

BUSINESS COSTECH set to empower more FinTech and start-up innovators

Bitcoin set for record losing streak following collapse of stablecoin

Betting via M-Pesa hits Sh169.1bn in one year

Bank taps Sh20 billion CBK funds for lending

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Nerves tight as expelled MPs attend Parliament

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

SOME of the nineteen lawmakers who have lost an appeal against their expulsion from the main opposition Chadema yesterday attended a parliamentary session as they await a verdict on their fate. The MPs whose status hangs in the balance made it to Parliament grounds at 9am, proceeded to the debating chambers and participated as usual, including asking questions. Those who made it to the chamber are Salome Makamba, Esther Matiko, Tunza Malapo, Jesca Kishoa, Anatropia Theonest, Asya Mohamed and Stella Fiao. Emmanuel Mwakasaka (Tabora Urban), who chairs the parliamentary committee on the privileges, ethics and powers of MPs, said that it is



The Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson will tell the House about the fate of these MPs, he said, noting that what happened in the party governing council cannot be automatically transmitted to the legislature without following existing laws and procedures

the Speaker of the National Assembly who is vested with the decision on the fate of the MPs. Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson will tell the House about the fate of these MPs, he said, noting that what happened

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Positive approaches better, Samia tells rights activists



President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives an award from Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition chairperson Judge (rt) Joaquina De Mello in Dar es Salaam yesterday in recognition of her contribution to the protection and administration of human rights and the rule of law during the one year she has been in office. This was during the commemoration of the 10th coalition's anniversary. Right is Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro. Photo: State House

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday urged global human rights agencies and local civil society organizations to use positive approaches when advocating for changes, saying the government is ready for dialogue.

Officiating at a ceremony to mark 10 years since the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) was formed, President Samia said positive activism can be more rewarding, urging human rights defenders to seek dialogue instead of the usual confrontation approaches.

"The good thing is that I am a woman and a mother who doesn't need confrontation. I have told you several times that I need reconciliation which will lead us to reforms which we all want," she asserted.

The president affirmed that the government is committed to ensuring that human rights are protected, and in doing so the government was collaborating with various stakeholders involved with defending human rights.

She said that respecting human rights was part of development, and it was the reason the government set up a human rights policy in various ways since independence.

THRDC needs to work on sensitizing Tanzanians to know their rights through campaigns, as defending human rights must go together with understanding the constitution, she said, adding that more should be done on advocating

AU member states link forces on terror fighting

By Guardian Correspondent

A TOP level working group on defence, peace and security in the African Union (AU) has agreed to set up a joint military command and a coordination centre to strengthen the fight against terrorism.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the minister for Defence and National Service made this affirmation after a session of the sectoral ministerial conference, a meeting preceded by a meeting of experts on May 9 and 10, and a conference of defence chiefs on May 10.

She referred to the terrorism challenge in the southern part of Tanzania though located on the other side of the border in Mozambique, noting that it is a cross border problem. "We have discussed and recognized that it is important to establish a joint military and a centre

where member states will contribute troops to combat terrorism," she stated.

Other security and safety challenges

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The government has set up the law requiring transparency in order to know how much has entered the country, how it has been used and the impact on the areas acted upon

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Resurgent poaching kills seven jumbos this month



The first poaching incident occurred on May at Hanga monastery area in Namtumbo District where the police retrieved five ivory tusks weighing 44kg, priced at 104m/, he said

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

SEVEN elephants whose trophies fetch 35m/ each have been killed in two separate incidents in Ruvuma Region, with authorities describing those incidents as a new wave of poaching. Regional police commander Joseph Konyo made this observation in a briefing about how police the region

in the region lately seized nine complete elephant tusks and eight pieces all weighing 64.4kg.

The first poaching incident occurred on May at Hanga monastery area in Namtumbo District where the police retrieved five ivory tusks weighing 44kg, priced at 104m/, he said, noting that the suspects in the incident managed to escape.

The second incident occurred on May 10 at around 2pm in Milonde-Kiuma village in Tunduru District, where police officers seized four whole elephant tusks and eight pieces weighing 20.4kg, cited as worth 138.6m/-. Three suspects were arrested, who the police chief said are Said Awadi (25), Hassan Judge (36) and Zachalia Gafi (22). They are

under police custody and will be sent to court to face charges, he said. The seizure of tusks shows loss of vital resources, a great loss to the tourism sector and future generations, the RPC declared. Abraham Jullu, the conservation commander for the south-eastern zone of

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Resurgent poaching kills seven elephants this month

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the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), said the agency was working closely with the police to conduct patrols in the fight against poaching.

Search and patrol missions will be intensified to catch all those bent on destroying the country's wildlife and national resources, he stated, pointing out that the country's elephant population shrank from 110,000 in 2009 to barely 43,000 in 2014, on the basis of a 2015 wildlife census report.

However, the government has recently affirmed that the numbers were rebounding after a fifth phase crackdown dismantled organised criminal networks conducting industrial scale poaching.

Nerves tight as expelled MPs attend Parliament

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in the party's governing council cannot be automatically transmitted to the legislature without following existing laws and procedures.

When a member of parliament loses membership to a party which sponsored them to the legislature, that party, via the secretary general, must write to the Speaker's Office on that development, so that the Speaker declares the seats to be vacant.

The council late Wednesday voted to expel the 19 special seats MPs whose swearing in was contested by the party. In December 2020, the sacked women cadres appealed to the council on the party central committee's decision to strip them of their party membership.

The committee's decision the previous month touched the women's wing chairperson Halima Mdee, and 18 others, charged with violating party directives.

The others are ex-Bawacha vice chairperson Hawa Mwaifunga, national secretary Grace Tendega, deputy secretary general Jesca Kishoa, ex-parliamentary public accounts committee (PAC) chairperson Naghenjwa Kaboyoka and Mtwara regional chairperson, Tunza Malapo.

Others are Cecilia Pareso, Sophia Mwakaganda, Anatropia Theonest, Salome Makamba, Stella Fiao, Agnesta Kaiza, Hawa Mwaifunga, Felista Njau, Kunti Majala, Asia Mohamed, Conchesta Rwamulaza, ex-Bunda and Tarime Urban MPs Ester Bulaya and Esther Matiko respectively, and the ex-youth wing secretary general Nusrat Hanje.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi unveils plaque at Fuoni Kipungani in Unguja's West B District yesterday to inaugurate Masjid Nur Al-Rahman. Second left is the mosque's supervisor, Khalfan Mussa. Photo: Zanzibar State House

AU member states link forces on terrorism

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will be addressed through exchanges of information, experiences and training to strengthen the fight, she further stated.

Hamad Masauni, the minister for Home Affairs, made reference to discussion on African countries cooperating to fight cross-border

crime, noting that several strategies will anchor joint efforts in the fight against trafficking in drugs and humans.

These areas of breaches of security will be coordinated in tandem with terrorism, human trafficking and drugs "as it has become a matter of comfort to see all member states agreeing to this idea," he said.

These decisions await approval

from Heads of State in the next meeting billed for July, he said, while Inspector General (IGP) Simon Sirro said that police chiefs had agreed on behalf of safety and security bodies to exchange information on cross-border crime.

"We have extensively discussed crime in Africa and especially cross border crimes such as terrorism," he said, describing it as a very serious

challenge. So we are going to work as a team, exchanging information to face up to the challenge," he emphasised.

The Tanzanian delegation Home Affairs minister Masauni, IGP Sirro and Major General Jacob Mkunda, the chief of operations for the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF), along with several senior government officials.

In follow up meetings, the conference adopted two protocols on priority for the protection of children and their rights, emanating from concerns on child protection in African Union peace support operations in its 2021 report. There was also input on mainstreaming child protection in African peace and security architecture, he added.



National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) director general Prof Yunus Mgaya (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the 31st national scientific symposium Vice President Dr Philip Mpango is expected to grace in the city this coming Tuesday. He is with NIMR Research Reports and Communication coordinator Dr Ndeky Oriyo. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Emirates president Sheikh Khalifa dies at 73

ABU DHABI

ONE of the richest monarchs in the world, President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, has died at the age of 73.

Sheikh Khalifa was president of the UAE since 2004, but his role had been largely ceremonial since he suffered a stroke in 2014.

His half-brother, Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, is now in charge of state affairs.

The al-Nahyan family is believed to have a fortune of \$150bn (£123bn).

As well as being president of the UAE, Sheikh Khalifa was also the ruler of Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich capital of the seven emirates which comprise the UAE.

News of his death was announced by the official WAM news agency.

The ministry of presidential affairs declared 40 days of mourning with flags at half-mast from Friday, and work was suspended in the public and private sectors for the first three days. Sheikh Khalifa took over as the UAE's second president in November 2004, succeeding his father as the 16th ruler of Abu Dhabi.

In the first decade of his rule, he presided over a major restructuring of both the federal government and that of Abu Dhabi. But after his stroke, he was rarely seen in public, although he continued to issue rulings.

Positive approaches better, Samia tells rights activists

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girls' and women's rights on issues like rape to ensure they get their rights and access the doors justice.

Civil society organization need to take up positive approaches in calling for action on their demands as the government was open for dialogue, she said.

The current situation around the world requires openness in organisations as part of the fight against, she said, focusing on the transparency of delivery and use of funds among non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"The government has set up the law requiring transparency in order to know how much has entered the

country, how it has been used and the impact on the areas acted upon," the president explained.

NGOs were conducting many activities in national development but their results are nowhere to be seen owing to lack of accountability, she said, intoning that it is possible for NGOs and the government to trust one another.

THRDC has done a commendable job in its 10 years and the period is enough to work together with the government to ensure the issues are taken up and implemented, she affirmed.

Dr Damas Ndumbaro, the minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs listed down a number of decisions which the president has made in the human rights context, including lifting

a ban on several newspapers.

The president has criss-crossed the globe in search of funds to improve the lives of Tanzanians in areas like water, health and many others, which are important to human life, he said, while Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud, president of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights said President Samia's work on human rights had generated waves of appreciation domestically and abroad.

Ten years of THRDC operations provide occasion to see what more needs to be done, safeguarding what has been achieved, and what is to be done, she stated.

"Human rights defending will be not an easy task without media coopera-

tion, therefore it is of paramount importance for defenders to have good relations with this institution mandated to watch over public governance," she said.

THRDC national coordinator Onesmo ole Ngurumwa said the president's acceptance of their invitation to officiate at the commemoration was a clear signal that the Head of State was committed to protecting human rights.

Ole Ngurumwa said the network started with four members and had now reached 200 members, with the task in the past ten years chiefly relating to training defenders. The network has also been working on creating strategic human rights defending strategies to facilitate their work, he

elaborated.

The government needs to enact legislation to protect defenders from harassment and threats which activists are exposed to in performing their duties, he remarked in the president's direction.

Hassan Shire, chairman of the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network, gave an overview of the 10 years of THRDC operations, affirming that it had done a tremendous job in safeguarding human rights in the country.

Tanzania ought to seek membership in the United Nations Human Rights Commission and similarly adopt a law to protect human rights defenders, the continental organiser added.

Zanzibar's exports, imports on the rise

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Trade and Industries Omar Said Shabani has stated that exports and imports in the Isles grew steadily in 2021 by conducting trade worth 1.12trn/- compared to 913.09bn/- recorded in 2020.

Presenting the ministry's budget estimates for the 2022/23 fiscal year in the House of Representatives yesterday, the minister said the Indian Ocean archipelago recorded growth of trade by 23.1percent in the 2021 due to the increase of export and import of goods and products from various parts across the globe.

He said for the 2021/2022 fiscal year Zanzibar has imported goods worth 7.823bn/- from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, which is equivalent to 0.8 per cent of total imports.

"Imports to SADC countries in 2021 also increased compared to 2020 where a total of 6.15bn/- worth of goods were imported," he said.

Omar said South Africa was the largest importer of products in Zanzibar where it brought goods worth 6.88bn/- in the year 2021 especially timber products.

He also said that for 2021/2022 financial year Zanzibar exported goods worth 155.62bn/-, which is an increase by 137 per cent compared to the export of goods worth 65.66bn/- recorded in 2020.

He said exports included cloves, seaweed and seafood and in the export, clove was valued at 115.36bn/- equivalent to 74.1 per cent of total exports.

"The increase has been attributed to the rise in clove price and the attractive season. Among the countries that bought cloves are Singapore, India, Denmark and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)," he said.

The minister further said, in 2021 Zanzibar imported goods worth 968.64bn/- compared to the 847.43bn/- imported in 2020.

He said the imported goods and products include transport equipment, electronic goods (computers, phones), machinery, clothes and food products.



Deogratius Ndejemi (L), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership certificate to National Council of NGOs (NaCONGO) chairperson Dr Lilian Badi at a graduation ceremony jointly organised by Uongozi Institute and Aalto University Executive Education. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt turns to big lakes to boost rural water supply

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

THE government has finalised detailed designs for major water projects in two out of three main freshwater lakes namely Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa set to provide clean and safe water to over 3.6 million people in 444 villages.

The design for lakes Victoria and Tanganyika projects are complete and planned to cost nearly 900bn/-, according to budget estimates for the Ministry of Water tabled in the National Assembly on Thursday.

The Lake Victoria projects are set to

serve villages in Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu, Kagera and Mara regions while the Lake Tanganyika ones will supply water to villages in Katavi, Kigoma and Rukwa Regions. Lake Nyasa projects will cover villages in Ruvuma and Njombe regions.

In his budget speech, Water Minister Jumaa Aweso said the government has completed tender documents for 45 projects in Lake Victoria which will cost 750.69/-.

The projects will benefit 2,854,292 people in 324 villages) whereby in Geita District a total of 37 villages, Chato (21), Nyang'hwale (9) and

Mbogwe (18) in Geita Region.

In Mwanza Region a total of 33 villages will be reached in Sengerema District, Magu (16), Misungwi (17), Buchosa (29), Ukerewe (35) and Ilemela municipality (3).

In Kagera Region a total of 4 villages within Bukoba Municipal Council are set to benefit, Bukoba District Council (11), Muleba (8), Biharamulo (12) and Missenyi (8).

