



National Pg 3 Govt says no loss incurred for SGR



National Pg 4 Kili challenge to raise 2.3bn/-



National Pg 6 'Register warehouses with TRA'



Swiss envoy launches 19.2 billion/- gender targeted impacts fund

By Guardian Reporter

THE Embassy of Switzerland has launched a 19.2bn/- fund as part of its Innovation for Social Change project aimed at supporting the growth of small and medium-sized.

Didier Chassot (pictured), the Swiss ambassador, said at the launching ceremony that the fund will target impact-driven enterprises during the next five years.

The 'Daraja Impact Fund' will be implemented and managed by Small Enterprise Assistance Funds (SEAF), an international investment management group for capital and business assistance to SMEs.

The venture funds valued at \$600 by 2017 will manage the project work in partnership with Alpha Mundi Foundation (AMF), an organisation committed to strengthening the commercial viability of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa and Latin America.

A preliminary overview of the project says that over the past two decades, Tanzania has



Incorporating impact into post-investment technical assistance support holds significant potential to enhance financial performance and foster growth

experienced rapid growth among micro, small and medium enterprises but they face numerous challenges.

The main snags include inadequate access to capital and markets, regulatory constraints, underdeveloped infrastructure, limited innovation and insufficient human capital development, the envoy noted.

The project seeks to support Tanzanian entrepreneurs to gain access to essential skills and investment funding, bolstering their business performance and generating positive community impacts, he said.

Private organisations best play a growth enhancing role when promoting the scaling of socially impactful enterprises, he asserted, noting that the catalytic impact fund builds a solid pipeline of social enterprises receiving technical assistance and the financing needed to scale their business model.

This will make them develop dedicated social and gender-responsive characteristics, he said, noting that the fund will prioritise support for businesses led by women and youth entrepreneurs, plus enterprises with significant female representation as employees, customers or

TURN TO PAGE 2

World Bank credits for water pegged at \$655m

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

WORLD Bank financing for water projects in the country will rise to \$655m on account of the pace and implementation standards observed, Water minister Jumaa Aweso has declared.

Tabling the ministry's estimates for the coming financial year in the National Assembly yesterday, he said that a key priority in fiscal 2023/2024 is to increase the access to clean and safe water in urban and rural peripheral areas.

The ministry projects spend 756.21bn/- for recurrent and development expenditure, with enhanced World Bank financing enabling an increase in covered regions from 17 to 25, districts covered stretching to 137, he said.

Each district is issued with 961m/- as initial payment for project implementation after verification, while total projected funds for each district varies from 1bn/- to 10bn/- up to 2025, he said.

In strengthening access to clean water in rural areas, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) purchased 15 vehicles and 395 motorcycles for easing the monitoring of rural projects, he said.

From March 2021 to March 2023 a total of 571 projects were slated for implementation in rural areas, where 399 projects entailing 7,107 water fetching points reaching 4,755,035 people in 2,487 villages were implemented, he stated.

By last month the ministry had received 623.75bn/- for development projects out of 695.82bn/- requested for the financial year.



The programme valued at 822.5bn/- (\$350m) is slated for completion in 2025, supplying water to three million people in rural areas

while efforts to protect water resources were being pursued by registering responsible water users, numbering 186 by last month, he specified.

Beacons on 84 water sources will be installed and gazetted as reserved areas where habitation or economic activities are proscribed, while pushing rainwater harvesting.

The government plans 27 big dams for irrigation and domestic use, verify water quality at 2,091 water sources, initiate 4,000 urban water distribution schemes while renovating 150 sewage systems, he said.

Upwards of 111 community based water supply units will be registered, where 2,543 operators of the unit will be put to capacity building, he stated.

Implementation of 1,546 new rural water projects in the coming financial year and reviewing the 2002 National Water Policy will similarly help to improve access to clean and safe water in rural areas, he told MPs.

The National Water Master Plan will be redrawn, revisiting water supply related regulations and guidelines, he said.

Access to clean and safe water in rural areas reached 77 percent in December 2022 from 71 percent in 2020 while in urban areas it reached 88 percent from 84 percent, the minister noted.

During the current fiscal year 1,373 projects on the water distribution network had been completed, enabling people in 9,737 villages to access clean and safe water, out of 12,318

TURN TO PAGE 2



The Tanzania Police bids farewell in Dar es Salaam yesterday to Simon Nyakoro Sirro (60), the country's Inspector General of Police from May 28, 2017 until his appointment as High Commissioner to Zimbabwe on July 20 last year. He officially retired from the force in March 2023, having served it for 30 years - from February 19, 1993. Photo: Correspondent Restituta James

Muhimbili institutions specialists set for India

By Correspondent James Kandoya

SPECIALISTS from four hospital institutions in Dar es Salaam will be visiting India to study ways to promote medical tourism.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, chairman of the National Medical Tourism Committee (NMTC) said yesterday that the specialists are drawn from the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), and Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

They are anticipated to share their experiences with counterparts in various hospitals and other institutions, as part of



Learning best practices includes ways to improve healthcare services in a way that attracts more people from around the world

efforts to boost the medical component in current efforts to attain five million tourists in the coming years.

Committee members expect to liaise with the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and the private sector upon return, he stated, inaugurating the committee for medical tourism promotion.

He said the efforts started with an appeal by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to work to uplift medical tourism as a gainful sphere of tourism, in the wake of vast modernisation of facilities in the four.

This appeal brought the formation of a committee constituted by former Health

TURN TO PAGE 2

Microsoft bigwig set for 'Royal Tour' trail

By Guardian Correspondent, Seattle, USA

A FORMER Microsoft Co. chief executive officer for technology strategy for 14 years is set to visit Tanzania again, taking up the trail of the Royal Tour film starring President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Dr Nathan Myhrvold (pictured), a prominent shareholder in the company, expressed an intent to visit the country in a statement on Tuesday, after a conversation with Dr Hassan Abbasi, the Natural Resources and Tourism permanent



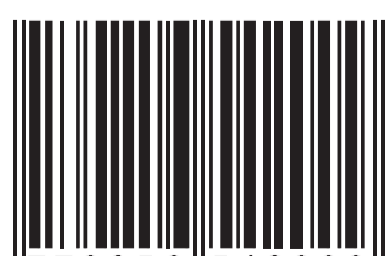
secretary who visited him at his offices at Intellectual Ventures Inc., in Seattle, on the Pacific Coast of the United States.

He expressed interest in the tourist attractions available in Tanzania, noting that there are good tour guides who know their work. "I have been to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro national parks," he said, commending the president for tourism promotion efforts.

Such tourism marketing strategies were supposed to have been conducted in previous years, he affirmed, in the exchange of view with the permanent secretary, accompanied by Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) director general Damas Mfugale.

They welcomed back to Tanzania the intellectual venture strategist, now also interested in Terra Power, an off shoot company from their main information

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >

World Bank credits for water pegged at \$655m

FROM PAGE 1

registered villages, he said. In urban areas, 80 projects were completed, serving 4.3m people, meanwhile as

157 rural water projects were revived, out of 177 projects abandoned for several years, crediting the new initiative to the COVID-19 relief fund from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The government executed 218 projects, 174 in rural areas and 44 in urban areas, with upwards of 2.09m people benefiting from the projects, he said.

"Special water projects are being implemented in 28 towns, valued at 1.48trn/- meanwhile six regional water quality laboratories were set

up, to add to the single laboratory in Mwanza.

The laboratories were set up in Singida, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Bukoba, Musoma and Dar es Salaam, where 329.46bn/- has been allocated to Kidunda dam. The works have already started, he said.

The government in collaboration with the World Bank is implementing the Sustainable Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (SRWSP) targeting increasing access to clean and safe water and environment protection for 86 district councils in 17 regions, he stated.

The programme valued at 822.5bn/- (\$350m) is slated for completion in 2025, supplying water to three million people in rural areas, he added.

Microsoft bigwig set for 'Royal Tour' trail

FROM PAGE 1

technology concerns, that aims to provide the world with more affordable, secure and environmentally friendly energy.

Noting that the film is accessible through Amazon and Apple TV, the ministerial top executive said the tourism sector will be more beneficial for the country in the aftermath of the president's efforts.

"I was preparing to visit Tanzania, now that you have attracted me more, the venture strategist affirmed, specifying that he will visit the country next month, citing interest in the two popular national

parks he visited earlier.

He similarly wishes to conduct research on natural foods and species of wild cats, he said, showing the visitors various research laboratories for health equipment and treatments.

They also had an opportunity to learn on how the company conducts research on food and photographing of tourist areas and air space.

With his wealth reaching \$700bn/-, Dr Myhrvold was co-author with Bill Gates of 'The Road Ahead,' a futuristic essay on information technology outlook for the wider public.

Swiss envoy launches 19.2bn/- gender-targeted impacts fund

FROM PAGE 1

suppliers. As Switzerland is a pioneer of impact-linked financing, the government there seeks to enhance support in leveraging private investments targeting social enterprises and assisting them to scale up, he explained.

Peter Righi, the SEAF director of international programs, said the Daraja Impact Fund presents a timely opportunity for Tanzanian entrepreneurs to attain business success while making a positive impact in their community.

"Incorporating impact into post-investment technical assistance support holds significant potential

to enhance financial performance and foster growth," he further asserted.

AMF executive director Ladé Araba hinted excitement into managing the key investment vehicle for the Daraja Impact Fund to support SMEs.

The basic parameter is that they show high potential for generating positive impacts for women and youth while delivering strong business performance, he stated.

Gender-lens investing for climate that leverages blended finance and impact-linked finance instruments is an important lever to create an inclusive and green future with greater prosperity for all, he added.

Minister challenges women in leadership positions

By Correspondent James Kandoya

GEORGE Simbachawene, minister of State in the President's Office (Good Governance and Public Services) has challenged women leaders to pursue leadership programme offered by Uongozi Institute to propel their professional development in their fields.

Simbachawene gave the challenges at the 6th graduation ceremony of 196 leaders who completed leadership programme offered by Uongozi Institute held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam.

He said training for women leaders was very important to enable them to be part of the decision making wherever they will be, noting that good leaders are corner stone to ensure the development reaches the people across the country.

The minister noted that an estimated increase in population by 3.2 per cent annually necessitate the need to have leaders who can lead now and future generation, calling on the graduates of the leadership course to participate in the leadership process in all stages.

"I call on all women leaders to attend course offered by Uongozi institute to build their leadership carrier," he said, challenging the institute to involve private sector in the leaders programme to train their

leaders in the form of cost sharing.

Currently, most of women leaders attending the courses are leaders from public institution while few from private institutions.

"I call on to the graduates of women leadership course to deliver by supervising development projects in their respective areas," he said, urging the institute to use former official leaders in government and retired to impact knowledge and share their leadership journey and experiences

Engineer Zena Saidi, Chief Secretary to the Zanzibar President commended Uongozi Institute for enrolling more women leaders from Zanzibar government, stating: "If more priority will be given to women leaders, their contribution will high be noted."

Uongozi Institute CEO, Kadari Singo said that the ceremony was organised to celebrate the accomplishment of 196 leaders who completed their long-term executive programme.

He said the programmes were Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership (PGD), Certificate in Leadership (CiL), and Women's Leadership Programme (WLP).

Singo said the three programmes aim to develop leadership competencies in personal leadership, people leadership and organisational leadership.



Tanzania National Bureau of Statistic director general Dr Albina Chuwa (R) moves to present reports on late last year's national Population and Housing Census to Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) and permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Muhimbili institutions specialists set for India

FROM PAGE 1

minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima, where the committee chairman rooted for a tenth of all tourism visitations eventually being directed at medical services.

The team will stay in India for one week, a reflection of how the government has extensively

invested in the health sector, reducing referrals to hospitals outside the country for most requirements.

Learning best practices includes ways to improve healthcare services in a way that attracts more people from around the world, he stated, noting that these hospital centres serve people from

neighbouring countries of Malawi, Zambia, Somalia, Comoro and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in particular, with upwards of 600 patients attended so far.

African countries spend \$1.4bn to seek treatment abroad, especially in Asia, with India being more advanced in hospitalisation, thus the team will seek to explore this

parameter, to become a medical tourism hub.

On October 19th last year, while in Kigoma Region, President Samia Suluhu Hassan underscored the need for deeper investments in the country's health sector to strengthen specialised services, boosting the image of a healthcare hub for medical tourism.



Agriculture ministry Permanent Secretary Gerald Mweli (2nd-L) and the Dutch Ambassador to Tanzania, Wiebe de Boer (2nd-R), show documents on an MoU between the two countries which they had just signed in Dodoma city yesterday. It relates to the strengthening of electronic certification for sanitary and phytosanitary processes in Tanzania's horticultural sector. With them are the Netherlands agricultural counsellor for Kenya and Tanzania, Bart Pauwels (R), and Ellen Rwigage, a legal officer in Tanzania's Agriculture ministry. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA to build three container docks to boost its capacity to handle cargo by 2.5 million tonnes

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) plans to construct three container docks which will increase its capacity to handle cargo by 2.5 million tonnes.

The programme also involves construction of special depots for passengers and tourists.

This was revealed yesterday during a three days consultative meeting which was aimed at informing stakeholders on the project which is on the feasibility study stage.

The meeting which came to an end yesterday involved port stakeholders and experts from Khatib & Alami (KA), a company which is handling the project.

The experts took the stakeholders into the details of the project in which the latter also gave advises on what should be included and what should not be.

Speaking during the meeting, TPA acting Director for Planning, Infrastructure and Investment Ntandu Mathayo who is also the manager for the project said currently his office was working on improving the ports capability.

"The improvement we are doing will make the port have the capacity to handle 28 million tons of cargo in the next 10 years," he said, adding that the current improvements will also make the port be able to handle 1,150,000 containers.

He said in 2012 the port handled

450,000 containers and by 2022, the port handled 880,000 containers, noting that the deport being constructed now will increase the port's ability to handle 1,350,000 containers a year.

He said the technology to be used after the project will be electronic contrary to what is being used currently as they use diesel.

On the tourist and passenger depot, the official said currently the port uses infrastructure which are not supportive saying the move is aimed at making the city a tourism hub.

The project manager from KA Chadi Sabra said they are responsible for the construction of gate 12 to 15 adding that this will

make the port a tourism hub.

He said however that they are working closer with TPA to ensure that the Port of Dar es Salaam increases its capacity but also make Dar es Salaam a leading destination in logistics sector.

Country Manager for the company Gloria Mushi hailed TPA and other stakeholders such as the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), the Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) and the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

A representative from the Secretary General of the Central Corridor Faraja Kondo hailed President Samia for the improvements being done at the Port of Dar es Salaam.



Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Aron Joseph (L) and Dohwa Engineering Ltd representative Young Joo Oh pictured in Dodoma city yesterday exchanging documents on an agreement involving the designing and implementation of a 164.85bn/- sewage project. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Tanzania, Netherlands sign contract to enhance electronic certification

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA and Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation to strengthen electronic certification (E-cert) for sanitary and phytosanitary process in Tanzania for horticultural sector. The pact was signed at the Ministry of Agriculture by the Permanent Secretary, Gerald Mweli, on behalf of Ministry and the ambassador Wiebe de Boe on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands.

The agreement will be implemented by the National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) from Tanzania (Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) and the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).

The signing was witnessed

by the regional agricultural counsellor from the Netherlands Embassy Bart Pauwels, Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), and other sector actors.

Speaking briefly during the event, the PS said the horticultural sector in Tanzania has shown tremendous growth over the last three decades becoming one of the main foreign exchange earners.

"Horticulture exports account for a significant portion of total export value amounting to \$779 million in 2019. Currently the sector is the main source of livelihood to about 4.5 million farmers comprising both small and larger scale farmers of which majority are women and youth" he said.

For his part, Ambassador, noted that Tanzania and the Netherlands have a long-standing cooperation that spans beyond 40 years.

He observed that there are about

80 Dutch companies operating in Tanzania, 70 percent invested in the agricultural sector of which majority are in the horticultural sector, located in the Northern circuit of Tanzania.

The ambassador added that the export process of horticultural produce requires phytosanitary certification by the Tanzanian Plant Health Service (PHS).

"This is a 'paper driven' process that involves attestation by competent inspectors and represents guarantees (safeguards) to the importing countries Competent Authorities," he said.

A phytosanitary certificate accompanies an export consignment to the port of entry of the importing country, and therefore acts as a passport to the product.

One of the limitations of a paper phytosanitary certificate is that it is prepared manually; therefore

accounts for a significant portion of time spent by phytosanitary inspectors in their daily work.

TPHPA issues a big number of certificates annually and the time spent in their manual writing and signing is significant.

Also, paper certificates represent permanent records that cannot be corrected in the event a mistake has been made in their entry, or if the characteristics of the export consignment change during the export process.

Such a change may be occasioned by the need to change the amount of produce to be exported due to changes in cargo space, which happens quite often during routine export operations.

Since a paper certificate accompanies a consignment during export, it is difficult for port officials of an importing country to pre-clear a consignment of known history before its arrival, and this results in unnecessary delays at ports, even for routine cargo.

The cooperation will result in efficiency in agricultural trade eventually creating more jobs and foreign earnings.

Twelve villages involved in establishing Africa's third Geopark at Mount Meru

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A TOTAL of twelve villages located around the Arusha National Park, at the foot of Tanzania's second highest peak, Mount Meru are being actively involved in the creation of the new Geopark on the African continent.

To be mapped on the base of Tanzania's second highest mountain, the Arusha-Meru Geological Heritage Site will also be the second Geopark in East Africa.

According to the management in the area, the dossier for the proposed Arusha-Meru Geopark has already been submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Global Geoparks Council for approval.

Yustina Kiwango, Conservation Commissioner in-charge of the Arusha National Park (ANAPA), revealed here yesterday that the National Commission for UNESCO had already visited and inspected the area which will form the Arusha-Meru Geopark and seemed satisfied with the site developments.

As it happens, the proposed Arusha-Meru will make the third Global Geopark on the continent after the M'Goun of Morocco and the Lengai Geopark mapped within Karatu, Monduli and Ngorongoro districts of Arusha in northern Tanzania.

With the involvement of local residents from more than 12 villages surrounding Mount Meru, the Arusha-Meru Geopark will thus be rich in cultural heritage, customary shrines and traditionally honoured ancient trees.

That is in addition to the legendary Ngurdoto crater, which is believed to have been an alien landing pad in the 60s, the dormant Meru volcano, crater lakes, waterfalls, spectacular rock formations and natural caves.

Overall Africa's third Geopark will cover an area of 552 square kilometers, which also included its epicenter, the Arusha National Park together with Mount Meru, which

measures 332 square kilometers.

Once endorsed, the Arusha-Meru Geopark will be the third on the African Continent, the second in East Africa but also the second in Tanzania.

Coincidentally, Tanzania will so far have the only two Geoparks existing in the Sub-Saharan African Region, the forthcoming Arusha-Meru and the Ngorongoro-Lengai Geopark which was established in 2018 and currently mapped within the Monduli, Karatu and Ngorongoro Districts of Arusha.

East Africa's only active volcano at Mount Oldonyo Lengai, the country's fourth highest peak features in the first Tanzanian Geopark.

Kenya had initially aspired to create the third, Geopark in Africa but which is still yet to be approved.

The country had proposed to create the 'Baringo Great Rift Valley Geopark,' and is also seeking the approval of UNESCO's Geopark Council.

Observers predict that 'Geoparks' may replace wildlife tourism in Africa in the near future as more and more people around become interested in culture, history and archaeological sites.

Global Geoparks according to UNESCO definition should be single and unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of education, protection and sustainable development.

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), on the other hand is an International Association officially established in 2014 as the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Over 60 per cent of the 1.5 tourists visiting Tanzania every year, usually come for wildlife gazing game drives in the country's National Parks.

Once fully established, Tanzanian Geoparks are focused to be able to attract into the country more than 500,000 annual visitors, mostly from China, India and other Asian countries.

Government: No loss was incurred for SGR Tabora - Kigoma project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday refuted claims of incurring loss in the tendering process for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project from Tabora- Kigoma, saying the due process was followed.

Deputy minister for Works, Fred Mwakibete told the Parliament that all the procedures were followed including consultations to ensure the right cost was followed.

He made the statement in response to a supplementary question raised by the Kisesa MP, Luhaga Mpina (CCM), who had wanted why the government used single source to get the contractor, CCEC for the SGR from Tabora-Kigoma, making a loss of 2bn/-.

In response, the deputy minister said the Public Procurement Act provides for various procurement procedures that can be adopted by the government, including single source.

He added that the procurement for the project was made within the Public Procurement Act No 7 of 2011 and the regulations number 162(l) (a)-(c) of the Public Procurement Act, of 2013 as reviewed in 2016.

"I would like to confirm to this honourable House that no loss was incurred in the procurement processes of the project since all steps were followed," said the deputy minister.

He explained that the estimated cost of the contract was \$3.066bn/- equivalent to 7.2trn/- compared to \$2.216bn/-, equivalent to 5.2trn/- after consultation with the contractor.

"This is after consultations that the government managed to save \$273.9m/-, equivalent to 632.74bn/- from the previous tender worth \$ 2.4bn/- equivalent to 5.8trn/-, he said.

He reminded the Parliament that such single tendering process was also adopted to get the contractor, YAPI MERKEZI that is building the Makutupora-Tabora SGR project and Tabora-Isaka project at the cost of \$2.213bn/- equivalent to 5.19 trn/-.



