyanganga village. It therefore intends to construct an intake on the river, a riser main pipeline, storage tank and gravity-flow water supply network.

Enabel, apologies for any convenience that may be caused.

By Special Correspondent

Water management and technology can stave off worst effects of climate change

CLIMATE change, which is expressed in terms of drought, floods and changing rainfall patterns and increased variability, is expected to hit sub-Saharan Africa most.

Africa experienced a 30 per cent increase in the frequency and duration of drought events since the year 2000.

In 2019, the climate crisis affected more than 33 million people across east and southern African countries in food insecurity as a result of floods, landslides, drought, and cyclones.

Africa is vulnerable because the economies of its states are largely based on weather-sensitive crop-livestock systems, and also due to the low adaptation capacity of communities to threats of climate change. The adaptation is strongly linked to access and use of improved technologies and practices to develop resilient systems.

The experience of AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), which has been spearheading agricultural transformation in Africa, shows that improving productivity, profitability, and adaptation to climate change could be concomitantly achieved by investments in a number of areas.

About 70 per cent of the land in sub-

Saharan Africa (SSA) falls within arid or semi-arid farming systems, but only about 5 per cent has access to irrigation using water from rivers, streams, ground water, or rainwater harvesting. Only about 7 per cent of the arable land is irrigated in SSA against 40 per cent in Asia.

Rainwater management could be practised anywhere in the continent by capturing, storing, and efficiently utilising rainwater from roofs and runoff.

Besides, small-scale irrigation from surface and groundwater can reduce farmers' vulnerability to annual rainfall variability and associated climate risks.

The private sector needs to support expansion of small-scale irrigation in SSA by improving market opportunities, energy for water lifting, and access to irrigation water, including from shallow wells and groundwater.

Despite high demand for drought-resistant cultivars, farmers have limited access to high-yielding crop varieties. Availing the right crop to the right agro-ecology will ensure good crop yields and reduce the risk of crop failure

due to drought and other climate-related calamities. High-yielding traditional African crops like sorghum and millet rarely reach farmers' fields due to weak last-mile delivery systems.

Improved extension, including using village-based advisers, would help farmers get access to the appropriate varieties along with good agronomic advice.

About 65 per cent of agricultural crop land and 31 per cent of permanent grazing land in Africa is degraded. Only 17 kilogrammes of fertiliser is applied per hectare of arable land in Africa against 250 kilogrammes per hectare in Europe, hence aggravating soil fertility decline through nutrient mining.

Research shows that farming without fertiliser can cause up to 30 per cent and 60 per cent loss of soil organic matter after 12 years and 46 years, with crop yield declining from one tonne/ha to 300 kg/ha.

While applying critical nutrients like phosphorus is important, adopting regenerative practices like composting and returning of crop residues to the soil will reduce fertiliser needs.



DISCLOSURES MADE UNDER REGULATION 11 OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (DISCLOSURES) REGULATIONS, 2014 AND CONSUMER PROTECTION REGULATION, 2019 MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND FEES (GHARAMA ZA HUDUMA ZETU)

NO.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	
		USD	TSHS
1.0	Current Accounts		
a)	Required minimum opening balance	500	500,000
b)	Monthly service fee (breakdown per customer)		
	Folio Charge	4	6,000
c)	Cheque withdrawal over the counter		
	Up to Tshs 25,000,000 a day	-	free
	Over Tshs 25,000,000 a day	-	0.15% of withdrawn amount
	Up to 5000 USD a day	free	-
	Over 5000 USD withdrawal	0.6% of withdrawn amount	-
d)	Fees per ATM withdrawal	-	-
e)	ATM mini statement	-	-
f)	Interim/additional statement per page	1.50	1500
g)	Periodic scheduled statement	free	free
h)	Cheque book (50 leaves)	27	42,000
i)	Dishonoured Cheque	55	70,000
j)	Special clearance		
	Within walking distance 1km	45	70,000
	More than 1km	65	95,000
k)	Counter cheque	-	-
l)	Inward/Outward cheque collection-USD	0.60% Min comm, 18 postages USD 90	-
m)	Cancellation of bankers cheque/DD	15	20,000
n)	Stop payment	28	35,000
p)	Standing order	-	-
q)	Balance enquiry	free	Free
r)	Issue of Balance certificate	7	9,000
s)	New ATM card issuance	-	-
t)	ATM card renewal or replacement	-	-
u)	Overdrawn account interest charge		
	- Overdrawn in current account	2% over the TOD rate	2% over the TOD rate
	- Overdrawn in loan account	2% over regular rate	2% over regular rate
	- Unarranged overdraft	2% over the TOD rate	2% over the TOD rate
v)	Interbank transfer	-	-
w)	Bill payments through ATM	-	-
x)	Deposit fee	-	-
	Savings Accounts		
	(Up to USD 5000)	Free	-
	(Over USD 5000)	0.6% of deposited amount	-
	Cash deposit charges for small currency USD notes ranging from USD 1 to USD 20, irrespective of amount deposited (i.e. both below and above USD 5000)	12% (Min USD 1) of the aggregate of small currency amount	-
	Current account.		
	(Up to USD 10000)	Free	-
	(Over USD 10000)	0.6% of deposited amount	-
	Cash deposit charges for small currency USD notes ranging from USD 1 to USD 20, irrespective of amount deposited (i.e. both below and above USD 5000)	12% (Min USD 1) of the aggregate of small currency amount	-

No	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	
		USD	TSHS
2.0	Savings Accounts		
a)	Saving bank customer ID Card-one time	7	10,000
b)	Cash withdrawal per day-Free of charge up to amount	2,000	25,000,000
c)	Cash withdrawal charges over USD 2,000 to 5,000 per day	0.25% of withdrawal amount	-
d)	Cash withdrawal charges over USD 5,000 per day	0.80% of withdrawal amount	-
e)	Cash withdrawal charges over TZS 25,000,000 per day	-	0.10% of withdrawal amount
f)	Required minimum opening balance		
	Without Cheque book	50	50,000
	With Cheque book	200	200,000
g)	Monthly service fee	1.5 per page	150 per page
h)	Interim statement	15	20,000
i)	Cheque book charges 25 leaves	25	35,000
j)	Account closure	25	35,000
k)	Maintenance of minimum account balance		
	Without cheque book	50	50,000
	With cheque book	200	200,000
l)	Minimum balance charges (in case of non maintenance of minimum balance)		
	Without cheque book	4 p.m	900 p.m
	With cheque book	15 p.m	3,800 p.m
3.0	Current Accounts		
	Ledger folio charges per folio (40lines per folio)	4 per folio	6,000 per folio
	Cash withdrawal per day-Free of charge up to amount	5,000	25,000,000
	Cash withdrawal charges over USD 5,000 per day	0.8% of withdrawal amount	-
	Cash withdrawal charges over TZS 25,000 Mn per day	-	0.15% of withdrawal amount
	Cheque book charges 50 leaves	27	42,000
	Account closure charges	70	85,000
	Maintenance of minimum account balance	500	500,000
	Minimum balance charges	15 p.m	20,000 p.m
4.0	Electronic Banking		
a)	Internet banking monthly fee	-	-
b)	Internet transfers	-	-
c)	SMS banking	-	-
d)	SMS Alert facility -		
	Minimum SMS Alert Charge (to be recovered quarterly upfront)		
	- Individual	free	free
	- Corporate	free	free
e)	Others	-	-
5.0	Foreign Exchange Transaction.		
a)	Purchase/sale of TCs transactions over the counter	-	-
b)	Purchase of foreign Cheque.	-	-
c)	Safe/purchase of cash passport.	-	-
d)	Telegraphic transfer.	-	-
	Remittances Outward (TSS)	10	10,000
	Other Outward remittances:		
	A/C holder	15	40
	Non A/C holder	30	40
	Up to USD 6,000	15	40
	USD 6001-10,000	30	40
	Above USD 10,000	0.38%max USD 210	-
e)	Transfer from foreign currency denominated account to local current account (within bank and to other bank).	30	-
6.0	Other Charges		
a)	Activation of Dormant Accounts -Per Activation		
	- Individuals	3	5,000
	- Corporate	6	12,000
7.0	Personal Loans. Charges		
a)	Processing/Arrangement/Appraisal fee	1.50%	1.50%
b)	Personal loans	1.50%	1.50%
c)	Overdrafts	1.50%	1.50%
d)	Mortgage finance	1.50%	1.50%

iv)	Asset finance	1.50%	1.50%
b)	Unpaid loan instalment	5.00% Over the applicable rate	
c)	Early repayment	2.5% of prepaid loan amount	
d)	Valuation fees	As per actual charges by valuer	
e)	Others		
i)	Documentation charges	Actuals as per advocate bill	
ii)	Document Handling Charges	0.30% of loan amount	
iii)	Inspection Charges	Tshs 30,000 per visit	
iv)	Modification charges	0.25% on the sanctioned limit	
8.0	Guarantee (Performance/Financial)		
	Guarantee Commission	1.35% per quarter or part there of minimum for one quarter	
	Guarantee against 100% cash margin	50% concession on the above rate	
9.0	Imports		
	LC opening charges	1.35% per quarter +SWIFT charges USD 30	
	LC against 100% cash margin	50% concession on the above rate	
	LC amendment charges	Per amendment 0.40% of LC mount (minimum USD 60) and maximum USD 325) +SWIFT charges USD 30 (same for LC against 100% cash margin)	
	Acceptance of bills under LC	0.60% of Bill amount minimum USD 30 maximum USD 180	
	Retirement of Bills under LC	0.60% of Bill amount minimum USD 30 maximum USD 360	
	Inward Bills for collection	0.30% of Bill amount minimum USD 150	
10.0	Exports		
	Negotiation of Bills under LC	0.60% of Bill amount minimum USD 30 maximum USD 360	
	Confirmation of Export LC	0.90% per quarter +SWIFT charges USD 30	
	LC advising charges	USD 150	
	Export Bills for collection	0.60% of Bill amount minimum USD 30 maximum USD 360	

No Penalties & Other sanctions have been imposed by Bank of Tanzania (BOT) during the Period covered by the Disclosure

We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.

Name	Designation	Signature	Date
1. Antaryami Sarangi	Managing Director	Signed	05.01.2022
2. Heriabdell Ayoh	General Manager	Signed	05.01.2022
3. Allen Richard	Internal Auditor	Signed	05.01.2022

OTHER DISCLOSURES (VIAMBATANISHI NYINGINEZO)

No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	USD	TSHS
1.0	Base or Prime Lending rate	7.00% p.a.	14.00% p.a.
2.0	Maximum Spread above Base or Prime Lending rate	7.00%	7.00%
3.0	Penal Interest		
a)	For Non Compliance of Terms of sanction	3% p.a. over Regular Rate of Interest	
b)	For Overdrawing/ Excess Drawings due to non-payment of interest/ Instalments/ Charges	5% p.a. over Regular Rate of Interest	
4.0	Deposit Rate		
i)	Current Deposit	Nil	Nil
ii)	Savings Bank Deposit	0.50% p.a.	2.50% p.a.
iii)	Fixed/Recurring/CI/C/M/C deposit	Up to USD 10,000	Up to TZS 10,000,000
	6 months	2.00%	6.75%
	Over 6 months	2.50%	6.75%
	6 months	2.50%	Over USD 10,000 Over TZS 10,000,000
	Over 6 months	3.00%	6.25%
	* No interest is payable in case of premature withdrawal of fixed deposits		7.25%

We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.

No.	Name	Designation	Signature	Date
1.	Antaryami Sarangi	Managing Director	Signed	05.01.2022
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3.	Allen Richard	Internal Auditor	Signed	05.01.2022

Cabinet shifts mean greater cohesion in a vast dynamic

DIFFERENT layers of society are counting gains and losses following a wide ranging revamping of higher levels of the government, with a view to uplifting cohesion, after ten months of the sixth phase government. President Samia Suluhu Hassan explained this in a speech where she received detailed reports of progress in education, health and infrastructure since COVID-19 response funds were disbursed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) back in September, where she had directed that projects be completed within nine months. A hiccup of ideological sentiments surfaced, compelling a restructuring.

As the matter itself was marginal in character, that piling up of debt will likely pose problems in future, the changes are related to wider screening of sentiments on the sixth phase, where malaise on leadership is symptomatic of wishing for a different direction. It doesn't all the same imply that those who aren't satisfied with the direction agree on an alternative, but usually it has to do with wishing for good old days where a systematic mistake was not being corrected, and people joyed in it.

During the early part of the fifth phase there was a campaign to 'clean out boils' of entrenched graft in high places, causing malaise.

Typical of governance methods in the Tanzania from the early days to the present, cabinet changes are a routine matter when motivation slackens in high levels of government, when there is too

much debating on this or that issue. Some critics have asserted almost in one voice that we need a new constitution so that there is freedom of expression at high levels, and an opposition leader even suggested that conflicting pillars of state is a healthy situation. It is a misconception of democracy as it is in the wider environment where freedom of expression ought to be ensured - and the president said they go and prepare for battle.

So this isn't an illustration of why Tanzania needs a new constitution but why the present constitution fits our circumstances, that development can't be moved rapidly if the president has to feel obliged to consult top layers of government to approve key policies.

The political mandate here is less that of a political party than of a leader, so when the party strains its brains to find a candidate and running mate, they will be satisfied with their character, probity and vision, in which case they ought to show the loyalty the leader needs so as to work unfettered. If someone has a different view he or she may belong to the party, not to top leadership.

What happened in the change from the fifth to the sixth phase was a clear shift of vision from a militant sort of approach to economic policy and participation, to an altered view where the militancy was kept in relation to probity in government expenditure. When it comes to revenue collection and investment, an open door policy was initiated, narrowing down options of the bureaucracy.

Human trafficking lower, localised dislocation rises

A NUMBER of countries are on January 11 marking the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, where in the United States it is an observance started in 2011 by the presidential proclamation of national slavery and human trafficking prevention month. What this means is that the government of the United States would use most of January to raise issues with foreign governments and within the country on the issue, and setting out a long period underlines that it is activism that is envisaged, not just a few talk shows on the subject. It is a subject where Africa has suffered intensely, though in differing proportions.

What is underlined by a month of activism is really the prevention of criminal trafficking of peoples, often by the lure of jobs while those making such promises have other ideas, and once the targeted individuals arrive or set off on those journeys, their options are sharply diminished.

They are then captive to all sorts of thugs, those promising quick passage on borders for instance on the US-Mexican border or safe landing on unguarded spots along the Mediterranean coast in southern Europe. The ruses are many but the results are appalling and familiar, with thousands drowning each year in those perilous voyages.

Obviously President Barack Obama had plenty of reason in issuing a presidential proclamation, as the United States has an interminable agenda about the legacy of slavery, itself the epic of human trafficking that world history can show. Slavery is an under-explored theme in African

society and politics at the moment, but it explains the continent's civil wars, as they arise out of a wish to reduce others to slaves so as to take control of natural resources, or government coffers. What are known as rebellions are often just efforts to create safe havens to dig up minerals for lucrative markets, pay little wages; definitely no taxes.

Fighting human trafficking can be a paradox in humanitarian terms, where entering the United States is a paramount goal of thousands of individuals and the dream of millions in central and southern America, while facilitating it is human trafficking.

African non-governmental organisations and even the African Union are somewhat mute on this issue, directing their scarce remarks to freedom of movement and a choice of where to live, as if there are bilateral pacts with Europe and America on migration. Aware of the perils of trying to reach Europe, many in environment-hit countries in eastern Africa simply shift to neighbouring countries, or try South Africa but it is increasingly inhospitable; resettling nearby is better.

As Tanzania is still trying to sort out issues with Burundi and DRC, and less Rwanda, on the return of refugees, and it also has a citizenship programme for long term refugees, some recent ideas are usable. It is one of obtaining funds from refugee assistance organisations and even Diaspora members to build new refugee towns, as such initiatives create jobs, business opportunities and social facilities, such that antipathy to refugees diminish. It is worth examining.

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Need for national drug control master plan?