In Mara Region, a total of 32 villages in Musoma District Council will benefit from the project, Rorya (20) and Bunda (11).


In Lake Tanganyika, the government has completed detailed design and tender documents for 32 projects at a cost of 117.412bn/- set to benefit 616,000 people in 79 villages in Kigoma District Council (8), Uvinza (7), Nkasi (32), Kalambo (8), Mpimbe (6) and Tanganyika (11).

"The is working on a detailed design for water projects in Lake Nyasa to be implemented in Nyasa District, Ruvuma Region and Ludewa District Council in Njombe Region," said Aweso.

"The projects will serve 30,000 people in 11 villages in Ludewa and 120,000 people living in 30 villages in Nyasa District."



Imports to SADC countries in 2021 also increased compared to 2020 where a total of 6.15bn/- worth of goods were imported




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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-22-05-02	DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRAULIC RADIUS (HR) AND DILUTION RATING SYSTEM (DRS) MODELS	i. Experience in similar works – List of previous projects carried out in last 5 years ii. Experience in Geotechnical Block modelling for the underground mines iii. Company Health, Safety & Environmental Policy

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

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA - Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required software availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the **19th May 2022**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote reference number **"BUL-22-05-02 - DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRAULIC RADIUS (HR) AND DILUTION RATING SYSTEM (DRS) MODELS"** in the subject line of your email.

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

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**




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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-22-05-03	INSITU STRESS MEASUREMENTS FROM ORIENTED CORE USING ACOUSTIC EMISSION METHOD	i. Experience with similar works - List of previous projects carried out in last 5 years ii. 5 years experience is stress measurements by AE (Acoustic Emission) method especially in underground mines iii. Company Health, Safety & Environmental Policy

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

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA - Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the **19th May 2022**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote reference number **"BUL-22-05-03 - INSITU STRESS MEASUREMENTS FROM ORIENTED CORE USING ACOUSTIC EMISSION METHOD"** in the subject line of your email.

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

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

BRELA urged to extend education on business formalisation in Lindi Region

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) has been challenged to visit Lindi Region and provide education on the need for traders to formalise their businesses.

Lindi Regional Commissioner, Zainab Telack threw the challenge on Wednesday when speaking at the BRELA pavilion at the ongoing 5th Exhibition of Funds and Economic Empowerment Programmes at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro Municipality.

In her visit the RC said despite the BRELA services being provided online, businesses still need education on how to use the on-line registration system and Lindi is one of the areas in Southern Tanzania that needs to be worked on.

She said: "Business people need formal business education as well as system usage, so I am confident during this year's Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition will par-

ticipate in Lindi region to provide them with this important education."

RC Telack added that BRELA is a major stakeholder in business development in the country, so it is good that these services are more widely publicized and reach out to the marginalized.

The regional commissioner also encouraged the people to seize such opportunities as they arise in their areas.

Morogoro-based residents continue to receive business formalisation education, including instant registration of business and company name registration services.

BRELA is a government executive agency established under the Government Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997. It was established on the 28th of October, 1999 by Government Notice No. 294 A published on the 8th October, 1999 and it was officially inaugurated on the 3rd December, 1999.

It aimed to ensure that businesses operate in accordance with the laid down regulations and sound commercial principles.



Iringa regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (2nd-R) presents a title deed to Zawadi Mgongolwa of Iringa municipality's Mlandege suburb, Zawadi Mgongolwa, on Thursday. The event saw more than 170 title deeds handed over. Others are Iringa district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (3rd-R) and the region's assistant commissioner for Lands, Wenslaus Mtui (R). Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

By Correspondent Prosper Kwizize, Ngara

Ngara residents decry lack of clean, safe water

ASHURA Mohamed, a resident of Ngara District, Kagera Region said that there has been unusual water rationing, where some households get water twice a week while other areas have no water at all.

"This comes with another price as water bills are issued to them regardless of whether they got water or not," she says.

Ashura notes that insufficient water supply and poor distribution of water have led Ngara residents to rely on water vendors who sell 5 liters at 200/- and 500/-

This price is too expensive to an ordinary woman, whose income is roughly a dollar a day, according to

international Monetary Fund (IMF)'s international poverty line.

Baraka Sengiyumva, a water vendor in Ngara town, said that the long queue of people who need water from private boreholes results in quarrels between the vendors and buyers. It is also a source of family conflicts, whereby husbands complain about their wives being late for other domestic responsibilities, he said.

This is happening despite the fact that the area is close to Kagera river basin that connects the Ruvubhu and Akagera rivers at Rusumo and eventually drains into Lake Victoria—the

source of the Nile River.

The basin's population is more than 14 million people from Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and a small part of Uganda, who are in danger of suffering from an outbreak of diseases due to a lack of clean and safe water.

According to the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), the amount of water produced in the district is only 61,949 cubic meters out of 225,000 needed.

RUWASA manager Eng Simon Ndyamukama said that 30 percent of the district's water is obtained from boreholes, while 48 percent comes

from tap water.

Many residents of Ngara and Karagwe districts in the Rusumo and Kagera river basins depend on the waters of shallow wells that are dug locally and cater for almost all social and economic activities.

Community leaders said that individuals are locally mixing chemicals in the water to remove mud, which is also said to be unsafe due to sanitation regulations.

Eng Ndyamukama explained that water resources have been affected by climate change and environmental destruction caused by human activities.

However, he said the availability of

clean water is increasing. From 2019 to 2021, water availability has increased to 68 percent and is expected to reach about 76 percent by the end of 2022.

Eng Ndyamkama said that in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, the government has managed to supply clean water to 246,257 residents out of 358,975 in Ngara, with the target to reach about 85% of the whole population by 2025.

But the Ngara District Council strategic plan 2016/2017-2020/2021 shows that Ngara has a long way to go to ensure residents can access clean water.

"The government through our

authority has set various priorities focusing on making sure that water services benefit the community, and we are sure that we will increase the number of households accessing water up to 85% by the end of the 2022.

At the same time, in collaboration with development partners and other stakeholders like World Bank and NELSAP, the development of the water sources is taken into consideration," said Eng Ndyamkama

This is despite the commitment from the World Bank and Nile Basin Initiative to support a water supply project under a compensation scheme for communities who rented out their land for a power project on the Kagera River Falls.

UNICEF's Data Must Speak research join efforts to improve education in the country

By Guardian Reporter

UNICEF's Data Must Speak (DMS) research which is now active in 14 countries is expanding into Tanzania aiming to improve education by identifying best practices from schools that are doing well.

The DMS research identifies these 'positive-deviant' schools and explores why they perform better than others despite operating under similar conditions.

Using a mixed-methods approach, positive deviant schools will be analysed to identify exceptional behaviours and practices.

By working hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and local partners, promising grassroots education innovations can then be scaled to improve learning for every child.

Some Tanzanian schools involved in the DMS research will also be taking part in the Schools2030 project - a global initiative led by the Aga Khan Foundation which seeks to catalyse school-driven holistic learning innovations to improve quality teaching and learning across ten countries and 1000 schools.

Dr Bronwen Magrath, Schools 2030 global programme manager said: "Schools2030 and Data Must Speak share a core belief that teachers are the most important change-agents in education systems. This research partnership will allow us to identify and amplify examples of "what works" by teachers for teachers, to improving learning outcomes and equity."

"Partnerships are essential in our goal to inform systems-change and drive action towards greater educational achievement. This new partnership is hugely welcomed, and we look forward to exploring

the insights that high-performing Tanzanian schools can offer our global research," said Renaud Comba, Data Must Speak Research Manager at the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti.

By identifying positive school-level trends and the factors that contribute to some schools outperforming others, the DMS Research will gather evidence that in the long term will help efforts to scale positive trends to impact education systems and learners worldwide.

Data gathered through this research, which is funded by the Jacobs Foundation as part of Schools2030's research workstream, will then be used to produce accessible and actionable recommendations on how to scale these local solutions to ensure that children's learning outcomes can be improved nationwide and in the entire global learning community.

Specifically, results from this research will support the mission of Tanzania's Ministries of Education to strengthen the country's public education systems. Key insights are expected to be incorporated within Tanzania's on-going education development plan, and findings from future stages of the research will continue to feed into government education sector planning.

Preliminary findings on contextual factors that contribute to school performance will be published by mid-2023 on the DMS research webpage.

The research will form part of broader discussions about how best to promote cooperation and dialogue between schools, systems and societies to improve holistic learning outcomes that will be taking place at the inaugural Schools2030 Global Forum in June 2022 in Dar es Salaam.



Canada Service Organisation (CESO) international trainer Bryan Marshman pictured Dar es Salaam yesterday conducting training for leaders and operators of more than 20 projects being implemented in various parts of Tanzania. The idea is to raise public awareness on how social projects can help the realisation of gender equality, quality education and the economic empowerment of women. CESO is conducting the training jointly with Community Hands Foundation. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Smallholder women farmers outline issues to consider in Agriculture ministry budget

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

SMALLHOLDER Women Farmers Forum (SWFF) have outlined key areas the government should put more emphasis in as it tables agricultural budget in the parliament coming Monday.

They said this year's budget should strive to achieve the mission of Malabo declaration goals and commitments and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is the Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all.

Speaking at CAADP BR analysis and advocacy engagement meeting with Members of Parliament in Dodoma recently, they asked the Minister for agriculture to allocate enough budgets so as to comply with Malabo Declaration commitments. Saying the declaration presents a holistic approach for governments to achieve improved livelihoods through agriculture, with particular emphasis on the role of smallholder farmers.

Fredinah Said from Kishapu district in Shinyanga region said the government and the Ministry of Agriculture should allocate enough budget for agricultural research and extension system. She said there are so many farmers struggling with drought due to climate change; they have also been affected by crop pests and diseases.

They can't be reached by researchers due to small budget to take them to remote areas. Citing an example, she said there is acute shortage of extension services as one extension saves a ward or division and many are ill equipped. She said research on useful traditional seeds, their technologies; affordable fertilizers and soil testing are also important areas to be considered in the budget.

She also explained that there is a need for research on availability of markets. "There is very scant information on suitable markets. The farmer can struggle to grow different crops but the crops ends up rotting due to lack of reliable market. Without better markets the small holder farmers will never graduate from subsistence to commercial," she explained.

Frola Mlowezi from Mbeya said the government should revive irrigation schemes and projects that have been abandoned so that small holder farmers can conduct agriculture throughout the year.

"Agriculture that depends on rains will never grow. The farmers cannot secure loans from financial institutions because they don't have reliable income. Therefore, the coming budget should consider all these concerns, she said.

Pili Kuliwa from Kilwa district in Lindi region urged the government to allocate more budgets on nutrition issues saying malnutrition is on the increase in many parts of Tanzania. She said the situation is not so good especially to children under five.

"If we don't address malnutrition issues, we are going to have stunted students and leaders to lead this nation," she said.

Civil Society organisations representatives namely Auda Rukonge from ANSAF, Joseph Senga from MVIWATA, Nicholas Lekule from Policy Forum, Msololo Ondit from ForumCC, and Bakari Mongo from TOAM collectively urged the government to increase the budget for

agriculture sector as per the Malabo declaration and the CAADP.

Earlier on, Scaling up Public Investment Agriculture (SUPIA) Project Coordinator of ActionAid Tanzania, Joram Wimmo explained the progress Tanzania has made in areas of research, post-harvest loss, climate change, trade and intra-trade, and poverty among others but advised that more efforts are needed to achieve the goals and commitments of Malabo declaration.

Citing an example of Rwanda, he said the country has made progress in many areas that other countries should emulate.

International project manager for SUPIA Constance Okeke said the BR report gives countries and governments opportunity progressively review the implementation of the CAADP both at the country level and at the continent level.

Also it is an opportunity to build data even with the impact of COVID-19 which has shown the need for countries to invest largely on agriculture and food security, it is also creates an opportunity to build resilience and ensure people don't go hungry in future.

She called on Members of Parliament to collectively push for a better agricultural development.

Concluding the discussion with farmers, vice chairman, agriculture, livestock and water Almas Maige said members of parliament have taken into consideration all farmers concerns and will present them as they are to the government for implementation.

The smallholder farmers pray that Monday's agricultural budget will meet their expectations and desired goal.

The analysis report was expected to trigger discussions and actions at country level to spur policy and investment responses designed to speed up the attainment of the Malabo Declaration goals and commitments

ActionAid championed the analysis for the 3rd Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) Report that was endorsed by the assembly of African Heads of State and Government during 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government in February 2022.

EAC armed forces field training exercise set for Jinja, Uganda

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community is set to conduct the 12th EAC Armed Forces Field Training Exercise (FTX) USH-IRIKIANO IMARA 2022 in Jinja, Uganda from May 27th to June 16th, 2022.

The exercise will be conducted in accordance with Article 2 of the EAC Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs under the theme, 'Promoting Peace, Security and Stability towards the East African Community Integration.'

The main objective of the exercise is to train the partner states' armed forces, police, civilian components and other stakeholders in planning, and conduct an integrated mission encompassing: peace support operations, disaster management, counter terrorism and counter piracy.

The FTX will be held with an aim of enhancing partner states' defence forces' capabilities in jointly combatting complex security challenges faced in the region.

Speaking ahead of the exercise, EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki disclosed that EAC partner states have confirmed their participation in the Jinja exercise.

"We are expecting at least 1,533 participants across the Partner States and 10 observers from the newly admitted Democratic Republic of Congo," said the SG.

Dr Mathuki said that the official opening ceremony is scheduled to take place on June 3rd, 2022 with the closing ceremony or VIP scheduled for June 10th, 2022.

The previous field training exercise took place in November 2018 in Tanzania's Muheza District, Tanga Region.



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega has a word with fishermen at Buhingu in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region, last week when he visited the village to attend celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of a development project known as Tuungane. The thrust of the project, which is being implemented in Lake Tanganyika waters, is on maintaining fish stocks, curbing illegal fishing and facilitating the processing of fishery products. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa's major miners call for value chains building

By Special Correspondent, Cape Town

MAJOR mining countries in Africa on Monday highlighted the great potential and prospects in Africa's mining sector in "green metals" and other minerals while expecting investment in the sector to bring more benefits to the local community through building on value chains.