Dr Asha Mahita (3rd-L), Head of Referral Services in the Ministry of Health, hands over a report on medical tourism to Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute executive director Dr Peter Kisenge at an event held yesterday in Dar es Salaam with her as chief guest. It was at the launch of a medical tourism committee. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(DAR ES SALAAM DISTRICT REGISTRY)
AT DAR ES SALAAM
CIVIL APPEAL NO 05. OF 2023
TANZINDIA ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
.....APPELLANT
VERSUS
MGEN TANZANIA INSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED1ST RESPONDENT
PIUS CHARLES MABUBULWA2ND RESPONDENT
GUMADA INVESTMENT
LIMITED.....3RD RESPONDENT
TO:
GUMADA INVESTMENT LIMITED
DAR ES SALAAM.
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Whereas the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such question on the 23rd day of May, 2023 at 08:30 am, 0'clock before Hon.E.Kisanya, J for hearing.
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence given under my hand and the seal of this court this 03 day of 05 2023.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(DAR ES SALAAM DISTRICT REGISTRY)
AT DAR ES SALAAM
CIVIL APPEAL NO 05. OF 2023
TANZINDIA ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
.....APPELLANT
VERSUS
MGEN TANZANIA INSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED1ST RESPONDENT
PIUS CHARLES MABUBULWA2ND RESPONDENT
GUMADA INVESTMENT
LIMITED.....3RD RESPONDENT
TO:
PIUS CHARLES MABUBULWA
DAR ES SALAAM.
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Whereas the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such question on the 23rd day of May, 2023 at 08:30 am, 0'clock before Hon.E.Kisanya, J for hearing.
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence given under my hand and the seal of this court this 03 day of 05 2023.

GGML Kili challenge 2023 campaign set to fundraise 2.3bn/- for HIV/AIDS battle

By Guardian Reporter

THE GGML Kili Challenge Campaign coordinated by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) in collaboration with the Tanzania AIDS Control Commission (TACAIDS) this year expects to collect 2.3bn/-.

These funds, which are collected every year, are aimed at enhancing the efforts of the government to achieve the vision of Three Zero goals initiative, which are envisioned as zero new HIV infections, zero stigma and zero deaths from AIDS.

Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti- GGML, Simon Shayo, who also manages sustainability projects on the part of Ghana and Tanzania said this yesterday in the Moshi-Kilimanjaro region during this year's launch event to raise funds as donations for the GGM Kili Challenge campaign.

Citing the history of the campaign back to 2002, Shayo thanked the government for supporting the initiative, noting that as stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS, GGML has received backing that enabled the Kili Challenge to take great steps to become an international fund, involving mountaineers and cyclists from all continents and more than 20 countries.

This year we have come again to continue the fight against HIV and AIDS, so GGML in collaboration with the Tanzania AIDS Control Commission in the country, we welcome other stakeholders and various companies to contribute and participate in this campaign.

"In particular, we would like to recognize the cooperation of some companies and various institutions that have already come forward to contribute to the fund in 2023. I am confident that the stakeholders who came forward today will greatly help us achieve the goal of collecting 2.3bn/-," he pointed out.

He noted that HIV/AIDS is still a big problem in the country as the statistics of new HIV infections are not satisfactory, especially for special groups including young people.

Kilimanjaro Regional

Commissioner, Nurdin Hassan Babu hailed the company and TACAIDS for continuing to use the Mount Kilimanjaro initiative as an attraction to raise funds for the fight against the disease.

He said that this matter has contributed significantly in promoting the famous mountain in the world, thus increasing the number of tourists.

"I welcome ideas, advice from you and other stakeholders on how to further improve this campaign...I call upon individuals, organisations, institutions and other companies to follow the example of GGML by devoting themselves more to contribute resources to the fight against HIV and AIDS in the country, especially in this period when the donations of philanthropists from abroad continue to decrease for various reasons," he said.

The mountain climbing is expected to start on July 14 and end on July 20 this year.



In particular, we would like to recognize the cooperation of some companies and various institutions that have already come forward to contribute to the fund in 2023. I am confident that the stakeholders who came forward today will greatly help us achieve the goal of collecting 2.3bn/-



Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) IT and operations director Jema Msuya (2nd R) holds a banner together with Letshego Bank managing director Omar Msangi (L), Letshego board chairman Simon Jengo (2nd L) and the head of operations, Kolimba Tawa during the launch of the bank's union in Dar es Salaam yesterday which will enable depositing money through all branches and agents. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minerals ministry reiterates pledge to support women, Parliament told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Minerals has reiterated the commitment to support women in the industry by exposing them to a number of investment opportunities, capital and trading, the parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister of Minerals, Stephen Kiruswa called upon women miners to join their professional association like Federation of Miners Association of Tanzania (FEMATA) and Tanzania Women Miners Association (TAWOMA) for easy

coordination.

Kiruswa said the ministry is committed to promote women's economic empowerment by providing tailored business and life skills training to female miners entrepreneurs.

"The government champions for increased women's contribution in the mining sector by giving them opportunities available and participating in value chain activities," Kiruswa told the legislators.

He gave the explanation in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to a question

by the Special Seats MP, Zaytun Swai (CCM), who had wanted to know the government's efforts to increase the women's activities in the mining sector.

He added that the government is empowering women through their respective associations so he urged them to register for the union so that they benefit from the opportunities available.

Kiruswa said it is easy to support them through their organisations including Tanzania women in Mining and Mineral Industry (TWIMMI) to ensure that they are in a conducive working

environment and empowerment undertakings.

The government has constructed mineral centres and said the construction is being carried out under the Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project which among other objectives is to empower small scale miners and women miners.

The centres have been empowering the women miners with the best skills and knowledge to improve their mining capacity as well as mineral processing means to add value to their products and improve their economic wellbeing.

The centres apply intermediate and appropriate technology in mineral processing which are environmentally friendly as well as offer geological training especially in the area of mineral research.

Leaders and policy makers appeal for more support towards women initiatives to conserve biodiversity

By Jenifer Gilla, Kinshasa

AFRICAN leaders, policy makers and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have called for support towards women efforts to conserve biodiversity and climate resilience by funding their income generating activities to improve their living conditions.

Congolese Minister of Justice, Human Rights and promotion of Indigenous people, Aim's Angel Bininga, made the call during the first forum on Indigenous and Local Community Women in Central Africa and the Congo Basin happening at Brazzaville in Democratic republic of Congo (DRC), organised by the government of Congo in partnership with Right Resources Initiative (RRI) and REPALEAC.

Bininga said indigenous women in Africa play a big role in conserving environment and food production but they lack resources including education, financial support and legal aspects to continue to keep the spirit of conserving flora and fauna for the benefit of everyone.

"Legal aspects are important to improve living conditions to people living in those areas so that they can be able to manage forest for sustainable living conditions, now that climate change is making women vulnerable," he noted.

The DRC's Minister of Forest Economy in the Republic of Congo Rosalie Matondo, added that the government of DRC will leave no stone unturned to promote the living conditions and making a friendly environment for its indigenous people especially women because they see the good

work that they do in preserving the forest.

She said in 2011, the government adopted a law on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples which gives them the right to own, possess, access and use the land and natural resources they have traditionally occupied.

RRI Coordinator, Solange Bandiaky-Badji, said when international organisations partner with grassroots organisations to support their actions, good results come out of it.

She said the forum aims at honoring the incredible contributions of indigenous women and local communities to the protection and management of natural ecosystems in Central Africa and the Congo Basin which have not received the attention they deserve.

Indigenous leader from Bananing locality, Kabile Angel, said through the forum she has learned other ways of protecting the forest from indigenous from West African as that she will share them with her people when she gets home.

She said one of the ideas that she liked is applying modern ways in protecting the forest such as closing part of the forest for a while to give fauna enough time to grow before women go again to pick up woods for cooking.

Chief Executive Director at Human Dignity and Environment Care Foundation in Tanzania (HUDEFO), Sarah Pima, said the forum should happen also in East African because indigenous are facing the same challenges and they are left behind.



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo chairs a meeting with Vice President's officials on the implementation of the duties of the department of environment and Law Division in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: VPO

IMF: Cape Verde's drought shows vulnerability to climate change

PRAIA

CAPE VERDE is highly susceptible to the effects of climate change as evidenced by the recent four-year drought, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Tuesday as its team visited the Portuguese-speaking country between May 2-9.

The visit aimed at discussing the Cape Verde Economy for the 2023 Article IV Consultation and Second Review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) Arrangement, approved on June 15, 2022.

According to the international

lender, the Cape Verde government is rightly focusing on implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation measures in its most recent 5-year development strategy.

The authorities are balancing the need for fiscal consolidation to reduce debt levels with capital spending to accelerate investments in climate action and are seeking support from partners (including the IMF) to access financing, it added.

In January, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres said Cape Verde has shown climate leadership

in words as well as in action and has highlighted the efforts to convert debt into climate projects, including in the blue economy.

Up to 20 percent of Cape Verde's energy production now comes from renewable sources - one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa - and the goal is to increase renewable energy use by up to 50 percent by 2030.

The World Bank says that Cape Verde has witnessed significant economic progress since 1990, driven in large part by the rapid development of tourism (25 percent

of GDP), coupled with considerable social development due to strong social policies since the 1970s.

"Real GDP growth is projected to moderate to 4.4 percent in 2023 as export growth normalises. Inflation is projected at 5.2 percent in 2023, as fuel and food prices decline," the IMF added in its Tuesday statement.

"The current account deficit is expected to widen in 2023 as exports of goods and services, tourism, remittances, and foreign direct investment slowdown from levels recorded in 2022", it also said.

Amnesty International urges for universal social protection, as hundreds of millions face disaster

By Guardian Reporter

AMNESTY International is today calling for social security to be made available to everyone worldwide after a series of crises exposed huge gaps in state support and protection systems, leaving hundreds of millions facing hunger or trapped in a cycle of poverty and deprivation.

In a briefing issued yesterday, Rising Prices, Growing Protests: The Case for Universal Social Protection, the human rights organization also calls for international debt relief, and urges states to enact tax reforms and clampdown on tax abuse, to free up substantial funding to pay for social protection.

"A combination of crises has revealed how ill-prepared many states are to provide essential help to people. It is shocking that over 4 billion people, or about 55% of the world's population, have no recourse to even the most basic social protection, despite the right to social security being enshrined since 1948 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

The briefing shows how rising food prices, climate change, and the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, are driving a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, and leading to increased social unrest and protests.

It urges states to ensure that social security coverage -- such as sickness and disability payments, healthcare provision, pensions for older people, child support, family benefits and income support -- is available to every person who may need it.

The briefing shows how the lack of social security in many states has left communities more exposed to sudden economic shocks, the consequences of conflict, climate change, or other upheaval. The fallout from these crises, including widespread hunger, higher unemployment and anger at falling living standards, has motivated protests around the world, which have often been brutally suppressed.

"Universal social protection can address the violations of economic and social rights that are often at the heart of grievances and protest. Instead of viewing peaceful protest as an expression of people's attempts to claim their rights, authorities have frequently responded to demonstrations with unnecessary or excessive use of force. Peaceful protest is a human right and Amnesty International campaigns to Protect the Protest," said Agnès Callamard.

The briefing calls for international creditors to reschedule or cancel debts to enable them to better fund social protection. It also highlights that the cost of offering basic social security protection in all low income and low-to-middle income states is estimated at US\$440.8 billion a year, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an amount that is less than the US\$500 billion the Tax Justice Network estimated is lost annually by states to tax havens around the world.

Amnesty International urges states to work together and to use all their resources, as well as reform of their taxation systems to stop evasion and loss of critical revenues, to help ensure funds are available to improve social protection.

"People have been brought to their knees by these crises, and when it comes to fixing the problems in the world, the solutions are rarely simple, but we do know that states should get serious about clamping down on tax abuse," said Agnès Callamard.

To guarantee the right to social security, Amnesty International supports the establishment of an internationally administered Global Fund for Social Protection, a concept supported by UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, the UN Secretary-General and the ILO.

The creation of a fund would offer states technical and financial support to provide social security and would aim to build the capacity of national social protection systems to scale up their responses in times of crisis.

The lack of adequate social security can be catastrophic for the growing numbers of people struggling to afford food.

The World Food Programme (WFP) says 349 million people around the world are in immediate danger from a shortage of food, and 828 million go to bed hungry every night.

Furthermore, according to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, the Covid-19 pandemic has wiped out almost four years of progress in poverty reduction and pushed an additional 93 million people into extreme poverty, living on less than US\$ 2.15 a day.

The lack of effective measures to mitigate inflation and shortages has led to a downward spiral in people's living standards. This has contributed to protests around the world recently, including in Iran, Sierra Leone, and Sri Lanka.

The rising price of food and other essential items has hit people living in low-income countries the hardest, but the increased use of food banks in wealthier countries shows that the cost-of-living and food affordability crisis is widespread.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a major grain producer, has dealt a devastating blow to global food supplies, and pushed the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index to its highest point since records began in 1990. Climate change, and spiralling fertilizer prices, have hit agricultural production too. Drought is the greatest single contributor to reduced harvests, according to the FAO.

Amnesty International is part of a growing coalition of experts and civil society organizations calling on states to progressively deliver universal social protection, and to realize the benefits it will bring.

Agnès Callamard said: "Protecting people against losses due to shocks, from disasters or economic reversals, can be transformational, both for society and the state that provides the support, by reducing social tension and conflict, and promoting recovery. It enables children to stay in education, improves healthcare, reduces poverty and income inequality, and ultimately benefits societies economically."

"We cannot continue to look away as inequality soars, and those struggling are left to suffer. Tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance by individuals and corporations are depriving states and particularly lower income countries of the resources they need."

High levels of debt, and the cost of servicing it, mean that heavily indebted states often lack the financial capacity to realize social security aspirations. Low-income countries spend four times more on debt repayments than they do on health service provision, and 12 times more on debt payments than on social protection, according to Oxfam.

According to the IMF's annual report around 60% of low-income countries are in debt distress or at a high risk of debt distress, and risk defaulting on repayments. Debt cancellation or rescheduling would free up substantial funding in many countries to pay for social protection.



A combination of crises has revealed how ill-prepared many states are to provide essential help to people



Bukondamoyo Street residents in Kahama municipality in Shinyanga Region in queue to get water paid for by Kahama MP Jumanne Kishimba to minimise water challenges facing the residents. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Govt reiterates vow to improve road networks for economic development

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has reiterated its commitment to improve the road networks in the country to enhance economic development and improve people lives.

Deputy Minister for Works, Godfrey Kasekenya told the lawmakers that the government will continue improving and constructing roads and improve communication networks across the country.

He also noted that at least 668.345 mn/- has been set aside for regular maintenance of Fulo-Nyambiti-

Malya road in Sumve.

He made the assurance when responding to a questions raised by legislators who had wanted to know when the government would improve road networks in their areas.

In the main question, the Sumve MP, Kasalali Mageni, queried what plans the government had to conduct feasibility study and construction to tarmac level on the 73 kilometer road from Fulo-Nyambiti-Malya.

In his response, the deputy minister noted that the government was looking for funds to conduct

feasibility study for the construction of the road to tarmac.

However, he noted that the ministry through, Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS), will continue maintaining the road to ensure it is passable throughout the year.

"The government has been improving roads in the country on phases depending on the availability of funds," he said.

Last year, the government through the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) revealed plans to spend 3.6tri/- in the next five years to widen its road network countrywide.

With the plan, the government envisages to increase the distance of upgraded roads to tarmac level from the current 2,404.90 to about 3,855.65 Km.

TARURA came up with the Second Five-Year Strategic Plan, following the expiration of the First Five-Year Strategic Plan 2016/2017 - 2020/2021.

It revealed the Second Strategic Plan 2021/2022- 2025/2026, which details how the government is fully committed to implementing infrastructure projects in efforts to spur the country's economic development.



Chairman of the Tanzania Peace and Reconciliation Association, Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum, speaks during the general meeting of the association in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Review Public Service Retirement Benefits Act of 1999, retirees' association appeals to govt

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

THE Retirees Association of Tanzania (REAT) has appealed to the government to review the Public Service Retirement Benefits Act, 1999 to increase the monthly pension payment.

Addressing journalists in Bukoba District, Kagera Region this week, REAT President, Dauda Bilikesi said the association was purposely established to defend the rights of retirees as well as maintaining their dignity and wellbeing.

Bilikesi called upon retirees who

have not joined REAT to register so that they can be officially recognized. He said having a good number of members would further strengthen the association which was registered in March 2022 by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He said during this year's celebration of the International Workers' Day, President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced annual salary increments for public servants, the thing that workers had waited for eight years.

"We appeal to the government and President Samia to consider reviewing the updated law to provide a chance for review of

monthly pension payments. Living costs are higher as food prices keep skyrocketing every day," he said, appealing to the president to hear the cry of senior citizens who once served the nation in different capacities.

One of the retirees, Andrew Kabobo backed the REAT president saying most of the retired civil servants are poor as the amount of money they receive per month is too small. He also claimed that the payments are sometimes delayed for over six months.

"Delays in paying our monthly pensions have resulted in some of us lending money from people who

charge high interest rates," said Kabobo.

He called upon employers to timely submit workers' monthly contributions to pension funds to facilitate timely payment of retirement benefits to retired servants.

He suggested for pension funds and employers to start processes for payment of worker's retirement benefits six months before a person retires.

Liberatus Kamaleki, a retiree, complained over decisions by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) not to cover some of the diseases especially for elders.

Owners, users of storage facilities urged to register their warehouses with TRA

By Guardian Reporter

OWNERS and users of storage facilities have been tasked to register their warehouses with the Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as per the tax management law.

TRA's Commissioner for Domestic Revenue, Herbert Kabyemela made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a seminar that involved owners and users of good storage facilities.

He said it is high time now warehouse owners and users ensure that those facilities are registered as stipulated in the country's laws.

TRA's Dar es Salaam Regional Taxpayer Education Manager, Stephen Kauzeni said that in the financial law of 2022 section 45A under the Tax Administration Act Chapter 438 requires the owners (or users) of storage areas to register those areas with the Commissioner Chief. The article officially came into force on July 1, 2022.

Traders who attended the seminar congratulated the TRA for organising the seminar as some were not aware of the changes in the law and failed to fulfill their obligation to register their storage areas on time.

TRA through the Department of Taxpayer Services and Education has been conducting various seminars on various tax issues to build awareness among taxpayers.

TRA is a semi-autonomous government agency and it was established by the Tanzania Revenue Act, CAP. 339 in 1995 and started its operations on the 1st of July 1996. It is headed by the Commissioner General.

TRA is responsible for, among others, to administer and give effect to the laws or the specified provisions of the laws set out in the First Schedule to said Act, and for that purpose, TRA undertakes to assess, collect, and account for all revenue to which those laws apply, on behalf of the government. The taxman monitor, oversee,

coordinates activities and ensures the fair, efficient and effective administration of revenue laws by the Revenue Department in the jurisdiction of the Union Government.

He also monitor and ensure the collection of fees, levies, charges, or any other tax collected by any ministry, department or division of the government as revenue for the government as well as advising the minister and other relevant organs on all matters pertaining to fiscal policy, the implementation of the policy, and the constant improvement of policy regarding revenue laws and administration.

It also promotes voluntary tax compliance to the highest degree possible. Fifth, to take such measures as may be necessary to improve the standard of service given to taxpayers with a view to improving the effectiveness of the revenue departments and maximizing revenue collection. Sixth, to determine the steps to be taken to counteract fraud and other forms of tax and other fiscal evasion. Seventh, to produce trade statistics and publications on a quarterly basis.



Traders who attended the seminar congratulated the TRA for organising the seminar as some were not aware of the changes in the law and failed to fulfill their obligation to register their storage areas on time

Morogoro ward councilors suspend negligent officer

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

WARD councilors in Morogoro District Council have taken strong measures against negligent executives who tried to hinder the implementation of development projects and suspended the Assistant Procurement Officer, Mugeeta Masamaki.

Masamaki has been suspended due to allegations of delaying the procurement of equipment for various development projects and thus failure to be completed on time.

The council's decision was made at a regular meeting on Monday at the council's headquarters, Mvuha Division, Morogoro district.

Council chairman, Lucas Lemomo said that Masamaki was working casually and failed to purchase materials for the projects and that caused the projects to not be completed on time.

He said that despite delaying the projects, he was also disregarding the instructions of his leaders, including the Executive Director, where he was supposed to speed up the activities and deliberately refused to receive calls for instructions.

"The ward councilors have reached a decision to suspend Assistant Procurement Officer Mugeeta Masamaki. He has been in this council for a long time, so he is working casually and delaying projects," said Lemomo.

Lemomo said some projects have been stalled for a long time including the council building where the doors were supposed to be purchased in June last year (2022) but until now they have not been purchased and delivered.

Moreover, the council also

reached a decision to put under the supervision the existing head of procurement unit for three months to see his performance in accelerating development activities.

According to the council chairman, the current head of procurement unit is a foreigner four months since he moved to the council.

Lemomo mentioned the other officers who are under supervision for the three-month period as the council engineer and the natural resources officer of the district who together have been slacking and cause projects to not be completed on time.

District Executive Director, Rehema Bwasi assured the ward councilors that the decisions and instructions given will be worked on to increase the accountability of officials and bring development to the people of the council.