By Chuks Akamadu

IN recent times, the media - both conventional and new - had been awash with tales and grisly videos of young men hooked on Mkpurummiri (Crystal Methamphetamine), the ice-like synthetic street drug that has hit the South-Eastern part of Nigeria with growing rage!

Whilst other harmful substances such as Colorado and Flakka cause involuntary teeth clenching, blurred vision, increased heart rate, bizarre behaviour, paranoia, agitation and delusion of super-human strength, among others, Mkpurummiri, cheap and accessible, is an extremely potent and addictive stimulant that wrecks the central nervous system and alters one's judgment. Worse still, Mkpurummiri walks about with a yoke of death sentence which is the fact that there is currently no approved treatment for its addiction.

Apparently aware of the present and worsening danger this epidemic portended for their collective survival, communities had in separate instances risen in unison to object to and proactively roll back the emergent trend that was rapidly bringing their youths under its vice grip. The spontaneous community action which included having addicts tied to beams and trees and beaten mercilessly had received both applause and knocks - the latter for its human rights and justice dimension. There was even a reported extreme case of an addict who was burnt alive by the youth of his community for killing his father in order to take the deceased's N50,000 just to buy Mkpurummiri.

As the South-east groaned, there also was no respite for other parts

of the country. Amid all this was news of growing number of seizures, arrest, prosecution and convictions recorded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). Heightened concerns were raised by well-meaning Nigerians as regards the institutional capabilities of state actors to contain the hydra-headed drug scourge with its far-reaching health, security and socio-economic implications.

Then came the soothing balm of December 6, 2021: the official launch of the long-awaited National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) 2021-2025. The first had happened in 1999. The second was the 2008-2013 Plan whilst the third and immediate past was the 2015-2020 Plan. To be fair, the Inter-ministerial Drug Control Committee that developed the document in partnership with European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) did an exhaustive job. All the stakeholders led by the NDLEA deserve commendation, for a careful reading of the new plan clearly shows that the authors took full benefit of credible research studies, drug use surveys, gaps in previous plans and invaluable report of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Elimination of Drug Abuse (PACEDA).

Notable among the key issues adequately addressed by the 2021-2025 Plan are inclusiveness and coordination. This fourth NDCMP, we are told, "represents a continuity and advancement in the Government of Nigeria's effort towards addressing the evolving drug situation in a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary and inclusive manner". This is something to cheer about and deserves the buy-in of every well-meaning Nigerian and group.

For all practical purposes, the 2021-2025 Plan is rooted in broad-based consultations among partners and stakeholders and harmonized with the existing international and regional conventions, lessons learned and global best practices.

The central objective of the plan is to improve health and security for everyone resident in the country - a legitimate aspiration that is anchored on four key pillars namely: Drug Supply Reduction; Drug Demand Reduction; Access to Controlled Medicines for Medical and Scientific Purposes; and Governance and Coordination. With each of the relevant MDAs being alive to its well-defined, streamlined, respective responsibilities, the Supply Reduction Strategic Pillar is expected to significantly reduce production and supply of illicit drugs whilst Drug Demand Strategic Pillar is designed, chiefly, to build on the sensitization, advocacy, prevention and treatment programmes carried out in the previous NDCMP cycle, among others.

Similarly, the plan envisages that Strategic Pillar on Access to Controlled Medicines for Medical and Scientific Purposes would address the issue of lack of availability of controlled medicines for genuine patients and its severe impact on the health and wellness of Nigerians. On its part, the Governance and Coordination Pillar seeks to synchronize the efforts of relevant MDAs for effective implementation of NDCMP 2021-2025. This no doubt smells nice.

It even smells nicer when President Muhammadu Buhari in his published endorsement of the plan stated thus: "On my part, I assure you of this administration's commitment

in providing the required resources for the effective and implementation of NDCMP 2021-2025". However, where the real challenge rests is in the willingness and enthusiasm of all concerned to comply with Mr. president's crucial charge: "I strongly encourage all partners and stakeholders to wholeheartedly embrace this plan; align their interventions with the intended objectives of this document, and contribute to improved health, well-being, development and security of all Nigerians."

As the arrowhead of this drug control effort, I'm afraid the NDLEA has to accept the additional responsibility of encouraging and promoting compliance amongst stakeholders and partners for better coordination and optimal outcomes. This documentation can only be as good as its implementation. When history would have a duty to appraise the 2021-2025 plan's performance, it wouldn't bother itself with its fine letters, elegant language or well-intentioned goals; rather, it would focus strictly on the level of implementation and impact on the health and security of Nigeria and Nigerians.

Arise O' Compatriots and recognize the NDCMP 2021-2025, rightly, as our shortest route to victory over Mkpurummiri, cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine, heroin, diazepam, cough syrup, tramadol Colorado, Flakka, etc. With this "victory", our land would be secure, our youths in good health and the future guaranteed for sustainable development. Let's seize the moment. No effort should be spared.

Chuks Akamadu, M.I.O.D., President, Centre for Ethical Rebirth Among Nigerian Youths

By Saleh Bature

WHEN the Sokoto State Government broke out the news that bandits attacked, shot at a bus conveying travelers and burnt alive over 20 passengers, my heart bled for the victims. This is barbaric, pathetic, inhuman and most condemnable act of wickedness. I became angry, disoriented and prayed to Almighty God, who has power over all things to expose, destroy and punish the perpetrators of the dastardly act and have mercy on the soul of the deceased.

On that fateful day, I expected a public outcry against that despicable crime against humanity. Nigerians from all walks of life spoke in unison against the indiscriminate killings of innocent people by bandits and kidnappers and the worrying escalation of the crime wave across the country. The bandits have been emboldened, despised everyone and

Show no mercy to bandits, kidnappers

have for long crossed the line. They have the audacity to commit heinous crimes at will. They pillaged many villages in the North and enforced taxes on the people.

Bello Turji, Dogo Gide, Sani Jalongo (alias Baleri), Dan Karami and other kidnap and bandit kingpins are the de facto rulers of many villages and towns in North Western Nigeria. The Gobir Community Development Association (GCDA) wrote in a letter to the President that Sabon Birni, Goronyo and Isa LGAs in Sokoto State and Shinkafi LGA in Zamfara State are now under the firm control of Turji. The atrocity and inhumanity of kidnappers and bandits know no bounds. They are dangerous and pitiless creatures masquerading as men. They kill, maim and rape the women abductees and they take delight in the suffering of their victims.

Therefore, Nigerians were happy

with the gallantry of General Commanding Officer (GOC) of 8th Division of Nigerian Army Headquarters Sokoto, Major General Uwem Basse, who led a military operation recently that destroyed the camp of the notorious bandit leader, Bello Turji and killed several bandits who have been terrorising the people of Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger States. The successful operation against the terrorist Bello Turji, who was reported to have bragged and boasted about his ability to fight and defeat the military, is a victory not only to the military who eliminated the terrorists and burnt down their camp, or the local Yan Sa Kai who gave useful information to the soldiers, it was a victory to Nigeria and all lovers of peace.

Before the empty threats of Bello Turji, and his accomplice in crime, Baleri, a coward and soulless devil who prides himself as the kidnapper

of students in Kaduna State, the man who bragged of killing seven out of every 10 abductees in his captivity to prove to the government that he meant business, there lived in Zamfara State a deadly bandit by name Buharin Daji. It was Buharin Daji who played God and threatened to kill any farmer who attempted to cultivate the farm in Zamfara State. Buharin Daji did not live to see the next rainfall. One of his lieutenants, the equally notorious kidnapper-cum-bandit, Dogo Gide, ended his life.

The debate going on about the faith of marauding bandits and kidnappers is needless. They are neither Muslims nor Christians. Their religion is violence. Violence is their work tool and raw material. They were born and bred in the jungle. This explains the reason they apply jungle justice to their hapless and helpless victims.

Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey

Subverting African countries.....Does any one care?

GREETINGS for the new year, dear readers, and what have we got to blah blah about today, as we enter it...?

Well, let's start with something different for a change; even though we visited this issue some time ago, it's becoming more valid by the day.

...scanning the letter pages of an African newspaper, my eye was caught by the heading of"why is the government obsessed by all these numbers".....and the writer went on to say....."I have several individual document-specific numbers, all issued by the government. I have an identification card number, a National Social Security Fund number, personal identification number (for tax purposes)a driving licence among others, and not so long ago, I was asked to register all the telephone lines that I now have.Collins Apuoyo wrote via e-mail.

This appears to be from a Kenyan citizen,but there must be parallels to Tanzania.....and the rest of the world. And though this gentleman appears irritated over this 'number control', millions of people seem contentedly enslaved by their technological toys, and via them, can be under surveillance, monitored, counted and dehumanised.

.....They can also be preyed upon by government demands, and global commercial enterprises, which need their personal data etc. in order to maximise their marketing.

I don't subscribe to the digital age, never having had a smart phone, sent an e-mail, used the internet or social media in any form at all. But I do use an old typewriter a few times a week. So, when I see the almost demonic hold that these 'toys' and the services they provide have on their users, I'm happy to have opted out....with no intention of opting in!

Nowadays of course, everywhere in the so called 'developed' world, recipients of 'junk' mail to send to their phones, are no longer surprised to see that companies or organisations which send them, know the personal details, and intimate aspects of their lifestyles.

The rapid erosion of privacy if it's noticed at all, has long been accepted as normal, just like the hundreds of CCTV security cameras in public places in western towns and cities, where people are daily camera 'scanned' as they shop or go sight-seeing.

But here lies the problem, even in the so called 'developed' nations, at what point do the people say.....WE DON'T WANT THIS? Well, it's less and less apparently, and be it more security cameras to 'watch' the citizens, or a new multi motorway.....criticism can be muted.

A writer from Third World Network Features, Jeremy Seabrook, has long maintained that it has become one of the main objectives of the great



A recent G7 meeting of Leaders. As societies and economies are guided by shared values, G7 leaders are committed to beating Covid-19, and lacking the recovery, to ensure a more resilient international order. But the International order does not necessarily benefit those outside it. File Photo

media groups worldwide to alter the consciousness of the masses. To this end, they've been under sustained attack by the agents of globalism on behalf of the world's privileged ruling classes.

Mr. Seabrook says it's quite clear that the processes of development unleashed upon the world are contrary to the interests of the majority, but"It brings America into our homes", says a garment worker from Dhaka, happily.

Our scribe says that the 'cultural' products of the West have undermined traditional societies and their values. I'm very much aware of this, having watched it slowly happen over years of coming and going from Tanzania and I began to see that what was good was gradually being

diminished and eroded by inferior foreign implants (a lovely expression!).....and what Mr. Seabrook cleverly refers to as "cultural herbicides."

He also rightly describes "the agents which change the collective consciousness, and reshape it in the image of a global market, controlled by distant others."

But how many African countries come under this rather haunting sounding phrase"controlled by distant others."

.....and even more descriptive, he writes of people who've become passive onlookers and by-standers in their own lives, and if they must be evicted for the construction of dams, the building of yet another shopping mall, and subsistence farmers swept away to accommodate

a vast agro-businesses, so be it, this is a small price to pay for the culture of consumerism.

But computers have become amazingly precise at translating spoken words to text messages, and gleaning information to complex questions. That is as long as you speak English or another of the world's dominant languages. Google for instance, offended members of the Yoruba community several years ago when its language app mistranslated Esu, a benevolent trickster god as the devil.

Well, time to close today's rather odd musings by remembering Walter Rodney, who famously wrote the controversial book....."How Europe underdeveloped Africa"and via cultural imperialism, isn't this still ongoing?

The Law and You

It's time Tanzania entrenched fundamental rights, freedoms

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week I had an opportunity to go through the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990 (R.E 2010) and as I was perusing the pages, I took a glance at Chapter 3, which is about fundamental rights and freedoms. I then read Article 5, which is about the protection of those fundamental rights and freedoms.

It states: "The fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in this Chapter shall be respected and upheld by the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary and all organs of the government and its agencies and, where applicable to them, by all natural and legal persons in Namibia, and shall be enforceable by the Courts in the manner hereinafter prescribed."

After this, I became very much interested in reading it more and more. Then, I came across Article 6 which provides for the right to life and prohibits capital punishment. It states: "The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law may prescribe death



as a competent sentence. No Court or Tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No executions shall take place in Namibia."

I went to Article 11, which prohibits unjustifiable incarceration. The Article in sub-article 2 states "No persons who are arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed promptly in a language they understand of the grounds for such arrest."

Furthermore, sub-article 3 of Article 11 states "All persons who are arrested and detained in custody shall be brought before the nearest Magistrate or other judicial officer within a period

of 48 hours of their arrest or, if this is not reasonably possible, as soon as possible thereafter, and no such persons shall be detained in custody beyond such period without the authority of a Magistrate or other judicial officer."

Another Article 1 took a glance at was Article 27(3), which says "Except as may be otherwise provided in this Constitution or by law, the President shall in the exercise of his or her functions be obliged to act in consultation with the Cabinet."

As if these Articles are not enough, I also took a glance at Article 131: entrenchment of fundamental rights and

freedoms, which states "No repeal or amendment of any of the provisions of Chapter 3 hereof, in so far as such repeal or amendment diminishes or detracts from the fundamental rights and freedoms contained and defined in that Chapter, shall be permissible under this Constitution, and no such purported repeal or amendment shall be valid or have any force or effect."

After this, I thought of taking a break and start perusing the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, which I did and wished I would find similar wording on the fundamental rights and freedoms.

As I was opening to peruse it, I took a glance at Article 30(2)(f), which states: "It is hereby declared that the provisions contained in this Part of this Constitution which set out the principles of rights, freedom and duties, does not render unlawful any existing law or prohibit the enactment of any law or the doing of any lawful act in accordance with such law for the purposes of - enabling any other thing to be done which promotes, or preserves the

national interest in general."

After this, I read sub-article 3 of Article 30, which states: "Any person claiming that any provision in this Part of this Chapter or in any law concerning his right or duty owed to him has been, is being or is likely to be violated by any person anywhere in the United Republic, may institute proceedings for redress in the High Court."

Then, as I was trying to peruse more the pages I came across Article 64(5), which states: "Without prejudice to the application of the Constitution of Zanzibar in accordance with this Constitution shall have the force of law in the whole of the United Republic, and in the event any other law conflicts with the provisions contained in this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail and that other law, to the extent of the inconsistency with the Constitution, shall be void."

After that I felt very tired, so I closed the Constitution and took a break. The other week I quoted an article entitled "The Tanzanian Bill of Rights" published by Prof Florence Luoga in 1998 in which the author commenting on Article 30(2)(f) quoted above

says: "Let it be understood that conditions contained in this section of the Constitution, interpreting the rights, freedom and human responsibilities do not illegitimate in any way the established law or prevent any law from being enacted or any legal action taken in accordance with that law..."

Referring to subsection (f) Article 30, he says: "This general clawback does not give any criteria for its application. The executive can for any flimsy reason which is labeled 'interest of the nation' cause to be passed legislation to nullify or otherwise restrict the exercise of the rights." For sure, we lack good writers, who, like Prof Luoga, can write and be understood, while many others out there have in practice imitated ostrich spirituality.

From this what we can make out from our Constitution is that the basic rights and duties also contained in Chapter III as they do in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, are not entrenched. In the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, fundamental rights and freedoms entrenched - they cannot be repealed or amendable "in so far as such repeal or amendment

diminishes or detracts from the fundamental rights and freedoms contained and defined in that Chapter..."

Chapter 25(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia states that "Save in so far as it may be authorised to do so by this Constitution, Parliament or any subordinate legislative authority shall not make any law, and the Executive and the agencies of Government shall not take any action which abolishes or abridges the fundamental rights and freedoms conferred by this Chapter, and any law or action in contravention thereof shall to the extent of the contravention be invalid..."

However, according to the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia the legislature may enhance, and not repeal or amend, the fundamental rights and freedoms. This Constitution has a lot to inform us and if we are true to ourselves we can be persuaded by it or if we don't let us go to hell. Today's proverb: "Custom is the plague of the wise men and the idol of fools."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gamil.com

Population ageing: An inescapable future

By Joseph Chamie

THE ageing of human populations is an inescapable demographic future. That evolving and universal future is increasingly challenging governments and the public, who are by and large ill prepared for that certain future.