Investing in African Mining Indaba—the largest African mining investment event, kicked off on Monday in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa, attracting thousands of attendees from governments, mining groups and relevant players.

As the Just Transition to a low-carbon future will drive the demand for green metal resources, Africa has such abundant and untapped resources, like lithium, copper, cobalt, nickel, and zinc, South African Minister of Mineral and Energy Resources Gwede Mantashe told the delegates.

South Africa accounts for the largest percentage of the world's Platinum Group Metals reserves, which are used to manufacture electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles, with Zimbabwe ranked third.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia, meanwhile, are among the largest producers of copper and cobalt in the world. The DRC accounts for about 70 percent of global cobalt output and half of the world's reserves.

These "minerals of the future" hold great potential for the continent, he said.

Mining has the potential to be a greater contributor to the economy, and the country welcomes active and pragmatic collaboration with mining industry players, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said.

According to him, Zambia is committed to building a resilient and sustainable mining industry anchored on environmental, social, and governance standards, and best practices. Zambia is a key player in the global copper mining industry and is home to vast reserves of copper and cobalt.

As copper is critical in the green energy transition with an ever-increasing demand for it, Zambia is determined to respond to the high demand for copper and has a goal to take its annual production levels from the current 830,000



to 3 million metric tonnes in the next ten years, Hichilema said, adding that the country is also determined to increase production of cobalt and nickel, also key to the green energy transition.

Zambia is also promoting exploration and exploitation of tin, lithium, graphite, and rare earth minerals, among others, to contribute to the successful energy transition, he said.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, a leading diamond mining country, said mining remains the most important sector of Botswana's economy and implored investors to "seriously consider coming to Botswana to carry out exploration and mining projects," as his government is completing a project that will bring coverage of geological mapping for exploration to 90 percent nationwide.

With signs of improvement in the market and economic activity, Botswana's enough skilled mining personnel, organized and regulated labor movement, the overall progressive nature of Botswana's mineral policy and laws together with its investment climate makes Botswana competitive for mining investment, said Masisi.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is also expected to attend the conference on Tuesday to elaborate on South Africa's work to ensure that mining remains a "sunrise industry."

While alluring investors, Zambian head of state Hichilema made a strong call that mining in Africa should benefit more people through building the value chain, instead of focusing on producing raw materials only.

He said mining in Africa should not only stay on potential. "We want to realize that potential to drive development to alleviate the poverty amongst our people," he added.

Deliberate efforts are needed between African leaders and partners to ensure sustainable development and management of mineral resources, said Hichilema.

Development of supporting infrastructure is also critical, and Africa has immense potential in the artisanal and small-scale sub-sector, which is important for local people to involve in the mining sector, according to him.

The governments of Zambia and DRC last month signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to facilitate the development of value chains in the electric battery and clean energy sector.

"Together we will... establish our nations as leading players in the era of electric vehicles and other green innovations," said Hichilema.

Mantashe also said Africa's resource endowment "must

be translated into a competitive advantage for value-added manufacturing that can contribute to job creation, investment, and export growth."


He expected delegates to discuss mineral beneficiation during the meeting for the benefit of the current and future generations.

"Beneficiation will mean we are fully taking ownership of the value chain of our minerals across the spheres of upstream, midstream, and downstream mining economic activities instead of exporting these to other countries," he said.

In Botswana, what has over the years been "a thorn in the flesh" is the slow uptake of mineral beneficiation industries to diversify the economy, and this is an investment growth potential for the mining sector, said Masisi.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

- The public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from **Holili to Moshi** by vehicle with registration number **KCZ602K / ZD8222** of Spedag Interfreight.

The Journey is scheduled to start on **15.05.2022 to 28.05.2022**
- Special load Dimensions:
Length - 21M
Width - 4.3M
Height - 5.3M
- Route: From Holili to Moshi Via Soweto** Travelling time will be only time **(06:30 am - 06:00 pm)**

We regret for any inconvenience caused

UNESCO wins accolades for its role in promoting Kiswahili

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo, Bagamoyo

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has won praise for its role to promote Kiswahili and dedicating a special date to celebrate the enchanting dialect. During its 41st Session held in Paris, France in 2021, UNESCO declared 7 July of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day.

The UN agency has also been called upon to support the Tanzanian and Zanzibar's Kiswahili Councils in their efforts to promote Kiswahili to become one of the international languages as is the case with English, French, Spanish among others.

Rajabu Kiswagala from the National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) made the call in Bagamoyo yesterday during his contribution to the dialogue on the National Quadrennial Periodic Report on the UNESCO's Convention 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The United Republic of Tanzania submitted Periodic Report for the Convention in 2020. This report mentions the national situation of the cultural and creative industry in the development and implementation of the existing national plans and programmes as per the implementation of the convention.

Kiswagala hailed the initiatives made by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and UNESCO, saying it was quite uplifting for the language adding "UNESCO could have done so for other African languages but they chose Kiswahili."

"We also pay tribute to UNESCO for their efforts to translate the National Quadrennial Periodic Re-

port on the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions as it will help to relay the message to the majority of cultural and creative stakeholders and the public in general," said the council's official.

For her part, Bona Masenge from the National Arts Council (BASATA) hailed UNESCO for convening stakeholders within the arts and culture as the sector has a huge contribution to the national economy.

"Sessions like these are important as we now have a lot of opportunities for our artists to travel to other countries. They need to learn how to scout them. Art can positively change one's life," stressed Masenge.

In another move, stakeholders have called upon the need to collect data to establish the great contribution made by the cultural and creative sectors to the country's economy.

The observation came during the dialogue on the quadrennial report submitted by Tanzania on its implementation of the UNESCO Convention 2005.

In his contribution, Hamisi Kimenya, Bagamoyo District Cultural Officer called upon the need for future reports to involve all stakeholders in the cultural and creative sector all the way to the grassroots level to ensure accuracy of data.

The copyright-based industries in Tanzania makes a significant contribution to the nation where according to the quadrennial report in 2007-2010 it generated an added value of between TZS 391.635 and TZS 680.990 billion respectively, translating to a contribution of 3-4.6% to the gross domestic product (GDP).

The report further indicates that the sector generated TZS 38.930 billion and TZS 83.686 billion as income to employees, or a proportion of 2.8 and 5.2% of the total national economic value, and employed 28,202 and 44,331 people, or 4.5 and 5.7% of the total national workforce.

Meanwhile, the growth rate of the sector is reported to have gone from 9.9% in 2017 to 13.7 in 2018 respectively.

The dialogue was organised by UNESCO with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)




Sessions like these are important as we now have a lot of opportunities for our artists to travel to other countries. They need to learn how to scout them. Art can positively change one's life

NOTICE OF THE FINAL GENERAL MEETING OF FALCON INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the final general meeting of FALCON INDUSTRIES LIMITED a Tanzanian incorporated company with registration number 43941 (the "company"). The company's final general meeting will be held at Plot 178, Block 30, Airport Road, Kipawa Industrial Area, P.O. Box 6581, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on **13th June 2022**.

AGENDA

- To receive the liquidator's account in regards to the company's winding up process and
- To give any explanation that may be pertinent in connection thereof.


Shailesh Dhanji Chavda
The Liquidator

Filed by liquidator this 13th May 2022



Yudathadei Kway, Kilindi District population and housing census coordinator, addresses a rally in Songe ward yesterday on the benefits of conducting censuses. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Bashungwa wants ministries to harmonise trade licences

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

INNOCENT Bashungwa, Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government has said there is a need for his ministry and that of Investment Industry and Trade to harmonize issuance of license group A and B in order to avoid confusing traders.

He issued the statement recently in Kigoma while visiting the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) pavilion during the trade exhibition in the region.

Minister Bashungwa (pictured) said provision of trade licenses group A which are issued by BRELA and those of group B which are issued by district councils are confusing the traders.

"There is a need for the two ministries to sit down and see the possibility of issuing the licences under

one roof instead of the current situation," he explained.

The minister who officially closed Trade and Investment forum and issued a statement extending the exhibition for two days which involves traders from Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Congo and Tanzania, pledged to discuss the matter with the Chief Executive Officer of BRELA.



AFC launches \$2billion facility to support economic recovery and resilience in Africa

ABUJA

IN the wake of global crises including the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) has announced the launch of a US \$2billion facility to support bank-driven economic recovery and the resilience of African economies.

AFC has committed to funding

up to 50 per cent of the facility and mobilizing the rest through its network of international partners and investors.

The announcement was made yesterday at the AFC infrastructure resolutions summit.

Speaking on the rationale behind the launch, Head of Treasury and Financial Institutions, Banji Fehintola said: "The COVID-19 pandemic set back Africa's economic growth trajec-

tory and further widened the trade financing gap. Before the continent could get over that, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought with it a new set of challenges, but which have the same effect of negatively impacting growth prospects across the continent".

Fehintola added: "As such, we are determined to play a leading role in shaping the continent's recovery and resilience, not

only through the work we do in bridging Africa's infrastructure gap, but also through targeted interventions such as this \$2billion COVID-19 economic resilience facility".

The facility, dubbed 'African Economic Resilience', will be disbursed via loans from AFC to select commercial banks, regional development banks and central banks in various African countries, providing them with

much needed hard currency liquidity to finance trade and other economic activities in their various jurisdictions.

These institutions will be able to leverage AFC's proven access to global funding to access financing at competitive rates.

Through the funding intervention, AFC will accelerate its developmental impact in Africa, driving the continent to a new phase of growth that is

focused on maximum resource value capture and domestic job creation.

Over the last 15 years, AFC has built experience mobilizing global capital for critical infrastructure projects in Africa with several bond issuances in the last two years, including a 10-year US\$500 million Eurobond in 2019, a 5-year US\$700 million Eurobond in 2020 and a 7-year \$750million Eurobond at its

lowest yield in 2021.

Recently, an independent asset management arm, AFC Capital Partners was established with plans to raise US\$2 billion to fund climate adaptation infrastructure projects in Africa.

It is the same fund mobilization experience that AFC will leverage to support COVID-19 economic recovery in Africa through the Rebuilding Economic Resilience facility.



Small traders conduct business at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand yesterday, rendering the area hardly navigable. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PURA commits to increase participation of Tanzanians in nation's extraction sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) is determined to increase participation of Tanzanians in the extraction sector through building capacity to enable locals to exploit opportunities in the natural gas value chain.

At the ongoing Fourth Exhibition of Funds and Economic Empowerment in Morogoro Region, the regulator said it was planning to empower citizens through a public education on the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) value chain and the ongoing oil and natural gas exploration activities in the country.

The exhibitions were launched by Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella early this week and are expected to be closed today.

In his opening remarks, Shigella said the exhibition is an opportunity for businessmen and entrepreneurs to learn and share experiences with other participants on the opportunities and challenges they face and how to deal with them.

"These exhibitions are significant in educating the public on the best way to participate more and better in various development activities," he said.

Some of the issues discussed at the PURA pavilion include the oil and natural gas value chain, the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) value chain and the ongoing oil and natural gas exploration activities in the country.

Other areas include locals' participation in the implementation of various petroleum upstream activities and opportunities available in the implementation of such projects.

Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Bengi Issa said this year's exhibition is themed; "a strong economy for sustainable development".

She said the aim of the exhibition is to raise public awareness about the existence of funds and empowerment programmes, saving culture and best ways to invest in development projects.

"The exhibitions also aim to create a network of entre-

First detailed academic study of EA maritime traditions shows changes in boatbuilding

By Guardian Correspondent

THE first detailed academic study of East African maritime traditions shows changes in boat building techniques but the continuing use of wooden vessels by fishers.

Researchers have used photogrammetry technology to document the watercraft using the Zanzibar Channel, on which so many livelihoods depend.

Large local vessels—the mtepe, dau la mtepe, and even the larger jahazis—have long left the Zanzibar Channel because of the development of modern transport infrastructure, the end of the mangrove-pole trade, and the changing political economy of the wider Indian Ocean.

Experts have recorded how boat builders are using newly available propulsion technologies—the outboard, and to a lesser extent, the inboard engine.

But their work also shows that high numbers of small fishing vessels still use the Zanzibar Channel. The small-scale artisanal fishing sector is buoyant, largely reflecting population growth, leading to falling stocks and soaring catch rates in inshore waters.

Experts conducted surveys in 2018 on Unguja, the principal island of the Zanzibar archipelago, and in 2019-2020 in Bagamoyo, mainland Tanzania to show the range of wooden fishing and cargo-carrying woodcraft in the region.

Scholars had warned the wooden watercrafts in East Africa would decline and disappear. The large ocean going vessels of the monsoon trade—connecting Somalia, southern Arabia, the Arabia-Persian Gulf and South Asia—have been absent for more than 50 years.

Fishers use the Ngalawa for a variety of types of net and line fishing depending on the

season and the size of the fish. In the prawn season, at the end of the kaskasi (northerly) monsoon, they sometimes use their vessel simply as a means of reaching estuarine shallows, where they disembark and use a fine hand-held net to catch small prawns.

The mashuandogo is rare—researchers encountered only two, one each in Bagamoyo and Mlingotini—because of the size of tree needed and particular skills required in joining the logs, but also because it is considerably more expensive to make than other dugouts.

The boti la mtando, ngwanda, and diminutive dingi represent a relatively recent innovation in both boatbuilding and fishing method in the Zanzibar Channel.

They have outboard engines and portable electric generators to enable new fishing techniques, based around seine-netting and purse-seine netting and the use of artificial light to attract fish at night. Such equipment also

place fishers in potential conflict with regulators over fish-stock conservation: Some fishers themselves also express concerns about its impact. The research was carried out by John P. Cooper and Alessandro Ghidoni from the University of Exeter, Lucy Blue from the University of Southampton and Elgidius B. Ichumbaki from the University of Dar Es Salaam. It is published in the International Journal of Nautical Archaeology.