The ward councilors have reached a decision to suspend Assistant Procurement Officer Mugeeta Masamaki. He has been in this council for a long time, so he is working casually and delaying projects



Regional Administration and Local Government minister Angela Kairuki (L) exchanges greetings with UNFPA resident country representative Mark Bryan Schreiner, moments after arriving at Dabalo health centre at Chamwino in Dodoma to receive equipment for maternal and child health emergency services and ambulance for the centre donated by UFPA in cooperation with the Danish government yesterday. Looking on is Denmark Ambassador to Tanzania, Mette Norgaard. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PPRA asks Tanzanians to use favors existing in public procurement law

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has asked Tanzanians to grab opportunities existing in the public procurement law to fight poverty.

PPRA Public Relationship Manager Zawadi Msalla made the remarks when addressing journalists in Dodoma.

She said despite the government

having a special system to do business with stakeholders, the general public seems to be unaware of the economic opportunities provided by the law.

"Many people seem not to understand how to get contracts from the government because many end up complaining that the government was favoring some people which is not true," she said.

Through the online procurement

system, the government announces tenders which are competed in a transparent and open manner.

She said since the system was established, about 30,200 people have been registered to compete for government tenders though she said the same contractors are repeating every year.

She named some of the opportunities as international tenders which favors locals who

want to do business with the government by giving them a 10-percent favour compared to foreigners while local products are given priority compared to imported products.

Seventy percent of the government budget goes to procurement. Therefore, it is the role of the PPRA to ensure all the procurement involving goods and services follow procurement ethics.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso presents his ministry's 2023/2024 budget speech in the Parliament in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

NACOPHA praises US bodies for supporting people living with HIV

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) has expressed its gratitude to United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/ US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for their support to the government in empowering people living with HIV.

NACOPHA's chief executive

officer (CEO) Deogratias Rutatwa made the remarks in Dodoma on Tuesday when he paid a courtesy call at the Prime Minister's Office where he was received by the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Dr Jim James Yonazi.

During the meeting, Rutatwa highlighted the efforts of NACOPHA in implementing the HIV response

in collaboration with various stakeholders in the country.

In response, Dr Yonazi congratulated NACOPHA for their commitment and dedication in implementing the HIV response. He commended their efforts in collaborating with various stakeholders and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and coordination in the fight against HIV.

The meeting between NACOPHA and the Prime Minister's office is a clear indication of the government's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by people living with HIV in Tanzania. It also shows the importance of partnership and collaboration between the government and stakeholders in the HIV response.

NACOPHA remains committed to working closely with the government and other stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the HIV response and the empowerment of people living with HIV in Tanzania.

Govt developing strategy to restore immune coverage to unvaccinated and zero dose

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has embarked on its strategies to restore routine immunization in 81 districts with high burden of unvaccinated or zero dose children missed cases.

Lotaris Gadau, Immune Programme Officer at the Ministry of Health said yesterday in Dar es Salaam during training for journalists on the government strategies to restore routine immunization in the country.

Gadau said that the ministry of health has developed an ambitious zero catch up plan which is funded by Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) for recovering immunization with focus in 81 districts with the highest burden of unvaccinated or zero dose children.

She said the catch-up recovery plan has started to be implemented from January up to December this year adding that the catch-up vaccination of children targets those who missed the dose between 2020 and 2022.

The manager said that during the pandemic the immune rolling out in children dropped to 81 percent from 100 percent.

"During the pandemic, most parents feared sending their children to health facilities, fearing contact with diseases as a result it led to a drop in immune coverage," she said.

It is critical to make sure that every child gets their vaccines on time to properly attain the needed immunity and prevent outbreaks, especially considering that we have had polio outbreaks in neighbouring countries and Measles and Rubella in the country," she said.

Statistics show that in 2020, for instance 13 districts missed the 90 percent target on Penta 3 vaccine and 96 districts were below target on Measles and 174 out of 184 districts of Tanzania had not reached 80 percent for a second dose of HPV vaccine.

Dar es Salaam mayor Omary Kumbilamoto called on parents in the city to ensure all eligible children and adolescents are vaccinated.

He said vaccines reduce cost of treatment to diseases especially those that have no treatment like hepatitis Cervix cancer and covid 19 virus.

"We have recently witnessed a measles outbreak in the country. We can eliminate the problem if our children get the vaccine," he said.

This year World Immunization Week, celebrated in the last week of April, aimed to highlight the collective action needed to protect people from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Under the theme of 'The Big Catch-Up', WHO is working with partners to accelerate rapid progress in countries to get back on track to ensure more people, particularly children, are protected from preventable diseases.

2023 is the global opportunity to catch-up on lost progress in essential immunization.

"We need to reach the millions of children who missed out on vaccines, restore essential immunization coverage to at least 2019 levels, strengthen primary health care to deliver immunization and build lasting protection in communities and countries," said part of this year's message.



We need to reach the millions of children who missed out on vaccines, restore essential immunization coverage to at least 2019 levels, strengthen primary health care to deliver immunization and build lasting protection in communities and countries



Medicines and Medical Devices Authority Central Zone manager Sonia Mkumbwa speaks during a training on drugs control and addiction for health workers in Dodoma region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Kwavila

Ndumbaro directs creation of commission to look into people's land complaints in Kondo

By Guardian Correspondent, Kondo

DR DAMAS Ndumbaro, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs has directed for the creation of a special commission to investigate the cause for rampant land conflicts in Kondo District, Dodoma region following numerous complaints from the people being conned of their land by some officers of the Lands Department.

Dr Ndumbaro made the remarks at the weekend in his visit to inspect the campaign on legal aid popularly known as "Mama Samia Legal Aid."

He said following these complaints, next week the

government will dispatch a commission to the district whose task is to investigate the complaints.

"I instruct the commission to come here to investigate your complaints because a great number of you have complained being conned of your land areas with only a few complaining about other issues regarding criminal justice.

"The commission will collaborate with district officials to make follow ups and listen to the people so that it comes up with results, and I assure you stern legal measures will be taken against any public official who will be found to involve himself in conning peoples land, including

dismissal," said Dr Ndumbaro.

He said that the Phase VI Government will not be ready to ignore public employees who have become obstacles to the people's economic development.

"I also assure you that after the commission submits its findings I will come here with the Lands minister and the Lands commissioner and whoever will be found to have conned any of your land area, we shall take away him for further steps," he added.

In regard to "Mama Samia Legal Aid" campaign, Dr Ndumbaro said its goal is to provide education on legal aid to the people who do not

know how to get their rights.

"The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and will last three years and involves the provision of legal aid education to all the people countrywide," he said.

"It will also address the issue of moral decay in the society including issues of child abuse, to make everyone understand that people found guilty under these charges face 30 years in jail," he added.

However, he said Dodoma region has been the first region to implement the campaign and will be followed by Shinyanga, Manyara and Ruvuma regions.

Mara RC refuses to launch 'machinga' centre allegedly being built below standards

By Correspondent Ambrose

Wantagwa, Musoma

MARA Regional Commissioner (RC), Major General Suleiman Mzee has refused to officially launch opening of a centre for small-scale traders "machinga" for allegedly being built below standards.

The leader arrived at the area to launch the project implemented at a cost of 45m/- in Musoma Municipality, but he refused to open it on the grounds that the amount of expenses spent did not reflect value for money.

He instructed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in the region to initiate an investigation to find out if the funds have been embezzled for strict legal measures to be taken.

"I cannot launch or bless a project aimed for small traders or other public utilities in the region which seems to have failed to show the real value of the money spent," Mzee said.

He explained that the managers of all projects implemented in the region must be patriotic in managing public funds sent to their areas by the sixth phase government under President Samia.

"Managers of all the projects implemented in the region, including water, roads and health, must ensure projects are done with the right quality so that the government's goal of the Sixth Phase to serve the people diligently is fulfilled," he said.

He also instructed the concerned contractor to make adjustments in a short period before the project is officially launched so that small

traders in Musoma and its suburbs would have meeting places while continuing their activities.

The project is being built in the Municipality to be used as a center and offices for small traders known as 'Machinga' with the aim of reducing traffic on the roadside when doing their daily activities.

Recently, the RC has been seen to take surprising actions from time to time while carrying out his daily duties, in which the latest incident he fired the secretaries of the parliamentarians from the meeting of the road board.

Major General Mzee took the action claiming that he had thrown out the six representatives of MPs from the Mara Region from the road board meeting due to the fact that the MPs of the region have had a habit of not attending many meetings in the region.

In another related incident, the regional boss threatened to take strict legal action against politicians, including Tarime Rural MP, Mwita Waitara, for allegedly inciting a conflict between the people and the Serengeti National Park.



I cannot launch or bless a project aimed for small traders or other public utilities in the region which seems to have failed to show the real value of the money spent



Maasai community herder Lengitei Sangalisosi airs his grievances about a land dispute at Kwekisanga township in Kilindi District, Tanga Region yesterday. Left, chairman of the local government, Meshaki Medidingi listens to the complaints. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Milola-Mavimba water project to benefit 12,000 villagers in Ulanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Ulanga

OVER 12,000 villagers in Milola and Mavimba villages in Ulanga District, Morogoro Region will benefit from water project worth 630m/- executed by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA)

Eng Mbaraka Kilangai, Ruwasa Ulanga District Manager unveiled

this here yesterday when speaking at the one of the project sites soon after being visited by the team of Uhuru Torch Rally.

Eng Kilangai said the project, which will cost 630m/-, is expected to be completed by the end of May this year, which has so far reached 95 percent of completion.

He noted that the Maji Milola - Mavimba project also prevent

people from contracting waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea as a result of using unsafe water.

Ulanga MP, Salim Hasham thanked the government for releasing funds for the implementation, improvement and renewal of water projects in the constituency.

Hasham said the implementation of water projects in the area will

help the people to get clean and safe water unlike before where they used water from unreliable sources of water such as ponds, wells and rivers.

Abdallah Shaib, national leader of Uhuru Torch Rally asked the residents surrounding the project to ensure that they take care and preserve the environment so that the source is sustainable for the benefit of all.

Shahib said that any projects should be taken care of and protected because on the contrary, it is a destruction that causes a huge loss to the government that has spent a lot of money to complete it.

THURSDAY 11 MAY, 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Fixed telephony reform basic need for progress

THERE is an expression that the sky is the limit where there is a will for whatever one wishes to achieve. Mutatis mutandis, this ceiling is being reached for telecommunication service providers who have little room in seeking out more subscribers, and instead they need to develop more innovative and cost-effective products to attract more subscribers to particular products. This was basically the point being made by a university lecturer on a recent TCRA report.

The latest quarterly report of the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority showed modest increases in subscribers, which showed variations of subscription stable at upwards of 61m for each of the major service providers. There is plenty of satisfaction with the performance of the telecommunications industry, while the analyst pointed at challenges and opportunities the telecom sector faces, based on the dynamics of competition in the industry. He affirmed that as the telecom industry becomes more crowded, providers will need to think outside the box to attract and retain customers, with greater innovation.

He postulated the idea that it is not just about lowering prices but offering unique value propositions that stand out in a crowded market. "Companies that can innovate and adapt to changing customer needs will have a better chance of success in the long run," he stated, perhaps glossing over the fact that since mobile telephony became a routine commodity and not just for the rich, plenty of people have been working on the matter, covering most space, fruitfully.

What could indeed have been raised in that direction is the feature that the TCRA report observed, that

mobile network subscribers account for 99.86 percent of all subscribers. The fixed network has a paltry 0.14 percent of the total number of telephone users, where some media accounts even failed to take note of the fact that fixed services are offered the state telephone operator. Tied to this feature is that mobile services have up to six dynamic service providers.

The TCRA CEO, providing cover remarks on the quarterly report, said the report is crucial for telecom companies to assess the performance of their services, and for policymakers to monitor the industry's growth and impact on the economy. What followed next was to revisit the performance of each of the major mobile subscribers, while the fixed telephony conundrum is left aside.

The point here is that mobile telephony is supposed to be an additional facility to fixed telephony, where it is far easier to reduce charges because the fixed line are not demanding of continuous capital infusion or fixed wave propagation equipment as with mobile outlays. This has a telling cost on personal welfare as poor people spend a substantial chunk of incomes on phone use, while businesses are unable to use fixed telephony to cut costs. This cuts ability to compete, makes the economy relatively hostile to investments, local or foreign.

We can't discuss the issue as state telephony is a sacred fixture to us, where maintaining its prerogatives is deemed to be necessary for strategic reasons. The fact that it scarcely contributes to economic dynamism or personal welfare is left aside, and policy makers are heard to demand that billions of shillings be directed to such entities, instead of irrigation for instance, detesting majority share sales and control by private investors. But this is modernisation itself.

We must address challenges related to childhood stunting

STUNTED growth is a reduced growth rate in human development. It is a primary manifestation of malnutrition (or more precisely undernutrition) and recurrent infections, such as diarrhea and helminthiasis, in early childhood and even before birth, due to malnutrition during fetal development brought on by a malnourished mother. The definition of stunting according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) is for the "height for age" value to be less than two standard deviations of the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

As of 2012 an estimated 162 million children under 5 years of age, or 25 per cent, were stunted in 2012. More than 90 per cent of the world's stunted children live in Africa and Asia, where respectively 36 per cent and 56 per cent of children are affected. Once established, stunting and its effects typically become permanent. Stunted children may never regain the height lost as a result of stunting, and most children will never gain the corresponding body weight. Living in an environment where many people defecate in the open due to lack of sanitation, is an important cause of stunted growth in children, for example in India.

According to reports Dodoma leads other regions in the country for having high prevalence and percentage of stunting among under-five year children, a situation which attributes to poor performance in education sector within the region.

According to the regional medical officer (RMO), Dr Best Magoma, currently, the region's stunting average stands at 37.2 per cent, which is more than the national stunting rate

of 31.8 percent.

Speaking during the Regional Nutrition Committee convened in capital city under chairmanship of Dodoma regional commissioner (RC) Dr Binlith Mahenge; Dr Magoma expressed the need for authorities in all districts within the region to embark on fresh strategies to counter the situation.

"The effects of stunting are usually irreversible and are mainly delayed motor and cognitive development (impaired mental processes of perception, memory, decision making and reasoning). However, stunted girls are likely to experience obstructed labour during childbirth hence highly exposed in developing fistulas and even maternal and/or newborn deaths," he observed.

He added, stunting also predisposes an individual to overweight, obesity and related adulthood consequences such as cardio-vascular heart diseases, hypertension and diabetes.

"There's a need for all districts to conduct serious public awareness, especially among primary school pupils to impart them with key knowledge over how to cheat the dangerous ill disease from grass root levels," he urged.

However, in her presentation during the round table meeting, Maria Machilu, Programme Officer (Nutrition) from Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) through Lishe Endelevu USAID Activity, said poor diet, which includes lack of vitamin 'A' and nutrients stands among tall challenges facing many communities within the country, leading to stunting, malnutrition, blindness as well as open spine (Spina Bifida) and Big Head (Bran) diseases among children.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Ian Rumanyika

AS world leaders often gather to discuss alarming climate concerns, including the most recent Conference of Parties (COP) gathering in Cairo, Egypt, it serves everyone in the manufacturing sector well to remind ourselves of the long-underappreciated duty among those who manufacture, to consider the environment.

Green manufacturing has been defined as a commitment to using fewer environmental pollutants and natural resources. By way of reminder, Africa attracts some of the largest foreign investments yet little correlation is often made to our gains in green manufacturing.

UNCTAD for example estimated an 83 billion rise in investment on our continent in 2021, (and that was in the wake of the COVID pandemic).

That usually means that as low production costs entice investors, the environment on the continent of so-called "industrialization latecomers" is often the grass that suffers when manufacturing elephants get into business. Arguably so, many in the manufacturing sector on our continent, have barely acted upon any strong climate ambition, if any. An evident trend is observing factories in Uganda today that inhibit a space once occupied by a water reservoir or a swamp and those that deplete water resources and practice poor waste management. Yes, employment is often the promise, but what often happens to the ecosystem that previously sustained the community they are seeking to empower with jobs?

It's probable that many manufacturing plants today in Uganda stand where actual tree plants did. Company locations today that were once hosted by nature, are now supporting steel foundations of warehouses, constructed where water was supposed to flow, for example.

Not that warehouses are a bad idea, (after all, Uganda Baati has empowered many Ugandan households with next-generation building materials often safely preserved for and in warehouses using our pre-fabricated buildings, SAFBUILD, the world-class pre-engineered steel building (PEB) system; designed, manufactured and supplied as complete buildings fast to erect, optimized, durable, and convenient to construct, suitable for schools, churches, warehouses, office buildings, etc.

A recent report by Switch Green Africa, a green manufacturing Advocate, indicates areas of improvement towards green manufacturing as "water and energy efficiency, improved waste

Green manufacturing is Africa's opportunity to walk climate talk



management including industrial symbiosis (IS) and enhanced management of inputs."

The report also emphasizes that green manufacturers transition to sustainable manufacturing through investment in green technology, water, and energy efficiency.

It also recommends alignment of policy and regulatory environment among others.

This is a call we must embrace, a sector that prides itself in contributing to employment must also demonstrate sustainable strategies, especially if reports of Uganda's carbon emissions stand as they do, at an average of 0.13 per capita, last time I checked.

This is something to alarm us. I encourage all in the manufacturing sector to take heed. And yes, working to favor the environment is not at a loss, it affects the bottom line too.

We recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government forest body, (NFA), to replant 40 hectares of indigenous trees across the country, coming up to a total of 10 hectares per region across all Ugandan regions.

These are going to be visible climate action points of us across these regions. We all cannot pay a blind eye to the green effort that should accompany our work.

Untended soil has often made mere rainfall turn into deadly floods, as crop yields dwindle, it's possible for those who mean well, to generate a disaster unawares.

My friend Paul Musamali at NFA for example underlines this predicament stating how Uganda's forest cover has been dwindling over the years.

In the 1900s, the forest cover was 53%, by 1990, it had reduced to 24%; by 2017, it was 12% and between 1990 and 2017, Uganda had lost over 2.4 million hectares of forest cover. The resulting intended soil cover has often turned rainfall into deadly floods, as crops yield dwindle too.

Paul states that eventually in 2019, there was a slight recovery in forest cover to 13%. These are the recovery gains we have deliberately been part of as Uganda Baati, we are leaders in green manufacturing partnerships that are committed not only make Uganda great but create a bright tomorrow for our future generations.

Thankfully, this corporate forest initiative has made been possible through the committed, green-aware leadership of the Safal group, a leadership we are thankful for in these climate-aware days.

With our recent building solution innovation of ULTRASPAN, a designed manufactured & supplied light gauge steel trusses, that is replacing the traditional timber for roofing. We continue to research and innovate, in a bid to provide climate-friendly building solutions.

We hope our effort will also re-energize the long-term conversation about foreign investment players and the role we play in sustainable manufacturing.

Eye in the Wild is another initiative of the Safal group that seeks to leverage the beauty of nature and endorse it to various audiences by rewarding exceptional photographers who exhibit the highest expertise in capturing nature photography, it's worth looking up on our Safal website.

In addition, as a parallel campaign in light of our green manufacturing

goals, we recently collaborated with Uganda Hockey in a campaign dubbed "Score a Tree" campaign.

The effort seeks to ensure a tree is planted, whenever a hockey goal is scored across the season. We are proud to add this too on our climate-active bucket list.

Exceptionally notable too, National Forestry Authority has already identified 5 hectares within Mabira Forest for the Score a Tree campaign, where our partnership will focus its restoration activities in 2022.

Responsible manufacturing requires such commitments. Our efforts are internally guided by four key focus social investment pillars that include: Environment, Shelter, Health, and Education. The recent engagement with NFA comes under our Environment pillar and we are optimistic this initiative will contribute to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 17 of climate change and partnerships.

Our leadership steered by the board chairman Dr. Alan Shonubi has since re-energized the company's commitment to lead the way in green manufacturing.

Because we are convinced this country's future is uniquely safeguarded through environmental protection, we can always do something before it is too late.

At large, all manufacturing sector players ought to do something before it's too late. our people's futures depend on our actions, in other words, the talk must end, and the walk must begin. Or put differently, we must walk the talk.

The Writer is the Head of External Affairs at Uganda Baati Limited.

Some techniques that make participatory teaching more effective

THE art of teaching invites a number of approaches in the quest to impart knowledge into the minds of learners. The ultimate aim of teaching is making the learner benefit from the process and hence be able to pursue their career in life. It is the process of transferring knowledge from books into the minds.

Sometimes teachers want to teach the way they were taught. In the past, the teacher-centred approach dominated the teaching profession but forces of modernization now promote participatory approach which is learner-centred. Modern educationists believe that learners have great contribution in the teaching and learning process.

For any approach of teaching to be successful, some factors must be present. The teacher-centred approach demands teachers to be highly knowledgeable because what they say is not easily subjected to criticism. If what they say is wrong, the effects are huge to the society. The teacher has to struggle alone to search for new knowledge which could come from learners.

The participatory approach on the other hand demands a society which is saturated with educational materials or contents. A teacher cannot discuss with someone who has not read anything. It is the facility for learning that the modern world has provided that encourages educationists that participatory method can work.

There are a lot of educational materials that are found free online. Also, there are many individuals who are well educated in the streets who can help in dissemination of information.