Whereas the 20th century was one of record setting rapid population growth with world population nearly quadrupling, the 21st century is one of unprecedented population ageing with its economic, social and political consequences reverberating across countries worldwide.

Whereas the 20th century was one of record setting rapid population growth with world population nearly quadrupling, the 21st century is one of unprecedented population ageing with its economic, social and political consequences reverberating across countries worldwide.

In addition to influencing the existing world order, population ageing is affecting fundamental aspects of human societies. Among those aspects are economic activities, investments, taxes, budgets, labor forces, politics, defense, education, housing, household structures, transportation, recreation, retirement, pensions, disabilities and healthcare.

Population ageing, which is taking place at a much faster pace than in the past, is basically the result of lower birth rates and increased longevity. While in the 1960s the world's total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth were 5 births per woman and 50 years, current levels are 2.4 births per woman and 73 years for average life expectancy at birth.

Due to the fundamental changes in the levels of fertility and mortality, the age structure of the world's population has aged significantly. In the 1960s, for example, the median age of world population was 22 years and the proportion aged 65 years and older was 5 percent; today the median age has increased to 32 years and the elderly are 10 percent of world population.

In addition, the proportion of the elderly aged 80 years and older has tripled since 1960, increasing from about 0.6 to 2 percent and is expected to double to 4 percent by 2050. Increased longevity has also resulted in significantly more centenarians. The number of centenarians is expected to more than quintuple over the coming thirty years, growing from approximately 600 thousand today to 3.2 million by mid-century.

Worldwide the current number of persons aged 65 years and older worldwide is approximately 750 million. That number is expected to more than double over the next three decades, reaching 1.5 billion older persons by 2050. As a result, the world's proportion of older persons is projected to increase from 10 to 16 percent, or about one of every six people in the world will be in the age group 65 years and older.



At the national level, nearly all the G20 countries, which together account for more than 80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of global trade and 60 percent of world population, are expected to have no less than one-quarter of their populations aged 65 years and older by 2100. And eight of those countries, including Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the Republic of Korea, are expected to have one-third or more of their population aged 65 years and older by the close of the century (Figure 1).

Due to the increasing elderly retired population coupled with the relative decline of workers paying taxes and contributing to pension retirement systems, many countries are confronting difficult choices. Governments are being challenged by budgetary allocations, taxation levels, retirement benefits and provision of social and health services, especially for the growing numbers of those aged 65 years and older.

Aiming to avoid controversial budgetary reforms and unpopular tax increases, some governments are reducing expenditures and entitlements for the elderly and shifting more of the costs for support, care giving and health services to the individual and their families. In many instances, however, most households are unable or reluctant to take on the time-consuming responsibilities and considerable costs involved in caring for elderly family members.

The proportion of older persons who live alone has grown steadily over the recent past. Also, those 65 years and older are in the age group that is most likely to live alone. The average proportion of older persons living alone among OECD countries is about 33 percent, with highs of more than 40 percent among some countries, such as Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden (Figure 2).

Like the influenza pandemic in the early part of the 20th century, the current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in declines in life expectancy and significant increases in the

numbers of deaths, especially among the elderly and those with health problems.

Although it is difficult to say precisely when the current pandemic will end, international population projections generally expect mortality levels to continue their declines in the coming years resulting in higher life expectancies during the 21st century.

The ageing of populations, especially among the militarily powerful nations, may possibly contribute to efforts to secure world peace. As governments face growing numbers and proportions of their citizens aged

65 years and older, the needs, concerns and perspectives of the elderly men and women may lead to reductions in military expenditures and increased spending on benefits, assistance and care for those in old age.

Given the population ageing of nations, governments need to adopt policies and establish programs to address the growing consequences of population ageing. In doing so, it is important to note that immigration is not a solution to population ageing.

Immigration can certainly increase the size of labor force and significant proportions of

the labor forces in many countries are immigrants. However, immigration is not a solution to population ageing because the immigrants also age over time and eventually add their numbers to the retired elderly population.

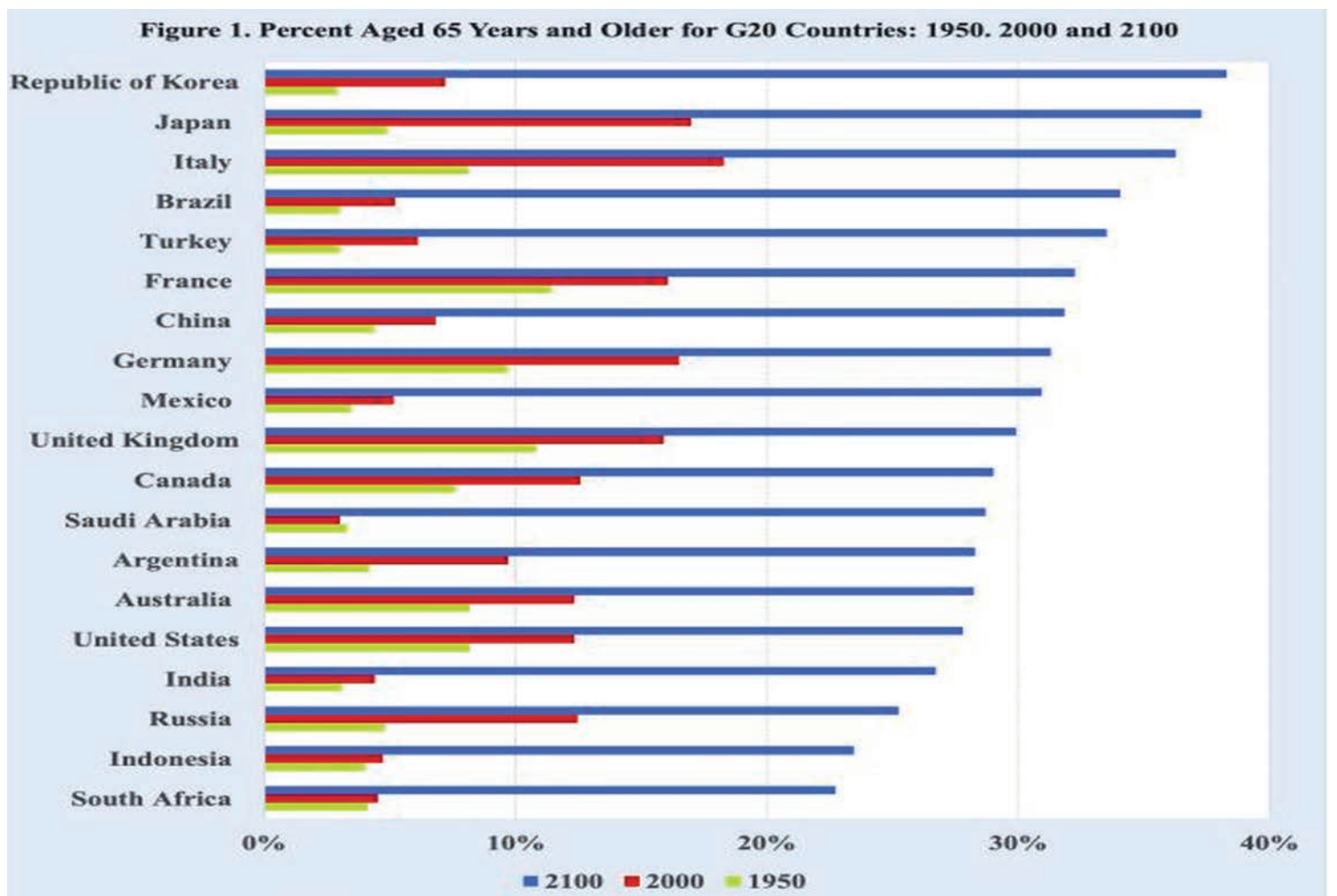
In contrast, raising the retirement age for government benefits is an effective policy to address population ageing. Raising the retirement age to 70 years would increase the size of the labor force. At the same time, a higher retirement age would also reduce the number of recipients receiving government pension benefits.

The use of robots, artificial intelligence and advanced technology to assist and provide services, information and companionship to the growing numbers of older persons should also be expanded. Such an expansion would that reduce labor demands and costs of providing such care and assistance. Also, it would be more efficient and effective in addressing common health conditions of people in old age.

Public programs are also needed to educate and provide information to people about the need for life-long learning and preparing for retirement, especially developing a savings plan to meet their needs in old age. Such programs should also promote healthy ageing and encourage older persons to keep active and physically fit and remain socially engaged with others.

In sum, governments and the public need to recognize, understand and respond to the ageing of human populations in the 21st century, which is the inescapable demographic future of nations worldwide.

Joseph Chamie is a consulting demographer, a former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, including his recent book, "Births, Deaths, Migrations and Other Important Population Matters."



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

Africa's first floating gas plant arrives in Mozambique

By Lisa Steyn

AFTER a seven-week voyage, Africa's first-ever deep-sea floating Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility has entered Mozambican waters, marking a major milestone ahead of imminent production from an off-shore gas field.

The floating plant - known as the Coral Sul FLNG - arrived in Area 4 of the Rovuma Basin this week, Mozambique's National Petroleum Institute announced.

The plant is critical to the \$7 billion (about R110 billion) Coral South project, which is operated by Italian oil and gas company Eni. It will produce and sell gas extracted from the southern part of the field.

The 220 000 ton vessel, the main component of which was constructed by Samsung Heavy Industries in South Korea, is the first FLNG built for deep waters and the first specifically built for Africa. Some 432 meters long and 66 meters wide, the plant has the capacity to liquefy 3.4 million tons of natural gas per year.

It will be linked to six subsea gas producing wells, with its LNG earmarked to be sold exclusively to BP under a 20-year offtake agreement signed in



The Coral Sul Floating LNG plant leaves South Korea for Mozambique

2016.

Eni's partners in Area 4 are ExxonMobil, the China National Petroleum Corporation, Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, Galp Energia, and the Korea Gas Corporation.

Gearing up for production

The Coral Sul FLNG embarked on its voyage from South Korea on 15 November and entered Mozambican waters on 3 January.

According to the National Petroleum Institute, the vessel's arrival is "a milestone in the project's implementation".

Since arriving in Mozambican waters, a complex process of anchoring, surveys, inspections and certifications had begun with a view to issuing the vessel with an operating license so that production can start as planned in the second half of the year.

According to Eni's website, the instal-

lation campaign includes mooring and hook-up operations at a water depth of around 2000 meters by means of 20 mooring lines that weigh 9000 tons in total.

The Coral South project will see Eni providing specialist training for more than 800 Mozambican workers, who will be employed in the project's operational phase. The company said it has committed to a "huge programme

of work" for local communities to improve their access to basic services such as education, clean water and health care, while supporting long-term, diversified, sustainable socio-economic growth.

Coral South is one of a number of energy projects located in the Rovuma basin.

Also under construction is TotalEnergies' substantially larger \$20 billion Mozambique LNG project. Work is yet to resume after the site was evacuated in March last year as a result of nearby Islamic State terrorist attacks.

Still awaiting a final investment decision is ExxonMobil's \$30 billion Rovuma LNG project, which was delayed in 2020 in light of an oil price collapse amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is great news for Mozambique and the region that Coral FLNG is now in Mozambique, ahead of commissioning," said Paul Eardley-Taylor, Standard Bank's head of oil and gas for Southern Africa.

"3.4 million tons per annum of LNG can support 4 GW of base load cleaner gas to power and demonstrates that Mozambique's LNG developments continue, despite the pandemic and other challenges," he said.

Across the border in South Africa, the government has long paid lip service to developing a gas

economy, but the pace has been frustratingly slow for many industry proponents. Climate concerns have made it more difficult than ever for oil and gas companies to pursue new projects - as shown by fierce opposition to Shell's plans to conduct seismic surveys off SA's Wild Coast.

The arrival of the Coral Sul FLNG is yet another reminder of where South Africa could have been, if it had sprang into action sooner to develop a local gas economy said Niall Kramer, an independent energy consultant.

Kramer said gas will undoubtedly be part of the energy mix in the transition away from fossil fuels and toward renewables - as is outlined in the Integrated Resource Plan 2019, the national electricity infrastructure roadmap.

South Africa needs to develop an environment that's attractive to investors in gas, the likes of who are investing in neighbours like Namibia and Mozambique despite the political and security challenges, said Kramer.

While he recognises there has been some progress - most recently was the release of a draft gas master plan - Kramer said South Africa's gas and renewables policy and execution suffers from "sheer ineptitude" and a "lack of vision" on the transition path toward renewables.



A farmer doing organic farming

Agri scientist explains wisdom of having use of chemicals as last resort in farming

By Abha Toppo

THERE was a time when experts and scientists insisted on the use of chemicals to meet the food requirements of the growing population in India. But, now they are advising farmers to use fewer chemicals.

Agricultural scientists are saying that chemicals should be the last option for farmers as too much of chemicals make the crop toxic, which can further lead to diseases like cancer.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Samastipur, Associate Director Research Dr. SK Singh told the media that or-

ganic compost and green manure should be used in farming. This reduces the cost of cultivation and increases income. Moreover, organic manure can be easily prepared at home.

He also said that emphasis must be given on techniques like crop rotation and multi-cropping.

Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) is basically a type of farming that promotes chemical-free agricultural practices. In zero-budget natural farming, indigenous cow dung and cow urine etc. are used for crop growth.

This type of farming is encouraged to promote organic pest control, mixed cropping etc.

"Take a pledge to create soil health cards, adopt integrated and organic farming methods to double farmers' income by 2022,"...

This allows the use of natural substances while restricting or strictly limiting synthetic substances. For example, natural insecticides such as pyrethrin, and rotenone can be used. Meanwhile, synthetic substances that are allowed include copper sulfate, elemental sulfur, and vermiculite.

To popularize organic farming, it is necessary that farmers rear more animals and compost/ manure should be made from kitch-

en waste or cow dung.

Green manure should be prepared at the right time and the use of chemicals should be avoided for the management of diseases and pests.

Emphasis should be laid on the management of diseases and pests through biological ways.

Clean farming should be promoted.

Dr Singh, at last, said that farmers will definitely get good and improved income if they adopt organic farming or natural farming. For this, they can approach their nearby Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) or agriculture department office.

Scholars from Afghanistan find Rwanda second home

By Richard Stone

ONE night in September 2021, Fatema Samim's fate hung in the balance. A civil engineer from Herat, in western Afghanistan, she had been on the run from the Taliban for a month and was holed up with her husband and two young sons in Mazar-i-Sharif. Charter flights were whisking Afghans with U.S. ties to safety, but the Taliban had begun to crack down on this escape route, and that evening, its fighters fanned out to the city's guest houses to detain people attempting to flee.

"That night was very bad for us," says Samim, a former dean at Herat University who led a rainwater harvesting project run by the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). But after NASEM staffers evacuated the family to Kabul—a perilous 12-hour drive past several Taliban checkpoints—their odyssey ended in an unexpected haven: Rwanda. They flew via Pakistan to Kigali, the capital, where Samim and four other Afghan engineers and hydrologists with NASEM links are now assistant professors at the University of Rwanda.

Rwanda's own dark past—a genocide in 1994 claimed more than 1 million lives and displaced 2 million—forged a bond. "What the Afghan scholars were experiencing struck a familiar chord," says chemist Valentine Uwamariya, Rwanda's minister of education. "We welcomed them warmly."

The U.S. Department of State had largely fumbled the evacuation of scholars and civil society actors after Kabul fell to the Taliban on 15 August 2021. Individual institutions scrambled to fill that void. Michigan State University, for instance, in late August managed to secure safe passage for 23 Afghan agricultural scientists and their families to Albania, where they are waiting for U.S. visas. Others who have managed to reach U.S. soil are stuck on military bases as their visas are processed.

NASEM sought a refuge for scholars funded through a competitive grants program for the U.S. Agency for International Development; they were likely to be in particular danger because of their U.S. ties. "We were looking for someplace they wouldn't have to go through all the hurdles that it takes to get resettled in the U.S.," says National Academy of Sciences President Marcia McNutt. Rwanda leapt to mind: The country has long strived to raise its science game and, McNutt surmised, would sympathize with the Afghans. On 17 August, she wrote to Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who was eager to help. "We understood their plight," says Rwanda's U.S. ambassador, Mathilde Mukantabana, a former history professor. "Our country always opens our door to refugees."