Dr Cooper said, "We met fishers, seamen and maritime officials with clear opinions about and curiosity towards the historical and cultural dimensions of their watercraft; many expressed an unsentimental willingness to dispense with what they saw as cumbersome and limiting technologies, such as the sail, for more enabling ones, such as the outboard motor, should their personal economic circumstances allow.

"Equally, fishers are aware of the limitations that the dugout Ngalawa and mtumbwi, for example, place on their fishing range and catch. What keeps all the wooden watercraft of the Zanzibar Channel in play are the material and technical affordances available to their makers and owners, and the economic possibilities they enable.

The fate of these craft no doubt depends on such critical factors as national forestry management policies and the price of timber, the economic competitiveness of fiberglass and metal boats (both rarities today), the regional management of fish stocks, and the alternative livelihood opportunities open to an increasingly educated younger generation.

It would take a particular nautical luddite to condemn a practitioner's abandonment of the vessels described above in pursuit of a better life."

China-aided infrastructure project boosts Namibia's gateway position

WINDHOEK

CHINA-aided projects continue to support infrastructure development in Namibia with the latest project being the upgrading of Phase 2B of the Windhoek to Hosea Kutako International Airport road.

The project, for which an official groundbreaking ceremony was held on Monday, forms part of Namibia's regional trunk routes and includes the construction of a 21.3 km dual-carriage freeway, three interchanges, two river bridges, and drainage structures, Namibia's Minister of Works and Transport, John Mutorwa said during the ceremony held in Windhoek.

"Namibia is positioned as a gateway for imports and exports to and from landlocked neighbors in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and China is assisting us with strides in expanding our road network in efforts to achieve the sub-division and goals for transport as set out in Vi-

sion 2030," he said.

The Phase 2B project funded by the Chinese government is expected to take 36 months to complete, he said while commending China for its immense support.

Speaking on the same occasion, charge d'affaires at the Chinese embassy in Namibia, Yang Jun, said the Phase 2B project was proposed by the Namibian government and was supported by the Chinese embassy in an effort to help Namibia become a logistics hub in southern Africa. "The project was officially confirmed and signed between our governments in Beijing on March 29, 2018," he said, adding that upon completion, the project will improve transport and contribute to the development of Namibia at large.

The project being undertaken by Namibian-registered Chinese firm, Zhong Mei Engineering Group, together with local subcontractors, will create more than 300 jobs and provide technological advancements through skills transfer.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Acksion (L) shares a light moment with former Chief of Defence Forces Gen Davis Mwamunyange, chairman of the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) board, shortly after the Water ministry had tabled its Budget estimates for financial year 2022/2023 in the House in Dodoma city on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Call for multi-sectoral approach to address problems facing youth

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat in partnership with the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) and the University of Botswana (UB) held a dialogue aimed at empowering the youth with employment and entrepreneurial skills, in Gaborone on 4th and 5th April 2022.

The dialogue brought together youth leaders from the SADC Region, regional innovation ecosystem institutions, national governments and the private sector to dialogue on key socio-economic issues specific to policy, education, life and entrepreneurial skills.

In response to the significant challenges that the youths experience, such as unemployment, access to education and poverty, the dialogue therefore sought to provide an enabling platform for the youth to co-create solutions and opportunities with key stakeholders.

The Youth Dialogue was funded

by the European Union (EU) under the SADC Dialogue Facility (SDF) which seeks to strengthen cooperation and support the SADC regional integration agenda.

SDF aids regional integration goals so that citizens of SADC benefit from stronger, equitable and sustainable economic growth, increased collective leverage in global platforms and enhanced social opportunities.

In his opening remarks, Honourable Tumiso Rakgare, the Minister of Youth, Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development of the Republic of Botswana, said SADC must explore ways to facilitate ideas and innovations among its young people.

Honourable Rakgare said the dialogue defines the tone and agenda for the Botswana government to place youth at the centre of economic development and that his country was committed to supporting young people to be the drivers of change and economic transformation.

He bemoaned the effects of COVID-19 on young people in Botswana

and the SADC Region, saying the youth were facing difficulties due to the global pandemic. SADC, he said, must strengthen the networks and partnerships among its institutions to facilitate the emergence of youth innovations.

Honourable Aubrey Lesaso, the Assistant Minister of Tertiary Education, Research and Technology of the Republic of Botswana, said empowering and developing the youth requires efforts from multiple points, including education, sexual and reproductive health, physical and mental, vocational training and skills development.

He said Africa's ability to harness the youth dividend and sustainable development was contingent on the extent to which African governments and other sectors of society were willing to work together towards the transformation of nations.

Duduzile Simelane, the SADC Director of Social and Human Development, called for a complete and multi-sectoral approach which

involves collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders to ensure synergy in addressing the challenges facing the youth.

She said Africa has the world's youngest population, and therefore, youth will significantly determine the continent's growth trajectory and its overall impact on the global economy.

The youth offer an important opportunity for economic transformation if their talents and skills are developed and channelled into productive employment. Simelane said the dialogue was therefore part of the conversation in the SADC Region to spearhead a multi-stakeholder approach to solving young people's problems in all their multi-dimensional complexity.

European Union Representative, Pablo Valenzuela, said the EU is a firm believer of the benefits that regional integration can bring to ensure peace, economic and social prosperity for the people, and that this is why the EU supports and pro-

motes regional integration in Southern Africa and in other parts of the globe. He said the EU has been working for decades in the SADC Region promoting peace and security, environmental sustainability, trade, fostering investments and providing economic opportunities, with a particular emphasis on youth.

The EU has contributed more than €415 million in the last two decades to advance the regional integration agenda in Southern Africa, and this does not take into account the specific country programmes in the 16 SADC Member States.

The Director of the AAP and Chair of the Dialogue, Professor Richard Mkwandawire, said AAP, its partners and members have prioritised youth empowerment as a key area of focus.

AAP is a consortium of universities in southern, eastern and West Africa. Prof Mkwandawire said one of the concerns that AAP has is that over the past two decades, youth empowerment has been discussed multiple times at national, regional,

continental and even at global level. But despite a plethora of these discussions, millions of young people across the continent remain excluded from the mainstream economy.

University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, said it was befitting that young people were at the centre of the dialogue which enables AAP and SADC to develop human-centric initiatives that will bring solutions relevant to and driven by the youth.

He said the dialogue was a step in the right direction, must be at the heart of research and policy development, and would give the university the opportunity to strengthen innovation hubs, think-tanks, and centres of excellence that are easily accessible to youth.

Prof Norris challenged academics not to resist the ongoing disruptions, but to join the disruption movements with the youth in order to support them, learn from them, and mentor them toward a bright future.



Nicodemus Masawe, Tanzania Revenue Authority's taxpayer education officer for Manyara Region, sensitises tanzanite miners at Mirerani in Simanjiro District on Thursday on tax payment compliance. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Govt to hand to Tanzanian contractors more projects

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Dodoma

THE government has announced plans to set aside funds to hand many more strategic projects to local contractors as a way of building their implement capacity.

Minister for Works and Transportation, Prof Makame Mbarawa made the promise when he opened an annual contractor's consultative meeting currently happening in Dodoma.

The meeting organised by Contractors Registration Board (CRB), involves local contractors, engineers, quantity surveyors and policy makers.

"The president has already hinted that the government will facilitate local contractors with funds to allow them implement projects," he said.

He said the government valued the contribution of contractors in national economic building saying it will involve them in implementing strategic building.

He warned against contractors who delay projects saying this was the main reason why the government and other stakeholders were hesitating to give tenders.

He said the government decided to use force accounts in con-

struction of projects after poor performance of some local contractors who were given government tenders.

He commended CRB for organising regular capacity building training to local contractors which he said will help them to improve their working standards and be able to complete projects within agreed time and quality.

On her side, the CRB Chairperson Eng. Consolata Ngimbwa requested the government to use local contractors in implementation of its construction project because the Force Account model has killed many local construction companies.

She said CRB has registered around 4,000 building contractors who currently most of them are redundant and bankrupt because of the decision by the government to implement its projects by using the force account model.

"We request the government to rescue the situation because these companies are in a bad situation, they have their dependents. We know that you decided to use force accounts after misbehaviour of some of them but CRB promises you that they will change," he said.

TARURA halts construction of Mwagimangi-Kinangweri road

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Itilima District, Simiyu Region has terminated a contract for construction of a seven kilometres road from Mwagimangi to Kinangweri over failure by the contractor to complete the job within schedule.

TARURA Manager, Eng Regnard Silanga made the statement yesterday when speaking during a full-council meeting. He said the

contractor—Trego Contractors Co LTD has breached the contract, thus pushing authorities to re-start the tendering process.

"We are looking for a new contractor to take over the road construction project; we want the road to be completed by end of June this year," said Eng Silanga, noting, the contractor was implementing the project at a cost of 141.3m/-.

According to him, implementation of the project has now reached 59 per cent, add-

ing that they deducted 14.3m/- for his initial payments. He said decisions to terminate the contract were reached after the contractor had stopped working for 100 days.

"We will no longer work with contractors in our construction projects. He has failed to honour our agreements as per signed contract. The seven kilometres road was supposed to be completed in January this year," he added.

He said efforts are ongoing to ensure the

road is completed by end of June so that it is launched during the Uhuru Torch races. He cautioned contractors working on a number of construction project to ensure the projects are completed on time and on required standards.

Meanwhile, the councillors called upon the government to ensure close management of the contractors so that they implement the projects in accordance with the signed contracts.

They were concerned that delayed implementation of the projects especially construction of roads affects transport services, thus derailing development.

Kinagw'eli ward councillor, Yona Fumbu Masunga said: "Tenders should be awarded to competent contractors who are able to complete them within agreed time. Delaying the projects derails development in our district."

Chadema verdict on 'Covid 19' list shows 'reconciliation' hard to sell

SIGNS that a more peaceful approach and less militant vocation was setting in for the leading opposition party are shaky following the decision by the governing council of the party to reject appeals of the 19 party members who were listed for Special Seats by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

The decision itself isn't at issue as it had already been taken two years back and was just being confirmed, the difficulty arising from the impression that the party leader was on to a fresh start. The so-called 'Covid-19,' a derisory epithet to describe the 19 MPs, was a launch pad for more amicable politics, snuffed out.

At the same time the meeting was examining ways in which the ruling party and the opposition party could hold talks, something which came up in recent discussions centering on ideas of how to improve the democracy situation in the country.

That is where the tooth aches at the moment, after it proved not possible to make institutional amends to let the 19 Special Seats MPs finish their terms, so the seats remain vacant or 19 others come on without an explicit polls event. This is pegged to pushing state organs to say the older list and its approval were forged, a claim demanding a long court case to actually resolve.

Amicable politics may have been shelved for the moment until perhaps the next general elections, as another battle say with the electoral commission will not be easy to absorb in the dia-

logue context; it will cloud the rest of the political agenda.

If this was a matter of principle to most members of the governing council - as the 'nyet' vote was overwhelming - why should they not expect that defending procedure used the other time will be a matter of principle to the relevant agencies? Wasn't it a trade-off issue, this?

What is a bit ironic is that the measure equals the score between the two parties in relation to charting the way forward for the country but on different parameters. CCM has problems following the policy of rapid economic growth via an open market economy rather than state-led industrialization espoused during the fifth phase, and now Chadema has more or less failed to reciprocate the conciliatory gestures of national chairman Freeman Mbowe. If he was expecting to start pushing a reconciliatory tone, he must 'try again.'

The test of loyalty to politics of reconciliation failed in the governing council; the mood was net and clear, as members sought to draw a line on the matter, not use it as a platform for reconciliation, despite sounds of caution.

It is hard to find whom to lay the blame or this result; governing council members felt strongly about the last general elections, while those they accuse of fraud or forgery may not take those accusations sitting down. It is another test for reconciliation politics, if it will shirk a legal dispute on this decision or take it up, while the MPs remain in place.

No easy path to curbing child violence in most African states

ANOTHER conference is being held at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, where senior government officials and civil society leaders from over 30 African countries are polishing ideas on how to tackle rising levels of violence against children. Civil organisations working on the ground say that African children and young people continue to suffer widespread physical, psychological and sexual abuse, while armed conflict, violent extremism and the Covid-19 pandemic cap up what is a 'perfect storm' for violence against children. Simply by listing these causes, it is clear this is a fixed scenario.

There is classification created by those organisations and definitely some international agencies, that there are 'Pathfinding' and 'Aspiring' countries in the continent, which means those already on the road to do something, and those who don't reject the idea but have nothing tangible to show off their efforts, or progress made on the ground.

There was some hope that the three-day meeting in Addis meant to renew commitment in that regard, encouraging one another to step up to implementing home-grown African solutions to prevent violence against children would get pride of place. Still it is hard to see such change.

What can be done is the usual piecemeal approach to the issues, for instance scaling up education for youngsters, and especially girl children, making greater efforts in areas like water or drought resistant seeds so that the daily availability of food, or sharing of labour, doesn't add to the violence.

Kids are made to carry inordi-

nate burdens when the household is destabilized, when the mother is left alone in many cases, or the pursuit of antiquated models of society like tending cattle instead of schooling for boys, and early marriages for girls. The violence trims the child's expectations to fit household reality.

One aspect of issues that can be addressed to those organizing the conference, and especially NGOs doing the field work on child violence is that they tend to see many such issues from a legal framework, seeking for solutions in regulations, like creating police desks on gender (none so far on child violence).