Participatory approach places gives task of searching for new knowledge to both teachers and learners, and the former filter the content and get the right one for the learners. Learners are made responsible for their education and this helps them to value it.

When one participates in something, they become more aware and the possibility of positive change is increased. Learners participate in what is expected to shape their lives. They get a chance to mediate on what has to go into their minds. This helps in reducing blames as some may claim that they were just forced to believe in something. Through discussions af-



ing process. A teacher can involve learners by giving them assignments, asking them questions and giving them more chances of expressing their opinions. What a teacher teaches is to shape the lives of learners. Therefore, a teacher has to give learners a chance to verify the contents taught by enabling them effectively participate in the teaching and learning process before they internalize the knowledge.

Also, making it known that a teacher cannot know each and everything can help in the application of the participatory method. For, many teachers feel ashamed of telling learners that they don't know some concepts. Behaving in this way is embracing perfectionism which is hard to possess as a human being. A teacher should be ready to accept positive challenges from learners as a way of improving their teaching methods. A teacher should know many things but not everything. The many things that the teacher knows can help maintain reputation as a teacher and hence being confident when in front of learners.

Importantly, teachers should discourage arrogance among learners but instead make the humble. Humbleness in the class helps participatory approach to be successful as learners are encouraged to give out their opinions without fear of being mocked by their fellows. It is the task of the teacher to make sure that any element of arrogance is eliminated in the class in order to make participatory approach successful.

Participatory approach makes teaching and learning process enjoyable. It makes the lesson not boring. It also increases interactionism and resilience to both the teacher and pupils. The sense of perfectionism is eliminated through participatory approach. The classroom lesson should be organized in a way that enables pupils to participate. Schools prepare individuals to live in the society and not staying in class forever. Let us honour participatory approach so as to prepare pupils for the life after school.



CLASSROOM MATTERS

By
Thomas Lyimo

lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

ter searching the new information, the confidence in the teaching and learning process is increased. Some concepts are verified through questions and answers and in this way the knowledge is con-

solidated. Although participatory approach in the learning process is good, there are some techniques which need to be applied so as to make it successful.

One of the techniques is creating awareness to pupils that they are important in the learning process. Awareness helps to initiate a sense of responsibility.

When learners know that a teacher depends

on them in making the lesson appealing, they can search for new knowledge on their own. When individuals are trusted, they are more motivated. Therefore, for a teacher to be successful in the appli-

cation of participatory method he or she has to show that learners are important in the teaching and learning process.

Another technique is involving learners in the teaching and learn-

By Luther Mugosha

Those who chase success without work waste precious time, energy

PROSPERITY preachers are not in short supply in our country nowadays. And many Tanzanian, especially youth, seem determined to achieve prosperity. Consequently, it is not uncommon to find multitudes congregating during weekdays and pray for all manner of worldly possessions, including but not limited to money, houses and cars.

Unfortunately, there are rules of success which have been scientifically tested for centuries. It is these rules that can enable a person achieve prosperity, including financial independence.

Among the people who benefited from these rules were prominent psychologists, inventors, discoverers and rich people across the world. We should remember that success is an accomplishment of an assignment or the attainment of a desired end.

Get a job first

Wealth comes in three forms: money, skill and time. The good news is that you don't have to possess all; you can use one you have to get others. Also important to note is that money is a modern medium of exchange of good delivered or service rendered. Before money, there was barter trade, namely exchange of goods for goods. This means you must have something to offer to be rewarded with



money. Work is available everywhere but it may not be your size. All you need are some skills and humbleness. A Wiseman once said those who are too big to do small things are perhaps too small to be asked to do great things.

Kim Woo Chong, President of Daewoo Corporation said he started his business in 1973 and by 1977, his annual turnover was about US\$ 90 billion.

"About seven years before I started my business, I worked for a company run by my distant relative. Although I was part of the family, I was still a regular wage earner. Yet, I did my work as

though I was the owner of the company. I did not wait for others, I always took my initiatives myself to seek out work to do. I was never late for work and never took a day off because of an exciting joy I derive from accomplishment. I still work harder today," he said.

There is one dependable method of accumulating and legally holding riches and that is by rendering useful services. There is no any economic system in the world that has been created by which people can legally acquire great riches without returning an equivalent value of one form or another.

Overwhelming service

"He profits most, who serves the best" is one of the best known slogans in business. It works if you only understand the words "serves the best" which means overwhelming service. This is reference to not just expected service or regular service. Many entrepreneurs give expected or regular services and sometimes less service from expected ones and that is exactly why it doesn't produce extraordinary results because ordinary or expected services may make you take your hand to mouth only but it won't give you success.

One of the surest ways to get success is to give over-

whelming service. Give such service continuously without thought of immediate benefit to yourself. The less you directly benefit from the service, the more you impress those you want to influence and they will see that you sincerely want to help them.

As a result, customers will feel that they should help you in return by hiring your services or buying the products you sell. That means spending their incomes on your services or products. As a result, they will bring back new customers who are attracted by your overwhelming service and eventually you get success.

Know your strength

The question normally asked in job interviews is what is your strength or what is your plus? This is looking for extra strength which you have and others do not have because it is only that extra strength or plus of yours which attracts attention and makes you stand out far above the crowd. In fact, it is this strength that can enable you offer overwhelming service.

Have you ever seen or heard of employees called back in the office from leave? It is not because everybody has tendered a resignation letter. And there are those old folks who have attained mandatory retirement age but they are still given lucrative contracts to the envy of youthful employees. These fellows have a plus.

I know there are fellows reading this article but have no job yet and may ask how to identify strength and provide overwhelming service without a job.

Opportunities hide in the open

The problem is that most people lock themselves within certain career paths and do not see other numerous opportunities. There are a lot of billionaires and millionaires who tried their hands at something else and made it.

The only trick is to hit the target. When one goes hunting for a game, he selects hunting ground where ani-

mals are plentiful. When seeking economic independence, the same rule would naturally apply. Tanzania spends a lot of money on food import annually. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) says the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) launched in 2018 provides everything needed to transform the country's agriculture. There are many other sector of the economy with numerous opportunities that anyone can grab.

So, opportunities are plenty, just look carefully and grab one that suits you. Step up to the front, select what you want, create your plan, put it into action and follow it through with perseverance.

The lesson we take from Kim is that you will never own your most successful business until you prove to be faithful in another person's business or your own business. Your unfaithfulness today will transfer to the business you are starting tomorrow and the trend will continue.

Your value today in whatever you work for reflects quality of your value tomorrow when you start your operation. Meditate this and take step forward to improve your toady's value or to protect it from falling.

Luther Mugosha is an entrepreneur and author of books based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0626 267 969.

Overpopulation is not good for the people and the planet

By Nandita Bajaj

INDIA'S population has just reached 1.4 billion people, surpassing China as the world's most populous nation four years earlier than projected. Spurring this growth is a traditional patriarchal culture in which women's identity is constrained by the social expectation they bear children.

Across the globe, pronatalist forces undermine women's autonomy and self-determination. Pronatalism is an underlying driver of the global population growth to 8 billion and counting, with 80 million added each year.

The new UNFPA State of World Population Report is wrong to dismiss "population anxiety" as groundless and assert that "population sizes are neither good nor bad." Population growth is not good for people or the planet, and anxiety is not an unwarranted response to how it affects us.

Population growth deepens social and economic inequality and has negative impacts on unemployment, housing costs, inflation, infrastructure, resource scarcity, pollution, and well-being. It even fuels resource conflicts and wars.

It's also one of the key variables determining overall consumption and pollution levels, which are jeopardizing planetary life support systems on which we and Earth's remaining biodiversity depend.

Population growth is a significant factor in cli-

mate change according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Over the past three decades, it has cancelled out most climate gains from renewables and efficiency.

Going forward, population growth will be concentrated in the developing world. Dismissing its environmental impacts betrays an assumption that low-income populations in the Global South will stay that way.

This is false as well as unjust. Across the globe, the middle class is the fastest-growing segment of the population, projected to grow another billion to reach 5 billion by 2030. This will bring better living standards for a billion of today's poor. But we must recognize that it will also bring more peril to an already overburdened planet.

Beyond its impacts on GHG emissions and the climate, population growth also drives broader "overshoot," meaning that human demands are exceeding Earth's regenerative capacity.

Currently, we consume 75 percent more than the Earth can provide sustainably, resulting in unprecedented biodiversity loss and an extinction crisis, dwindling freshwater supplies, ocean acidification, expanding desertification, and resource scarcity.

Much of this damage comes from our global food systems, which are directly tied to population growth, and which have already transformed



According to the United Nations, the world's population is more than three times larger than it was in the mid-twentieth century. The global population reached 8.0 billion in mid-November 2022 from an estimated 2.5 billion people in 1950, adding 1 billion people since 2010 and 2 billion since 1998. IPS

at least 40 percent of the planet's ice-free land area. They are the primary threat to 86 percent of endangered species.

Much of agriculture's negative impact is due to the Green Revolution, which is often invoked to inspire confidence that human ingenuity can solve the problems associated with population growth.

But the Green Revolution has posed wicked problems of its own, including deforestation, damaging soil health and the nutritional content of food, and agrochemical pollution. In the Global South, where these problems are especially acute, it has failed to im-

prove health and well-being.

Similarly, faith in green technology, including the unfounded belief renewable energy will somehow decouple growth from environmental damage, ignores real-world negative impacts which disproportionately affect poor people and frontline communities.

Scaling up massive clean energy infrastructure without working to downsize demand wreaks environmental devastation. So does mining toxic rare earth metals, dirty and dangerous work which is done in slave-like conditions by people in the Global South.

The UNFPA report displays this kind of misplaced

faith in technology and human ingenuity. Such faith is rooted in a bias toward endless economic growth, propagated by those who have most benefited from the current economic system and who are already wealthy. It ignores the ecological unraveling of continued human expansionism, and the massive toll it takes on human well-being.

According to the IPCC, the climate crisis will lead to increased death and illness from extreme weather and heat waves, growing agricultural losses, destruction of small island states, debilitating drought, declining freshwater supplies, and escalating losses of marine

and terrestrial biodiversity.

Over a billion people are expected to be climate refugees by 2050.

From climate change, violence, and conflict to decreased economic opportunity, population growth's impacts are felt most acutely by women, whose status in developing countries is already low, and by children, including those yet to be born. UNICEF calls the outlook for a billion children in climate-vulnerable countries "unimaginably dire."

In a time when no government climate plans are on track to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and we are witnessing a human-driven mass extinction event, dis-

missing the profound impacts of population growth is shockingly irresponsible.

The UNFPA makes this mistake. It seeks to champion reproductive rights, yet dismisses the importance of population growth, which is driven by patriarchal pronatalist forces that pressure women into obsolete gender roles and abrogate their rights.

Failure to make this connection between rights and growth is the report's most disappointing aspect.

Population deceleration and human rights go together; we need to advocate both. They are both achievable by the same set of human rights-based policies: universal education, women's empowerment, children's rights, and free, state-of-the-art family planning for all.

Truly advancing the causes of human rights and ecological sustainability requires humanity to shrink our population and our economies. It's our only chance to achieve a high standard of living for all while staying within planetary boundaries.

Nandita Bajaj is the executive director of Population Balance and co-host of The Overpopulation Podcast. She also teaches the first graduate course of its kind: Pronatalism, Overpopulation, and the Planet, through the Institute for Humane Education at Antioch University.

IPS UN Bureau

Maternal mortality: Why has progress in saving women's lives stalled?

By Marty Logan

A NEW report reveals that from 2000 to 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) fell by 3%, and by more than 50% in 58 countries that had the highest rates of women dying during pregnancy or up to 42 days after delivery. But from 2016 to 2020, maternal mortality barely changed. In 2020, roughly 287,000 women globally died from a maternal cause, which is almost 800 maternal deaths daily, and about one every two minutes.

The report, Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020: estimates, by United Nations (UN) agencies and the World Bank Group, predicted that if current trends continue more than one million extra maternal deaths will occur by 2030, the end of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What are the SDGs? The 17 SDGs were adopted by all UN member states in 2015 after the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) ended. Each SDG deals with a specific development issue, such as poverty, education and health. And every goal includes specific targets, all of which are supposed to be met by 2030.

What is the SDGs target for maternal mortality?

The SDG target (3.1) for maternal mortality is a global MMR of less than

70 for every 100,000 live births. A supplementary target is that by 2030, no country should have an MMR greater than 140.

Is the world on track to meet the target?

The global MMR in 2020 was estimated at 223, down from 227 in 2015 and from 339 in 2000 - a drop of one-third (34.3%) from 2000 to 2020 but far from the target of 70. If the pace of progress seen in 2016-2020 continues, the MMR will be 222 by 2030 - over three times the target.

Why is the world so far off-track?

The vast majority of maternal deaths are preventable: the clinical knowledge and technology needed to prevent them have long existed. But, such solutions are often not available, not accessible or not put in place, says the report. This is especially true in locations lacking resources and/or among populations that are at greater risk because of so-called 'social determinants' - for instance, their economic and education levels and distance from health services.

Where are the biggest challenges?

In 2020, sub-Saharan Africa was the only region with an MMR that the report labels 'very high' (500-999) - 545 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. A 15-year-old girl in the region had a 1 in 40 lifetime risk of dying from a maternal cause.



Nearly every maternal death is preventable, and the clinical expertise and technology necessary to avert these losses have existed for decades. Credit: Patrick Burnett/IPS

Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for roughly 70% of global maternal deaths in 2020, followed by Central and Southern Asia (17%).

Are any countries or regions doing well?

Between 2000 and 2020, Central and Southern Asia achieved the greatest percentage drop in MMR, with a decline of 67.5%, falling from 397 to 129 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. In 2020, MMR was lowest in Australia and New Zealand.

A 15-year-old girl there had a 1 in 16,000 lifetime risk of dying from a maternal cause.

Are there any outliers?

In the United States the MMR soared between 2018 and 2021, from 17.4 per 100,000 live births to 32.9, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. During the same period, the MMR for the Black population went from 37.3 to 69.9. For the White population it started at 14.9

in 2018 and rose to 26.6 in 2021.

Many experts point to impacts of COVID-19 as a main cause of the spike, and an article by CNN also notes that the MMR has been steadily rising in the US for three decades.

In 2021 the US Government introduced policies to address the negative trend, including the Black Maternal "Mommibus" Act of 2021. That package of bills aims to provide pre- and post-natal support for Black mothers,

including extending eligibility for certain benefits postpartum, adds the CNN article.

Did the COVID-19 pandemic have an impact?

"It is plausible" that the pandemic had an impact on maternal mortality, says the UN/World Bank report, while noting that stagnation in progress started before 2020, when COVID-19 spread globally. Studies in four countries have found

excess maternal mortality due to the pandemic but research is scarce.

What needs to change to meet the 2030 target?

The report says multi-sectoral action is needed to meet various challenges to reducing maternal mortality, including:

Strengthen health systems by: increasing numbers of well-trained and supervised staff; tackling shortages of essential supplies and making them accountable to ensuring the rights of women and girls;

Focus on improving access to women and girls marginalized by social determinants, including: ethnicity, age, disability and socioeconomic inequalities, which impede women's access to and use of sexual and reproductive health services;

Achieve universal health coverage so that services are affordable;

A perspective that embraces women's equality and human rights must animate action;

Health systems must be made more resilient to climate and humanitarian crises.

What are other benefits of cutting maternal mortality?

"A woman's health lays the foundation for her children's health, her family, her community and for generations to come," says the World Economic Forum. Gender equality globally would raise the world's gross domestic product as much as US\$28 billion, it adds.

By Guardian Reporter

My dream was to become a lawyer: But now turned carrier accountant

As a young girl, Tatu Tibashengwa wanted to be a lawyer she was enticed by Neria movie. She says, "I really liked the lawyer and the way he defended his clients, and that's what made me want to become a lawyer." But when she reached her early teens, she became very interested in accounting.

Tatu's schooling took her all the way right up to Form Four, then in Form Five she chose economics, commerce, accountancy (ECA) as her subjects, which she successfully completed two years later. This sparked Tatu's interest in the world of economics and she promised herself to do everything she could to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting at the University of Dar es Salaam. She succeeded in keeping her promise and was accepted at the University of Dar es Salaam, where she graduated in 2010.

After graduating in 2012, she completed her qualifications as a certified public accountant (CPA). She then worked for two years before successfully applying for an internal control officer position at GGML in 2015.

Since joining GGML, Tatu has had a stellar career. In 2017, she was promoted to superintendent 2 internal control in the same finance department. The work environment at GGML has allowed Tatu to learn new skills through constant interaction with her colleagues, and the many trainings ranging from courses on accounting, compliance and management have advanced her career and made her excel even further. After receiving a pro-



Tatu Tibashengwa

motion within two years at GGML, it was clear that Tatu was a dedicated and conscientious employee who caught the attention of senior managers. In 2019, she was selected for the MBA Management programme at ESAMI college in which she studied a range

of topics such as leadership, governance, project management and business law, which helped to better equip her for her job. Meanwhile, in 2020, Tatu completed a certificate in directorship at the Institute of Directors in Tanzania. The programmes were also

an important part of GGML's succession planning and its commitment to bringing more Tanzanians into leadership positions.

The busy mother of three finds the right balance by having a strong support network. Even when there

are problems at one of her children's schools, she has someone she can rely on, and if the need arises that she has to travel for work, she has someone to help her. The support system she has built ensures that she does not have to worry and

can balance her career and being a mother. Tatu is positive about the way GGML supports its employees. "I would say that when you are at GGML you have the opportunity to develop professionally. Because they support you a lot."

She further said: "There are various trainings, but you also get on-the-job training. You get the opportunity to learn from other mines operated by AngloGold Ashanti in other countries and we learn a lot of things." For anyone still hesitant about pursuing a career in mining, Tatu says of GGML: "GGML is a good employer that cares about its people first and foremost, and there are many opportunities for someone who is ready to grow."

While the ratio of women in the mining sector is nowhere near where it should be, companies around the world are striving to undo this legacy. AngloGold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mining Limited has heeded this call and as a company is doing a great deal to move in the right direction. Earlier this year, Tatu graduated from the 8th cohort of the Female Future Tanzania (FFT), a program coordinated by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in collaboration with ESAMI College. The programme aims to strengthen gender equality in the workplace, improve women's representation in management decision making processes as well as draw women to the top positions of the private and public sectors.

It is no coincidence that upon graduation, in March 2023, Tatu was appointed to the position of governance manager in the finance department, a milestone for the Company and a commitment that illustrates that inclusivity has moved beyond just being a matter of conscience, making the push for gender parity in the mining industry an inevitability.

By Special Correspondent

UN - Habitat maps out new urban agenda for Africa to boost growth

COUNTRIES in the sub-Saharan African region must come up with innovative policy, regulatory and financing tools in their quest to establish resilient cities that promise green and equitable economic progress, senior officials from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) said on Tuesday.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, executive director of the UN-Habitat, said as urbanization accelerates in Africa, policymakers should prioritize revamping cities' infrastructure to help cope with population pressure and climatic stresses.

According to Sharif, African cities are the new epicenters of innovation, talent, and economic vitality, hence the need to enact legislation to ensure they are safe, habitable, and resilient to natural disasters.

She said the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, slated for June 5 to 9 in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, will present an opportunity for African countries to revitalize their urban agenda.

Held after every four-year cycle, the assembly is the highest decision-making body on urban issues within the UN system and



comprises 193 UN member states.

The assembly will be held under the theme "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises."

Sharif noted that African cities have not been spared the negative impact of the global economic slowdown, the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and the climate crisis, stressing that restoring their vibrancy demands policy shift, forward-looking leadership, and leveraging innovations.

Currently, an estimated 40 percent of Africa's population live in urban areas, while 53 percent live in informal settlements that lack basic amenities, including safe drinking water, sanitation, and health, according to the UN-Habitat.

Oumar Sylla, director of the Regional Office for Africa at the UN-Habitat, said there is an urgency to tackle extreme poverty, pollution, youth unemployment, crime, and proliferation of slums, which is stifling efforts to create resilient cities in the continent.

Sylla called for the creation of a conducive policy and regulatory environment to spur investments in green mobility, affordable shelter, and waste recycling in a bid to accelerate urban renewal in Africa.

In addition, Sylla said leveraging data and innovations, research, capacity building, sharing of best practices, and domestic resource mobilization will be key to renewing African cities.

Côte d'Ivoire: Viviane, a young graduate chose agriculture to achieve her dreams

By Special Correspondent

VIVIANE Kakou, who has a master's degree in geography, didn't want to spend her career in an office. She chose agriculture out of passion. Thanks to the African Development Bank, her dream of becoming an agricultural entrepreneur is taking shape.

"When I was studying for my degree," she explains, "I was working on the rural economy among women in Afféry, in Adzopé department in the south-east of the country. I began to appreciate agriculture and thought I could earn my living from it. So, I came to it out of choice."

For almost six months, Kakou, a 37-year-old woman, has been training at the Higher School of Agronomy (ESA) in Yamoussoukro, the country's political capital, which is implementing the project to employ young

people in agribusinesses in Côte d'Ivoire ("Enable Youth Côte d'Ivoire"). This national programme has received €1.4 million in financial support from the African Development Bank.

The project, as part of its incubation phase, is training a new generation of young farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs and equipping them to support the structural transformation of local agriculture through technological innovation. It also encourages young graduates, aged 21-37, to return to the land if they have a minimum of two years' post-secondary education.