"Never in my life did I imagine I'd end up in Rwanda," says Naeem Salarzai, a former director general for water manage-



ment affairs in the Afghan government who led a 200-strong team that allocated the country's scarce water and managed transboundary agreements, including a fractious water treaty with Iran. When Kabul fell, Salarzai worried that Taliban sympathizers in Iran, miffed by Afghanistan's assertive posture on water rights, might have shared his name with the Taliban. His participation in a NASEM workshop increased his jeopardy. "I was quite scared," he says.

Salarzai and his family moved from house to house in Kabul to evade Taliban pursuers. Three times in the latter half of August, NASEM directed them to head to the airport. The third time they almost reached the airport gate before giving up, fearing their two children might be crushed in the desperate crowd. Hours later, a suicide bomber killed scores of Afghan civilians and U.S. soldiers near the same gate. "It felt so horrible," he says.

Two weeks later, feigning a need for medical treatment in Pakistan, the family escaped to Islamabad and on to Kigali. "We found a place that is very green and very clean," Salarzai says. "Right from the first day we started loving it."

NASEM negotiated a 1-year contract for Salarzai and Samim and their three colleagues with the University of Rwanda. They are helping devise a curriculum for a new master's degree, supervising students, and reading theses, and will start to teach in February. Uwamariya hopes the Afghans will also use their "wealth of talent and experience" to advise a new government Water Resources Board. The five families—19 people altogether—cook together and go on weekend jaunts.

Still, the United States beckons. "Kigali is a good place, for a short time," says Samim, who intends to travel on once U.S. visas come through. Her younger sister is already in law school at the University of Notre Dame and working on visas for other family members now in Tajikistan and Iran. Salarzai hopes to join a brother whose family is living in California.

"I play out in my mind the long game here," McNutt says. "Will these scholars return to Afghanistan one day? That's what I hope against hope will happen." So does Salarzai: "I'm looking forward to the time when Afghanistan has the right kind of leaders and I can work for my own country again."



Nigeria's Finance, Budget and National Planning minister, Zainab Ahmed.

BIG TECH

Nigeria to charge non-resident digital firms 6 pct tax on revenues

ABUJA

The Nigerian government has announced that non-resident companies providing digital services in the country will pay 6% tax on revenues earned and this is contained in the Finance Act signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on December 31, 2021.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed, made this announcement during a public presentation and breakdown of the 2022 budget early this week. This new policy is contained in Section 30 of the Finance Act which amended the provisions of Section 10, 31 and 14 on VAT obligations for non-resident digital companies. The Finance Act also empowers the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to assess and charge on the turnover of the digital companies transmitting or operating in the country.

According to Ahmed, "Section 30 of the Finance Act designed to amend section 10, 31 and 14 of VAT is in relations to VAT obligations for non-resident digital companies and the mechanism that will be used is to restrict VAT obligations mainly to digital non-resident companies who supply individuals in Nigeria who can't themselves self-account for VAT.

"So if you visit Amazon, we are expecting Amazon to add VAT charge to whatever transaction you are paying for. I am using Amazon as an example. We are going to be working with Ama-

zon to be registered as a tax agent for the FIRS.

"So Amazon will now collect this payment and remit to FIRS and this is in line with global best practices, we have been missing out on this stream of revenue. According to her, the new law applies to foreign companies that provide digital services such as apps, high-frequency trading, electronic data storage, online and advertising, among others.

She said the Finance Act also considers reducing tax compliance orders on non-resident taxpayers who are not required to register for VAT in Nigeria. "So they don't really have to come and be registered companies in Nigeria. "All they need is that arrangement with FIRS where they collect VAT on behalf of FIRS and remit to FIRS.

"And also, to clarify, that FIRS may appoint persons including non-resident companies for the purpose of VAT collection and to clarify again that appointed persons may collect and remit taxes to FIRS, pursuant to the relevant tax laws.

"The core rationale for this is to modernise the taxation of ICT and digital economy in line with the National Development Plan 2021-2025, to enhance administrative modalities for the taxation of non-resident taxpayers and also to reduce non-compliance by non-resident payers to reduce the compliance burden."

TECH SAVVY

Treasury registrar stresses use of digital platform by public entities and agencies



Treasury registrar, Mgonya Benedicto addresses as well as accountants, planning and ICT managers of public enterprises and institution in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of TR's Office.

By Guardian Reporter

PUBLIC enterprises, agencies, institutions and companies have been urged to make regular use of Office of Treasury Registrar Management Information System (OTRMS) to simplify verification and analysis of their financial reports.

Treasury Registrar, Mgonya Benedicto said in Dar es Salaam last week when opening of working meeting of accountants, planning officers and ICT managers from all the 237 state enterprises that feeding financial report into the OTRMS on a quarterly basis will make it easier for his office to analyses such reports.

Benedicto said in addition to improving efficiency, the online system also reduces costs because it does not make use of papers and related materials when presenting the reports. "Use of the online system will also help public enterprises get feedback from the Treasury Registrar's Office on real time hence speed up operations," he noted.

He pointed out that his office has a mandate to ensure that state investments made in such enterprises and institutions is yields profits and benefits all Tanzanians because the money belongs to taxpayers.

The Treasury Registrar further noted that use of the OTRMS not

only reduces costs in preparing financial reports because the budget to buy paper, ink and related materials while also conserving the environment.

"This system enables quick and timely approval of reports which we received from public enterprises and institutions," the TR noted while revealing that apart from quarterly financial reports, managements are also supposed to present operations, management and board reports also on a quarterly basis.

"It is important that we understand that this system belongs to everyone of us because it simplifies the way that we run public enterprises and institutions but also

proper supervision by the Treasury Registrar's Office," he added.

He also urged the senior public enterprise officials to learn and understand how to make use of the budget reallocation system using a PLANREP online system because it allows them to do so and report accordingly for approval.

"At the end of this working meeting, I also expect you to know and understand how to make use of FARS and will also teach you peers so that everyone should understand it," Benedicto noted while ordering all public entities to file their audited reports for 2020/21 fiscal year by March 30 this year.

PROTECTIONISM

KFC declines to share potato standards with local farmers

NAIROBI

American fast food retail giant Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has said it cannot share the quality standards that Kenyans wishing to supply it with potatoes must meet due to proprietary restrictions. In the latest blow for farmers who were lining up to bid for the lucrative deal, the food chain in a response to the Business Daily said it does not disclose such information.

"We do not disclose proprietary information around sourcing and pricing," the firm said in response to Business Daily questions on the required standards for farmers wishing to take up the supply challenge.

KFC this week relaxed its earlier stand on using only imported potatoes for chips, saying Kenyan farmers can supply so long as they meet their global quality and safety specifications. It relaxed its position after furore that lasted more than 24 hours on various social media platforms.

But the firm declined to disclose those standards in a move set to lock out hundreds of potato farmers interested in the supplies contract. The firm added that in as much as their frozen chips are currently imported into Kenya, they have been on a journey to identifying a local supplier that has the processing, tracking and cold chain management capability to supply it with chips.

It maintained that it has been working closely with local suppliers and farmers across its supply chain with a view to supporting the growth and sustainability of the local economy



National Potato Council of Kenya CEO, Wachira Kaguongo.

in the countries they operate in.

"We remain committed to championing locally sourced KFC ingredients and supporting local business," said KFC. The firm is facing a shortage of potatoes at its outlets in Kenya fol-

lowing delays in delivery from its overseas suppliers, forcing it to offer customers alternative food items in place of French fries.

KFC customers are currently offered swap options with items such as chicken, buns, soda, coleslaw and ugali for combo meals due to lack of chips. It is also not clear why it has taken the company more than 10 years to vet local farmers or support the value chain to meet its standards like the case with other multinationals.

This comes at a time potato has become the second most important food crop after maize, grown by more than 800,000 small-scale farmers and generating employment for an estimated 2.5 million people along the value chain. It is estimated to contribute more than Sh50 billion to the Kenyan economy. The International Potato Center (CIP) argues that improved potato production has the potential to significantly boost farm incomes.

China is the world's largest producer, harvesting more than 73 million tonnes of the commodity a year. National Potato Council of Kenya CEO Wachira Kaguongo says that KFC should introduce the varieties they want in Kenya so that farmers can buy them and grow for onward supply.

The firm, he said, can as well find out the variety here that they can use and support farmers to meet the standards they want. "We are happy that KFC has rescinded their earlier stand on local supply of potatoes into their Kenyan outlets. We have been lobbying to supply them with potatoes. We don't mind meeting their standards," said Mr Kaguongo.

CENSURE

Fishermen denounce smuggling of kapenta

MAPUTO

Fishermen who catch the small fish known as "kapenta" (the local name for the Lake Tanganyika sardine), in Cahora Bassa lake, in the central Mozambican province of Tete, have denounced the smuggling of the catch to neighbouring countries, according to a report in

Wednesday's issue of the Maputo daily "Noticias."

Besides the smuggling, there are reports of excessive use of harmful fishing gear which threatens kapenta with extinction. The high demand for the small fish has led to an increase of fishermen and buyers from countries such as Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the

Democratic Republic of Congo at the dam.

In the dead of night, resorting to small wooden vessels, the smugglers paddle along the Zambezi from Zumbu district, where the river enters Mozambique, until they reach the lake, where they then start their unlawful activities.

Zumbu district Administrator,

Lucas Muidingui, said the smuggling of kapenta has a harmful impact on the local economy, but the district has no capacity to halt the movement of smugglers, especially because they chose to move at night.

The head of the Fisheries Department in Tete, Piedade Malizane, confirmed the smuggling and

added that it also includes dried tilapia, locally known as "chicoa", which is very much sought after by businessmen from the involved countries.

"The smuggling of kapenta and tilapia is not only harmful to the economy of the province but also of the country in general. There is no human and material capacity

to ensure a full inspection of the product, especially in Zumbu and Maravia districts, which lead to Zimbabwe and Zambia," Piedade said. Between January and October 2021, Tete exported legally 124,000 tonnes of kapenta to South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and DR Congo which generated almost 257,000 US dollars in revenue.

COMMITMENT

NMB Bank Plc: We'll continue investing in education sector

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc will continue backing government efforts to improve the country's education sector by investing more in public schools this year.

Speaking at an education forum held in Tanga last week, NMB Northern Zone Sales Manager, Innocent Mwanga said supporting the education system remains a priority of the country's largest bank.

Mwanga said on the sidelines of a Regional Education Symposium for stakeholders in Tanga region that supporting the education sector is obligatory because it is a crucial in the development of the country.

"Quality education is crucial in creating a learned society and skilled human capital, both of which are important for national development. It is for that reason that the bank agreed to sponsor this symposium," Mwanga said.

The conference was organised by the SAUTI ya Tanga WhatsApp Group to explore challenges facing the education sector in the region including standard, quality and how to improve performance of students in national exams.

Seconding Mwanga's observation, NMB's Madaraka Branch Manager, Elizabeth Chawinga said the bank will continue to sponsor the symposium which will be held annually as a gesture of its commitment to support development of the education sector in the country.

"Financing education is a major aspect of NMB's corporate citizenship activities and social investments," Chawinga said noting that the sector accounts for a considerable chunk of the bank's corporate social responsibility budget each year.

The bank said at the launching of the NMB Foundation and inauguration of the NMB Nuru Yangu Scholarship and Mentorship Program



NMB Bank Plc's Madaraka branch manager, Elizabeth Chawinga (L), welcomes the bank's customer relationship officer, Godfrey Methew, to address stakeholders at an education symposium last week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

last September that it spends over 1bn/- annually in improving social services which includes health and education.

NMB's CSR investments in the last 10 years have benefitted nearly 1,400 schools across Tanzania through in-kind support that has included donations of over 83,000 desks and 1,200 computers.

"Our overall goal with the education pillar is to help children realize their dreams

by creating a conducive learning environment for them to study and grow," reads part of NMB 2020 annual report.

Officiating at the symposium, Tanga Regional Commissioner, Adam Malima commended NMB for its commitment and support in the education sector saying other corporate entities should borrow a leaf.

"We should not only focus on students and pupils passing their national examina-

tions but also their ability to gain knowledge and contribute towards national development," Malima said while urging the stakeholders to ensure that quality of education in the region is improved.

Chairperson of SAUTI, Mwantumu Mahiza backed RC Malima by saying that her group organised the symposium to help improve the quality of education in Tanga region.

INCENTIVE

Mega-deal investments prop up Africa's Fintech space

CAIRO

Market research shows that Africa's Fintech space has experienced tremendous growth over the last year, due to an increase in mega-deal investments. According to the Briter Bridges Africa Investment Report 2021, the volume of deals doubled compared to the previous year, signalling a bounce back from the 2020 pandemic year.

"Approaching US\$5-billion in know funding in 2021, especially after nearly 24 months since the COVID-19 pandemic began, is a clear sign that Africa is undergoing tangible changes, and the increasing presence of local exits and returns is shaping the continent's attractiveness," said Dario Giuliani, a director at Briter Bridges.

In the 480 deals announced in the year, 62% of funding announcements came from Fintech, which means the growth of digital payments, micro banking and money transfers have been buoyed by the pandemic.

An excerpt from the report reads: "Financial technology companies continue to capture the largest share of funding on the continent, capturing almost two-thirds of funding into the technology companies operating across Africa." According to AfriDigest analysis, last year saw 11 companies record deals of over US\$100-million, with nine being purely in the Fintech space.

Opay was leading with the highest deal of 2021, with US\$400-million raised at a US\$2-billion valuation. Others were Wave and Andela with US\$200-million funding, respectively. Other sectors with notable investments following Fintech were in health and biotech, logistics and clean energy which recorded

Chari.ma's founder and CEO, Ismael Belkhatat is seeing the double growth of funding in Africa could signal greater opportunities in the future. The Moroccan supply chain company also raised US\$5-million in 2021 and is bullish about 2022. "If the % increase in 2022 is as high as the one of 2021, the total amount of capital raised by African Startups in 2022 may hit USD 10Bn," Belkhatat stated.



In the 480 deals announced in the year, 62% of funding announcements came from Fintech, which means the growth of digital payments, micro banking and money transfers have been buoyed by the pandemic.

RELIEF

Fall in fuel prices in Iringa attracting more customers

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

A slight reduction in pump prices announced by Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority recently has led to an increase in the number of customers purchasing the products.

Prices for diesel and petrol in Iringa Municipality have fallen by between 9-67/- per litre while kerosene rose by 100/-.

In a random survey by The Guardian last week, petrol and diesel prices had dropped with Hope Service Station's Marketing Manager, Kassim Nyalusi said the drop in petrol and diesel prices has led to an increase in the number of customers. Nyalusi said the fall in prices has seen many farmers buying diesel to fuel tractors and other equipments as the growing season begins has started.

"Farmers are buying in bulks because they want to benefit from the price reduction," Nyalusi said adding that some of the fuel is



A sign board showing pump prices for petroleum products at Muniu Service Station in Iringa municipality last week.

kept in stock for use in future when prices increase. One of the clients found at Hope Service Station, David Mduma who is a 'Bodaboda' taxi-operator, expressed joy that decline in fuel is helping them reduce fares charged on riders.

"This allows people to save hence improve their standard of living," Mduma said while commending Ewura for the move. He said an increase in fuel prices, the cost of living escalates which burdens the majority low income bracket people.

Mduma's observation was backed by 'Daladala' driver in the municipality, Hamisi Mwenda who said lowering pump prices for petroleum products benefits the majority poor people. Mwenda whose commuter bus plies between Iringa Urban and Mangawa, said he is happy with the decision as it means value for money. "Let's hope that this price reduction will last longer to keep fares stagnant," he suggested.

INNOVATION

UN-WFP, Impact Hub Kigali, USAID launch programme to support food system in Rwanda

KIGALI

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and Impact Hub Kigali (IHK), with the support of USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA) and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are launching the Ignite Food Systems Challenge in Rwanda

to foster locally-driven solutions to tackle food systems challenges.