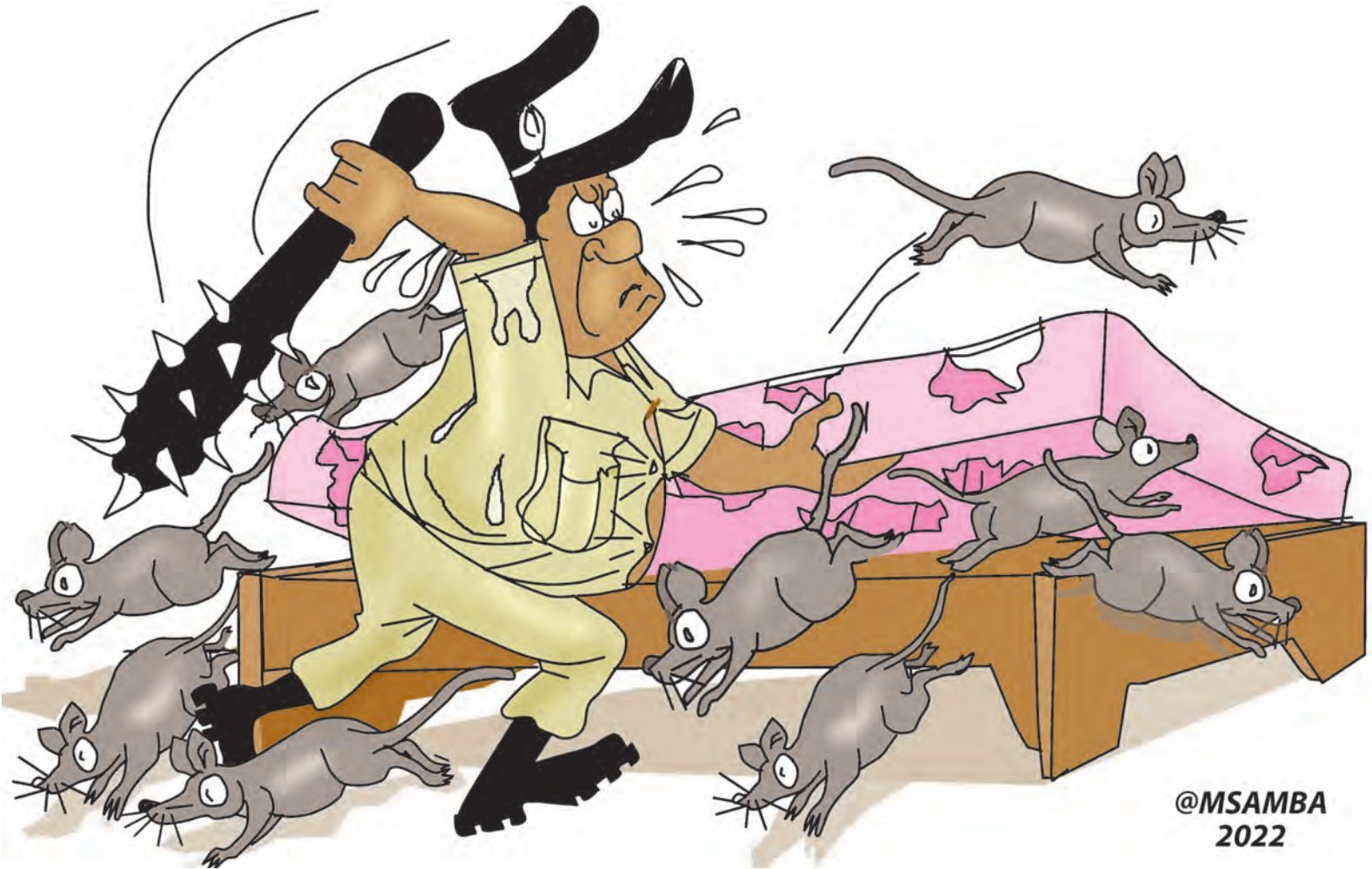
Basic sociology underlines that violence against women and children is an economic issue.

The more a woman can raise children despite what her partner provides the easier violence against children will be curbed, as often it is stress that impinges on everyone.

Looking at the summary of the Addis meeting agenda, on tackling armed conflict, displacement, violent extremism, even the Covid-19 pandemic so as to end violence against children, it just isn't practical. Start with milk allowances for mothers in dispensaries for a token amount of money, and even some auxiliary allowances when the means of raising children are uncertain.

That could push up welfare and some domestic calm, to bring some progress after thirty years since the African Children's Charter was adopted. NGOs say it is a dead letter even now, and it is unhelpful to say we should re-read it once more.

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UN Secretary General must be non-risk averse, and play a much more pivotal and active role

BY PURNAKA L. DE SILVA

VLADIMIR Putin's illegal War of Aggression in Ukraine, launched on February 24, 2022, brought into stark relief the fractured state of Global Peace and Security. Militarized conflicts, civilian deaths and forced migration in the tens of millions have been ongoing for decades, with little or no relief to the beleaguered victims.

The war in Ukraine appears to have displaced other ongoing major wars in Yemen, Ethiopia, and Myanmar in the global public imagination thanks to the 24/7 news cycle. The primary mandate of the United Nations is to ensure the maintenance of Global Peace and Security, sadly we seem to have neither, apart from a lot of talk by eminent personages with little or no action to redress the dystopian realities and carnage on the ground.

The Latin motto *res, non verba* comes to mind - meaning "deeds, and not words" - as quite an appropriate model for the United Nations to adopt rather than sticking to 'business as usual' - which is quite lame and pathetic to say the least in these trying times.

Secretary-General António Guterres must not leave diplomacy, mediation, and negotiation to half-baked UN diplomats out in the field and even within his own Executive Office - UN-EOSG.

In the context of current world affairs and international relations, it is imperative that the Secretary-General plays a more pivotal and far-greater active role to uphold the primary mandate of the United Nations and ensure the maintenance of Global Peace and Security.

The time for protecting the image and status of the UN Secretary-General is over, as well as being held hostage by the P-5 Permanent Member States of the UN Security Council who have run roughshod over all current and previous UN Secretaries-General.

Rather than being risk averse, Secretary-General Guterres must play a much more active and visible role on the global stage and behind-the-scenes - traveling incessantly to war-torn UN member states to meet the protagonists regularly and personally mediating, using his high office and moral standing to good effect - to boost UN mediation efforts.

Reminiscent of the active and energetic interventions of one of his predecessors, the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, who sadly paid the ultimate price along with 15 other UN advisors, bodyguards, and aircrew when their plane was shot down on September 18, 1961, in Northern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

In today's geopolitical environment, Secretary-General Guterres cannot be seen as one of the last of a long line of diplomats and politicians to visit a war-torn region, as was the case of his recent visit in late April 2022 to Moscow and Kyiv - to put it bluntly this is bad optics.

Secretary-General Guterres must use his Executive Office to better effect and the global public needs to be aware and supportive. Given the very high stakes involved he must be much more proactive regarding Ukraine, and all ongoing wars and armed conflicts in evenhanded fashion - without fear nor favor.

On the plus side Secretary-General Guterres did call the war in Ukraine "evil and unacceptable" and called for justice. However, Guterres'



call fell on deaf ears in Moscow, Russia launched five missiles striking central Kyiv less than one hour after he held a news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

So, what is to be done when a P-5 Permanent Member State of the UN Security Council goes "rogue" - i.e., beyond the bounds of civilized, rules-based behavior of a nation-state in the 21st Century adhering to tenets of Global Peace and Security enshrined in the UN Charter, the Laws of War, the Geneva Conventions, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court - as in the case of Mr. Putin and his government?

Notwithstanding the fact that Secretary-General Guterres is a former Prime Minister of Portugal, he must demonstrate his independence from the Western powers, and immediately follow-up on his Moscow and Kyiv visit by visiting Beijing to enlist President Xi Jinping's not-so-inconsequential support to put pressure on Moscow to end the aggression in Ukraine and call off the dogs of war.

And while he is negotiating in Beijing, he must also secure the support of China to pressure the Tatmadaw Kyi military junta to stand down and restore democracy without delay in Myanmar to provide relief to its beleaguered

peoples. Non-confrontational diplomacy is the key to success in Beijing something that Secretary-General Guterres is adept at doing, which he should use to good effect considering that the Chinese are not belligerents.

Beijing is more inclined towards global trade and commerce and promoting their ambitious "Belt and Road Initiative" global megaproject, which is undoubtedly being hampered by war in Ukraine.

After two bloody world wars where tens of millions of human beings died, nobody wants another largescale inter-European war, which has potential ramifications for militaries and civilians well beyond Europe.

In fact, Putin's War of Aggression in Ukraine is already deepening world hunger given that global wheat production, storage and supply is severely hampered by fighting. The power of the United Nations is a reflected power - i.e., that of its leading member states adhering to a rules-based system of global governance - and that power is what all UN Secretaries-General must harness for the greater good through the arts of diplomacy, mediation, and negotiation to maintain Global Peace and Security.

Secretary-General Guterres is urgently called upon to demonstrate his leadership and political ac-

men in these dystopian and troubled times, using his moral courage as a beacon to rally global publics to support the mandate and mission of the United Nations. The UN Secretary-General cannot and must not be relegated to the role of bystander while belligerents run amok, he/she must lead, irrespective of the personal cost, without fear nor favor.

As for Secretary-General Guterres a devout Catholic (close to His Holiness Pope Francis an outspoken critic of war), he cannot accomplish this mammoth task alone - to enhance his moral authority he needs to harness the power and voice of civil society together with that of the world's multiple religions - all working together at manifold levels to maintain Global Peace and Security.

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A homily celebrating Professor Francis Wilson

BY BISHOP MALUSI MPUMLWANA

A homily preached by the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches at the funeral of Francis Wilson in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, on May 2, 2022:

1 John 4:7: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

Today we acknowledge with much sadness, the grief that Nomthunzi, David, Jessie, Tanya, Tim and their spouses are going through at the departure of the much-loved husband, father and brother Francis.

But dear friends, this morning we mourn not, but we celebrate the incredible faithfulness of Francis' life, as the life of a son born to parents who interpreted their own life purpose in the fulfilment of the Great Commandment in John's Gospel:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

Like Godfrey and Monica Wilson, and like David and Jessie Hunter before them, Francis made love the foundation of his life purpose; for "everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." And so it is, that on his and Tim's father Godfrey's grave is the inscription that we use for our reflection in celebrating this family heritage - "everyone who loves is born of God and knows God", reads the epitaph on Godfrey Wilson's grave. It is the latter part of verse 7 that in its fullness says:

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

This text comes from the first of the three epistles that carry the name of John, this first one is the one considered most as associated with the Apostle John, the presumed writer of the 4th gospel. Some, however, suggest that the three letters with the name of John were actually one body of epistle, and not three.

Whatever the debates of the scholars might be, there is no question that this specific message that the Wilsons adopted for the memorialisation of Godfrey Wilson, saying, "everyone who loves is born of God and knows God", is directly related to the Great Commandment as given in the 4th gospel to love one another, and thereby be identifiable as a disciple of Christ. It is this, that became the heritage that Francis Wilson represents.

We celebrate Francis Wilson of Hunterstoun Hogsback, by honouring the principle of love, through which Francis, his parents and



Professor Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town

grandparents defined their relationship with God, as a loving relationship with others.

His mother Monica is said to have written to her husband Godfrey with respect to her relationship with the people she interacted with in her Pondoland research, that the only times that one "lives" in the New Testament sense, is when the 'relationship with God, or one's neighbour is intensely felt' (Morrow 2016: Location 1344, Kindle version). This is the life principle of love. It is a direct application of faith in the message of today's reading in 1 John, that "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him." And living through him is to live the love ethic.

It is this love ethic, that stakes the claim to be born of God, that defined the work of Francis' grandparents David and Jessie Hunter and it was the energy behind the commitment to carry the Christian Express news-magazine that David Hunter, as its long-time editor, renamed the South African Outlook in 1922.

In faithfulness to this heritage of love expressed in word and deed, Francis was for decades the editor of his grandfather's Outlook magazine. And he passed on the responsibility to the South African Council of Churches. In turn, at the SACC, it went to Bishop Luke Pato and Thoko Mpuumlwana as co-editors, and in that context, they were both reminiscing about the hand-over meeting they had with Francis, and specifically requested that I convey their condolences as successors to the good professor, on the Outlook task. At the time Professor Bar-

ney Pityana was Principal and Vice Chancellor of UNISA, and he facilitated that the Outlook be printed at UNISA Press.

Francis, in gratitude for my small contribution to Tanya's preparation for confirmation in 1986, made me the gift of a very special book, a celebration of the 100 years of the Outlook magazine, 1870 - 1970, Outlook on a Century. In his inscription on the book, he described Tanya as the great granddaughter of David Hunter, as if to instruct me to remember someday to remind Tanya and her siblings of the Hunter - Wilson heritage. The book attests in at least two testimonies, to the Wilson heritage of the love ethic.

Monica Wilson writes in a piece on Lovedale, that "Love demands hard thinking and practical application" (Wilson & Perrot 1973:12). The family way of life in all generations has been about thinking ways to apply love practically in the context of human living, be it through anthropology, education, filmmaking, philanthropy, health services or economic policy inputs. For everyone who loves is born of God and knows God; but, says Francis' mother Monica, "Love demands hard thinking and practical application".

In the same book, as editor Francis invokes the words of theologian Paul Tillich who in his book Love, Power, and Justice, says that love is "the drive towards the unity of the separated" (Wilson & Perrot 1973:1).

Time does not allow for us to recount how Francis has sought to live the idea of love as the "drive towards the unity of the separated", both in the racial and class divides of South Africa.

One practical application of the "drive towards the unity of the separated" in South Africa's racial divisions is to commit to learn and speak the language of the other, especially that of the oppressed and the less powerful. Monica Wilson was steeped into the Xhosa and Mpondo culture and languages with the ability to distinguish between them. She went to a majority black school at Lovedale and learned to respect the intellect of African fellow pupils.

That ability and commitment to genuinely "crossover" in the "drive towards the unity of the separated" became a key element of the Wilson love ethic. Francis, his wife Nomthunzi, and their children, with varying capabilities, all know that they have a responsibility to engage in isiXhosa; for, many of the people they interact with have already met them more than three quarters way into the dominant English language - indeed with little choice in the matter! What might it do for the love defined as the "drive towards the unity of the separated", if every South African was to learn to speak a different African language from their own, from English to isiXhosa like the Wilsons; from isiXhosa to tshiVenda as Malusi should; etc. That is a South African challenge that the Wilsons pose for us all today as we bid farewell to our celebrated Francis?

When I first met Francis Wilson, it was precisely on his quest to activate this drive towards the unity of the separated. He was to visit our group of Black Consciousness proponents with Steve Biko at King Williamstown, some time in 1975. I believe he wanted to get to know Steve Biko and understand his place in the love drive towards the unity of the separated. In his typical unassuming manner, he presented himself and listened.