"I'm working on the value chain for cassava. I chose to work in subsistence agriculture because I see cassava as white gold," explains Kakou. In 2017, she visited Brazil, thanks to the project, which offered her a

training course on cassava. "The main derivative of cassava, here, is attiéke. But there are so many cassava derivatives that can be used," she says, buoyed by the support she has been given by Enable Youth to create her small enterprise.

"This project is important, because it creates optimal conditions for agricultural entrepreneurship through support for capacity building, promoting professionals in agriculture and funding projects for young people," says ESA's Director, Siaka Koné, with delight.

In 2018, 70%-90% of working age Ivorians were in vulnerable jobs or unemployed. Kone says: "The aim of the "Enable Youth Côte d'Ivoire" project is to build the capacity of young graduates to create businesses in agricultural value chains. Young gradu-

ates will be trained in the skills needed by modern farmers using incubators that support agri-business projects. Following the incubation phase, they will receive support to fund their businesses."

In addition to agriculture and animal production, beneficiaries of the "Enable Youth Côte d'Ivoire" pilot project are also learning about processing and e-commerce. This includes producing and processing cassava into flour, attiéke, a food staple, and other derivatives, such as liquid cassava waste, which can be processed into ethanol.

Others are working to produce and process peppers into purée and powder, off-season production of plantain; quail and quail eggs; oyster and Ganoderma mushrooms; and rearing rabbits or guinea fowl.

Kakou would like to see other young

graduates follow in her footsteps. "I'd like to send a message to young people, especially young women, and tell them that I wasn't simply at a loose end. I have a master's degree in geography, so finding a job wouldn't have been an issue. But there are lots of opportunities in agriculture. I'd recommend they get involved. We can coach them to change their plans," says Kakou, who in addition to Brazil, has travelled to Ibadan, Nigeria, to advance her agricultural know-how, thanks to the African Development Bank.

"I'd like to thank the African Development Bank, our Minister for Young People and the Youth Employment Programme. Thanks to them, my dream is coming true," Kakou concludes, standing in an experimental cassava field of a quarter of a hectare in size.



Thursday 11 May 2023

Central, north zones lead in bank deposits growths, data shows

By Guardian Reporter

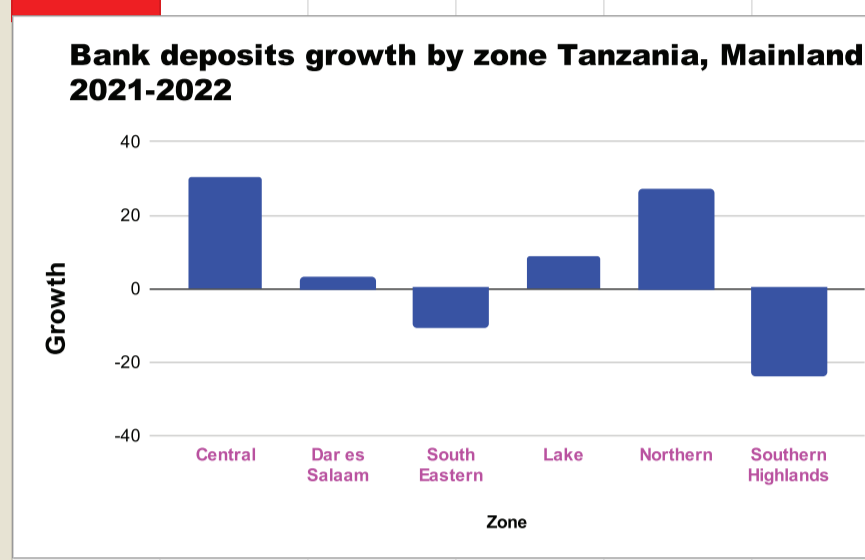
Commercial banks recorded strong growths of deposits mobilization in central and northern zones of Tanzania mainland, which indicates increased diversified economic concentration from dominant Dar es Salaam zone.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and commercial banks computations show, the two zones account for 33.4 percent of share of banks deposits in Tanzania mainland, more than half of dominant Dar es Salaam zone, which has 61 percent share.

Data show that central zone of Tanzania, comprising the national capital of Dodoma, recorded the highest growth of bank deposits mobilization growth of 30.2 percent to 2.93trn/- at the end of December 2022, compared with 2.25trn/- recorded at the end of December 2021.

Central zone accounts for 11.1 percent of all bank deposits, the third largest, according to the central bank's consolidated zonal economic report for December. The zone was also the main targets for banks, in terms of branch opening due to increased government's administrative activities to the nation's capital.

On bank's lending, central zone loans grew



by 31 percent, the second highest, to 2.5trn/- compared with 1.93trn/- respectively, of which 69.8 percent were personal loans and 13 percent of lending went to agriculture, hunting, forest and fishing.

The zone accounts for 10 percent of share of bank loans in Tanzania mainland. The second highest growth was recorded in the northern zone, the second

largest with 12.3 percent share, where the bank deposits grew by 26.8 to 3.26trn/- at the end of December 2022, higher than 2.57trn/- recorded at the end of December 2021.

Northern zone of Tanzania mainland main economic activities include tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and trade as it is bordering the neighbouring Kenya, the

largest East African economy.

Bank loans to northern zone, which accounts for 9.6 percent share in Tanzania mainland, grew by 10.3 percent to 2.30trn/- compared with 2.09trn/- respectively, of which 55.8 percent was personal loans and 13.1 percent went to wholesale and retail trade.

The report shows total bank deposits in Tanzania mainland grew by 6.4 percent to 26.5trn/- at the end of last year, compared with 24.9trn/- at the end of December 2021.

The BoT noted that the growth was attributed by continued recovery of economic activities and deposit mobilization measures adopted by banks, including enhanced use of agency banking.

Deposits transaction value through agent banking increased by 54 percent to 17.39trn/- at the end of December 2022, compared with 11.27trn/- recorded at the end of December 2021.

Commercial bank's lending expanded by 23.9 percent to 23.93trn/- compared with 19.30trn/- respectively, of which 11.8trn were borrowed through agency banking.

On average, the report shows 52.9

percent of bank loans during the year ended in December 2022 were personal, followed by 44.2 percent to agriculture, 12.6 percent went to wholesale and retail trade, 5.6 percent to manufacturing and the remaining loans share went to other economic activities.

The third highest growth of bank deposit was recorded in Lake Zone, which has 8.6 percent share, at 8.8 percent to 2.28trn/- at the end of December 2022, compared with 2.09trn/- at the end of December 2021, followed by dominant Dar es Salaam zone, which grew by 2.8 percent to 16.15trn/- compared with 15.7trn/- respectively.

However, the report shows south eastern and southern highlands zones recorded negative growths of bank deposits during the reviewed period.

Deposit growth in southern highlands, which accounts for 3.6 share in Tanzania mainland, shrunk by 23.5 percent to 966.7bn/- at the end of December 2022, compared with 1.26trn/- at the end of December 2021, while in south eastern, which accounts for 3.4 percent, bank deposits shrunk by 10.1 percent to 900bn/- compared with 1.001trn/- respectively.

By Guardian Reporter

Muslims will now have no worries to secure funds to travel to Mecca to fulfill their spiritual obligations, after CRDB Bank announces the launch of collateral free financing solutions for Hajj and Umrah.

The twin solutions are designed to cater the needs of pilgrims who wish to attend Hajj but have no or insufficient financial capabilities.

The launched products offer affordable and convenient financing options, to enable CRDB Bank customers to cover their travel and accommodation expenses for Hajj and Umrah.

With various Muslims from around the world preparing to perform the obligatory act of Hajj, Tanzania has a quota of up to 3,000 pilgrims, and many of them may not have saved enough to fund their journeys.

"We are delighted to introduce the Hajj and Umrah financing solution as an addition to our Islamic Banking portfolio. This product reaffirms our commitment to providing affordable financing options to all our customers, especially those who wish to undertake the pilgrimage to Mecca," said Bonaventura Paul, CRDB Bank's director of retail banking.

Muhsin Said, the Acting Head of the CRDB Al Barakah Banking Division, said that the newly launched Hajj and Umrah loans will be available to all Muslims in the country on flexible repayment terms.

As an unsecured loan, there is no requirement for collateral, making it accessible to a wider range of customers, he noted.

"Hajj and Umrah loans are provided up to a maximum of 30mn/- For employees, the Bank will facilitate up to 80 percent of all travel expenses, while for businessmen and entrepreneurs, the financing will be up to 50 percent of all travel expenses," explained Muhsin.

During the launch event, the Chief Sheikh and Muft of Tanzania, Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir, commended CRDB Bank for introducing the Umrah and Hajj financing solution, emphasizing the importance of fulfilling spiritual obligations while remaining financially responsible.

"This is a fantastic initiative from CRDB Bank, and I commend them for making it easier for Muslims to fulfill their religious obligations. I encourage all Tanzanian Muslims to take advantage of this opportunity to secure financing for their pilgrimage to Mecca," said Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir while asking the CRDB Bank to also facilitate the pilgrimage institutions in the country.

The launch of the Hajj and Umrah financing solution further underscores CRDB Bank's commitment to providing innovative and inclusive financial solutions to all customers.

CRDB Bank launched its Islamic Banking services, known as "CRDB Bank Al Barakah," in 2021. The service has already attracted more than 30,000 customers who have taken advantage of the various services offered, including accounts and loans.

The Bank's report indicates that CRDB Al Barakah Banking has disbursed more than 73bn/- to customers since its inception, demonstrating the increasing demand for Islamic financial products in Tanzania.

CRDB Bank Plc launches unsecure financing scheme for pilgrimage



Sheikh Dr. Abubakar Zubeir Bin Ally, the Mufti of Tanzania (2nd R), addresses the media at the launch of CRDB Bank's Hajj and Umrah loans, held at CRDB Bank's Headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Other are Bonaventura Paul, Director of Small and Medium Customers of CRDB Bank (2nd L), member of muslim Scholar's Council and deputy Kadhi Sheikh Ally Hamisi Ngeruko (L) and Muhsini Said, Acting Head of the CRDB Al Barakah Banking Division (R). Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Diversity at the top makes banks better

By Frank Elderson & Elizabeth McCaul

Banking is still a man's world. Out of the 361 CEO appointments made between 2020 and 2022 at the significant institutions (SIs) directly supervised by the ECB, as well as at their subsidiaries, more than 300 were men, as the ECB has observed.

Also, in the same period, only 36 percent of members of boards newly appointed in SIs were women. Why is that an issue? For one thing, diverse boards make better business decisions. And as supervisors it is our job to check that banks take steps to create the best conditions for making good decisions.

So, we have been gathering information about governance in SIs. Unfortunately, the data reveal a mixed picture. On the one hand, there have been improvements in banks' diversity policies, which include education, experience, geographical provenance and age in addition to gender. Last year, we addressed a number of banks directly about their lack of such policies, and it's good to see that they have acted on this. Other banks that did already have diversity policies in place have raised their targets.

On the other hand, when we look at the actual targets set, we can only express our disappointment. On average, banks only raised their diversity targets for management bodies from 32% in 2020 to 34% at the end of 2022.

In addition to the actual targets being disappointing, what can we say about how banks are meeting them? Overall, around one third of SIs have not met their own targets and are planning to do so within the next 3 years. While 28 of the banks that we directly supervise increased the number of women on their boards in 2022, 16 made appointments that actually reduced gender diversity. Moreover, the share of female board members appointed was low, at around 34%. With these numbers we doubt that these targets could be reached anytime soon.

This is just not good enough. For the sake of sound governance banks have to push for faster improvement. That is why we added gender diversity considerations to our Guide to fit and proper assessments in 2021. The Guide lays out the checks we conduct to ensure that newly hired top managers are ready and qualified to run a bank and it now asks banks to respect their gender di-

versity targets. We also made management body effectiveness and diversity part of our 2022-24 supervisory priorities in an effort to boost the speed at which improvements are being made. This commitment has now been reaffirmed in our 2023-25 priorities, in particular in terms of making banks better able to deal with the growing challenges they face.

When we identify shortcomings in diversity policies during the fit and proper process, we send recommendation letters to banks about how they can address any shortcomings identified and meet the targets set. In 2021 and 2022, we raised diversity issues in 36 cases, most of which we addressed by making recommendations. In addition, we monitor how banks perform in terms of gender diversity during the Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process - in which we check banks' ability to deal with potential risks. Overall, we continue to see diversity as a priority when it comes to internal governance.

Let's look at a recent example of how we used our supervisory tools to address banks' shortcomings. In one case, we identified a bank whose board was not functioning well, partly due to a lack of diversity of

thought and experiences. This finding resulted in an on-site inspection of the bank. In addition, we suggested that the bank conduct an external review of its board to compare it to industry best practice. The review confirmed that there were weaknesses at board level, in particular with the members collectively not having the relevant experiences needed and a lack of independence, thus limiting the ability of the board to oversee the bank's activities. We then required the bank to review the composition of its board. In the end, the bank changed the composition of its board to increase the diversity of its members' experiences and backgrounds. We will continue to assess cases like these as part of our ongoing supervision and the fit and proper process in relation to future board appointments.

We want to see gender-balanced boards, not only because it is fair but because it improves governance. One reason is that gender-balanced management encourages a broader range of views, opinions, experiences, perceptions, values and backgrounds. This is crucial for avoiding group-think or herd mentalities, and may also be beneficial for the soundness of the bank.

WHAT BANKS CAN DO TO SPUR SAVINGS CULTURE IN OUR SOCIETY- PART TWO

By Kelvin Mkwawa

In my previous article, I shared the reasons why we as a society should have a culture of savings. Savings empower individuals by shifting the saver's perception of his/her situation from day-to-day struggle (i.e., short-term) to long-term survival. It also increases our national level of savings hence reducing the borrowing appetite. These reasons underline the importance of a savings culture for one's confidence and the country's growth. I understand that the majority of us (Tanzanians) incomes are low and the unemployment rate is relatively high but still developing a saving culture is critical to our personal development and our country as well.

As financial intermediaries, banks have a huge role to play in establishing a savings culture in our society. Also, in my previous article, I shared that to improve savings in our society; banks can conduct outreach to schools and communities to teach them the importance of savings

and financial literacy. By doing this, the banks will bring more people, especially children and youth, into the formal banking sector which will help to instill the culture of savings from an early age. In this week's article, I will suggest two more actions the banks can do to spur the savings culture in our society:

Develop New Products - According to Calleo's research paper of 2014 titled "Accessing the unbanked: Branchless Banking in Africa", one of the major factors which limit access to banking in Africa (Tanzania included) is the narrow range of products and poor product design offered by the banks. Furthermore, the 2017 FinScope Tanzania survey results show that only 43% of adult Tanzanians saved in the last 12 months of that year and the majority of them are saving outside the formal banking system due to limited banking products offered by the banks. The aforementioned findings tell us that our banks currently are not doing a great job of developing products that promote financial inclusion and encourage



Kelvin Mkwawa,

savings. To increase the savings culture, banks need to develop new products that make it easier for people to do banking and also redesign the existing products to promote a saving culture by exempting charges

on saving accounts as well as offering competitive interest rates. The deposit interest rates in our banks are one of the most important factors that determine the levels of savings. To attract deposits, interest rates must be higher than the inflation rate which will result in a positive real interest rate and hence motivate individuals to save more. Therefore, banks need to play their role to ensure that the lending rates they offer are always higher than the inflation rate to encourage a savings culture in society.

Offering Excellent Customer Service - Banks should offer excellent customer service to their customers and engage more in corporate social responsibility to improve the lives of the communities they served. As I have explained in my previous articles, by offering excellent customer service, the banks will improve their brands and build trust within society. Moreover, by being active in improving the lives of the communities where they operate through corporate social responsibility, the banks will create a positive impact among the

members of those communities and trust will be built between the banks and the communities. With the trust established, the bank can easily convince people in these communities to enter into the formal banking system and teach them how to save through the bank's saving products.

Let me conclude by illustrating again the importance of savings in our country, I am sure you have heard the story of China; China has become one of the largest economies with the world's largest cash reserves at its disposal partly because of the savings of its citizens. With such a huge pool of savings from individuals, (China was able to reach a savings-to-GDP ratio of 50%), Chinese State companies are now able to invest anywhere in the World. This can be replicated in our country but only, and only if, we cultivate a culture of savings among ourselves with the support of our banks.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is the seasoned banker. He can be reached through: Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com



The Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Hon. Nurdin Babu hands a toolkit box to one of the 130 2jajiri beneficiary who completed the six months VETA training in the region. On the right is the Moshi District Commissioner Kusare Makori and the KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christine Manyenye. The partnership worth 2.2bn/ between KCB Foundation and Germany Development Corporation (GIZ) has benefited 960 youth in Tanzania in the construction sector. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Kenyan bank loans margins fall as deposit rates increase

NAIROBI

The loan deposit spread fell to 5.5 percent in the year to December 2022 from 5.66 percent in December 2021.

Interest margins from loans have narrowed as commercial banks offer higher returns on fixed deposit accounts to retain funding from major depositors.

Data from the 2023 Economic Survey shows the loan deposit spread fell to 5.5 percent in the year to December 2022 from 5.66 percent in December 2021.

The closing of the interest margins points to an increased cost of funds for commercial banks that traditionally mobilise long-term deposits for the purpose of on-lending.

Large banks nevertheless enjoy lower cost of funds based on their ability to attract significant

deposits through the lower interest-bearing current account and savings accounts which are commonly referred to as CASA and make up the cheapest and major source of funds for banks.

The lower spreads have been achieved off the back of a tighter monetary policy stance by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), which raised the benchmark lending rate of the Central Bank Rate (CBR) some three times across 2022 to move the CBR from seven percent in December 2021 to 8.75 percent at the end of last year.

Presently, the CBR stands at 9.50 percent, a five-year high with the CBK having further tightened its monetary stance with the view of taming inflation which remains outside the government sweet spot of 2.5 to 7.5 percent.

The combination of a higher benchmark rate and high inflation

has set off a general rise in interest rates which has fired up yields on interest-bearing assets such as Treasury bills, bonds, commercial bank loans and overdrafts.

Commercial banks have had to battle for cash with other interest-bearing assets and raised the average fixed deposit rate to a 52-month high of 7.54 percent at the end of February according to additional data from the CBK.

Analysts have previously tied the increased return on fixed deposit accounts, which are now catching up to hikes in the lending rate to the battle to retain long-term deposits.

"With election-induced uncertainty having melted away and with the benchmark rate having dialled higher, banks had to attract deposits by increasing their fixed deposit rates," Churchill Ogutu an economist at IC Asset

Managers (Mauritius) told the Business Daily last month.

For analysts at Genghis Capital, banks have found the edge in offering a greater return from fixed deposits as the wealthy seek to protect value through hedging over exploring new areas of investing in the volatile interest rate environment.

At present, the spreads between the lending rate and the fixed deposit return stand at 5.52 percent with the lending rate having stood at a near five-year high of 13.06 percent, the highest rate since July 2018.

The spreads have however risen marginally from a lower 5.3 percent in January.

Rising returns on government debt securities have primarily forced lenders to increase savings rates from large depositors.

China names Li top financial regulator in surprise move

BEIJING

China picked a little-known local government official as the nation's top regulator overseeing the \$61 trillion financial sector, in a surprise move after President Xi Jinping unveiled the biggest overhaul of the nation's bureaucracy in decades.

Li Yunze, a former banker, was named party secretary of the newly formed national financial supervision and management bureau that regulates thousands of banks, insurers and trust firms, according to an announcement Wednesday.

The 52-year-old is being elevated from his latest post as a vice governor of Sichuan province, where he has served since 2018. He was added to the list of alternate members of the Central Committee - the country's most senior officials and political elites - last year at the Communist Party's 20th congress meeting.

His appointment may come as a surprise to market watchers, who had expected candidates with more seniority and expertise to help tackle financial risks at a time when Beijing is striving to shore up the world's second-largest economy. Yi Huiman, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and Zhu Hexin, chairman of Citic Group Corp., a ministerial level financial conglomerate overseen by the State Council, were among the front-runners anticipated by investors.

It also stands in contrast to the leadership changes in March when Beijing reappointed several top economic officials including central bank governor Yi Gang to

provide continuity. Analysts had expected a larger reshuffle at that time with officials with international experience to be replaced by men with closer personal ties to Xi but less familiar to global investors.

"The decision was far from expected," said Shen Meng, a director at Beijing-based investment bank Chanson & Co. "But Li indeed has deep and good relationship with his former managers including Guo Shuqing and Yi Huiman. Markets need more time to know if Li will bring some new thoughts on financial supervision."

The enlarged national regulator was unveiled in March in a bid to step up oversight over the financial sector as authorities pledged to prevent and defuse economic and financial risks this year. The shake-up will give the Communist Party a firmer grip on the sector, and centralize key policy decision-making under Xi in his precedent-defying third term.

The regulator - with a focus on beefing up oversight of financial institutions and cracking down on violations - kicks off its work as an anti-graft campaign in the finance industry gathers steam. Last month, authorities warned bankers of a deepening crackdown on corruption, following a "look back" at five financial companies as part of a central government inspection in late March.

A native of eastern Shandong province, Li holds a doctor's degree in economics. He's the first cadre among the 1970s generation to reach a ministerial level role at a central government agency.