The initiative will offer technical support and a total of US\$300,000 in financial support. The Ignite Food Systems Challenge is a first-of-its-kind initiative to support Rwandan start-ups, small and medium

enterprises (SMEs) and cooperatives to scale up their solutions, contributing to the economy while addressing different gaps in the food system. The call for applications opened on Wednesday, 5 January 2022 and will close on Friday, 4 February 2022. The programme seeks

innovative solutions that contribute to food security in areas such as resilience to shocks and stress, access to safe and nutritious food, improved food supply chains, the empowerment of smallholder farmers and the advancement of food security for all.

Selected ventures will have the opportunity to receive grant funding of up to US\$50,000 as well as six months acceleration support, including connections to experts, mentors and partners, and other tailored support to address business gaps.

The Ignite Food Sys-

tem Challenge will be simultaneously running in Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda, and is being made possible with the support of US\$2m from USAID. The initiative comes at a time of worsening food insecurity in the region due to the compounding effects of rising conflict,

climate change, natural disasters like droughts, floods, locusts and the Covid-19 pandemic. Piloting, implementing and scaling innovative ideas lies at the heart of WFP and Impact Hub Kigali's work. This programme will have an impact on promoting innovation in the food systems and advancing efforts towards achieving zero hunger in the world.

Mafer Betancourt, managing director of Impact Hub Kigali, com-

mented: "With the Ignite Food Systems Challenge, we will provide tailored support for local entrepreneurs to scale their impact in the Rwandan food system.

"Ventures will undergo diagnostics at the start of the programme and will be able to co-design their own acceleration journey, indicating the support they require, from coaching to peer and expert support such as legal or accounting services, among others."

WORLD

About 200 dead in attacks in northwest Nigeria, residents say

MAIDUGURI

AN estimated 200 people or more have been killed in villages in the north-western Nigerian state of Zamfara during deadly reprisal attacks by armed bandits following military air strikes on their hideouts this week, residents said on Saturday.

Residents gained access to the villages on Saturday after the military captured the communities to organize mass burials, they told Reuters. The state government said 58 people had been killed during the attacks.

Ummaru Makeri, a resident who lost his wife and three children during the attack, said around 154 people had been buried including several vigilantes who

were killed. Residents said the total death toll was at least 200.

Reuters reported on Friday that at least 30 people had been killed in the Anka local government area in Zamfara, when more than 300 armed bandits on motorbikes stormed eight villages and started shooting sporadically on Tuesday.

The military said it had conducted air strikes in the early hours of Monday on targets in the Gusami forest and west Tsamre village in Zamfara state, killing more than 100 bandits including two of their leaders, following intelligence reports.

One resident who declined to be identified told Reuters the attacks on the villages could be linked to the military



This file photo shows a kidnapped girl, reacts as she reunites with a family member in Jangebe, Zamfara state, on March 3, 2021 after they were kidnapped from a boarding school in northwestern Nigeria, last week on Feb 26, 2021.

strikes.

There have been a series of attacks in northwest Nigeria, which has seen a sharp rise in mass abductions and other violent crimes since late 2020 as the government struggles to maintain law and order.

In a separate incident, 30 students abducted from their college in the northwestern Nigerian state of Kebbi were freed on Saturday, a spokesman for the Kebbi governor said, without providing details.

President Muhammadu Buhari said in a statement on Saturday the mili-

tary had acquired more equipment to track down and eliminate criminal gangs that have been subjecting people to a reign of terror, including through the illegal imposition of taxes on communities under siege.

"The latest attacks on innocent people by the bandits is an act of desperation by mass murderers, now under relentless pressure from our military forces," Buhari said.

Buhari added that the government would not relent in its military operations to get rid of the bandits.

Agencies

Moscow, Berlin, Paris agree on new contacts, including Kiev - senior official

MOSCOW

REPRESENTATIVES of Russia, Germany and France agreed on further contacts, including the participation of Ukraine to end promptly the conflict in the country's east, Russian Presidential Administration Deputy Head Dmitry Kozak told journalists on Thursday following the meeting with the Normandy format political advisers from Germany and France.

"[We] agreed on further contacts, including the participation of the Ukrainian leadership so as to end [the conflict in eastern Ukraine] as soon as possible," he said.

"[The German and French representatives] affirmed their commitment to the Minsk Agreements as the only basis for the settlement of the conflict in the south-east of Ukraine. We discussed a number of practical moves to implement the Minsk Agreements," Kozak assured.

Kozak held talks in Moscow with the Normandy format political advisers - Adviser to the German Chancellor for Foreign Policy Jens Pletner and Diplomatic Adviser to the President of France Emmanuel Bonn. The meeting was held at the invitation of the Russian side.

RCEP to boost ASEAN's post-pandemic economic recovery, says Malaysian analyst

KUALA LUMPUR

THE economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states will receive a much needed boost in their post-pandemic economic recovery with the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, a Malaysian analyst has said.

In an interview with Xinhua, Oh Ei Sun, principal adviser for Malaysia's Pacific Research Center, said that beyond the economic benefits of the world's largest free trade deal to date, RCEP is a victory for multilateralism and a strong affirmation of China's strong and continuous push for global free trade to be inclusive and balanced.

"China is the major trading partner of a number of Southeast Asian countries and ASEAN as a whole also became China's largest trading partner," Oh said. "On that very successful basis, why not we extend it to include some other regional major economies right, such as Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and also Australia," explained the Malaysian analyst.

Hopefully, with this extension, RCEP will become the world's largest free trade bloc, and it should then serve as a leading light for the free trade movement in the world, he said.

This would spur post-pandemic economic recovery efforts by participating economies, allowing better integration of supply chains, common standards, and infrastructure through the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and allowing the movement of goods, services and technology between RCEP participants, Oh said.

Oh pointed out that the trade agreement will serve as a demonstration of the success and benefits of multilateralism over narrow, nationalistic approaches to world trade, serving to bring up less developed countries, allowing for an inclusive and balanced sharing of prosperity.

"It doesn't make sense anymore to be nationalistic, and simply confine your production, your marketing to your local national markets. It makes more sense for you to diversify, for example, your production bases to other ASEAN countries or even to countries such as Japan, China, South Korea, and so on.

And similarly, you must explore markets beyond your own country, or even beyond ASEAN," he said. "Now with RCEP, you could explore the huge China market, you could explore the Japanese and South Korean markets and you could go down south to Australia and to New Zealand to explore the markets there," he added.

RCEP, which took effect on Jan. 1, is made up of 10 ASEAN members, as well as China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, covering about 30 percent of the world's population, as well as its gross domestic product and trade volume.

While Malaysia is a signatory, it has yet to ratify the pact due to delays in its parliamentary proceedings caused by the COVID-19 situation in the country. RCEP is expected to be ratified when the lower house of Malaysian parliament convenes in February.



It doesn't make sense anymore to be nationalistic, and simply confine your production, your marketing to your local national markets

UN: Air strike kills 3 in Eritrean refugee camp in Ethiopia

NAIROBI

AN air strike hit a refugee camp in northern Ethiopia's Tigray region, killing three Eritrean refugees, including two children, the United Nations said on Thursday.

The strike on Wednesday hit Mai Aini refugee camp near the southern Tigrayan town of Mai Tseabri, the United Nations said.

"Three Eritrean refugees, two of them children, were killed," the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees head Filippo Grandi said in a statement, adding that four other refugees were injured.

The United Nations did not specify who carried out the strike but only the Ethiopian government has air power in the area.

Government spokesperson Legesse Tulu and military spokesperson Getnet Adane did not immediately respond

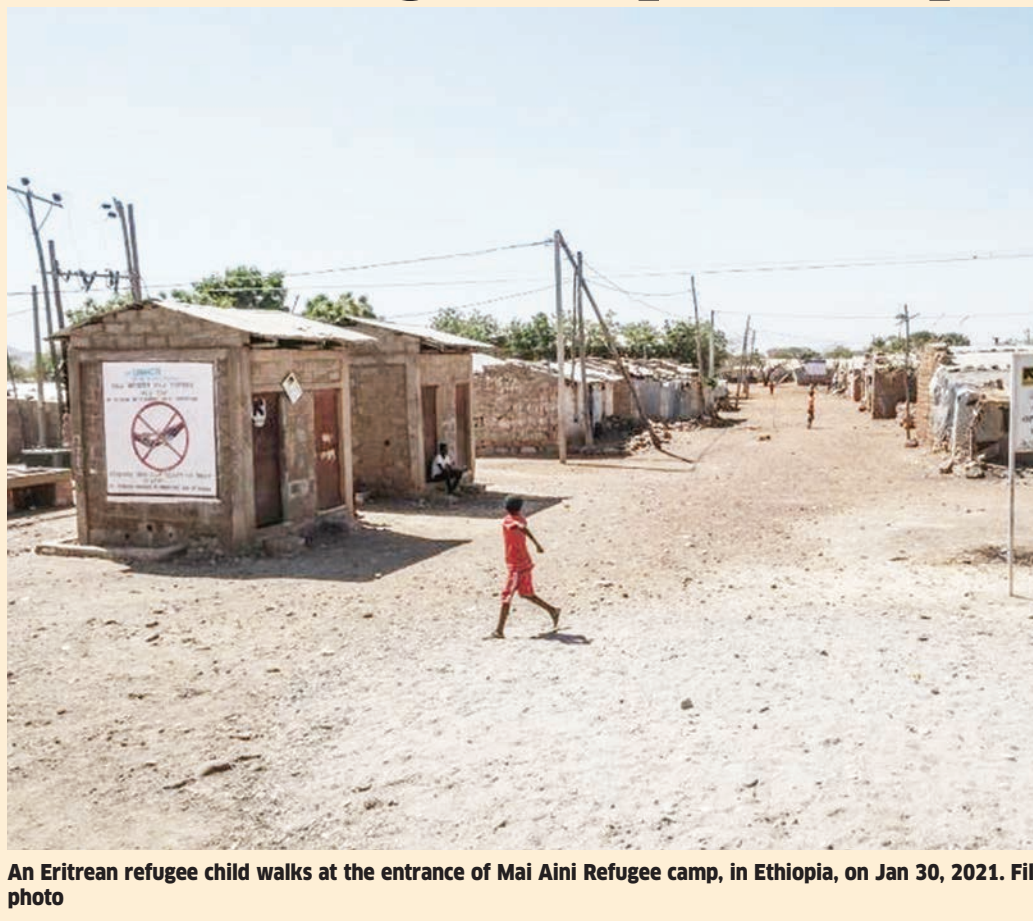
to requests for comment. The government has previously denied targeting civilians.

At least 146 people have been killed and 213 injured in air strikes in Tigray since Oct 18, according to a document prepared by aid agencies and shared with Reuters.

The document was based on evidence collected by regional aid workers as well as witness testimonies, according to two of its compilers. It records 41 air strikes, with the deadliest being on Dec 16 strike in the town of Alamata that killed 38 and wounded 86.

It did not say how many of those killed were civilians and Reuters could not independently verify the figures.

The 14-month-old war in northern Ethiopia between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), who used to dominate Ethiopian politics, has killed thousands of civilians and displaced millions.



An Eritrean refugee child walks at the entrance of Mai Aini Refugee camp, in Ethiopia, on Jan 30, 2021. File photo

US equities poised for elevated volatility in 2022 amid multiple challenges

NEW YORK

WALL Street had a rocky year in 2021 with all the three major indexes scoring double-digit returns, but many analysts have warned of a bumpy path for equities in the year ahead amid multiple challenges.

The S&P 500 jumped 26.9 percent in 2021, marking the benchmark's third straight positive year, powered by energy, finance, and large-cap tech stocks. The Dow and Nasdaq advanced 18.7 percent and 21.4 percent, respectively, also notching their three-year winning streaks.

U.S. equities are unlikely to repeat these kinds of gains in the new year and investors should be mindful of increased volatility as a more hawkish Fed, high and persistent inflation and COVID-19 uncertainty are among the factors complicating the outlooks, according to a

number of analysts. "We expect 2022 to be another positive year for risk assets, but investors should be prepared for lower returns than the past few years and more volatility than the past 20 months," head of Asset Allocation Americas at UBS Global Wealth Management Jason Draho said earlier this week in a note.

Credit Suisse Group projected its 2022 S&P 500 price target at 5,200, up from the 5,000 seen previously, representing a 9.1-percent increase from the closing price on Dec. 31. That's one of the most bullish forecasts.

The updated outlook was partly based on expectations for "robust" economic growth. Goldman Sachs expected the U.S. stock benchmark would end 2022 at 5,100, while JPMorgan analysts predicted that the S&P 500 would rise this year to 5,050.

Meanwhile, many others stroke a more cautious or even bearish tone. The Bank of America's analysts projected that the benchmark would finish 2022 at 4,600, lower than its current level. "We expect the S&P 500 to be range-bound and volatile, and bond returns to be negative net

of inflation," said Lisa Shalett, chief investment officer at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Morgan Stanley analysts saw a base-case forecast of 4,400 for the S&P 500 at the end of 2022 even with an expected gain in earnings, representing a 7.7-percent dip from the closing price on Dec. 31. "I feel 2022 will be a tough year for the broad market with Nasdaq underperforming all indexes.

I believe all indexes will be negative for the year," Larry Benedict, CEO & founder of The Opportunistic Trader, a U.S. market research firm, told Xinhua in a recent interview. "Headlines will be dominated by inflation issues coupled with raising rates," he said. A big piece of the economic story in 2021 was hot inflation and experts noted that high inflation is expected to persist at least for some time this year before moderating.

The U.S. consumer price index rose 6.8 percent in the 12-month period ending in November 2021, the fastest annual pace in almost 40 years, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

In a bid to tackle soaring inflation, the

Federal Reserve is on track to end its asset purchase program by March while projecting three interest rate hikes in 2022, as it exits from the ultra-loose monetary policy enacted at the start of the pandemic.

It is possible, perhaps even likely, that price pressures do not abate until the second half of 2022, which may leave the Fed no choice but to move up their forecast for interest rate, said analysts at Zacks Investment Management.

Market jitters are likely as investors come to grapple with an inflection point in monetary policy. Some investors worry that interest rate-sensitive growth and tech stocks would be particularly vulnerable if the Fed aggressively tightens its monetary policy through rate hikes.

Also adding shadow to the market is COVID-19 uncertainty. While it is still too early to tell how severe the Omicron variant will impact the U.S. and the global economy, the rapid spread of the highly contagious strain in the United States has already caused consumers to pull back and some employees to skip work, either to avoid getting infected or to avoid spreading to others.

Huawei contributes to global ecological and environmental protection with technological innovations

IN recent years, Chinese telecom giant Huawei has actively participated in global biodiversity protection, safeguarding lucid waters and lush mountains with technological innovations.

In May 2020, the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park in northeast China's Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces frequently reported good news of rare and precious wild animals, including capturing white roe deer on film twice and finding traces of wild Siberian tiger.

It is because of a space-air-ground integrated monitoring system established in the park that the images of such rare and precious wild animals have been captured and made available to the public.

The monitoring system includes a

three-tier architecture covering information collection, real-time information transmission, and data analysis and processing, according to Du Juan, director of Huawei's TECH4ALL digital inclusion office.

Huawei has taken part in the development of a 700MHz integrated wired and wireless LTE (Long Term Evolution) bearer network, the underlying part that plays a key role in the system, Du said.

By making use of the original fire lookout tower of the park in the deployment of the 700MHz network, the company has managed to minimize the environmental impact of the installation of the network while

enabling it to cover a wider area of the park and reduce to the greatest extent the number of visits to the mountains in the park by scientists and rangers, said Zhao Xinsheng, an engineer with Huawei.

The network can achieve real-time transmission of images and high-definition videos from infrared cameras installed for wildlife protection, collection and transmission of ecological factor data from sensors that can monitor the condition of soil, water, air, etc., and real-time check on rangers' patrol routes, according to Zhao.

The space-air-ground integrated monitoring system has covered all the areas of the Northeast China Tiger

and Leopard National Park, realizing accurate and intelligent monitoring, assessment, and management of rare and precious wild animals and natural resources.