I do believe he was keen to gain an appreciation of how Black Consciousness located the significance of economic analysis in the self-drive for black emancipation. It was at the time that we were crafting our thinking around what we termed Black Communalism. David Russell had known Francis, and I sought to know more about him from David, who was happy to discuss him. He described him as an economist who sought to bridge the gap of economic opportunity between the whites and blacks in South Africa. A good description, but

Francis was a lot more than that in his faithfulness to his mother's dictum that "Love demands hard thinking and practical application".

- His number crunching of racial disparities in apartheid budgeting.
- His establishment of the celebrated SALDRU and its ever-ground-breaking research work.
- His relentless research in the living and working conditions of black workers, and doing what Monica would say is, from her own unwanted research on farm worker conditions, 'considering the conditions they (employers) have to hide.'
- The dramatic walk from Grahamstown to Cape Town to draw attention to the pain of migrant labour.
- His major work through the Second Carnegie Enquiry into Poverty, repeating for Blacks (especially Coloureds and Africans), what was done for Afrikaners in the first Carnegie enquiry in the 1930s.
- His commitment to help the new legislators of the democratic era with Economics IOI for newly appointed Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka and a cohort that included the present Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform, Thoko Didiya.

His commitment to an understanding of the integrated nature of the Southern African economic reality; that the development of Johannesburg is the underdevelopment of Maseru, Maputo and Lilongwe.

And his work in the last few years with the SACC economic transformation work that sought to craft ways to bring into the productive economy South Africa's excluded majority.

All this, a Francis manifestation that we celebrate today, of the Hunter-Wilson love ethic, where love is "the drive towards the unity of the separated"; and love demanding "hard thinking and practical application".

We celebrate Francis and his love ethic, a heritage to which he has been religiously faithful till his last breath. His family knows that love, for each and every one of them. As a brother growing up together Tim, you have known that love, that illse

was to bask in when she became a co-custodian with you, of the Wilson heritage.

Lindy, your relationship was beautiful to watch. It is that loving bond that carried you in the difficult months of Francis' illness. Part of the beauty of your relationship was in the rhythm of the Wednesday dates. Busy as he was with everything, the man for whom nothing was impossible, that man, never failed you on those regular Wednesday dates, even if it meant it was conducted on the phone from a distance, but must, it had to be.

David, Jessie, Tanya, you each have known your dad as personal in a special way to each of you. And you each thought he was a nice brother, husband, and father. No, he was more than that, he was a bearer of a heritage that remains with you, etched as it is in 1 John 4:7, "beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

You will sorely miss his special care for each of you, but the abiding Hunter Wilson heritage of faith must and will sustain you. I commend to you another Monica's life instruction in Outlook on a Century, "to a Christian, the death of a man ...is not the end. We look for a resurrection". And from the tragedy of Monica Wilson's family as a child (with the death of brother Aylmer), you are urged to do as the old Hunters had to do, to place your anxieties on Christ, as they had to believe that "In His will is our tranquillity NgesiXhosa we say, "akulahlwa mbeleko ngakufelwa". One doesn't throw away the capacity to nurse a child, with the death of the child.

As friends and as the church of Jesus Christ, we are assured that the difficult journey ahead without Francis will be full of grace.

To the SALDRU colleagues Murray Leibbrand and team; to the South African society and the world, Francis was not the giant of a social and practical economist; no, he was just a simple and faithful respondent to the message of today's gospel in Matthew:

"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

I accepted the Dean's generous offer to use the special Desmond Tutu cope I am wearing today, not because I have the temerity to wear a garment with so august an association, but I assume the duty to wear it because without a doubt, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu would most heartily approve of it being used on the occasion of celebrating Francis Wilson. He was in his own way what Desmond was, in a different way, but both profoundly impactful in their driving quest for an alternative South African reality - that which is in keeping with the love ethic inaugurated by Jesus Christ as the revival of what was intended at our creation.

And so, we gather this morning, in this eucharistic worship, to give glory to God for Francis Aylmer Hunter Wilson of Hunterstoun Hogsback! Let the man who never rested, rest in peace, and rise in glory Halleluia! Halleluia!!

BY S. KARWEAYE

When the Charles Taylor regime in Liberia (1997-2003) was facing collapse, the Liberia elite, backed and advised by local and international forces, prepared the ground for a transition to a democratic regime. The various presidents, from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to George Weah today, have run corrupt regimes, doing nothing to alleviate the suffering of the Liberian masses, while enriching themselves and their cronies in the process.

Sweeping corruption with the broom: The Gongloe's effect

increased in Liberia by 51.0 percent (up from 38.6 percent in 2014). The report, among other things, indicated that most Liberians lack access to good jobs that provide sustainable earnings. Three out of four of those in the labor force are self-employed in agriculture (36 percent of all employment) or non-agricultural activities (almost 40 percent). Only 20 percent of workers are in wage employment, which tends to provide higher and more stable earnings. The Economic Update also revealed that the Liberian government spends more than the average in Sub-Saharan Africa and countries with similar GNI per capita.

All of this explains the discrediting of the two major parties, the Unity Party (UP), in power between 2006 and 2018, and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in office since 2018. Next year, in October 2023, presidential elections are scheduled to be held and there is much speculation about the possible outcome, given the discrediting of all the established politicians.

What we are facing in Liberia is a similar process that we have seen around the world. The old-established former ruling Unity Party that has run the system for years has seen its base of support slowly whittled away while the CDC as the current ruling coalition has gotten involved with massive corruption with public officials building mansions and duplexes overnight. The leaders of the opposition, in this case, the Collaborating Political

Parties (CPP), have failed to offer a credible alternative. With court battles after battles, they do not mobilize seriously and have failed to build a political alternative. Liberia is the only country in the world that I know where you can go to bed as a member of UP and wake up the next morning as a CDC member. What is the difference? But, what you can see is that Liberians are tired of this kind of government. In this context, a huge vacuum has been created on the political front, and because the CPP leaders refuse to fill it, someone else will do it. It is in this context that Tiawan Gongloe has appeared on the scene. His decision to stand in the elections has raised hopes among a layer, particularly of the youth

and the elderly, that here we have a candidate who can clean up and modernize Liberia.

A layer of the youth, and also the working class, is looking to Gongloe in the hope of finding the change they so desperately seek. Does Gongloe have the programs necessary to eliminate poverty, improve our education system, create jobs, build an efficient infrastructure and modernize Liberia, as the millions of Liberian workers, youth, and the poor urgently need? And more fundamentally, does he represent the interests of the Liberian poor? Gongloe promises a lot: Free Compulsory education, fighting corruption, power supply, security, food security, roads, health care, and unemployment are major

issues. Nobody would argue against the fact that the free compulsory education, security, food security, roads, health care, and power supply in Liberia needs to be increased massively, that an efficient transport system across the whole country must be built, and that millions of jobs need to be created, but how is he going to achieve all this, how is he going to finance it all? He says by combating corruption he can target resources for development. He is right. The cost of corruption through earlier periods till the present has seen the massive deterioration of public services and infrastructure.

Corruption also undermines democracy, and good governance by flouting or even subverting formal processes. Sadly, since Liberia's inception, the country has been facing corruption as a major problem. In some cases, it has attained levels of gross and egregious theft, for which no possible moral or historical justification can be advanced, and which has played a major role, both in the impoverishment of the country as a whole and specifically in the alienation of its people from its rulers. Corruption in Liberia has evolved into an alternative wealth and power structure, it has equally acquired the capacity to fight back against those seeking to tame or control it. Yet, with the present fiscal out-turn of the country, in which governments at all levels, and especially are struggling to meet their obligations to citizens. The existence of widespread corruption, especially in Liberia beset by mass poverty and very high levels of unemployment, has a deeply corrosive effect on trust in government and contributes to crime and political disorder. It is not by chance that the most powerful and wealthiest men in Liberia are to be found among former and current government officials who became rich on the back of the Liberian people.

Cllr. Gongloe has gone one more step forward by calling for the expropriation of these ill-gotten riches. His records of honesty and integrity as well as his symbolic sweeping of corruption with the Liberian People's Party symbol, the broom corruption, and his denouncement of inefficiency and his promise to modernize the country must be commended. His calls for purposeful reforms across governments and key institutions including lifestyle audits for public officials is the right step in the right direction. It is more than high time that we kill corruption in Liberia, or corruption will completely kill our country.

Agenda 2063: Education in Africa a key to success

By Rahma O. Oladosu

Education is crucial as it is an investment in human capital. This yields tremendous benefits on many levels and spheres.

I believe one of the easiest ways to push this Agenda forward is through education. Africa acknowledges the fact that social and economic development is not possible without substantive investment in education and research, especially at the tertiary level.

Over time, it has become imperative for Africa to map out a strategy of regional cooperation and integration and lay the foundation for sustainable development. The establishment of the African Union (replacing the Organisation of African Unity) has been a step in that direction. The Union aims at achieving greater unity and solidarity and accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent.

In great efforts by the African Union to accomplish what it has set out to achieve in making the continent a better one, AGENDA 2063 was introduced.

Now, what exactly is agenda 2063?

Agenda 2063 is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming the continent into the global powerhouse of the future. It is said to be the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and it is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity, pursued under Pan-Africanism and towards African Renaissance. Agenda 2063 encapsulates not only Africa's Aspirations for the Future but also identifies key Flagship Programmes which can boost the continent's economic growth and development, and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent. It also identifies key activities to be undertaken in its 10-year Implementation Plan, which will ensure that Agenda 2063 delivers both quantitative and qualitative transformational outcomes for Africans.

I believe one of the easiest ways to push this Agenda forward is through education. Africa acknowledges the fact that social and economic development is not possible without substantive investment in education and research, especially at the tertiary level.

Getting an education is not just a fundamental human right, it is pivotal to increasing employment and income opportunities. It is fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty. Education is the key to unlocking the golden door of freedom for all in Africa. It is the bedrock of social and



economic development.

Education is crucial as it is an investment in human capital. This yields tremendous benefits on many levels and spheres. It benefits the individual, family community, and nation. Education is a sustainable means of alleviating poverty and bring lasting change.

Consequently, to effect permanent change, any effort to bring lasting change must include education, in one way or the other.

Recently, the executive secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Architect Sonny Echono, played host to a team from the African Union Commission for

Education, led by Professor Mohammed Belhocine, the commissioner for education who came to the Fund on an impactful courtesy visit, which I was privileged to witness.

The Fund, generally known for providing support for research and development in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, revealed its readiness, through its management, to forge a partnership with the Pan African University to push the African Union agenda forward. Arc. Echono further said that the Nigerian government is actually thinking in the direction of promoting technology and is in the process of

establishing a national institute in Abuja, which will be a post-graduate institution for the promotion of the technological transformation of the country.

I personally think this would be a plus for the education sector in Nigeria, considering the fact that there hasn't been much attention given to technology in most of our tertiary institutions recently.

The Pan African University (PAU) is the culmination of continental initiatives of the African Union Commission to revitalise higher education and research on the continent. According to the African Union, the PAU will greatly boost

the population and retention of high-level human resources, alongside quality knowledge outputs and will attract the best intellectual capacity from all over the world.

Fortunately, the Pan African University partnership with TETFund will most definitely yield positive results with the latter providing tremendous support in terms of the construction of more classrooms, procurement of laboratory equipment and all other basic infrastructure needed. This major development will provide a conducive environment and enable student researchers to learn one or two things to attract value.

It will also be a huge opportunity for scholars to troop to the university.

With this, the goals of the African Union is being geared towards the right direction with education as an early foundation, encouraging research through the Pan African University and bringing young Africans together to study and conduct research for about three to five years, and in the process they get to know each other better in terms of their cultures, languages and beliefs. And this will create the real momentum for Pan Africanism, and a step towards realising Agenda 2063.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Blood transfusion centres receive continental quality accreditation

By Felister Peter

TANZANIA is now among countries which are recognised at international level for providing quality blood transfusion services and safety.

This follows recent accreditation of six blood transfusion centres by the Africa society for Blood Transfusion (AFSB) for quality and meeting operational requirements that meet international standards.

The accreditation comes as a result of attaining standards based on accepted international requirements adapted to the uniqueness of the African environment.

By 2023, Tanzania will have 70 accredited blood transfusion centres that meet international standard, according to the Government Chief Medical Officer, Saitole Laizer.

Speaking recently at an event to present accreditation certificates to six zonal blood centres under the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS), Dr Laizer said the approved centres makes a total of 50 blood transfusion centres and places Tanzania in the third position in Africa for having blood transfusion centres that meet international standards.

The AFSB accredited centres are those in northern zone (Arusha), Eastern (Dar es Salaam), Western (Tabora), southern highland, lake zone and the Zanzibar National Blood Transfusion Services.

Dr Laizer underscored the need for Tanzanians to voluntarily donate blood as the demand is still high due to a number of reasons including accidents. He added that most expectant mothers require blood transfusion during delivery.

"We want our people to access quality and safe blood anywhere across the country. I am impressed that our Zanzibar centre has also been accredited," he remarked.

He said women can voluntarily donate blood three times a year while men can do it four times annually. He said the government and partners have been working to maintain the blood transfusion standards to ensure those in need get safe and quality blood.

Dr Laizer added that with the accreditation, Tanzania is positioned to sell some blood products to other African countries. These products include fresh blood plasma and platelets.

"When a patient has a problem of blood clotting, he/she would need platelets while others would need fresh frozen plasma to help form blood clots to slow or stop bleeding and help the wounds heal," he explained.

Dr Nzove Ulunga, Chief Operating Officer, Management and Development for Health (MDH) said that accreditation



of the labs would result in enhanced trust among blood users, but it also puts Tanzania in a position of selling its blood products to other African countries.

Dr Ulunga added that MDH has been working closely with the government towards improvement of health services.

He said the organisation also supports government efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), among others.

Dr Katere Swahibu, Executive Manager, AFSB said they have been implementing a

number of projects to improve blood transfusion services in the country which include training of experts.