Li Yunze

US banks generate record \$80bn profits in quarter 1 despite turmoil

NEW YORK

Profits in the US banking sector reached an all-time high of roughly \$80bn in the first quarter, up 33 per cent from a year ago, even as the industry contended with the aftermath of two bank failures and the most significant stress since the 2008 financial crisis.

The banking turmoil was in large part responsible for the bumper haul. About half of the increase in the industry's aggregate profits came from one-time gains recorded by First Citizens and Flagstar, which bought the remnants of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank, respectively, after they were seized by regulators and sold off at a discount in March.

Even so, the jump in profits also showed US banks in general benefited from rising interest rates, low loan defaults and an expanding job market despite nervousness among depositors and investors.

"Most of the industry is not failing," said Bert Ely, an independent banking consultant. "The economy is still in pretty good shape, and that's what would account for those profits."

Of the nation's almost 4,400 banks, just 197 – or less than 5 per cent – made losses in the

first quarter, according to BankRegData, a data provider that collates quarterly reports made by lenders to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The "call reports" include a statement of net income that adheres to generally accepted accounting principles.

JPMorgan Chase, the nation's largest bank by assets, had the highest profit of any lender, earning \$11.7bn in the quarter from activities including lending and payment processing, up from \$6.4bn in the same three months a year earlier. This figure does not capture profits made by JPMorgan that do not flow through its FDIC-regulated entity.

PacWest, however, lost \$1.2bn, more than any other lender in the first three months of 2023. The California bank last week said it had hired advisers to review its strategic options. Silvergate Bank, which lost \$538mn in the first three months of the year, second only to PacWest, announced it was shutting down in early March.

However, in a sign that the bumper profits are unlikely to continue, the aggregate interest expense for all banks jumped 10-fold from a year ago to \$85bn in the first quarter, according to BankRegData. That is because banks, particularly since March,

have had to pay higher rates to depositors.

"Bottom lines look pretty good for the first quarter, but they will not look good for the rest of the year," said Christopher Whalen, a bank analyst and head of Whalen Global Advisors.

Whalen said every lender had had to raise the amount of interest they paid to depositors following the failure of SVB. "The cost of funds for banks is going to go way up. It's going to shock people," he added.

Delinquencies in a crucial segment of commercial real estate – loans tied to properties that are not occupied by their owners – rose by a third in the first quarter to \$12bn, which was the highest level since 2020, the data showed.

Many depositors fled for safety in the first quarter. The volume of deposits held in accounts covered by the FDIC's insurance fund jumped by \$400bn in the first three months of the year. At the end of March, the Deposit Insurance Fund backed \$10.4tn in consumer deposits, an all-time high.

"Loan growth is more negative than it was a few months ago, and that impacts growth expectations," said Alexander Yokum, an analyst who follows regional banks at CFRA Research. "I am

not expecting much growth at all from regional banks over the next few quarters."

The data prepared by BankRegData comes from the quarterly call reports that listed and privately held banks must file with the FDIC, which is expected to release a report based on the filings later this month. The data offers an early glimpse of that report, which could be different if adjustments are made before then. At least one medium-sized lender, the US branch of Banco Popular, has not yet submitted its report.

Profits at First Citizens, which in late March won an FDIC-brokered auction to take over SVB's banking business, soared to \$9.5bn in the first quarter, up from \$273mn a year ago, according to the data. That made First Citizens the nation's second-most profitable bank in the quarter, just behind JPMorgan.

Net income at Flagstar, which acquired much of the deposits and all of the branches of Signature Bank in mid-March, rose to \$2bn, up from about \$164mn a year ago. Flagstar is a subsidiary of New York Community Bancorp. Shares of both banks soared after the deals were announced.



JPMorgan Chase, the nation's largest bank by assets, had the highest profit of any lender, earning \$11.7bn in the quarter

UAE banks launch new initiative to fight against fake documents

DUBAI

Banks in UAE have launched a new network to verify documents to prevent financial fraud.

Jamal Saleh, director general of UAE Banks Federation, said they have come up with a new initiative to stop fake documents and they have been successful in catching a few of them.

"We have created a network to verify whether documents are genuine or not. If you catch one, and few caught a few, you avoided making payment for the whole import of whole cargo which is tens of millions. There is always a new way of fraud," he said.

There have been a few instances of documents being faked to sell properties, scam companies and others.

While speaking during the 2023 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Fraud Conference Middle East, Saleh added that they always work in cooperation with the UAE Central Bank, which is extremely active in terms of legislation to deal with such challenges. Last year alone, he said,



Jamal Saleh, director general of UAE Banks Federation

Central Bank issued 83 regulations, reflecting the regulator is very active and ready to deal with

any issue. He stressed that awareness and education of consumers are very im-

portant to deal with fraud. "People being wary of caller, message or email is equal to all the efforts

being done by others... I don't think frauds can be stopped permanently, but they can be reduced," he said, adding that the Federation works with the law-enforcement authorities to solve the issues of the customers.

"One key problem is how to make sure that people become aware enough of what is good and what is not. That will continue to be the number one challenge," he said.

Jamal Saleh added that if people use their accounts wisely, there would be no room that their accounts to be compromised.

Mariam Al Amir, assistant undersecretary for General financial management, Ministry of Finance, said that to protect economies against cyber frauds, the most important is to spread awareness to tackle these challenges. "We want to make our region safer so we need to cooperate to make it more secure and stable. The UAE's efforts were pioneering in this regard," she said while giving opening remarks on the first day of the two-day summit.



Jeremy Awori, CEO, Ecobank Group

Kenyan banking app targets youth market in Africa

NAIROBI

Ecobank Kenya, in collaboration with Fingo, a Kenyan fintech, has unveiled the Fingo Africa banking app, aimed at young people. Launched last week in Nairobi, the app will roll out across Ecobank's pan-African footprint of 33 countries as well as France, the UK, the UAE and China.

It is claimed that the app enables users to open a bank account via their mobile phone in less than four minutes, send money, pay bills and buy airtime. This is important given that, for young adults in Africa, opening an account can take from hours to days and involve expensive fees to send money and maintain accounts. The Fingo apps aims to change this.

Quoted by ITWeb Africa, Jeremy Awori, CEO Ecobank Group, explains: "Simplifying access to finance makes it possible to overcome entrenched issues that have often acted as barriers to entry for young Africans. "We have spoken to youth

and we've asked them what they want [and] how they want to bank, and it is very different than other segments of the population. They want a product on the go, that serves their needs, and is fun and exciting, convenient, and evolves over time."

Fingo was founded in January 2021 to provide financial services that appeal to a fast-growing population of young Africans who are financially marginalized. It describes itself as a digital bank built for young Africans by young Africans with a founding team of 20-somethings born and raised on the continent.

Last week Fingo said it had acquired 10,000 active users with a waitlist of 100,000 customers within 24 hours of launch. But can it take on the mobile money giant Safaricom and a banking sector dominated by the likes of KCB and Equity Bank? Partnering with Ecobank, which has a significant footprint across Africa, may help it to do so.

AfDB Group debars Kenyan firm Goldsun for fraudulent

ABIDJAN

The African Development Bank Group, on 9 May 2023, announces a 24-month debarment of Goldsun Investments Company Ltd. with effect from 31 January 2023.

Goldsun Investments Company Ltd is a limited liability company registered in the Republic of Kenya.

An investigation conducted by the Bank's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption established that Goldsun Investments Company Ltd engaged in fraudulent practices during a tender for the dualling of the 84 km Kenol-Sagana-Marua highway, Lots 1 and 2, components of the Kenol-Sagana-Marua Highway Improvement Project.

The Kenol-Sagana-Marua Highway Improvement Project is part of the Kenyan section of the Trans-Africa Highway (Cairo to Cape) and is expected to enhance the movement of goods and services, as well as people between the counties in Central

and Eastern Kenya on the one part, and the capital city, Nairobi, on the other part.

During the debarment period, Goldsun Investments Company Ltd. will be ineligible to participate in Bank Group-financed operations and activities.

Additionally, the debarment qualifies for cross-debarment by other multilateral development banks under the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions, including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank Group.

At the expiration of the debarment period, Goldsun Investments Company Ltd will only be eligible to resume participation in African Development Bank Group-financed operations and activities after it implements an integrity compliance program consistent with the Bank's guidelines.

WORLD

'Fighting in Sudan affects relationship with South Sudan'

UNITED NATIONS

THE fighting in Sudan, while having a devastating impact on the Sudanese population, is also profoundly affecting the bilateral relationship between the country and South Sudan, a United Nations envoy said on Tuesday.

The conflict in Sudan, which erupted on April 15 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), is putting the incremental progress achieved by Sudan and South Sudan in addressing their outstanding bilateral issues in jeopardy, Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, special envoy of

the UN secretary-general for the Horn of Africa, told a UN Security Council meeting.

The government of South Sudan is also wary of the consequences of the Sudanese conflict on South Sudan's stability and security, Tetteh said.

The unstable situation has already seen the return of South Sudanese refugees hosted by Sudan with the potential for more than 200,000 South Sudanese refugees hosted by Sudan returning to a country where two-thirds of the population already requires humanitarian assistance, she said.

Tetteh noted that as the Sudanese



Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, special envoy of the UN secretary-general for the Horn of Africa, briefs a Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, on May 9, 2023. The fighting in Sudan, while having a devastating impact on the Sudanese population, is also profoundly affecting the bilateral relationship between the country and South Sudan, the United Nations envoy said on Tuesday. (Eskinder Debebe/UN Photo/Handout via Xinhua)

authorities are not currently in a position to effectively protect their borders, the insecurity at the border between Sudan and South Sudan could increase with cross-border movements of armed and criminal groups.

The fighting in Sudan is also affecting the daily commercial activities and delivery of food and other basic goods from Sudan to South Sudan and putting oil exports from South Sudan through Port Sudan at risk, she added.

Tetteh stressed that the priority now in Sudan is to stop the fighting and start constructive negotiations between the SAF and RSF that hopefully would lead to a permanent ceasefire and the return to a transitional civilian government.

This would be "the pre-requisite" for further efforts, including future engagement on Abyei, and addressing the outstanding bilateral issues between Sudan and South Sudan, she said.

Xinhua

Israel evacuates communities, bracing for possible Gazan retaliation

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL was on high alert on Tuesday as it prepared for retaliatory rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip after a series of Israeli airstrikes killed militants and civilians in the coastal Palestinian enclave.

Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that over 2,000 Israelis have been evacuated from communities near the enclave, as a precaution against possible rocket attacks launched by Gazan militants at nightfall.

Residents in southern Israel were being relocated to hotels in central regions of the country. In the city of Sderot, preparations have been made by the municipality to temporarily relocate approximately 4,500 elderly or sick residents.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told local council heads near Gaza that they "must be prepared for every scenario." He added that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and security forces "are prepared to defend every front," according to a statement released on his behalf.

Earlier in the day, Israeli fighter jets and unmanned drones carried out simultaneous and surprise attacks at buildings and apartments which host Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement (PIJ)'s senior military leaders in Gaza.

The Gaza-based health ministry said 13 Palestinians were killed and more than 20 were injured in the airstrikes, including ten civilian women and children.

The PIJ confirmed in a state-



Israeli soldiers block a road near Sderot in southern Israel near the border with Gaza, on May 9, 2023. Israel was on high alert on Tuesday as it prepared for retaliatory rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip after a series of Israeli airstrikes killed militants and civilians in the coastal Palestinian enclave.

ment that three commanders, namely Jihad Ghannam, Khalil Al-Bahtini and Tareq Izzeldeen, were killed in the

strikes. The faction vowed a response.

In a fresh airstrike in the afternoon, the Israeli military

said they killed two PIJ militants preparing a rocket attack against Israel.

Agencies

Grain deal to be extended taking into account Russia's interests – source

ANKARA

THE grain deal is expected to be extended at the talks that started on Wednesday in Istanbul, taking into account Russia's objections, a source in Ankara close to the talks told TASS.

"There is information that the agreement will be extended beyond May 18. That's why I'm talking about it as a fact. And there are expectations that the export of Russian products will be a part of it," the source said.

According to the source, extending the grain deal is a crucial issue for the Turkish leadership in the run-up to the elections and they will do everything in their power to make it happen.

"For President Tayyip Erdogan, extending the deal is a signal to the West that Turkey can be trusted. As a result, the government will do everything in its power to preserve the grain initiative," the source said.

On July 22, 2022, a package of documents on the supply of food



and fertilizers to the international market was signed in Istanbul. Initially, the agreements were concluded for 120 days. On March 18, 2023, Russia announced the extension of the initiative for 60 days. The Russian Foreign Ministry noted that a further extension of the deal would depend on the recon-

nection of the Russian Agricultural Bank to the SWIFT system and the lifting of a number of restrictions on supplies, insurance and the use of ports.

The Turkish side earlier said that the Turkish state bank Ziraat may be ready to carry out operations to pay for Russian grain and fertilizers.

The negotiations between Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and the UN on the extension of the grain deal and the implementation of the Russian part of the agreement on the supply of grain and fertilizers will last two days in Istanbul, with May 11 expected to be the key day of the negotiations.

Brazil to offer to act as go-between for settling Ukraine conflict at G7 summit, Lula says

RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Tuesday that he plans to offer Brasilia's services as a mediator for settling the Ukrainian conflict on the sidelines of the G7 summit, which is slated to be held in Hiroshima, Japan, later this month.

Addressing a joint news conference with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, the Brazilian leader said, "The continuation of the war will only cause more deaths. So, we must find someone who would be able to discuss peace, and Brazil is ready for that."

Lula said that, prior to his relevant negotiations with Rutte, he had already discussed the issue with the Chinese president and the British prime minister, and that he would raise it with the president of Indonesia and many other leaders with whom he plans to meet at the G7 summit.

According to the Brazilian president, the situation in Ukraine, energy, battling climate change, economic development and the fight against unemployment are certain to be on the agenda of the G7 meeting in Hiroshima on May 20-21. "We have received multiple requests for bilateral meetings, and I am confident that the Ukrainian issue will be raised at every such meeting," Lula added.

And every side involved in the conflict has its arguments, he believes. While Ukraine is bound to resist what he called the unacceptable occupation of its territory, the EU has its arguments in favour of the decisions it has made, and Brazil and other countries have their reasons for trying to reach a compromise, the Brazilian leader said.

Lula recalled that his country had condemned "the Russian military invasion" in a UN vote. "Now is the time for diplomacy, not for war," he emphasized.

Earlier, Lula called Russia a guarantor of a long-lasting global peace and proposed developing a new international format for a potential dialogue between Moscow and Kiev, saying that he stands ready to mediate any direct negotiations between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Vladimir Zelensky.

UN-Habitat maps out new urban agenda for Africa to boost growth

NAIROBI

COUNTRIES in the sub-Saharan African region must come up with innovative policy, regulatory and financing tools in their quest to establish resilient cities that promise green and equitable economic progress, senior officials from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) said on Tuesday.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, executive director of the UN-Habitat, said as urbanization accelerates in Africa, policymakers should prioritize revamping cities' infrastructure to help cope with population pressure and climatic stresses.

According to Sharif, African cities are the new epicenters of innovation, talent, and economic vitality, hence the need to enact legislation to ensure they are safe, habitable, and resilient to natural disasters.

She said the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, slated for June 5 to 9 in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, will present an opportunity for African countries to revitalize their urban agenda.

Held after every four-year cycle, the assembly is the highest decision-making body on urban issues within the UN system and comprises 193 UN member states.

The assembly will be held under the theme of "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises."

Sharif noted that African cities have not been spared the negative impact of the global economic slowdown, the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and the climate crisis, stressing that restoring their vibrancy demands policy shift, forward-looking leadership, and leveraging innovations.

Currently, an estimated 40 percent of Africa's population live in urban areas, while 53 percent live in informal settlements that lack basic amenities, including safe drinking water, sanitation, and health, according to the UN-Habitat.

Oumar Sylla, director of the Regional Office for Africa at the UN-Habitat, said there is an urgency to tackle extreme poverty, pollution, youth unemployment, crime, and proliferation of slums, which is stifling efforts to create resilient cities in the continent. Sylla called for the creation of a conducive policy and regulatory environment to spur investments in green mobility, affordable shelter, and waste recycling in a bid to accelerate urban renewal in Africa.

INTERNET of Things, big data, artificial intelligence and other new technologies are becoming new "farming tools" for Chinese farmers, injecting strong impetus into China's rural revitalization.

Shouguang, known as the "vegetable capital of China" in east China's Shandong province, has turned 60 mu (4 hectares) of greenhouses into modern agricultural factories where pollination, sorting, fertilization and other farming procedures are all completed by robots.

The "cloud planting" model, increasing vegetable production by 10 percent and the ratio of healthy fruits by 15 percent to 20 percent, has significantly improved the income of farmers.

Promoting the construction of digital villages is an important means to

Technologies bringing 'digital dividends' to rural residents

realize rural vitalization on all fronts and an important part of building a digital China.

China recently issued a document on the priorities of digital village construction in 2023, which requires local governments to enhance rural industrial development, rural construction and rural governance with digitalization and thus drive the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

The country is currently working to use new-generation digital technologies to meet the demands of rural and agricultural modernization, accelerate the construction of digital villages and drive rural revitalization.

Digitalization opens up new space for the revitalization of rural indus-

tries.

Today, digital technologies are applied in every aspect of agriculture, including cultivating, planting, management and sales, making traditional agriculture more intelligent and leading to more targeted, efficient and robust agricultural production.

Technologies are used to monitor weather, soil conditions, humidity and temperature to make plants grow better, and experts can diagnose plant diseases and recommend treatment plans via online platforms. Besides, intelligent systems are adopted for targeted and digital management of agricultural personnel, capital and equipment, and e-commerce is expanding the sales channels of agricultural products.

The wide application of digital technologies has constantly enriched the forms of rural industries and helped form relevant industrial clusters, bringing new opportunities to rural revitalization.

High-quality development of rural public services can narrow the urban-rural gaps.

Over recent years, focusing on rural social security and employment services, information services for special groups in rural areas and rural inclusive financial services, China has achieved fruitful results in the digitalization of rural public services.

For instance, with regard to the integration of medical and elderly care, many regions across the country have introduced quality medical

resources in urban areas to the rural areas through 5G-enabled health programs.

Digital technologies have not only improved rural public services, but also lowered the cost of extending public resources to rural areas, thus providing new approaches to the equalization of public services in rural and urban areas.

Digital technologies, featuring precision and quick response, are able to make rural governance more science-based.

For instance, Yubei district in southwest China's Chongqing municipality has integrated data on primary-level Party building, industry, rural tourism and villagers' information, and built intelligent governance

platforms in villages, thus making it easier for residents to enjoy government services.

Deqing county in east China's Zhejiang province has built a map of digital villages that collects 282 types of basic data from 58 local departments. All 137 administrative villages in the county have shared their data with a "city brain," which automatically generates data reports and trend analyses for relevant departments to guide the industrial development of villages in a more targeted manner.

These practices prove that digital technologies can make rural governance significantly more efficient and targeted, and constantly modernize rural governance, so as to bring "digital dividends" to more rural residents.

Agencies

US airlines thrown a curveball as flyers' habits change post-COVID

CHICAGO

SHIFTING travel patterns by consumers in a post-pandemic world are forcing airlines to guess at what is the "new normal" as they seek to adjust by cutting flights, revamping networks and packing even more passengers into planes.

Even as the thirst for travel remains strong, the changing trends are driving up airlines' operating costs and hurting revenue.

They are also fueling worries about the strength of travel spending amid growing economic uncertainty, leading to a 6 percent drop in airline shares from their highs in January.

Today's flexible work conditions are helping to drive changes in ticket-purchasing patterns. Citi analyst Stephen Trent said. "Let's get used to it." No-show rates have gone up as customers are changing their travel plans more frequently than before.

Travel demand has also softened on days in the middle of the week, but has strengthened on peak days. A Reuters analysis of US Transportation Security Administration data shows passenger traffic this year on average has fallen 14 percent on Tuesdays and Wednesdays compared with Mondays, and then it rebounds on Thursdays.

Similarly, customers are booking trips well in advance compared with last year, leading to a moderation in ticket sales close to the date of travel. Citi's data shows that these so-called close-in ticket sales have moderated for a third straight week, but those for trips in June and July have improved.

Those evolving patterns have forced companies to adjust.

Frontier Airlines decided to slash flights on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by about 20 percent, citing weak demand. It marks a shift from last year when some airlines said midweek was less of a trough.

The Denver-based carrier attributed the change to flexible work arrangements, where more people are spending two to three days a week working in the office.

"The most common two days in the office are Tuesdays and Wednesdays," said Daniel Shurz, a senior vice-president at Frontier Airlines. "That's why travel for leisure is the hardest on Tuesdays and Wednesdays."

In contrast, the ultra-low-cost carrier last week said its revenue per available seat mile on peak travel days is stronger than before the pandemic as customers are willing to pay a lot more to travel on the other days of the week.

Frontier has eliminated an unspecified number of routes as part of its network restructuring. It now expects capacity this year to be up 19 percent to 22 percent from last year compared with previously estimated growth of 23 percent to 28 percent, resulting in higher operating costs.

Changing travel patterns are also affecting United Airlines, which has a relatively small presence in the Caribbean and Florida where demand is usually strong in the winter.

Since the Chicago-based carrier's network is more focused on business traffic, which has not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels, its revenue suffered in the last quarter. United last month said it wants to expand its Florida network.