The growing maritime traffic off the south coast of Ireland caused by container vessels, pleasure boats and speedboats, among other water vessels, has not only increased noise pollution and affected marine animals' habit of using sound to communicate, but increased the danger of accidental damage to them by ships.

In March this year, a project named Smart Whale Sounds, for which Huawei has provided technical support, kicked off in the south coast of Ireland.

By identifying the sounds of whales, dolphins, and other marine animals, the project studies the impacts of the growing marine noise pollution.

According to Huawei, the Smart Whale Sounds project deployed a buoy, which is about four meters long and weighs two tons, in waters off Baltimore village in County Cork, Ireland. Equipped with an underwater microphone, the buoy can continuously monitor the sounds of cetaceans in the areas covered by the project.

The acoustic monitoring systems of the project collect acoustic data on cetaceans and carry out rapid analysis of these data by leveraging technologies in such fields as cloud platform and

artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm, thus classifying the sounds of marine animals and identifying their species to acquire information about their behavioral rules, said an executive of the project who works for Huawei.

In the future, these data will be provided for relevant authorities to help with spatial planning and usage of marine protected areas, the executive added.

In Grosseto, Italy, there is a wetland consisting of sand dunes and Mediterranean forests, which is inhabited by more than 300 species of birds. However, poaching, illegal logging, and unauthorized intrusion have severely impacted the ecological environment of the wetland.

People's Daily

AU chief commends recent release of opposition political figures in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

CHAIRPERSON of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat on Saturday commended the release of senior opposition political figures detained in Ethiopia.

"The Chairperson welcomes this important gesture of appeasement of the political situation in Ethiopia," an AU statement read.

The statement came after the Ethiopian government on Friday released high-level and senior opposition party members who were in prison over the past years.

Among those released include Sibhat Nega, former senior leader of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a rebel group currently engaged in a deadly conflict with the Ethiopian government. Nega was detained during the early days of the ongoing conflict that started in November 2020.

According to the chairperson of the pan African bloc, the move will trigger a political process, paving the way for the implementation of a genuinely inclusive national dialogue

process for the peaceful and consensual solution to the political and institutional problems facing the federation.

Mahamat further encouraged all the actors to engage in it with courage and determination while assuring them, to this end, of the resolute support of the African Union.

Among the released also include Jawar Mohamed, Eskinder Nega and Bekele Gerba -- influential opposition political figures in Ethiopia.

Upon announcing the decision, the Ethiopian government said "the key to lasting unity is dialogue. Ethiopia will make any sacrifices to this end."

It said Ethiopia's problems need to be addressed in a comprehensive dialogical approach.

"The Ethiopian government took the initiative to pardon some prisoners for the betterment of the political situation," the statement from the Ethiopian Government Communications Service read.

It said that a National Dialogue Commission has been set up to deal with contemporary political issues in the country and unresolved discourses in the East African country.

US reopens mass vaccination sites, suspends cruises amid COVID-19 surge

NEW YORK

TEMPORARY mass vaccination sites that were wound down months ago across the United States are being reopened to get more people vaccinated and boosted in the latest surge of COVID-19 fueled by the Omicron variant.

"Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Rhode Island are among states that have opened or are planning soon to open sites designed to administer hundreds or even thousands of shots a day," reported The Wall Street Journal on Saturday.

Officials said they are expanding capacity again largely to provide booster shots and reach children who recently have become eligible for vaccines.

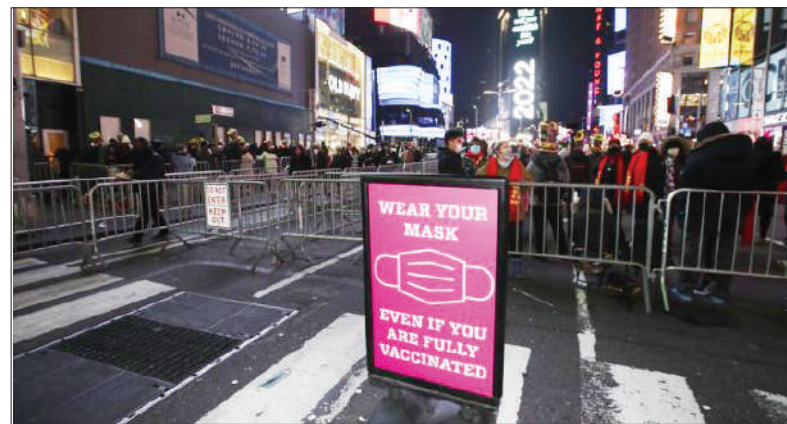
Many states shifted to smaller, more-targeted inoculation efforts after demand waned last summer. Of Americans 5 years or older who are eligible to be vaccinated, 66.3 percent are fully vaccinated, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

About 38 percent of fully vaccinated adults have received booster shots. "Officials running the mass vaccination sites say they also hope to reach some of the 27 percent of adults who aren't fully vaccinated ... Interest among unvaccinated adults hasn't risen during the Omicron surge, though," said the report.

CRUISE PAUSE

Royal Caribbean Group, an American global cruise holding company incorporated in Liberia and based in Miami of Florida, has suspended some of its cruise operations amid rising numbers of COVID-19 infections due to the Omicron variant.

The sailings of three ships, Serenade of the Seas, Jewel of the Seas and Symphony



A sign of wearing mask is set up during the New Year celebrations at Times Square in New York, the United States, Dec. 31, 2021. File photo

of the Seas, have been suspended while the return of its Vision of the Seas to cruising has been postponed to March 7, 2022, said a company statement on Friday.

The company also called off its Jan. 6 Spectrum of the Seas sailing in Hong Kong. This update came after Hong Kong's health department detected nine guests aboard the vessel's previous voyage who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

The CDC recently told Americans to avoid travel on cruise ships, regardless of their vaccination status.

The advisory came in response to a surge in cases in recent weeks, caused by the spread of the contagious Omicron variant.

Most major cruise lines do not publicly announce the number of coronavirus cases on board their ships, but they are required to submit daily figures to the CDC. Currently, the agency is monitoring more than 90 cruise ships.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY

The travel industry will have to "roll with the punches" as government requirements continue to evolve with the

pandemic, Todd Hancock, President of Asia Pacific & Global Board Member Collinson International, told CNBC this week.

"The key thing is that the industry will remain in flux for the foreseeable future," he said, noting that testing and vaccinations will continue to be part of the process of travel for 2022 and possibly 2023.

Asked if verification of tests and vaccination statuses could be simplified for travel, Hancock said the goal is to have a digital, interoperable system that can be used globally.

"We're still a long ways away" from that. Raising vaccination rates around the world would also be good for anyone who travels, he said, adding that developed countries have raced ahead in offering booster shots, while much of the world hasn't been inoculated. In addition, echoing the sentiments of experts such as those from the World Health Organization, Hancock said that COVID-19 variants will emerge as long as there are large,

unvaccinated populations.

VACCINE EFFECTS

A new scientific study showed that vaccination can cause changes to the timing of menstruation, but the effects are temporary, more akin to a sore arm than a serious adverse event, reported the National Public Radio (NPR).

"I think it's reassuring and also validating," Alison Edelman, leader of the study and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, was quoted as saying.

The work appeared Thursday in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Despite the effects, Edelman and other experts stressed that individuals should get vaccinated, because the risks from COVID-19 remain high.

Clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines looked for side-effects like headaches or fever, but when it came to reproductive health, the main focus was on pregnancy, not menstruation. "The menstrual cycle is like the stepister that gets ignored," Edelman said. "It's considered unimportant in the grand scheme of things, but it actually really is important to people day-to-day."

Xinhua

Russia, NATO may discuss establishment of buffer zone near Russian borders - expert

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and NATO may touch upon the establishment of a buffer zone along the contact line of the two sides, which may involve restrictions on deployment of forces and arms, during the upcoming January 12 talks in Brussels, says Andrey Kortunov, head of the Russian International Affairs Council.

On Friday, NATO Foreign Ministers held a video conference to discuss the Russian security demands, where they attempted to come up with a single position for the January 12 Russia-NATO talks.

"[This idea] is being viewed in NATO ambiguously, but I would include a serious discussion of establishment of some buffer zone along the contact line between Russia and the alliance with some special military activity regime on this territory, of non-deployment of certain types of arms there, of restrictions of military exercises," he said.

Kortunov noted that Moscow expressed such idea earlier, but it was met with negative reaction from the Baltic States. The expert noted, however, that "under certain circumstances, this resistance could be overcome."

According to the expert, Russia and NATO may also discuss the restoration of the Russia-NATO Council within the context of multi-level contacts between the military of both sides.

"[They may discuss] the restoration of the Russia-NATO Council operation, not only at the ambassador level, but, possibly, at the level of contacts between the military, which Russia suggested long ago but found no understanding. So that there are operational communication lines within the Russia-NATO Council [...] at the level of, let's say, colonels, who deal with specific issues," Kortunov continued.

He noted that Moscow should not expect the Alliance to accept its proposals in full. According to the expert, NATO will also not accept the proposals regarding the alliance's non-expansion eastward and cessation of military cooperation with former Soviet Republics; however, the sides may agree on "restraint" in NATO's arms shipments to Ukraine.

"Maybe, even some obligation for NATO to exercise restraint in shipment of a specific type of weapons for Ukraine in order to not tempt Kiev into solving the Donbass problem by force," Kortunov concluded.

On January 10, Russia and the US will hold talks on security guarantees in Geneva. On January 12, Russia will discuss its security concerns and its security guarantees projects at the Russia-NATO council meeting in Brussels and at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in Vienna on January 13.

Agencies

Spain's COVID-19 cases exceed 7m with nearly 90,000 deaths

MADRID

SPAIN'S confirmed COVID-19 cases has passed the 7 million benchmark and the death toll is likely to reach 90,000 soon, according to the latest figures published by the Ministry of Health.

The data, which was published late on Friday night, showed 7,164,906 people have been infected by COVID-19, with 242,440 new cases reported in the 48-hour period between 14:00 on Wednesday until the same time on Friday.

The same period also saw the confirmation of 97 more deaths in the country due to the virus, lifting the death toll since the start of the pandemic to 89,934. Spain is suffering the sixth wave of infections due to the Omicron

variant, with the last million cases confirmed in just 10 days since the country crossed the 6-million cases mark on Dec 28 and with a 46 percent increase in cases over the past week.

The 14-day incidence of the virus continued to rise and hit a new high of 2,722 cases per 100,000 inhabitants on Friday.

Children returned to school on Jan 10 with the Health Ministry on Friday agreeing that if five COVID-19 cases are detected in a class, then all the children in the class will be subject to quarantine.

The 14-day incidence of the virus continued to rise and hit a new high of 2,722 cases per 100,000

China, Pakistan jointly promote high-quality development of CPEC

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Pakistan from the lofty Har goolun Range in the north all the way south to the Arabian Sea along the southern boundary of the country, is bursting with vitality.

Under the CPEC, flat and straight roads, lively ports, green and clean energy projects as well as industrial parks in the pipeline have brought great changes to Pakistan.

Islar, a Pakistani trucker, always drives along the Karakoram Highway (KKH) Phase II (Havelian-Thakot Section), a project built in Pakistan under the framework of the CPEC.

The road conveys people's expectation of a good life, said Islar, who believes that it leads to both safety and prosperity.

In the past, the road between Havelian and Thakot was a narrow, steep and accident-prone path winding among the towering mountains in northwestern Pakistan. It took truckers nearly six hours to get to Thakot from Havelian.

The difficulty has been effectively solved by the 118-kilometer-long Havelian-Thakot highway. With 105 mainline bridges, 11 pedestrian bridges, 464 culverts and six tunnels built along its route, the wide and smooth highway has cut the one-way driving time to less than two hours, significantly increasing transportation safety and efficiency.

As the Sukkur-Multan section of the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway in Pakistan, also an infrastructure project along the CPEC, officially opened to traffic, the north-south traffic artery in central Pakistan was opened, and the transportation conditions of Multan, which is known for its



Container ships are berthed in the Gwadar Port, Pakistan. File photo

mangoes, have been greatly improved.

The Sukkur-Multan motorway has shortened the time needed for mangoes to be transported from Multan to Sukkur from 11 hours to about 4 hours, substantially reducing the loss of agricultural products during transportation.

It has also helped Multan attract investments from companies. Since preparations for a highly anticipated fruit juice concentrate plant in the region have been started recently, local mango growers will no longer need to worry about the sale and transportation of their fruits.

The Gwadar Port, a flagship project of the CPEC, has witnessed new achievements. Since last year, the port has expanded its business scope, launching the Afghan cargo transit service systematically for the first time, providing liquefied petroleum gas-related services for the first time and realizing commercial operation for the first time, infusing fresh impetus and vitality into local economic development.

Meanwhile, more CPEC projects concerning people's well-being, including the New Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar hospital, are being advanced

in an orderly manner.

The interconnection of transportation infrastructure has stimulated the internal vitality of Pakistan's economy, society, and various fields concerning people's well-being, noted Asad Umar, Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

Pakistan and China will strengthen cooperation to drive larger-scale investment in Pakistan and accelerate the development of Pakistan's economy, he added.

Besides transportation infrastructure construction, China-Pakistan energy cooperation has also progressed rapidly under the CPEC in recent years, easing Pakistan's development bottleneck triggered by power shortage and introducing new ideas, technologies and investments for Pakistan's exploration of clean energy.

In the vast Gobi desert in southwestern Pakistan, a row of power transmission towers are extending into the distance. They are part of the 660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage (HV) direct current (DC) transmission line, a CPEC project in Pakistan.

Adopting the world's most advanced DC transmission technolo-

gy, the project, which was officially put into commercial operation in September 2021, is a power transmission project with the highest voltage level, the largest transmission capacity and the longest transmission distance in Pakistan.

Hammad Azhar, Energy Minister of Pakistan, believes that the project helps improve the stability and transmission capacity of Pakistan's national grid and further boost the country's power supply.

In November 2021, the Karot Hydropower Project in Pakistan, the first CPEC hydropower investment project, successfully closed the gates of the diversion tunnels and started reservoir impoundment, paving the way for the wet testing of the generator units.

"Over years of construction of the hydropower project, the surrounding mountains have become greener and waters clearer. The project has not only made our life more convenient, but effectively advanced ecological conservation," said Haider, a relocated resident at the reservoir region of the hydropower project.

"Everyone is looking forward to the operation of the project as early as possible, and hopes that it can bring cleaner and cheaper electricity," he said.

With the advances in the project, the lower reaches of the Jhelum River basin, where the hydropower station is located, will witness improvement in irrigation efficiency and shipping conditions as well as reduction in the frequency of floods and droughts.

Up to now, the total installed capacity of wind power projects completed under the framework of the CPEC has reached 300,000 kWh, and that of CPEC solar projects has amounted to 400,000 kWh.

People's Daily

LONDON/GENEVA

New vaccine research needed to tackle emerging COVID-19 variants, says expert

AS the global COVID-19 death toll has passed 5.4 million amid a surge in Omicron cases, an expert from the Imperial College London (ICL) said that research on new vaccines and stronger global collaboration may be needed to tackle emerging COVID-19 variants.

"The question about whether there's going to be another variant that is even more transmissible and more infectious than Omicron, we don't know yet," Dr. Katrina Pollock, who leads the COVID-19 vaccine project at the ICL, told Xinhua in an on-line interview on Thursday.

"I think it's too early to say

and that's why we need to have surveillance of these variants and global collaboration so that we can understand what's happening," said the senior clinical research fellow in vaccinology and honorary consultant at the ICL.

Some two years into the pandemic, the death toll from COVID-19 has topped 5.4 million worldwide, amid a total of 296 million cases recorded, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Different viruses have different rates of making new variants, but they are all governed by the same principle which

is that the more easily they are to transmit the more you'll see them," Pollock said.

"What we're seeing with Omicron is that it's very infectious, and it makes many copies of itself very quickly.

That means that we're seeing very, very high infection rates," she said. According to WHO data, some 128 countries had reported cases of the Omicron variant as of Dec. 29, 2021.