"The accreditation journey in Tanzania started with education. Accreditation is one of the most symbols of an organization's commitment to provide high quality and safety health care services," said Swahibu.

According to him accreditation has a number of benefits which includes quality and safety of care, documented processes, effective team work, reduced costs and enhanced

organizational cultures.

The National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) Programme Manager, Dr Magdalena Lyimo, said the current country's blood demand is 550,000 bottles annually but they can only collect 330,000 bottles a year which is equivalent to 60 per cent.

She said: "Blood donation is vital because it helps to rescue people's lives including pregnant women therefore people should be encouraged to donate blood to meet annual demand."

She said efforts are on-going to educate people on the importance of donating blood. She said most of the people especially in rural areas are still reluctant to donate blood.

Blood transfusion services were established in the country in 2005 under the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) with support from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR).

Bagamoyo port: Economists call for review of policies, laws

By Getrude Mbagu

AS the government announced to have revived discussions with the investors in the construction of the Bagamoyo port, economists have recommended for a review of various policies and laws for the country to attain the intended goals.

According to them, policies and laws governing the investment and construction sectors should be reviewed and amended to align with the current situation and global changes.

Late last week, Investment, Industry and Trade Minister Ashatu Kijaji when tabling the ministry's budget for 2022/23 in Parliament said the government had revived discussions with the investors in the Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone which will see the development of the sea port and logistics park.

The investors include China Merchants Holdings (Interna-

tional) Co Ltd (CMHI) and Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

In an interview with this paper, a senior economic lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Prof Haji Semboja said preconditions should be highly considered which include making sure that the country has strong policies and laws to make the project go well.

He said having modern ports increases efficiency, stimulates trade, connections and partnerships and the country's economy at large. "What we want is not individual employment but the opportunities that will benefit the majority, we need enough experts to supervise the project and operating systems, these will be possible if we will have policies and laws that facilitate productions of more local experts," he said.

He said authorities and partners have to remember that the port is not for Tanzanians only

but will be depended on by many others across the globe.

"We should start by revising and formulating policies that govern the investment and construction sector; this is a very key thing if we want the project to benefit current and future generations," he said.

A Principal research associate from the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) Prof Samwel Wangwe wanted the government to ensure that it handles the discussions on the project with due diligence so as to ensure that it gets competent partners to implement it.

"We should sit down and establish our needs, especially looking at how key regions of Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Mtwara and the Coast will benefit but also stimulate growth of the port. We have to establish our needs and ensure that we get competent partners to implement the project," he said.

He said that as the project will produce a good number of invest-

ments, majority of people especially Bagamoyo residents will directly and indirectly benefit from job opportunities and others, something which needs them to start preparing on the best to grab the opportunities.

Chief Executive Officer Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) Dr Donath Olomi said: "As a country, we should adopt a transparent process of negotiation and contracting to avoid a repeat of what happened in the past." The Bagamoyo hub port and the associated Export Processing Zone (EPZ) is one of the flagship projects envisaged in the Integrated Industrial Development Strategy (IIDS) 2011-2025, along with the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Natural Gas Plant in Southern Tanzania.

Dr Olomi said the Bagamoyo port is expected to enable the country to take advantage of its strategic location as the doorway for Tanzania and six growing

but landlocked economies to the World.

"When the project is completed, Tanzania will benefit from substantial employment generation, especially for the youth - in the port, adjoining industries, logistics and their multiplier effects in other sectors, including t

The country will also witness substantial increase in forex exchange from increased exports from the Economic Processing Zone (EPZ) and logistics services

"A huge market for transport, which will make the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) which will need to have a lot of cargo to pay back the investment being made. There will also be substantial increase in tax revenue from increased levels of economic activities as well as customs duties from an expanded and more efficient port," he asserted.

The analyst said the country should have good strategies to ensure we maximize benefits from

the massive project.

"We need to map out the land use plans in Bagamoyo and guide people on where investments are needed. In Bagamoyo, the local government should help to take measures to minimize growth of squatters as economic activities and the population expands. Planning should be inclusive - therefore provision should be made for all kinds of businesses, including street traders," he said.

He cautioned that the stakes are high and there are stakeholders who do not want to see the port project becoming a reality and may use every possible opportunity to spoil the deal.

French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui recently said that big French companies will initiate discussions with the government on the possibility for them to be part of building and operating the Bagamoyo Port.

Part of the discussions, a result of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's

visit to France, will also be on how French investors could take part in shaping all Tanzanian ports, in an effort to make Tanzania a transport and logistics hub in the East African Region.

The Ambassador said they were going to discuss who was going to build the project, the modality to be used and through which funding.

The Chinese embassy in the country has also expressed its readiness to participate in the project. The United States (US) government has also shown commitment to support the construction for the project by providing professional advice on how it should be implemented.

Proposed in 2013, construction of the \$10bn (22.3trillion/-) Bagamoyo port has been hit by several issues thus leading to its commencement delays but the fifth phase government has shown commitment to revive the project.

New hope as Serengeti councillors approve fence plan for protection

By Guardian Correspondent, Mugumu

COUNCILLORS in Serengeti district, Mara region have endorsed a plan to put up an electric fence to prevent elephants from invading farms and residential areas in some villages.

The special full-council meeting held earlier this week was chaired by the district council chairman, Ayub Mwita Makuruma and attended by the District Commissioner, Dr Vincent Mashinji as well as government officials and politicians.

Dr Mashinji congratulated the councillors for endorsing the fencing plan. "The government, the ruling party (CCM) and the district council together have decided that the fencing of the trouble spots should be implemented as per the needs of the people", commented the Serengeti DC.

The fence will be erected by Grumeti Fund which is a non-profit making organization that supports conservation and community development activities in Western Serengeti.

Speaking during the session, the councillors welcomed the fencing plan describing it as good news for the villagers who are prone to stray elephants in areas bordering Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Western Serengeti.

The targeted villages include Makundusi, Bokore, Nyichoka and Natta-mbiso.

"It is our villages that need the fence, not Grumeti. We are the representatives of the people. I support the plan to put up a fence," said Jose Kitenana, Manchira ward councillor.

Natta ward councillor, Jumanne Porini said keeping away elephants from crop farms and residential areas with the help of a fence will minimize human-wildlife conflicts in their



Grumeti Fund relationships manager David Mwakipesile (R) shows an example of a fence that will be put up to prevent elephants from destroying crop farms in some villages prone to stray elephants in Serengeti district during the district special full council meeting that sat to endorse the fence plan early this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

villages. Kyambahi ward councillor, Herman Kinyariri said the fencing plan in the villages is part of implementation of the CCM manifesto citing also land use plan best practices.

He said the fence should not interfere with activities in residential and livestock grazing areas of the local communities.

"Not a single councillor is opposing the fencing plan but it should not interrupt activities in residential areas," said Martha Mabacha-Special Seats councillor.

Grumeti Fund Relationships Manager, David Mwakipesile told the fully packed council meeting that the fence aims to prevent destructive wild animals especially elephants from invading crop farms and residential areas in the villages.

"The main objective is to separate humans from wildlife and the fence will serve this purpose. We aim to control destructive elephants not to put demarcations of the villages and conservation areas," Mwakipesile explained.

Earlier, the District Council's construction, economy and environment committee which had visited the villages covered by the fence project said all the villages visited were eagerly waiting to see its implementation, except Park Nyigoti which is yet to make its final decision.

The session was told that the first choice for Park-Nyigoti village was to get an investor but if that is not possible, the village will have no other option but to accept the fencing plan.

Winding up the session, the council chairman Makuruma underscored the importance of controlling the increasing population of livestock especially cows in the villages

Local villagers set to benefit from the fence project had always insisted that they needed the fence to relieve them from the menace of destructive jumbos.

"What we need urgently is the fence, we want a fence so that we can be able to cultivate and harvest. We are tired of these destructive animals", said Misambo Ngulime from Natta-Mbiso village.

Lessons learned from recent court proceedings on terrorism case

By Telesphor Magobe

Recent terrorism and economic crimes case that involved Chadema national chairman Freedom Mbowe and his co-accused drew the attention of many people, including some diplomats representing their countries in Tanzania. Some of them attended court proceedings in the High Court of Tanzania (Corruption and Economic Crimes Division) in Dar es Salaam this year.

I was one of those who were interested in this case for the very reason that I am a law stakeholder and was of the view that if Mr Mbowe and his co-accused were found guilty of the offences they were charged with they should be punished to deter other people with similar behaviour or if they were not they should have their case quashed for lack of cogent evidence.

But the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) entered nolle prosequi by virtue of Section 19 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1985 (R.E 2019). Subsection (1) empowers the DPP to either state in or inform the court concerned in writing on behalf of the Republic that the proceedings shall not continue after which the accused are at once discharged in respect of the charge for which the nolle prosequi is entered.

I set aside some time at night to follow court proceedings on social media from the beginning to the end of daily court sessions and learnt a few things which I would like to share with my readers.

First, I learnt that prosecution and defence lawyers worked very hard

especially during the examination of witnesses to ensure the witnesses provided only what they knew was true about the issues they were testifying to. Some did well on what they were testifying to, but others aroused some doubts on what they said they knew to be true.

The examination of witnesses is divided into three parts: examination-in-chief (done by the party calling the witness or the public prosecutor), cross-examination (done by the opposite party) and re-examination (done again by the party calling the witness or the public prosecutor).

Each examination part has its purpose. The object of examination-in-chief is to help the party calling the witness extract from the witness what he or she knows about the case. The object of cross-examination is to weaken, qualify or destroy the case and establish the party's own case by means of the opponent's witnesses. The object of re-examination is to give an opportunity to reconcile discrepancies arising from the examination-in-chief and cross-examination.

Second, I learnt that both prosecution and defence lawyers must be well-acquainted with the law and regulations (including frequent law amendments), relevant case law, court proceedings and must all the time comply with courtroom etiquette if they want to help the judge or magistrate arrive at fair administration of justice.

This means if they are not competent enough they may lose ground and that can be an injustice to the party they represent.

Third, not all police officers called as witnesses were well-acquainted



with some provisions of the Police Force and the Auxiliary Services Act (Chapter 322 R.E. 2002), especially the Police General Orders (PGO, 2006) issued under Section 7(2) of the Police Force and Auxiliary Services Act.

No 1(d) of the PGO on basic principles guiding the Force stipulates: "The following principles which are

outlined in detail in these Orders are meant for the general guidance of all ranks. Every officer is required to familiarise himself [or herself] with the provisions of these orders. It is the responsibility of every Commanding Officer and every senior officer to ensure that all members under their charge are properly instructed on them."

It was clear during cross-examination that not all police officers knew well what the provisions of the PGO provided on certain issues they did or omitted to do during arrests or taking statements from suspects. The PGO in

particular stipulates in clear language what should be done or not be done when the police are on duty.

One of the challenges could be that to be well-acquainted with a 747-page document (English version) or a 764-page document (Kiswahili version) requires extra-efforts to study and understand the document. But this challenge shouldn't prevent police officers from being well-acquainted with the PGO for it is a practical tool for their daily duties.

A legal expert, Sarkar, in his book, The Law of Evidence (11th Edition) on pages 1275-1276 warns this in relation to police officers called as witnesses. "With respect to [police officers]...and others employed in the suppression and detection of crime, their testimony should usually be watched with care: not because they intentionally pervert the truth, but because their professional zeal, fed as it is by the habitual intercourse with vicious, and by the frequent contemplation of human nature in its most revolting form, almost necessarily leads them to ascribe actions to the worst motives and to give a colouring of guilt to facts and conversations, which are, perhaps, in themselves consistent with perfect rectitude."

This should not, however, be taken as prejudice, but rather as a matter of legal or judicial prudence when dealing with police testimony.

Fourth, hiding behind legal technicalities may easily incriminate the innocent and exonerate the guilty or may affect litigation.

In the case of CRDB Bank Limited v Isaack B. Mwamasi-ka, Registered Trustees of Dar es Salaam International School Trust Fund and EDBP & GD Construction Co Ltd, the Court of Appeal of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam in Civil Appeal No 139 of 2017 delivered a landmark judgement on legal technicalities on August 7, 2018.

Through this judgement the Court of Appeal of Tanzania not only created a precedent, but also sent a clear message to both the judiciary and legal practitioners to ensure legal technicalities shouldn't prevent fair dispensation of justice.

Today's proverb: "Good to begin well, better to end well."

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

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 283 00--

3 letters EEL, END, SOU, UDA, WOW, AGE
 4 letters ROME, PORT, DICK, RIME, EWER, AREA, DONE
 5 letters SPORT, AHEAD, AWARE, ROGER, RUDES, ONION, MECCA, ESKER, PORES, SHARE, RARER
 6 letters UNESCO, EOCENE, SNARES, REMOTE, ERASER
 7 letters NEITHER

WORD-FIT
 SOLUTIONS
 GHOST FAT JUNE MAITIA
 ROGER ESSE ANOAS SAGE S
 AWARENESSES IDES TRALINS
 BEMUSE T LOLITA LLE
 MMS DOS LOME RMT
 HEW UDDER STAYUP COAT
 ORARY OT LOW TENANTS
 MAIZE N MERU EMENT
 ASTINAAN IKAT DANIO
 GEK ETH MERU EMENT
 ER RHOEA ENE MY ERSE

CROSSWORD
 CLUES: Across
 1. repaired with a cane
 6. the semitic language of the Arabs
 9. a ray of sunlight
 11. someone who accumulates
 12. a piece of writing on a particular subject
 14. a monetary unit of Denmark
 17. an active immature form of an insect or other animal that undergoes metamorphosis 18. a name given to some plants with climbing stems
 20. unrestrained fighting
 21. the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 22. before in time
 23. Branch of Muslim
 25. an Italian ice cream
 26. the fifth month of the year

Down:
 1. a man notorious for seducing women
 2. a plant of a large family with typically arrow-shaped leaves and a broad leafy spathe enclosing a club-shaped spadix
 3. a silly person
 4. the movement of the tide out to sea
 5. an engine that burns oil instead of gasoline
 7. a title of Roman emperors
 8. first President of Kenya
 10. the ideal future wife
 13. a monetary unit of Macao
 15. annoy
 16. the strength and vitality required for sustained activity
 19. a sharp-pointed duelling sword, used, with the end blunted, in fencing
 23. utter words
 24. an atom with a net electric charge

EU inflation pushed by Ukraine crisis set to persist

ROME

THE economies of Europe are facing an increased risk of stagnation caused by the impact of the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine, analysts have said.