"We believe demand is just structurally different than it was pre-pandemic," CEO Scott Kirby said. "We're still figuring out that new normal."

Agencies

Record number of overseas Turks vote in elections

ANKARA

TURKS living abroad have turned out in record numbers to vote in the upcoming general elections.

The Supreme Election Board said in a statement that over 1.75 million Turkish have cast their ballots overseas or at border cross-points as of Monday evening, while the highest turnout recorded previously was 1.35 million. Diaspora voting runs from April 27 to May 9 in 73 countries where Turkish diplomatic missions serve.

On Sunday, voters in Türkiye will elect the President and 600 parliament members for a five-year term. The votes of some 3.4 million eligible overseas Turks will be weighed in a tight race predicted by surveys.

According to two recent polls by Metropoll and Optimar, incumbent conservative president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, aged 69, and his main rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, 74, the leader of the opposition, almost run neck-to-neck.

"I have traveled an hour to come to vote, this is my civic duty," Zekeriya Esmer, 42, a blue-collar worker from Northern Germany, told Xinhua over the phone.

Living in Germany for many years, Esmer said he voted for Erdogan who seeks a third term in office. He cited a "more visible Turkish presence on the world stage" under Erdogan's leadership as the reason for his electoral choice.

A majority of the Turkish diaspora lives in Western Europe, especially Germany, the Netherlands, France, and Belgium, where Turkish workers settled in great numbers in the 1960s.

In previous elections, Erdogan and his

ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), boasted strong support among Turkish voters in Europe.

In a message to external voters on April 29, Erdogan said he expected them to "hurry to the polls and make history on May 14."

The preferences of the Turkish diaspora could be decisive for the top two candidates if they want to get more than 50 percent support in the first round of voting, and avoid a run-off at the end of the month, Ankara-based pollster MAK Center For Social Research, said on Monday.

Before 2014, Turks abroad who wanted to participate in elections had to return to Türkiye to vote. Over the years, Erdogan has implemented legal measures to ensure that expatriate Turks be able to vote abroad and their participation in the electoral process gradually increased as more polling stations have been set up across Europe.

In the 2018 presidential elections, the Turkish leader received nearly 60 percent of overseas votes after campaigning in critical countries such as Germany which hosts nearly 1.5 million Turkish voters.

According to experts, the Turkish diaspora in Europe tends to support and vote for conservative political figures. "The first Turks that emigrated to Germany, the Netherlands, or Austria in the postwar period primarily came from the rural Anatolian region, which is conservative," political analyst Serkan Demirtas told Xinhua.

"Voting for your country of origin in the nation where you have established a livelihood can also help reduce alienation as an emigrant," he added.

Zimbabwe lifts all COVID-19 restrictive measures

HARARE

THE Zimbabwean government on Tuesday lifted all measures that it had put in place to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic after the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the pandemic no longer a public health emergency of international concern.

The decision was announced by Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa during a post-cabinet media briefing on Tuesday.

"After the World Health Organization released a statement indicating that COVID-19 no longer constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the government has directed that the mandatory wearing of face masks be lifted, all border measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 be lifted with immediate effect and tourists should no longer be required to produce COVID-19 vaccination certificates at ports of entry or at tourist's resorts around the country," Mutsvangwa said.

Xinhua

Russia honors unity at 'key turning point'



Russian President Vladimir Putin gives a speech during the Victory Day military parade at Red Square in Moscow on Tuesday. (Photo/AFP)

MOSCOW

THE world is at a key turning point and "a real war" has been unleashed against Russia by the West's "untamed ambitions", Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a parade marking the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II on Tuesday.

"Today, civilization is again at a decisive turning point. A real war has been unleashed against our homeland. We have repulsed international terrorism, we will protect the inhabitants of Donbas, we will ensure our security," Putin said at the parade held to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War on Moscow's Red Square.

Putin said Russia honors the sacrifice

of the allied armies of the United States, the United Kingdom and China in World War II.

"I am convinced that the experience of solidarity and partnership in the days of the struggle against a common threat is our heritage and a reliable base of support in our movement toward a multipolar world based on trust and indivisible security, equal opportunities for unique and free development for all nations in the world," Putin said.

Thousands of citizens in the capital lined the streets holding photos of their grandparents who died in World War II. Apart from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazakh, Novosibirsk and some other cities also held the parade to mark Victory Day.

The parade in Moscow began with the march of the Honor Guard's banner group carrying the Russian national flag and the legendary Victory Banner across Red Square. The Victory Banner was hoisted over the Reichstag by soldiers of the Soviet 150th Idritskaya Rifle Division in May 1945.

Russophobia denounced

In a 10-minute speech on Red Square, Putin said "Western globalist elites" were sowing Russophobia and aggressive na-

Peace efforts falter while US sends more military aid to Ukraine

NEW YORK

WHILE China and Brazil have offered to mediate a cease-fire in the Russia-Ukraine military conflict, the flow of Western arms to Ukraine continued on Tuesday.

The United States announced a new \$1.2 billion military aid package for Ukraine that will include air defense systems, ammunition and funds for training, the Pentagon said.

Antonio Guterres, the secretary-general of the United Nations, expressed skepticism Tuesday over efforts to halt the conflict, which started in February 2022.

"Peace negotiations are not possible at this time," Guterres told Spain's El Pais newspaper in an interview, adding that the efforts were "doomed to fail".

"I already said that peace negotiations at this time are not going to happen. I hope in the future, yes. There was talk of a Russian offensive in the winter and a Ukrainian one in the spring. It is evident that the parties are fully involved into the war," Guterres said.

China unveiled a 12-point peace road map earlier this year to halt the hostilities. The initiative got a positive response in Moscow, with Russia's top leadership signaling a willingness to discuss it.

However, the proposal was rejected by Kyiv and its Western allies, who accused Beijing of siding with Russia and therefore having no standing in peace talks.

In late April, Brazilian President Lula da Silva said: "There is no use now in saying who is right, who is wrong. What we have to do now is stop the war."

Meanwhile, in Moscow on Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Western "arrogance" is driving a "real war" against Russia, and the West's "superiority ideology is, by definition, repulsive, deadly, and criminal".

Putin, who made the comments Tuesday during a Victory Day parade in Moscow's Red Square, said Western leaders "still talk about their exclusivity, put people against each other and divide society, provoke bloody conflicts and coups, sow hatred, Russophobia, aggressive nationalism, destroy those family, traditional values that make humans human".

Victory Day marks the anniversary of Germany's unconditional surrender in World War II on the



A Ukrainian soldier in a trench close to the Russian positions near Kremenna in the Luhansk region, Ukraine, May 9, 2023. AP

night of May 8, 1945.

The Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) funds from Washington will be used to purchase the weapons, allowing US President Joe Biden's administration to buy arms from industry instead of pulling them from US stocks. Delivery of the weapons and systems depends on their availability and production timeline.

The Pentagon said it will fund air-defense munitions and drones for air defense and provide equipment to help modify Western air-defense launchers, missiles and radars so they can be used with Ukraine's systems.

It will also buy artillery rounds, howitzer ammunition, satellite imagery assistance and funding for ongoing maintenance and spare parts for a variety of systems.

US officials said the weapons include HAWK air-defense systems. They spoke on condition of anonymity because that has not yet been formally announced.

The US has also rushed more than \$35 billion worth of weapons to Ukraine using presidential drawdown authority, which authorizes the president to transfer articles and services from US stocks without congressional approval during an emergency.

Tuesday's military aid announcement came as Congress and the White House debated ways to avoid a default on the nation's \$31.4 trillion debt, with many Republicans demanding sharp cuts in domestic spending in exchange for increasing the debt ceiling.

Members of both parties, however, maintain that they support continued aid for Ukraine including top Republicans House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Mitch McConnell, the top Republican in the Senate.

Including Tuesday's package, the US has provided Ukraine nearly \$37 billion in military aid since the start of the conflict. Ukraine says it is preparing to launch a spring offensive against Russian forces, with air defense a challenge for Kyiv.

The announcement of the latest aid package sparked criticism on social media, with some questioning the continued aid to Ukraine while Title 42, a pandemic-era restriction on migration to the US, is set to expire Thursday.

"Today the US approved another \$1

tionism, while the Ukrainian people had become "hostages to a state coup" and to the ambitions of the West.

This year, Russia's Victory Day Parade on Moscow's Red Square involved over 8,000 troops, including 530 fighters of the special military operation in Ukraine, and 125 items of military hardware.

The parade was held following an alleged drone attack on the Kremlin less than a week ago. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian government has been taking every possible measure to ensure security during the parade.

He highlighted the special significance of Victory Day for everyone involved in the victory over fascism.

Meanwhile, Ukraine and the European Union were marking Europe Day, a celebration of "peace and unity," together.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive branch, made a special trip to Kyiv on Tuesday to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

More than a year into the conflict with Russia, Ukraine wants to badly join the bloc as an essential part to anchor its future in the Western world. "Europe Day," when the 27 current members celebrate their bond as one, also shows how far that moment is still off.

Zelensky highlighted the need for faster deliveries of artillery shells from the European Union during the meeting.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said peace negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine were "not possible at this moment," in an interview published by Spanish daily El Pais on Tuesday.

Guterres said he hoped it was possible "in the future" to bring Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table.

Agencies



Nestory Irankunda.

Tanzania-born youngster on verge of joining Bayern Munich

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA-born junior footballer, Nestory Irankunda, might see his next career step take him to Germany on a multi-year contract with 32-time Bundesliga champion Bayern Munich, as multiple sources confirm.

Born in Kigoma, Irankunda is eligible to represent Tanzania, Burundi, or Australia at international level.

He has represented the Australia U-17 national team at international level.

On 14 March 2023, after showcasing impressive performances coming on as a substitute for Adelaide, Irankunda was named as a 'train-on' player for the Soccerroos camp for friendlies against Ecuador.

Terms between the 17-year-old Australia-based sensation and Bayern Munich coached by Thomas Tuchel are close to being finalized.

Adelaide United is banking on earning a substantial sum plus add-ons for the winger, who will be loaned back to the club for the 2023/24 A-League season.

Despite playing just 680 minutes of A-League football and netting eight goals so far, Irankunda is viewed by Bayern Munich's Technical Director Marco Neppe as a project player in a similar vein to wingback Alphonso Davies.

The speedy Canadian wing-back was plucked from the relative obscurity of MLS side Vancouver Whitecaps in 2019 and was tearing it up in the UEFA Champions League at just 18.

Davies, now aged 22, has compiled 106 Bundesliga appearances, fulfilling the motto 'Die Roten' development machine meaning if you are good enough, you are old enough.

To hammer home the point, Bayern Munich's 28-man first-team squad features seven players aged 20 or younger.

Midfielders Paul Wanner and Arjon Ibrahimovi are the same age as Irankunda and already have three Bundesliga appearances between

them, while 18-year-old striker Mathys Tel has five appearances.

Attacker Jamal Musiala, who recently turned 20, has featured in 29 outings and is considered one of the world's most gifted prospects.

The equation for Irankunda is straightforward - another bumper season of growth in Australia and forget about the youth academy, he will immediately join Bayern Munich's fraternity of top squad teenagers on arrival in the Bavarian capital.

Called up by the Soccerroos in March for the friendlies against Ecuador, Irankunda was not rewarded with a debut in what was more a learning and acclimatization experience.

It also provided him the chance to bond with 18-year-old Garang Kuol, another highly-trumpeted teenager whose move from Central Coast Mariners to Newcastle United, and subsequent unsuccessful loan to Hearts, is an unfolding tale of how things hardly always go to plan, no matter how hyperbolic the expectations.

Regardless, a bejeweled pathway shimmers before Irankunda on the proviso the year 12 kid embraces the less glamorous aspects of the game such as work rate, bins occasional flashes of petulance, and allows coaches and senior players to help him channel his superpowers well.

Aside from searing pace and dribbling prowess, what caught Bayern Munich's eye, it is understood, was the raw, intimidating power of the youngster's right foot coupled with the ability to find the net from the most outrageous of angles.

Irankunda's shooting force is of such ferocity it almost defies the laws of physics, and has become as much his trademark as the double and triple backflip goal celebrations.

A football fan should just ask Melbourne Victory midfielder Rai Marchan, whose head inadvertently got in the way of one of Irankunda's bombs earlier this season, leaving him sidelined with a concussion for nearly two months.

All-female dance music troupe releases video for new track

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM-based women's dance music troupe operation under the ownership of the Tanzania Dance Music Association (Chamudata) has produced a video of the troupe's song about the fight against sexual violence.

Chamudata's Women's Chairperson, Deborah Nyangi, revealed the song titled 'Tanzania Bila Ukatili Wa Kijinsia Inawezekana' has already been uploaded on social media networks.

Deborah noted the video has further been aired in various television media outlets' music programs since early this week.

"If you browse social media networks you will find a video of the song which is special for promoting the war on acts of violence in the country," Deborah disclosed.

She said women and children are the ones who suffer from sexual violence, adding that the band decided to compose the song to help the com-

munity do away with the violence so that each group can be safe.

Deborah said the situation has become bad from homes to schools and streets, adding that sexual violence acts have been part of life in some communities.

"Through our song, I believe we will have a significant contribution to educate the Tanzanian public in the entertainment venues once we perform and elsewhere as they will listen to the song's message and work on it, they will be our ambassadors," he said.

Deborah, one of the troupe musicians, said the band is made up of 15 musicians, some of whom are singers Anna Mwaole, Luiza Mbutu, Khadija Mnoga 'Kimobite!', and Anneeth Kushaba.

She said other musicians include Tabu Mambosasa (singer), Gertrude Joseph (keyboardist), Sarah Sauti (singer), Bright (drummer), and bass guitarist Taji Mbaraka that can as well play other guitars and sing.

For Marumo Gallants' coach Dylan Kerr, new Yanga encounter is a derby rematch

By Correspondent John Kimbute

WHEN South African struggling Premier League side Marumo Gallants meets Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League leaders Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, some unfinished business will be on the table, at least for a section of pundits and analysts.

The mid-month encounter is a sort of epic for both sides, the semi-finals of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup as the Gallants coach is a familiar face at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, nicknamed 'Estadio Lupaso', where he was the head coach for Simba SC, his comrades turned nemesis in the run-up to his exit from the club.

He delved into some issues surfacing in his rather brief stint at Msimbazi Street-based outfit.

Coming to 'Estadio Lupaso' for a competitive international fixture is for Dylan Kerr a fairly special moment, as unlike Uganda Cranes head coach 'Micho' who also had a stint in the seaside commercial capital, Kerr's departure is somewhat fresh in the mind.

That is also the reason he was somewhat sentimental in his remarks on how he left Msimbazi Street, or wherever it is that holds club offices.

He talked of weaknesses with board members, the leadership as a whole, and a person.

The sweetener in the discussion was the way pundits feigned to sort of struggle to decipher who this person, whom the former head coach identified simply as Haji, was a pain in the neck during his stint here.

It had to do with old habits of



South Africa Marumo Gallants head coach, Dylan Kerr.

leadership drawing up lists of those who either must play or should play for the day, instead of leaving it to the head coach.

Yet the more disturbing aspect he cited was that the leadership was excessively concerned with their rivalry with Yanga.

The leadership was less concerned with the league as a whole, nor indeed mindful of the development of the side in an all-encompassing manner, just seeking assurances on defeating their archrivals.

On that point, it was easy to remember that he must have been the coach, or one of such coaches, who declared that the side has no chance against their rivals in an awaited derby, and he was quickly shown the door.

If the memory is right, the side he ruled out either drew or won the tie.

Coach Kerr came hard on the senior official he named Haji, going as far as declaring that such persons are not good in football, nor indeed as they good for life, that is, to have someone like him around you daily.

At that time when this official was in his heyday, it is possible many at Msimbazi Street, in like manner as Jangwani Street a while later, could have defended his intrusions, for instance, the idea that he acts for the fans. Now it would be slightly less certain.

Thus when Kerr steps into 'Estadio Lupaso' he will have a point to prove, but it is unclear who will be his target, and indeed the proper lesson he would wish to deliver.

The prime target would be Simba SC leadership and fans, for there was a collective outlook that conditioned the outlook of leaders and their hangers-on like Haji, feeling free to make life difficult for the coach without having to worry about being disciplined for his antics, troubles, or initiatives.

Yet the chances are he could be past this mood in his new role, but it is not too evident.

Those who listened to his remarks would scarcely believe that he has no lingering pain in his chest, as he still remembers all the trouble he got especially from yes, Haji, and believes this

person is no good for the sport, nor really in life.

The good thing is that if one picked up one person he wishes to see pained for his discomfort at Msimbazi Street, it definitely must be Haji, and presumably this fellow is now at the other end of the street, even if his roles are at present invisible.

He brings up a neat coincidence between the coach's troubles at Simba SC and his current assignment to teach Yanga a lesson, to speak like an Enugu Rangers official, the 1979s.

In that case, the best way Kerr can get out of Dar es Salaam satisfied with his brief visit is to deliver a 'derby' win that troubled him at Simba SC, as any defeat for the Jangwani Street side is a win for their archrivals, and vice versa.

Yet it is perhaps the wider public that he would have in mind as, despite actually disliking Haji, he is unlikely to devote the top-level encounter simply to settle scores with him.

Alternatively, it could be more interesting to play it out with coach Nasreddine Nabi who at present reigns high for his excellent guidance of the Jangwani Street side.

Indeed, to be realistic, it is not to 'Estadio Lupaso' gathering that he will seek to prove something but try to uplift his CV, to compare with the likes of Pitso Masomane, the legendary South African coach who had some years with Egyptian giants Al Ahly after having crushed them twice with a South African club Mamelodi Sundowns.

As every club looks over the shoulder for a new good coach, should anything go wrong, and a new start is needed, proving the point in the match is just salivating.

Firm awards soccer fans tickets for CAF CC semi-final clash

By Guardian Correspondent

THE online sports betting firm, Parimatch Tanzania, on Tuesday, handed over tickets for the VIP A section at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to watch the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-final first leg clash pitting Tanzania's Yanga against Marumo Gallants of South Africa at the venue yesterday.

The firm organized a betting game, dubbed 'Parimatch VIP experience', to offer domestic football followers an opportunity to witness the historic clash. Winners moreover got Yanga jerseys from the betting game organizer.

Yanga booked a place in the continental showpiece's last-four stage after garnering a 2-0 aggregate drubbing of Riv-

ers United of Nigeria in the last eight stages.

The Tanzanian club clobbered Rivers United 2-0 in the first-leg match held at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo on April 23.

In the rematch that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 30, the two teams drew 0-0 to see Yanga progress to the last four.

Parimatch Tanzania Information and Communication Officer, Ismael Mohamed, mentioned the betting game winners as Bahati Mbatta, Benedicto Jonah, Gerald Mathias, Fred Bryan, and Baraka Kimaro from various parts of Dar es Salaam.

Mohamed as well expressed his delight over Bahati's win, as the latter happened to be the first female winner to lay her hands on tickets and jerseys

since the start of the tournament.

"Bahati's victory shows that predictions are now steadily and increasingly accepted in society, this is an incentive for all women and girls who thought these games are just for men," the official pointed out.

The official revealed: "Parimatch Tanzania has offered this opportunity to all Tanzanians, irrespective of gender, if an individual is aged 18 and above the platform is his/hers to try his/her luck today."

"A participant should visit www.parimatch.co.tz to open his/her account, if he/she has not registered, to be the first to enjoy and benefit from us as there are so many good things coming soon!," the official stated.

The fans that won the bet-

ting game claimed that they feel happy to see Parimatch make history in their lives by offering them the chance to watch the first CAF Confederation Cup semi-final in Tanzania.

Parimatch Tanzania, according to the Information and Communication Officer, is the leading online betting firm that has been offering a huge invitation bonus of up to 1,000,000/- for new customers joining the firm.

The firm has been operating in Tanzania since 2019, providing good service including fast payments, large odds, and exciting promotions in football, casino, and virtual games.

Parimatch Tanzania moreover offers hundreds of daily events on tennis, UFC, basketball, cricket, baseball, and many other live and pre-match games



Soccer fanatics that emerged victorious in a betting game, dubbed 'Parimatch VIP Experience', pose for a picture with Parimatch Tanzania's ambassadors, Masatu Amon Ndaro (2nd L), and Sultan Omary Sullboe (2nd R) at a prize handover ceremony in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Parimatch Tanzania, the online sports betting firm, organized the game which offered the fanatics opportunity to watch the first leg of this season's CAF Confederation Cup semi-final between Tanzania's Yanga and Marumo Gallants of South Africa in the city yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



From Pele to Beckham -- four superstars who dipped their toe in football's backwaters

LONDON

ARGENTINE football superstar Lionel Messi's move to spend the final years of his stellar career in Saudi Arabia, according to a source close to the negotiations, will come as a crushing blow to Barcelona fans who dreamed of a return to the club that nurtured him.

In fact, 35-year-old Messi will be following a well-trodden path of the greats of the 'Beautiful Game' by taking a lucrative pay day in football's backwaters.

Here AFP Sport picks out four examples:

*Pele -- New York Cosmos (USA) 1975-77

It took the persuasive powers of US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to lure the man, who vies for the greatest ever with Messi and Diego Maradona, to the North American Soccer League (NASL) in 1975.

"They want to make soccer big in the United States," Pele told CNN in 2011.