NEW VACCINE RESEARCH

Asked about whether new vaccines will be needed to tackle highly transmissible new variants, Pollock said that new

vaccines may be needed to provide better protection.

"Certainly, with Delta, we were still seeing high vaccine effectiveness in real world studies against the virus.

But it's possible that in the future we may need to change the vaccine, there may be some advantage to have a new strain in the vaccine to provide better protection," she said.

"What we really need to see is that vaccines are going to help drive down transmission because that's how we get control over the pandemic," she emphasized.

Early studies showed that

more evidence is emerging that the Omicron coronavirus variant is affecting the upper respiratory tract, causing milder symptoms than previous variants.

Pollock said that significant research and development should also be done on developing new and effective treatments such as antivirals and immune modulating treatments.

BETTER PHASE

Asked about whether she was optimistic the pandemic could be over this year, Pollock didn't think so.

"I mean, it would be really

wonderful if it were. But we've talked about the new variant and the transmission and the need to get everybody vaccinated.

I think this means that we're going to be living with this virus for a while," Pollock said. "But we have made great strides and amongst all the tragedy, we also have to have some cause for being positive particularly about vaccination, because it is helping avert what would have been a much worse global disaster if we've not been able to make those vaccines," she said.

"In a nutshell, I don't think it's going to be over this year.

But I think you know, with the research and the coordinated efforts, we may move to a better phase," she added.

CALL FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Asked about the stronger global measures which should be put in place against new variants of COVID-19, she stressed the importance of ensuring access to vaccines and the primary doses to people and controlling transmission instead of just "controlling severe disease and death." The WHO has set a target for countries to vaccinate 70 percent of their population by mid-2022.

Xinhua

The
Guardian

SPORT



Azam FC's midfielder, Ibrahim Ajibu.

Azam FC new midfielder ought to prove his worth

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

LAST week Simba SC announced the termination of midfielder Ibrahim Ajibu's contract.

The outfit reached a mutual agreement with the midfielder to reach the decision.

Ajibu was shortly thereafter announced as Azam FC's newly signed player.

It was not a coincidence. Simba SC had agreed with Azam FC and the latter also agreed with Ajibu.

It means the player has left Simba SC for free to Azam FC although he got a one-and-a-half-year contract.

Simba SC was tired of Ajibu. The outfit did not care where he went.

If the Msimbazi Street side cared too much, in the modern world, the outfit would have tried to get something from the transfer.

It means the side would have tried to sell him, it was, however, the outfit was too tired.

When did it start? I do not know. The outfit took the midfielder after leaving Yanga.

At Yanga it is no wonder then Ajibu played his best football.

It is true that he finally got a lot of money in football after playing for Simba SC and Yanga in the past six years.

He became a popular footballer. He played the best football but found himself playing the best football in a team that was not very strong.

Forward, Herritier Makambo, and midfielder Feisal Salum were the most consistent performers at Ajibu's new destination at the time.

At Yanga Ajibu went as far as serving as team captain. He also found himself getting another responsibility, raising funds for a team that was in dire straits.

It should be noted that GSM Group had not been financially backing Yanga when Ajibu was turning out for the outfit.

Ajibu might not have returned to Simba SC if GSM Group was financially backing Yanga.

It is true that when his contract Yanga expired Ajibu returned to his boyhood club, Simba SC.

This was the second time in 24 months Ajibu was leaving another big club as a free agent.

Returning to Simba SC meant that Ajibu was set to face stiff competition for playing time compared to his sting at Yanga.

It meant that Ajibu was going to a squad loaded with prominent footballers.

It meant that he had to change his behaviour. Some people claim that Ajibu is lazy.

His laziness could not be seen in Yanga because the team was weak on and off the field.

Why criticize a player who is not paid well? Ajibu could hardly prove his worth at Simba SC and did not seem to be eager to make the most of his chances and be counted.

Mzimiru Yasin, Jonas Mkude, and Hassan Dilunga were local players who put solid showing in Simba SC midfield. The trio hardly matches Ajibu in brilliance and skills.

Simba SC had midfielder Clatus Chama, then later the squad recruited Rally Bwalya and that is the time Ajibu lost his place in the side.

The midfielder did not only lose his place in the starting squad but also hardly got the opportunity to find his way in the match squad.

Ajibu kept on finding it difficult to get playing time until he was offloaded.

Simba SC seemed confused. There were two issues, the first is the rumour that Ajibu was returning to Yanga.

Some people said 'better let him go' but there were those who were hesitant, believing that Ajibu played the best football at Yanga and he might get back to his best if he returns to the outfit.

Another factor was Chama's move to Morocco's RS Berkane.

A section of soccer lovers felt if Chama was a major obstacle for Ajibu, the former's exit was the latter's only time to shine at Simba SC.

The situation prompted Simba SC to give Ajibu another contract although I am told it was a shrewd contract. The club put itself in a good position within the contract.

It did not want to be too tight on him and gave him a contract stipulating that he would be well paid if he were playing.

It did not happen that way. The answer remained the same. In a team that had sold Chama and Jose Luis Miquissone, Ajibu could still not get playing time.

He was sometimes not even securing a spot in the match squad.

The midfielder attempted to make his presence felt by putting good performance when Simba SC took Namungo FC in a league match.

He took the pitch in the second half and executed a clever trick within a few minutes which helped Simba SC net a goal during the added-on time.

He left the pitch with the club's fans singing his name. I was in the parking lot when the fans were eager to carry him shoulder-high.

Later life returned to normal. I think other issues were going on at Simba SC so much so that the outfit decided to let him go.

No wonder the outfit knew in advance that he wanted to go to Azam FC but it did not care.

Simba SC was moreover not interested in gaining from the move.

Even if he was not going to Azam FC, Simba SC hardly cared if he went to either Yanga or outside the country.

Simba SC ultimately seemed to have been fed up with him. It might be the last time for Ajibu to don the outfit's jersey.

And now he has landed at Azam FC. There are few players to have ever played for Azam FC, Simba SC, and Yanga.

I quickly remember Mrisho Ngassa, Amri Kiamba, Deogratus Munishi, and Gadiel Michael as some of the footballers that have featured for the three outfits.

Ajibu has moved to Azam FC and left football followers with a lot of questions.

According to Wikipedia, he is 25 years old but one should not be surprised why Azam FC has offered him a one-year contract.

I think his qualities are known everywhere he went. Within the next 12 months, it will be time for soccer followers to decide if it was the right deal for Ajibu.

So far it is the most beneficial deal for Ajibu because Azam FC turns out to be the only outfit he could go to.

As for Azam FC, it is time for the outfit to wait and see if Ajibu will step up his performance and add creativity to the club's attacking midfield.

No clear case visible as yet for holding a Union Soccer League

BY CORRESPONDENT JOHN KIMBUTE

AS the first stages of the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament were being cleared, pundits were already in a position to see which teams were likely to reach the semi-final level and based on goal standings in the three groups, Mainland teams stood a greater chance of crowding the semi-finals.

The final looked like it would put the city archivals, but nothing could be ascertained in that regard as one of the other teams could pull a surprise in the semi-finals in particular.

These comparisons drew discussants to try and sort out who is who in the Premier League, translate that for Tanzania as a whole, needing a league to prove it.

A few leading officials were asked for their views, and they all appeared to regret the fact that there are no acknowledged Union soccer champions, and the best way to solve what is a psychological problem is to hold a Union League.

It would be something of a super league, and here the chicken excitement as to what club that would be if the tourney was being held this year, while the answer was right below their noses - that is, the winner of the Mapinduzi

Cup holds the concomitant title of Union Super League champion. But as the tournament has no such title, pundits converge on the rather fictitious point that this anomaly needs to be corrected, and a proper champion be found - seemingly expecting to open up representation in African football, etc.

This year the format is nearly explicitly that of a local super league as the three leading city sides were present, namely reigning champions Simba SC, archrivals Young Africans SC, alias 'Yanga', as well as Azam FC, while Namungo FC is unmistakably among the best - if not the best - of the remaining teams, despite Biashara FC eclipsing the side for honors this past season.

That implies the Tanzania Premier League held nothing back in the sides participating in the Mapinduzi Cup tournament, and without a doubt, Zanzibar would also field its best sides.

That this event isn't recognized as a 'Union Super League' is merely a formality.

Still, based on remarks from several city soccer stakeholders, including those in the secretariat of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), there is an anomaly that there is no acknowledged Union soccer champion side.

There appeared to be a certain excitement as to what club that would be if the tourney was being held this year, while the answer was right below their noses - that is, the winner of the Mapinduzi

Cup holds the concomitant title of Union Super League champion. But as the tournament has no such title, pundits converge on the rather fictitious point that this anomaly needs to be corrected, and a proper champion be found - seemingly expecting to open up representation in African football, etc.

That is why it is hard to say that a valid point has been aired on the need for a Union League or Super League and pretty clear reasons, that this wish is something of a fallback malaise, spouting from time to time, but it is secondary to proper soccer identification, as Mainland and Zanzibar specifically.

The major premier league is identified with the country as such because a Mainland Premier League would need a complementary, Zanzibar Premier League, to obtain a certificate at the continental level as representing Tanzania.

When this is restricted to the Mainland, it means Zanzibar has its international outlets, whether in CAF Champions League, CAF Confederation Cup, or for regional titles.

It appears, psychologically speaking, that there is an urge among Zanzibar fans to keep seeking which is the best club in the country, with a faint hope

that pitted together, the likes of KMKM, Mlandege, or some other outfit could undo the grip of the city archivals.

Yet when the two sides were more selective on participating in the Isles tournament each January, Azam FC made a killing, as well as some clubs from nearby countries.

They have since pulled out but the city rivals have greater regard for the tournament now, denying Isles teams the chance to lift the cup fairly easily. Still their presence excites the tourney.

The wish for a Union Super League contrasts with Isles soccer identity as an independent country or nation to use a more usable term, and thus it can never take hold outside its implication, surrendering Zanzibar soccer identification to collapse with Tanzania as a whole.

There is no point even in talking about a 'super league' as the two parts of the country aren't comparable, so if there would be say four sides a piece in a league format, the outcome would be deceptive, as it is by and large the case in the Mapinduzi Cup tourney.

But here there is no feeling of a letdown as it is an Isles event and there are other invitees to get a livelier show especially for those coming to the stadium, their identities remain separat



Yanga winger, Dickson Ambundo (R), negotiates his way past KMKM defender when the squads locked horns in the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup match which took place in Zanzibar last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

England clings on for a draw in dramatic 4th Ashes test

SYDNEY

ENGLAND's tailenders resisted Australia's bowlers in fading light yesterday to clinch a draw on a dramatic final day of the fourth test in fading light at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Jack Leach, Stuart Broad and then Jimmy Anderson batted out the final 10 overs under immense pressure, after Pat Cummins and Scott Boland took three quick wickets in the final session before Steve Smith removed Leach with two overs remaining to set up a nervous finale to a gripping test match.

At stumps, England finished 270-9 with Broad unbeaten on eight and Anderson not out on zero to give England its best result of the five-match series which Australia leads 3-0.

With the final hour approaching, Cummins removed Jos Buttler and Mark Wood in the space of three balls to turn the test on its head after it was looking increasingly likely that England would earn a draw after its most determined batting effort of the series.

Scott Boland then continued his incredible start to test cricket by having first-innings centurion Jonny Bairstow caught at bat pad by Marnus Labuschagne for 41.

It was Boland's 14th wicket in just his second test after making his test debut at Melbourne's 3rd test where he was named man of the match.

But Broad and Leach saw out the remaining 10 overs despite Australia have all its fielders around the bat in catching positions as the fading light meant Australia had to bowl spinners Nathan Lyon and Steve Smith in the final three overs.

Earlier in the session, Stokes, no stranger in proving to be an immovable object for Australia after his heroics in the 2019 Ashes series in England, did not appear to let the pain of his left side injury curtail his attacking shots as he crushed ten boundaries and a six as part of his 60 runs, to go with his 66 in the first innings.

But Lyon eventually made the vital breakthrough as he caught Stokes in two minds as to whether play at the ball or leave it.

In the end he did neither and guided a simple chance to Steve Smith at slip. It was the ninth time that Lyon has taken Stokes' wicket, including twice in this match.

As the final hour loomed, Cummins (2-80) made a big breakthrough trapping Jos Buttler lbw for 11.

On-field umpire Paul Reiffel initially rejected the appeal before Cummins referred to the TV umpire, who reversed the decision.

Two balls later Cummins dismissed Wood with a vicious in-swinging delivery that hit the tail-ender on the foot for a much easier lbw decision for Reiffel to confirm. Boland then had Bairstow caught at bat

pad to expose England's tail, but Leach and Broad and then Anderson found a way to survive despite up to nine fielders in close catching positions.

Before tea, Joe Root and Stokes combined for a 60-run partnership from 26 overs before Scott Boland had the English skipper edging through to wicketkeeper Alex Carey for 24 to give Australia renewed optimism it may be able to bowl England out.

Needing to bat out the day to draw the test after being set an improbable 388 to win, the tourists lost a very defensive-minded Hameed (9) and Malan (4) in the morning session, but Zak Crawley decided that attack was the best form of defense as he unleashed eight boundaries on his way to a 69-ball half-century.

Hameed was dropped by Carey off Pat Cummins, but only survived a few overs more as he again edged through to Carey, who made the catch, to give Scott Boland yet another wicket in his bright start in test cricket.

Lyon (2-28) was introduced into the attack and in his third over found a way through Malan's defenses to have England at 74-2 after the first hour of play.

Crawley's enterprising innings was halted at 77 after 13 boundaries when Cameron Green (1-38) captured the 23-year-old opener leg before wicket. AP

'CAN effect': Africa Cup of Nations throws up job dilemma

YAOUNDE

"If I get the jab, it's just for the Indomitable Lions. I'm ready to die for them," says Vincent Nemgne as he receives a coronavirus vaccine to see Cameroon open Africa's top football tournament.

In the week before Sunday's first match in the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) in Cameroon, many fans have overcome reluctance and asked to be vaccinated.

The African Football Confederation (CAF) has made vaccination mandatory to enter the stadium, along with a negative PCR test taken less than 72 hours before kick-off or an antigen test up to 24 hours before.

"There is clearly a CAN effect. We have gone from 10 people a day to more than 100 since Monday. This is increasing exponentially," Lucien Mama, coordinator of the Sports Palace of Yaounde vaccine centre, told AFP.

"Until now, Cameroonians have refused to be vaccinated. The CAN has broken the psychological barriers and the hesitation," Mama added hopefully.

In the central African country of 27 million people, just six percent of the population over the age of 18 has been jabbed, according to official statistics, and many people openly refuse to wear masks.

But stringent stadium entry requirements imposed by CAF could still deter supporters from attending matches.

On Tuesday, it was announced stadium attendances would be limited to 60 percent of capacity -- increasing to 80 percent when the Indomitable Lions play.

"I will not go" - Next to the Sports Palace in the capital Yaounde, several dozen fans waited to get jabbed in tents.

"I came to see how it goes," said Yaya Bachirou, 33. "I agree to be vaccinated only if I have my ticket for the match, and for the moment I do not have it yet."

"For 15 minutes you sit and you don't talk," a nurse instructs a patient after the injection. "And you won't have sex today either," jokes her colleague.

Rumours that the vaccine causes sterility are widely believed, alongside several other myths.

"The reluctance to be vaccinated is linked to a combination of factors," explains Larissa Kojoue, a researcher at Buea University in western Cameroon.

"It is firstly linked to ignorance about this still-recent disease, to the sometimes chaotic handling of

the epidemic in the country, and to disinformation," Kojoue said.

"That has come mainly from Europe and the United States, and... reached a large part of the population, starting with the elites."

In Yaounde, vaccination requirements for would-be spectators have stirred resentment.

"I wanted to go to support the Indomitable Lions. We have been waiting for this moment for 50 years. But I will not go because I do not want to be vaccinated," protested Amougou who gave only his first name as he shopped in the central market.

"They give a product so that African women no longer give birth!"

Dylan, a 20 year old electronics retailer, said "if the vaccination is compulsory, I will not go to the stadium unfortunately."