"That was the reason (I went). I started my mission."

Aged 34 at the time, he stirred huge public interest and crowd numbers soared.

Averaging below 10,000 a match before his arrival, Cosmos attendances surged to over 40,000. Pele took to the New York nightlife but did not neglect his duties on the pitch, inspiring the team to a Football Bowl title in 1977.

His endorsement of the NASL prompted other legends such as Franz Beckenbauer and George Best to sign up -- though it was to crash and burn in 1984.

*Gabriel Batistuta -- Al Arabi (QAT) 2003-05

The Argentine striker took the high road to the previously low-key Q-League on a free transfer and reportedly received \$8million to join Al Arabi.

'Batigol's' eye for goal -- which had seen him rattle in the goals for Serie A sides Fiorentina and AS Roma -- did not desert him in Doha. He scored a record 25 goals for the club in his maiden season.

Batistuta was joined by Pep Guardiola, Frank de Boer and Marcel Desailly as Qatar raised its football profile in what was arguably a key first step towards successfully winning the rights to hosting the 2022 World Cup.

*Zico -- Kashima Antlers (JPN) 1991-94

His exploits on the pitch earned him a stint as Brazil's sports minister but despite being in his early forties he broke off his nascent political career to play for second tier Japanese side Sumitomo Metals.

The task was to secure them a place in the first ever Japanese professional league which was due to kick off its inaugural season in 1993.

Even in early middle age, the Brazilian inspired them to promotion and then to the runner-up spot in the J League -- and the club changed its name to Kashima Antlers.

There is a statue of him outside Kashima's stadium and he draws great pleasure from the subsequent success of Japanese football -- this month Urawa Red Diamonds won their third Asian Champions League crown.

"It was all about starting from scratch and getting the direction right," Zico told FIFA.com last December.

"And look at Japan today. They haven't missed one World Cup since the game went professional there. That's pretty pleasing."

*David Beckham -- LA Galaxy (USA) 2007-2012

It was quite a coup when the MLS franchise secured the signature of arguably European football's highest-profile player at the age of 32, bringing to an end his time as one of Real Madrid's Galacticos.

Beckham's five-year contract -- paying him \$6.5 million a year -- reaped dividends for Galaxy in terms of a new shirt deal and a huge rise in season ticket sales.

Of far more importance to the former England star, though, was the clause that stated he could buy a MLS franchise -- with the exception of New York -- in the future for a fixed rate of \$25 million.

He duly exercised that right in 2014, purchasing Inter Miami.

"I'm not saying me coming over to the States is going to make soccer the biggest sport in America," said Beckham when he signed for Galaxy.

"But I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't think I could make a difference."

Beckham inspired Galaxy to two MLS Cup successes before he returned to European football -- with PSG.

AFP

De Bruyne rocket leaves Man City and Madrid level

MADRID

KEVIN De Bruyne's brilliant drive earned Manchester City a 1-1 draw at Real Madrid in a gripping Champions League semi-final first leg battle on Tuesday.

The Belgian slammed Pep Guardiola's visitors level after Vinicius Junior opened the scoring for the reigning champions from distance in similarly spectacular fashion.

Madrid managed to completely shackle lethal striker Erling Haaland but De Bruyne's powerful effort left the tie on a knife edge ahead of the second leg in Manchester next week.

The record 14-time winners knocked City out at the same stage last season despite being outplayed in both games, and took the lead at the Santiago Bernabeu against the run of play.

However when Madrid found their stride in the second half, City -- still chasing their first ever Champions League trophy -- hit back through De Bruyne.

Madrid central defenders David Alaba and Antonio Rudiger did not give Haaland room to breathe.

"We have to see if we can attack (better), Alaba and Rudiger were so close on Erling," Guardiola told reporters.

"It was not easy to find



Real Madrid's goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois is beaten by a shot from Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne who scored his side's first goal during the Champions League semifinal first leg soccer match between Real Madrid and Manchester City at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, May 9, 2023. (AP Photo)

the spaces. We'll try to adjust something in the second leg to be more fluid and play with a bit more rhythm."

The visitors controlled much of the first half, with nearly 70 percent possession, but went in trailing at the break.

Thibaut Courtois fielded an early barrage of shots from De Bruyne, Rodri and Haaland, as City dominated and Madrid sat back, soaking up the pressure.

The hosts took the lead through a lethal counter-attack 10 minutes before the break, with Eduardo Camavinga surging past Bernardo Silva, tearing into space and feeding Vinicius.

The Brazilian arrowed a strike into the top left corner from almost 25

yards, past Ederson's helpless dive. It was Madrid's only shot in the first half, but the game's most effective one.

"It's normal that City have the ball, we don't have to go mad about that," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

"After the goal we played very well, controlling the space, creating things, we played very well, I hope we can repeat it in the second leg."

Haaland shut down Alaba thwarted Haaland with a fine block early in the second half, as Madrid kept the Norwegian goal machine under lock and key on his first appearance against them.

Madrid did not allow him a clear sight of goal,

ensuring he could not add to his 51 goals from 46 games this season across all competitions.

Rudiger, who played ahead of the suspended Eder Militao, put in one of the best performances of his Madrid career.

"He had a fantastic game, clearly we have to highlight that," said Ancelotti.

"But everyone did, because defensively we did very well, they did not make many chances. They scored from outside the box ... because the team had a great game on a defensive level."

Madrid's pressing was greatly improved after the break and they pinned City back at times, showing far more initiative than they

offered at the start.

However with Los Blancos ascendent, City sucker-punched them, just as Madrid did to the Premier League leaders in the first half.

De Bruyne slammed the visitors level with a shot from the same range as Vinicius's opener, at the same end, hammered low past Courtois.

"We started really well and then Vinicius finished cleverly," said Guardiola.

"Then when they were better than us, we scored a goal. We go to Manchester, it will be a final."

Ederson palmed away a Karim Benzema header and a vicious Aurelien Tchouameni effort in the final stages ensuring

whoever wins next week progresses.

"At the Etihad at the moment we feel unstoppable," warned City winger Jack Grealish.

"I really enjoyed it tonight, I loved it."

The second leg takes place on May 17, with the winner facing Inter Milan or AC Milan in the final.

Meanwhile, Jack Grealish said Manchester City are confident of finishing the job against Real Madrid at home to reach the Champions League final after a 1-1 draw in their semi-final first leg on Tuesday.

City have won all 14 games at the Etihad this year by a combined score of 49-7 as Pep Guardiola's men close in on a potential treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

But it is conquering Europe for the first time that matters most to the English champions.

City suffered heartache against Madrid at the same stage of the competition last season as a late collapse in the second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu saw the Spanish giants go on to win the competition for the 14th time.

But home advantage for the return leg could make the difference this year after the sides could not be separated in Madrid.

AFP

Real Madrid's beguiling Champions League spell still confounds - Pep Guardiola must break it

By Sam Wallace

THERE is a Real Madrid for every moment of the big games: from cornered and snarling, to whirling all around you, passing through and running in behind, and next week in their own stadium Pep Guardiola's players must be prepared to play all versions.

Carlo Ancelotti's team performed on each of their settings in the first leg. One moment just surviving and then suddenly running the show. This epic Champions League semi-final goes to its second leg with a sense that Manchester City, the great force of English football, have carved an advantage for themselves. Although what that might represent is hard to tell. So much about the spell that Real cast is about the unexpected shifts they force in a game's genesis -- and that lesson was hard learned by Guardiola's players last season.

City might never be able to say how they went from being so sure of their bearings, with 70 per cent of the possession, to all that reassurance being swept away with a flick from Luka Modric and a hit from Vinicius. Real can do that, to even the City of 2023.

The great Guardiola teams -- especially the great Barcelona team -- planned away at opposition with the dizzying fluency of their passing,

and the suffocating nature of their possession. This Real dynasty of five Champions League titles in the previous nine editions do it differently. They shift in character throughout the match -- and for much of the first half they even felt vulnerable at times, as the City passing sequences amped up and the Guardiola possession machine moved forward.

Even after the home side had taken the lead in the 36th minute, the right-back Dani Carvajal put a shoulder into Jack Grealish -- with all the grace and subtlety of a vengeful 1950s centre-half -- to send the Englishman stumbling into the digital perimeter boards. Toni Kroos and Antonio Rudiger both had the same idea to kick their old Germany team-mate Ilkay Gundogan. These were just the highlights of a first half of strategic fouls.

Real had suffered under the tyranny of a typical Guardiola first half when the City passing total easily exceeded 300 and their opposition did not even make half that. For most teams that face City, a first half of that nature is generally the end of the story.

Yet by this stage, Real had scored, a breathtaking counter-attack launched by Luka Modric's first time touch back into the path of the breaking Eduardo Camavinga. To describe it, in the football vernacular, as a nice pass around the

corner would scarcely do justice to Modric's moment of vision. It went around the corner and came back from the shops with the week's groceries.

This was the moment that the game's character started to change. For long periods at the start of the second half City struggled to regain anything like the control they had enjoyed before the break and they had to live with much of the indignity of surviving on the back foot, that Real had previously endured. Ancelotti's players went from a team who did not seem much to want the ball to one who would not give it back.

Yet City faced every iteration of Real on this night and survived. Kevin De Bruyne scored an equaliser when it looked like City might have lost their way in the game. The screw is rarely turned on them in the Premier League

like it was at times in the second half. This is City's chance, at home next week with all the impetus of the slender advantage that a second leg in your own stadium brings.

This was the hardest game for Erling Haaland, a striker who requires some kind of collaborative effort to launch him goalwards but increasingly found himself obliged to do it alone. His 21 touches over the night were the fewest of the 22 starters, and the key takeaway is that if the chances do come on Wednesday there may be no more than two. The same could be said of Grealish who started the night twisting Carvajal's blood and then, despite his part in the goal, never quite had his moment in this high-quality game.

These are the stakes now for Grealish. He has to measure himself against peers like Vini-

cius in this, the fleeting golden years when he, like any leading player, will find himself at the top of the game. Occasions like next Wednesday will be the evenings that define his career -- the difference perhaps between one Champions League title, or two -- or none. Can he have the same effect on his team as Vinicius did?

Big questions for City's players as they approach this defining second leg against the defending champions. No doubting Guardiola's belief in his side. This manager who long insisted to the Premier League on his right to five substitutions did not make a change all night.

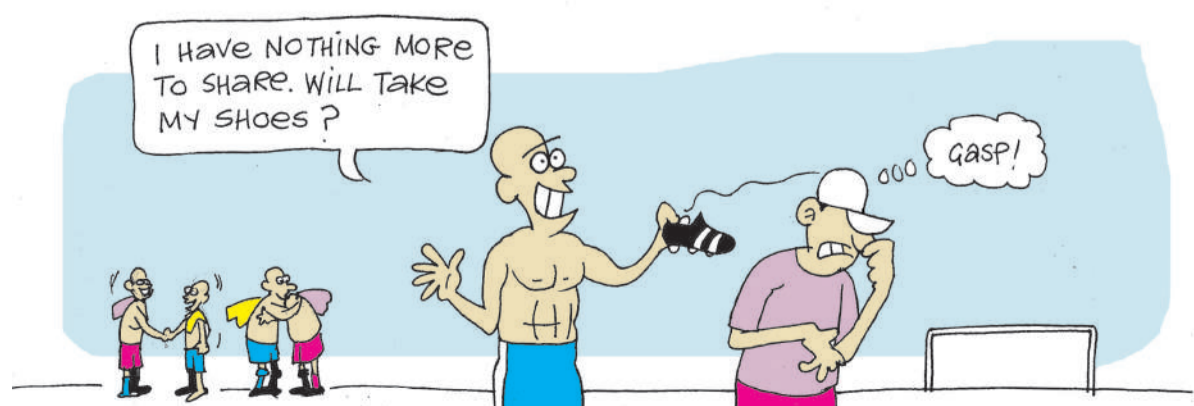
Not that Real were far behind in that regard. From the old guard, Kroos played 84 minutes, Modric three more than that and Karim Benzema the whole thing. Real are a beautiful football team, perfectly cali-

brated between young and old in the ebb and flow of their respective careers. From the craft of their old boys, and the fresh legs and new ideas of the young, Camavinga played left-back and then latterly midfield and looked like he could have done the second leg there and then too.

The longer Real go on like this, confounding the decline that is always expected to come -- the greater the mythology around them. That, in no small part, is what City face next Wednesday. That nagging fear that there is always one more breath: or more prosaically, seventh minute of time added on and Benzema suddenly, inexplicably, unmarked at the back post. If City do get past Real in a week's time it will feel like the spell has been broken. If any side can do it -- then it is them.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

De Bruyne rocket leaves Man City and Madrid level

PAGE 18



A Yanga member (L) and a UNICEF Tanzania official (R) are pictured offering education on the cholera outbreak to youngsters who turned up at the launch of a campaign for the fight against the disease in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. The club has collaborated with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's Office through the Regional Health Office in the campaign. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Yanga partners UNICEF in fight against cholera

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S soccer giant, Yanga, has joined forces with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's Office through the Regional Health Office to educate the community on the cholera outbreak.

The occasion for offering education on the disease took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday morning during Yanga's build-up to the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-final tie against South Africa's Marumo Gallants held at the stadium in the afternoon.

Speaking to reporters, Yanga's Chief Executive Officer, Andre Mtine, said that the education was presented to all fans who turned up at the stadium, adding they had to take steps to focus on raising sustainable awareness on the prevention and control of all diseases spread by water and the cholera outbreak.

Mtine mentioned the steps taken by Yanga, pointing out that such steps include the availability and use of fresh drinking water by boiling and treating the water with chlorine.

The official disclosed they also target to address poor sanitation and personal hygiene including educating the community on the proper use of toilets/stoves, the removal of sewerage and industrial waste, and improving cleanliness, hygiene, and food safety.

Mtine said that Yanga and the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's Office are addressing the situation by launching a campaign to raise awareness and sustainably educate the public.

The official noted the program will include a variety of activities such as community access programs, public awareness campaigns, and the use of educational materials such as leaflets and radio adverts.

"We promise to assist the government in addressing all causes of diarrhea and vomiting including the outbreak of cholera in Dar es Salaam," the official noted.

"We are pleased to partner with the Regional Commissioner's Office in this important campaign to raise awareness of diarrhea including cholera outbreaks."

"We have set a resolution to promote the health and well-being of our fans and society, as we have revealed previously when we started our campaign for the COVID-19 vaccine."

"Part of the program, Yanga will partner with local health authorities and other stakeholders to ensure a route in addressing explosion and hygiene."

Dar es Salaam's Chief Medical Officer, Rashid Mfaume, said: "Collaboration with Yanga is an example of how cooperation between various stakeholders can play an important role in addressing public health challenges."

Mfaume revealed: "We are happy to again cooperate with Yanga in raising awareness and public education even after the end of the cholera outbreak."

"Together, we hope to reach as many people as possible and prevent the spread of the disease, and save lives, the campaign is expected to reach a large group of people, including children and young people, who can take responsibility for promoting a safe and clean environment," Mfaume stated.

Mfaume stressed: "I strongly urge Yanga fans and the community at large to voluntarily participate in coming community activities to end all causes of water-related diseases, improve health and sanitation, improve personal hygiene, and use safe drinking water."

Simba SC central defender hints at handing in transfer request



Joash Onyango. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A cryptic post by Simba SC's Kenyan defender, Joash Onyango, has cast doubts over the player's future at the club.

According to reports, the 30-year-old is fed up with the criticism he gets from fans and pundits, especially this season which has seen the player turn into a punching bag of some sort whenever Simba SC loses.

Onyango joined Simba SC from Kenya's Gor Mahia in August 2020, initially on a two-year contract, and agreed on fresh terms last June, extending his stay for another two years.

However, he now appears to be ready to depart a year before his contract runs out due to frustrations.

In yesterday morning's post on one of his social media platforms, Onyango

wrote 'time is over now' accompanied by a photo of him disengaging from the club's bus.

According to multiple reports from the club and Tanzania's media outlets, the Kenyan has reportedly handed in a request to leave the club after close to three years with the outfit nicknamed 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi'.

This is not the first time that Onyango is seeking to leave the club having tried the same in August

last year, he even downed tools in protest and did not travel with the Tanzanian side to Sudan where the squad participated in two friendlies.

At that time, the defender was having limited playing time following the arrival of Ivorian Mohamed Ouattara who had been preferred by the then tactician, Zoran Manojlovic, to partner Henock Inonga in central defense.

Onyango moved to the Tanzania Football

Federation (TFF) Legal and Player's Status Committee seeking to terminate his contract with Simba after the transfer window was closed but his request was thrown out.

However, the exit of tactician Manojlovic from the summit of the club's technical bench and the subsequent takeover by Juma Mgunda on an interim basis gave the Kenyan a new lease of life that extended even when the current coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' arrived.

He has been the preferred pick for Robertinho, especially in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League but a couple of howlers the footballer committed in Africa's premier competition saw a section of Simba SC fans call for his ouster.

Onyango, 'Berlin Wall' as he is popularly known, has been a mainstay in Simba SC's defense, playing nearly every match alongside his center-back partner Congolese Baka.

He has, however, had to endure constant criticism but Robertinho has kept trust with the defender and the tactician's loyalty has been rewarded with top performances from the former Gor Mahia player.

His performance in his side's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final clash versus

Azam FC in Mtwara last weekend, which witnessed Simba SC conceding a 2-1 loss, further elicited criticism.

Simba SC lovers earlier turned on him last month when the squad was eliminated from the 2022/23 CAF Champions League by holders Morocco's Wydad Casablanca at the quarterfinal stage.

The team was beaten 5-3 by Wydad Casablanca on post-match penalties following a 1-1 draw on aggregate but, unlike the norm when those who miss spot-kicks get the blame, a handful of Simba SC supporters singled Onyango out for criticism over what they claimed 'poor defending'.

It was the second time in one month that he was coming under heavy criticism after they called for him to be dropped once the club lost 3-1 away to Raja Casablanca in Morocco in the premier continental competition Group Stage on April 1.

The former Gor Mahia defender joined Simba SC in August 2020 after a stellar performance with the record Kenyan champions.

Onyango has won three trophies with Simba SC, the Premier League title, ASFC in 2020/21, as well as the Mapinduzi Cup last season.

Strikers stun Pak Stars in 2023 DC 50 Overs League

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERIENCED cricketer, Jatin Darji, showcased scintillating displays with bat and ball to help Strikers Cricket Club command a 38-run victory over Pak Stars in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 50 Overs Division A's League Group B tie played in the city last Sunday.

Strikers were bowled out for 171 runs in 32.5 when the outfit was put in to bat first by Pak Stars, given the latter had won the toss and opted to field.

The batting squad had to endure an early blow following the early dismissal of opener, Shafi Muharram, as the cricketer ended with mere six runs whilst clearing the boundary once.

Muharram was caught by Strikers' fielder, Zamoyoni Ramadhani, off Rana Waqas's bowling, leaving fellow opening batsman, Athumani Siwa, to tackle the opponents' early onslaught.

Siwa went on to put on solid displays and end his spell with 28 runs from 33 balls, there was thereafter a drawback resulting from an early dismissal of another top-order cricketer, Jonathan Nyambo, that was dismissed for duck.

Mausif Khan laid his hands on the bat and significantly boosted the batting side's score after notching 34 runs clearing the boundary on five occasions.

Other significant contributions at the crease for Strikers came from Darji



Strikers Cricket Club's all-rounder, Jatin Darji (R), gets the Kiwingu Man of the Match prize from umpire, Riziki Kizito, once the cricketer's club came up against Pak Stars in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 50 Overs Cup tournament tie that took place in the city on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

that notched 27 runs, Hassan Rahim posting 14 runs, and Abdulrazak Mohamed with his 13 runs.

Striker reached 100 runs in the 12th over whilst dropping two wickets and Pak Stars' all-rounder, Zafar Khan, was going strong with skipper Kashif Adnan during the latter's outfit's bowling spell.

Pak Stars' Khan had the best bowling showing, ending with a five-wicket haul whilst giving away 23 runs in 5.5 overs and was ably assisted by Rana Waqas who posted three wickets leaking 51 runs in eight overs.

In response, Pak Stars, despite facing an achievable target, found the going tough and were ultimately

tamed having recorded 133/10 in 21.2 overs. It was early on a walk in the park for Pak Stars thanks to Khan's form, but Strikers' captain, Darji, had his plan bringing in youthful performer Raymond Francis, a skillful leg spinner, to keep Pak Stars' batting unit in check.

The youthful cricketer, a product of the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) development program in Mwanza, ultimately outsmarted Khan, the experienced cricketer made his way back with 23 runs.

Francis enticed Khan to hit the former and as the latter is well-known for his hard-hitting approach, his confidence unexpectedly led to his dismissal.

Khan's exit signaled batting collapse, as wickets fell at regular intervals, Darji joined Strikers' bowling attack and, in a span of few overs, the whole of Pak Stars' batting unit collapsed.

It was a frustrating outing for Pak Stars after Khan's wicket was taken, with victims of early dismissal including feared batsmen like Sheraz Khan, who has a history of scoring centuries, Ayaz Mustafa, and Zamoyoni Ramadhani.

Mustafa is more than a decent batsman, having proved his worth when featuring for Alaf Aces last season, Ramadhani is known for his finishing acts in the past, and skipper Adnan- a renowned legend- but all could not do the job required for their side.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