"I will not be vaccinated for each variant and I do not want to be injected with a liquid that I do not know," he said.

"I was disgusted" - In a small bar popular with football fans, the disappointment is palpable among the regulars, almost all of whom are unvaccinated.

"I was disgusted with this decision. I was very excited about going to the stadium with my family, and now I am preparing to watch on television," lamented Joel Nkamdem, the finance director of APEJES Academy of Mfou, a Yaounde club in the top-flight Elite One national league.

"It's very unfair because vaccination is voluntary. Covid kills fewer people than malaria or typhoid fever and we have our own remedies. Furthermore, some vaccinated people still have the disease," he adds.

Everyone interviewed by AFP said they expected stadiums to be filled regardless.

"We always find solutions," a young man in his twenties said mischievously, a green Cameroon jersey on his back.

Patrice Motsepe, the president of CAF, said he was aware of "false tests" spreading, but insisted the pan-African organisation was "dealing with these problems".

"Some spectators think they can use false vaccination certificates to access the stadium," says Yap Boum, an epidemiologist and head of Yaounde's Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) research centre.

"But devices with the health pass and the QR code are sufficiently robust to avoid it."

AFP

Xavi blames Barca draw on lack of experience

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez lamented mistakes and a lack of experience as his side were held to a disappointing 1-1 draw at Granada in LaLiga on Saturday.

Luuk de Jong's second headed goal in as many games gave Barca the lead in the second half but the match swung when Gavi was sent off with 10 minutes to play.

Granada eventually equalised in the 89th minute when Antonio Puertas was left unmarked to fire home inside the box after Barca had failed to clear a corner.

"It's a shame but it's down to our own mistakes," Xavi said. "It's a lack of experience. The red card weakens us, but we've lost because of errors."

"We've dropped two hugely important points. It's down to us, not the opposition. We lost silly balls. The second half was there to be controlled. We can't go home happy after that. We're angry. We must be self-critical."

Xavi was particularly disappointed with how Barca managed the game after De Jong's goal, which was set up by Dani Alves, who was making his first LaLiga appearance since 2016 after re-signing for the club in November.

"After the goal, which is the most difficult thing, it's the same story as against Osasuna [when Barca drew 2-2]," Xavi added.

(Agencies)

As stars speak out over fatigue, is football nearing breaking point?

BY GRAHAM HUNTER, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

IN footballing terms, Kylian Mbappe is a phenomenon. The same goes for Robert Lewandowski. Thomas Delaney stands a chance of helping Sevilla to their first LaLiga title since 1946, while his Denmark teammate, Simon Kjaer, deservedly received a special commendation at this year's Ballon d'Or ceremony.

A young French World Cup winner, a Pole ripping scoring stats to shreds in the Bundesliga, and two Euro 2022 semifinalists, with Kjaer helping to save teammate Christian Eriksen's life at that tournament. Different experiences; playing in four different leagues; disparate ages and personalities.

But recently they all spoke with one collective voice when addressing the way their sport is lost in a selfish drive to squeeze out more and more while listening less and less to the players, the main performers, without whom there would be no multibillion-dollar industry. They understand the danger of losing quality in an effort to create more quantity.

"We already play 60 games a year," Mbappe said at the Dubai International Sports Conference in late December. "You have the Euro, the World Cup, the Nations League -- so many competitions. We are happy to play, but when it's too much, it's too much. We have to recover. We have to relax."

"If people want 'just to see some games' on the TV, then of course we're gonna play. But if they want to see quality in the matches, to see emotion which makes football beautiful too, then we have to respect the health of the players."

We live in extraordinary times, admittedly. Coping with the first pandemic most parts of the sporting world have had to face in living memory and doing so safely is a hard task and remains a work in progress. We have also just entered the first year in which a World Cup, which was supposed to take place in June and July, will disrupt a European football calendar already bursting at the seams by being staged in November and December, with all the ripple effects that will cause.

We also live in a time when football's ruling, largely myopic, tone-deaf and greedy middle-aged men seem obsessed by ruthlessly squeezing more product, more tension and more stress out of the sport -- irrespective of what the players and coaches think, and irrespective of what damage these self-seeking proposals might inflict.

There is a proposed World Cup every two years, with the European Championship also every other year, which would herald a cycle of these two behemoth football tournaments every single summer. Organisers of competitions like the Copa America and Africa Cup of Nations will be watching on to see whether these ideas get the green light -- so that they can copy them.

CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, reportedly already has an agreement for all 10 countries to join the UEFA Nations League from 2024 -- in direct conflict with a biennial World Cup.

The 2022 World Cup will be held in a country, Qatar, that has proved incapable of holding the competition in the months it promised to during the bidding process; a country where a scandalous damage to the workforce engaged to build stadia has been inflicted. It is a World Cup about which Delaney, in a recent Danish TV documentary, said: "Any footballer you ask will say it's a disaster. At least, that's my opinion. I don't think anyone in our squad thinks it's a good idea. To me, it's a bad idea in every way. I wish it were different. It's all about money -- as it is now designed, the players have no say."

There was the European Super League -- badly constructed, wrong-headed, embarrassingly announced by a handful of clubs in England, Italy and Spain -- and launched astonishingly ineptly to a hostile football public before, almost instantly, shrinking to an embarrassing mess.

Every single one of these current initiatives requires the players to shine. To compete. To produce exquisite, rare skills -- to make drama and to inspire fans so that clubs, associations, governing bodies and sponsors can harvest more and more cash. And the common theme, along with greed, myopic vision



(and, hopefully, failure) is that the players aren't consulted. None of those who are obsessed with discovering how much stress the golden goose can endure before it stops producing golden eggs appear to care a damn about the views of footballers and coaches.

Lewandowski said he's not a fan of a biennial World Cup because players need more down-time. "We have so many games, so many tough weeks every year. Not only the games but preparation for every single match, every pre-season, every tournament."

"If you want something special, something different, we need a break. It's not enough if we get two or three weeks in every summertime. If we want to play a World Cup every two years the expectations should be that the time for the players spend at a high level will go down. Perhaps to five, six or seven years. Otherwise it's impossible: not only for the body but for the mentality as well."

"If you want to play [high-level] football for over 10 years in your career, then you need the breaks. It's impossible to play a World Cup every two years and get high performance. Players need down-time, to relax."

Lewandowski and Mbappe, these

two gigantic talents, focused on the difference between fresh, inventive, daring, creative elite footballers and the entertainment that, alternatively, those tired, resentful, burned-out players might produce in the hellscape of a clutch of international tournaments every single summer.

Of course, their words also resonate with the images, in 2021, of Sergio Aguero coming off the Camp Nou pitch with breathing difficulties and, within weeks, being forced to retire early because of heart problems. Also with the most startling image: of Eriksen on June 12 coming so close to dying on the pitch in Copenhagen whilst Denmark were playing Finland.

"I see things in stark perspective, as to what is important and not important," Kjaer said recently. "Christian is well, and so I can take things in and enjoy them. And that is also where I find peace -- by speaking with Christian, I know he's OK."

"With respect to football, it's so crazy that there can be such a contrast between what one could call my wildest year ever and then at the same time have one of my best friends lie 'dead' on a football field."

And while Eriksen has publicly stat-

ed he wants to return to action and play at the World Cup, it still shows a worrying trend. Only qualified medicals could draw, or eliminate, direct correlation between the current non-stop demands placed on elite players and either of these two events or the sequence of collapsing or breathing-troubled players across Europe in the second half of the year.

There were many. One instance was Manchester United's Swedish defender Victor Lindelof. I'm sure you'll recall -- a couple of weeks ago against Norwich City. "Victor had problems to breathe, and his heart rate was higher than normal," United manager Ralf Rangnick said post-match. "He was a little shocked."

But however they are diagnosed, all these incidents are stark reminders of something that too many in power in football seem to have forgotten. Footballers are ordinary, breakable, under-pressure human beings. Not robots. Not commodities.

Right now it feels a little like things are out of control. Against this corporate backdrop of the big power broker trying to completely revolutionise the frequency of international tournaments, there's an increasing lack of tolerance, lack of human decency about clubs who want fixtures postponed because their staff, playing and technical, has been decimated by the coronavirus. It feels like we are now expecting players, and training staff, to universally and uniformly cope with the physiological and psychological stress of being diagnosed with COVID-19 as if nothing has happened.

Right now the drill seems to be: positive diagnosis, a few working days absent from training, then right back on the production line of gruelling match and travel every three days without even the hint of an impact on their current, medium or long-term well-being. Mentally and physically. And, please, let's be honest with ourselves. Most of us are far too complicit in what's going on. If you are fanatical about your team, if you generally live and breathe football ... even if you find your life hard, a drudge and watching soccer on TV (or in stadia) is your panacea, it's quite understandable that a non-stop diet of high-level football is attractive. Perhaps it feels essential.

But all of us -- fans, journalists, sponsors, broadcasters -- need to become more vocal consumers. It's time to make it clear to those who run the biggest clubs, those who run FIFA, UEFA and the other confederations, that we support players' rights not to have to play three games a week for club and country all year round, season after season with the growing trend for two or three weeks off in summer.

Planning for and prioritising the physical and mental well-being of the men and women who entertain us so royally via the beautiful game should be fundamental, and something that fans and the media have both a right and a duty to protest about.

And, over and above that, if we want fresh, dynamic, thrilling, inventive and dramatic viewing when we turn up at football grounds or turn on our television, then more of us should listen to intelligent, cosmopolitan, multilingual high-achievers like Mbappe and Lewandowski when they warn us that they are tiring, overburdened. The first thing to go, if we don't show more common sense and empathy, is the quality that is on show in the sport we all love so much.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

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SPORT

As stars speak out over fatigue, is football nearing breaking point?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Tanzania to host Africa Zone Three Boxing Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will, in March, host the Africa Zone Three Boxing Championship.

Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) secretary-general, Lukelo Wililo, said the Zone Three Championship will involve all 14 teams from the region.

Wililo added that other nations outside the region are free to field boxers in the showdown.

He said the Zone Three countries are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Sudan.

Eritrea, Gabon, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Central Africa Republic, Chad, and Cameroon complete the list.

Wililo stopped short of mentioning the championship's dates, saying they are waiting for communication from the International Boxing Association (IBA).

Meanwhile, Wililo disclosed that Tanzania will next month host East Africa Boxing Championships and will send female boxers to the World Women Championships which will be held in Turkey from May 6-21.

In another development, Wililo said Tanzania will send its boxers to the maiden Global Boxing Cup which will be held in Russia from April to May.

"We will send our boxers to the maiden Global Boxing Cup which will be held from April to May in 15 cities of Russia and in March we will send our team to the Africa Boxing Championship which will be held in Morocco.

"In November we will send youth boxers World Boxing Youth Championships which will be held in Spain."

"This year we have lined up several activities and hopefully, we will compete at all events," he said.

He said boxers set to compete in the mentioned events will be selected in national events which the OBFT will host this year.

Simba SC plots Namungo FC downfall in 2022 Mapinduzi Cup semi-final



Simba SC striker, Chris Mugalu (C), dribbles past Selem View FC defenders when the outfits locked horns in this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament's tie held in Zanzibar on January 5. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC assistant skipper, Shomari Kapombe, has stated 2022 Mapinduzi Cup's last four tie between the outfit and Namungo FC, to be held at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar later in the evening, will be tough due to the latter's quality.

Simba advanced to the showdown's semi-finals after finishing Group C with four points.

Namungo FC finished second in Group A with six points from three fixtures.

The semi-final clash is expected to be exciting because Namungo FC seeks to take revenge on Simba SC

which cruised to 1-0 victory over the former in this season's NBC Premier League duel.

Kapombe noted: "We have made the final preparations today (yesterday) for tomorrow (today)'s game knowing that the game will be very tough due to Namungo FC's quality."

"We have played against them in the league and we have seen how well they have fared and their level of competition is high, they will be determined to make amends, but we are well prepared."

Kapombe disclosed: "We plan to reach the final of this tournament and we can only do so via winning this semi-final. We are aware of our previous records. We need to do better to

rewrite history."

"We will take this game as seriously as any other match, as well as for all of our fans who are here in Zanzibar, I urge them to come in large numbers to support."

Simba SC has reached the Mapinduzi Cup final on seven occasions, hence, it is an outfit with more appearances in the showpiece's final.

The squad conceded defeat in three previous finals, whereas Namungo FC has yet to notch a victory over Simba SC.

Namungo FC, which is making a second appearance in the tournament, has been in fine form against the Isles' opponents but had failed to beat Group A winners, Azam FC, who

will play Yanga in the semi-final.

Mapinduzi Cup is a tournament created by the Zanzibar Football Federation to commemorate Zanzibar's Revolution Day, which is marked annually on 12 January 12. The showdown final is played on January 13.

The first edition of the tournament was held in 1998. Since 2013 clubs from Kenya and Uganda have been invited to take part occasionally.

Simba SC has previously lost to a foreign club, Kampala City Council FC, in the final in 2014.

URA FC beat Mtibwa Sugar 3-1 in the final in 2016 to be the only foreign club to have lifted the Mapinduzi Cup tournament's trophy.

Azam FC all out to edge Yanga in Mapinduzi Cup semi-final



Yanga midfielder, Feisal Salum (C), dribbles past Azam FC players, midfielder Kenneth Muguna (L), and center back Yves Mbala, during the 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash held in Dar es Salaam last year.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2022 Mapinduzi Cup's defending champion Yanga's semi-final match against Azam FC, which will take place at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar today, has evoked a lot of emotions as both teams aim for revenge.

Azam FC seeks to take revenge for the side's 2-0 defeat to Yanga in this season's NBC Premier League match that took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year.

Yanga's goals were scored by Fiston Mayele and Jesus Moloko in the encounter that the

Jangwani Street side dominated.

Heading into today's semi-final, Yanga's goal-keeping coach, Razak Siwa, speaking on behalf of assistant coach Cedric Kaze, said that the squad is ready and there are no players nursing injuries in the side.

Siwa pointed out some of the club's players that were not part of the squad that is battling it out in the competition are expected to join the team.

"We do not have any player nursing injuries heading into today's game, the team is in high

morale for the semi-final."

"Some players who missed the previous games are expected to arrive for the upcoming game to strengthen our chances of defending our title."

Siwa added: "Every keeper will get an opportunity to play for our squad, so, so let's not be in a hurry because everything will be clear as the days go by."

There is a huge debate among local soccer lovers on a keeper set to serve as Yanga's first-choice shot-stopper after the outfit's Malian keeper, Djigui Diarra, got a call-up to Mali's national side that will battle it out in the Africa Cup of Nations finals in Cameroon.

Keeper Erick Johora is yet to get his debut at Yanga after signing from Aigle Noir of Burundi.

Yanga will miss the services of the club's first-choice goalkeeper, Diarra, following

the national team call-up, while Mukoko Tonombe, Yannick Bangala, and Djuma Shaban got the call-up to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s national side.

The midfielder, Khalid Aucho, and forward, Fiston Mayele, have been allowed to have a short break.

The match is expected to be entertaining, with Azam FC missing the services of three key players, Prince Dube, Never Tigere, and Bruce Kangwa.

The trio is currently featuring for Zimbabwe national football team in the Africa Cup of Nations finals.

However, the team is expected to enjoy the return of footballers, Aggrey Morris and Mudathir Yahya, to the team after they had served a suspension.

The team will also enjoy the services of the newly signed player, Ibrahim Ajibu, who joined the club from Simba SC during

the mini transfer window.

Azam FC's assistant coach, Iddi Abubakar, said that they do not seek revenge after losing to Yanga recently in the NBC Premier League.

Abubakar stated: "This is not a revenge game as we are the five-time champions of this tournament, the last time we met them in this competition, we beat Yanga and went on to win the final after defeating Simba SC as well, so the 2-0 loss to Yanga in the league will have no effect."

Azam FC has reported one player to be absent from the side while the rest are in high spirit ahead of today's match.

Abubakar noted: "I can inform you that Shabani Chilunda is injured and will be missing, while the other players are eager to win this tournament's title as prominent players always love big matches."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