Recent figures published by the European Commission showed that the eurozone economy -- which comprises 19 member states of the European Union (EU) -- grew by a modest average of 0.2 percent in the first quarter of this year.

But with prices surging due to higher energy and food costs -- the Commission said that the eurozone annual inflation was a record high 7.5 percent in April -- the net result was an erosion in Europeans' purchasing power. Energy prices are the main culprit, analysts said, noting that the rising fuel costs have an impact on transportation and manufacturing across Europe.

"Sometimes inflation can be a sign of high consumer demand, but in this case prices are being pushed higher by rising costs for energy,"

Alessandro Polli, a professor of statistical economics at Rome's Sapienza University, told Xinhua.

"This is going to last a while. I think we can expect 5 or 6 percent inflation going forward. We haven't seen anything like this since the late 1970s," Polli said.

According to Fabio Panetta, a member of the European Central Bank's (ECB) Executive Board, the impacts of higher prices are already being felt in significant ways -- not just in the slowing economic growth but also in the emerging risk of "economic stagnation" even after last year's relatively robust post-pandemic recovery.

In an interview granted last week to La Stampa, a leading Italian newspaper, Panetta said that economic growth in the eurozone had all but stalled and that the situation could get worse before it gets better.

"This makes the options facing the European Central Bank more complicated, since monetary tightening that is aimed at limiting inflation would end up hampering economic

growth that is already weakening," Panetta was quoted as saying, adding that the continent's economy is already "de facto stagnating."

The members of the ECB board are scheduled to meet in June to consider potential interest rate hikes.

Though the recent economic impacts were sparked by Russia's military operation in Ukraine that started on Feb. 24, analysts noted that prices in Europe had already been on the rise before that date.

Polli said that even an early end to the conflict could not restore the pre-crisis world. "The relationship between Russia and the European states has been damaged by recent events," Polli said.

Countries highly dependent on Russian gas imports like Italy and Germany are looking for alternatives and that will continue, he said.

"That process will take time, and while it is taking place the transition will add to costs, push prices higher, and act as a drag on economic growth."

RADIO One **RATIBA YA MPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Radio One

BUSINESS

Bitcoin set for record losing streak following collapse of 'stablecoin'

SINGAPORE/HONG KONG/LONDON,

Cryptocurrencies nursed large losses on Friday, with bitcoin back above \$30,000 and but still set for a record losing streak after the collapse of TerraUSD, a so-called stablecoin, rippled through cryptocurrency markets.

Crypto assets have also been swept up in broad selling of risky investments on worries about high inflation and rising interest rates. Sentiment is particularly fragile, as tokens supposed to be pegged to the dollar have faltered.

Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency by total market value, managed to bounce in the Asia session and traded around \$30,500 at 1140 GMT. It has staged something of a recovery from a 16-month low of around \$25,400 reached on Thursday.

But it remains far below week-ago levels of around \$40,000 and, unless there is a rebound in weekend trade, is headed for a record seventh consecutive weekly loss.

"I don't think the worst is over," said Scottie Siu, investment director of Axion Global Asset Management, a Hong Kong based firm that runs a crypto index fund.

"I think there is more downside in the coming days. I think what we need to see is the open interest collapse a lot more, so the speculators are really out of it, and that's when I think the market will stabilize."

BEYOND BITCOIN

Crypto-related stocks have taken a pounding, with shares in broker Coinbase (COIN.O) steadying overnight but still down by half in little more than a week.

In Asia, Hong Kong-listed Huobi Technology (1611.HK) and BC Technology Group (0863.HK), which operate trading platforms and other crypto services, eyed weekly drops of more than 20%.

But broader financial markets have so far seen little knock-on effect from the cryptocurrency crash.

"Crypto is still tiny and crypto integration within broader financial markets is still infinitesimally small," said James Malcolm, head of FX strategy at UBS.

"This idea that what goes on in crypto stays in crypto - that's in many ways where we still are at the moment."

STABLECOIN SQUEEZE

Selling has roughly halved the global market value of cryptocurrencies since November, but the drawdown has turned to panic in recent sessions with the squeeze on stablecoins.

Stablecoins are tokens pegged to the value of traditional assets, often the U.S.

dollar, and are the main medium for moving money between cryptocurrencies or to convert balances to fiat cash. read more

Cryptocurrency markets were rocked this week by the collapse of TerraUSD (UST), which broke its 1:1 peg to the dollar.

The coin's complex stability mechanism, which involved balancing with a free-floating cryptocurrency called Luna, stopped working when Luna came under selling pressure. TerraUSD last traded around 9 cents, while Luna plunged close to zero. read more

Tether, the biggest stablecoin and one whose developers say is backed by dollar assets, has also come under pressure and fell to 95 cents on Thursday, according to CoinMarketCap data, but was back at \$1 on Friday. read more

"Over half of all bitcoin and ether traded on exchanges are versus a stablecoin, with USDT or Tether taking the largest share," analysts at Morgan Stanley said in a research note.

"For these types of stablecoins, the market needs to trust that the issuer holds sufficient liquid assets they would be able to sell in times of market stress."

Tether's operating company says it has the necessary assets in Treasuries, cash, corporate bonds and other money-market products.

But Tether is likely to face further tests if traders keep selling, and analysts are concerned that stress could spill over into money markets if pressure forces more and more liquidation.

Ratings agency Fitch said in a note on Thursday that there could be "significant negative repercussions" for cryptocurrencies and digital finance if investors lose confidence in stablecoins.

"Many regulated financial entities have increased their exposure to cryptocurrencies, defi and other forms of digital finance in recent months, and some Fitch-rated issuers could be affected if crypto market volatility becomes severe," it said.

However, Fitch said that weak links between crypto markets and regulated financial markets will limit the potential of crypto market volatility to cause wider financial instability.



Crypto is still tiny and crypto integration within broader financial markets is still infinitesimally small

COSTECH set to empower more FinTech and start-up innovators

By Francis Kajubi

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has pledged to extensively focus on empowering FinTech and Start-up innovators in the country to enable youth to explore their talents and thus create job opportunities.

Addressing the press on Thursday in Dar es Salaam ahead of the Innovation Week 2022 to be held in Dodoma from next Monday to Saturday, COSTECH Director General Dr Amos Nungu said that young innovators in the FinTech and Start-up have a great possibility of creating jobs for their fellow graduates if are technically and financially empowered to execute their innovations.

According to him, the commission is expecting to extend the innovation week celebration to all regions of the country in 2023 as in this year the innovation week has been organized in only 15 regions.

"The aim of making sure that the innovation week is celebrated across the country is to give young FinTech and Start-ups to exhibit their innovations so that interested investors can chip in by funding their



projects," said Dr Nungu. He asserted that COSTECH participates in various national exhibition events such as Sabasaba,

Nanene, Renewable Energy Days, and Annual General Meetings of Mathematics Teachers (AGM-MAT) and similar events.

From these events, COSTECH has been identifying innovative ideas and subjecting them through the aforementioned support processes.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and COSTECH annually organize the event called "National competition for science, technology and innovation" well known in Swahili as MAKISATU.

In MAKISATU, innovators undergo competition evaluated by a team of Judges. The best innovators are chosen for awards. All innovators that participate in MAKISATU are also subjected through the evaluation process.

"This year's innovation week we expect to consider ten FinTech and Start-up innovators from the MAKISATU competitions who are linked to various giant innovation firms to facilitate their innovations," he asserted.

This year's innovation week is being celebrated under the theme "Innovation for sustainable development". It has been organized by COSTECH, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Vodacom Tanzania as the main sponsor of the innovation week.

Betting via M-Pesa hits Sh169.1bln in one year

NAIROBI

KENYANS spent Sh169.1 billion to place bets through Safaricom's M-Pesa in the year to March, underlining the gambling craze that has become a national pastime.

The telecoms operator's disclosures show that the value of bets jumped 23.8 percent from Sh136 billion a year earlier, defying a government clampdown on gambling through the imposition of higher taxes, both on the companies and punters.

Safaricom, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and betting firms are the biggest beneficiaries of the growth and intensity of betting activities, pocketing billions.

The telco's revenue from betting rose 40 percent to Sh5.98 billion last year, beating sales of more than a third of firms listed at the Nairobi bourse.

This disclosure came on a day when Safaricom posted a 1.7 percent drop in net profit to Sh67.49 billion, hit by investments in the yet-to-start Ethiopian operations and additional tax payments. Safaricom booked a loss of Sh4.8 billion from the

Ethiopia firm, where it has a 55.7 percent stake, and saw its tax payments jump 39.1 percent to Sh34.7 billion after the lifting of tax relief attached to the Covid-19 economic stimulus package.

The company is betting on business lines such as data and M-Pesa to offset the stagnant revenues from mobile calls amid a saturated market.

The volume of bets funded from M-Pesa accounts surged 39 percent to 732.2 million, signalling a growing gambling addiction.

The growth of betting comes despite the government trying to curb the activity through higher taxation and increased regulations.

Betting is popular among young people - employed as well as the jobless - who see it as offering a game-like thrill besides an opportunity to make quick money.

While a few punters get lucky and win large sums of money, the activity represents missed opportunities and losses for participants as a whole.

The Sh169.1 billion wagered in the review period, for instance, is enough to buy 5.3 billion shares of Safaricom,



Kenyans spent Sh169.1 billion to place bets through Safaricom's M-Pesa in the year to March.

equivalent to a 13.2 percent stake in the country's most profitable firm.

Such a stake would earn dividends of about Sh7.3 billion annually, based on the telco's latest distribution of Sh1.39 per share for the year ended March.

It is also enough to fully acquire Equity Bank based on its valuation at the Nairobi bourse.

Betting is now the second-largest business line by revenue under M-Pesa's business payments after business-to-consumer (B2C), which generated sales of Sh11.4 billion in the year to March.

The disclosures show that betting firms and punters are being charged some of the highest fees by Safaricom compared to other M-Pesa users.

The Sh5.98 billion revenue from betting, for instance, represents 3.5 percent of the value of bets funded from the mobile money platform.

In contrast, Safaricom took only 0.25 percent or Sh11.49 billion as revenue from the Sh4.7 trillion worth of business

payments to consumers through M-Pesa.

The full scale of gambling in the country is unclear but the bets funded from M-Pesa accounts are expected to represent the majority of the activity given the platform's dominance in personal payments.

Betting firms are the biggest beneficiaries of the betting craze but all of them are private firms which are not required to make their accounts public.

The list of betting firms licensed for the year ending June published by the Betting and Licensing Control Board (BCLB) shows the number had increased to 100 from 76 in a similar period a year earlier - reflecting a 31.5 percent growth.

Kenya last year reintroduced excise duty on betting stakes to 7.5 percent, which means the government first takes Sh750 for every Sh100 a gambler places as a bet irrespective of winnings.

It also takes 20 percent on winnings and levies additional taxes on the betting firms in efforts meant to make gambling

unattractive.

But investors in the betting space have been undeterred by the government's attempts to curb the business through higher taxation and tighter regulation.

BCLB chief executive Peter Mbugi said that the majority of the 24 new firms are owned by locals.

They include Mofabet registered as Johannes Swift, Zukabet registered as Muvana Limited, Unibet, Hollywood Bets and Safebet.

Online sports betting companies such as SportPesa grew rapidly before the drastic hike in taxes, riding a wave of enthusiasm for sports. The government says the gaming industry achieved a combined revenue of Sh204 billion in 2018.

That sparked concern about the social impact of betting, prompting new gambling regulations, including restrictions on advertising.

The government has in the past said 54 percent of Kenyans involved in betting were low-income earners.



Kingdom Bank.

Bank taps Sh20 billion CBK funds for lending

NAIROBI

Kingdom Bank is applying part of the Sh20.9 billion it received from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to give loans, a strategy that seeks to enhance returns from the cash on which it is not incurring interest expenses.

Besides lending, the funds will be used to support liquidity. The shift to using part of the cash to issue loans has been disclosed by Kingdom's parent company Co-op Bank in its annual report.

"Kingdom Bank ...changed its business model on managing the government securities initially held at amortised cost to allow for a more aggressive approach on the funds received from Central Bank of Kenya to be utilised for lending to customers on a need basis, improve the liquidity position and reverse the bank," said Co-op Bank.

Most bank loans denominated in Kenya shillings have an effective cost of more than 15 percent per annum, including interest and charges.

This makes lending more profitable compared to alternative cash management alternatives such as investing in treasury bills and fixed deposits whose return is less than 10 percent per annum.

Kingdom Bank's loan book shrank to Sh4.4 billion last year compared to Sh5.5 billion in 2020. It will also bring a balance to the institution's asset mix which is concentrated in government debt securities at Sh23.6 billion or 74.3 percent of total assets as of December.

The interest rate on the CBK loan, which is repayable in 10 years with a three-year moratorium, is zero.

This means Kingdom Bank stands to generate substantial profit from the cash, enabling it to become a strong stand-alone institution.

The fact that the regulator waived interest on the funds underlines its unprecedented support for the lender which was acquired by Co-op Bank in a rescue deal with the shift in the strategy set to reverse the decline.

KAMPALA

Interest rates on salary loans drop

INTEREST on personal and household loans, among which included salary and others unsecured loans, declined in the quarter March, signaling increased confidence among lending institutions due to a steady recovery of the economy from effects Covid-19.

During the period, the Bank of Uganda Monetary Policy Report, indicates that interest rates on personal and household loans dropped to 19.9 percent down from 23.9 percent in the quarter ended December 2021.

Transport and communication, Bank of Uganda indicated, was the other sector where interest rates dropped, falling to 16.3 percent while agriculture posted a nominal decline to 20.7 percent.

Manufacturing and trade also posted declines with interest, dropping to 16.2 percent and 17.9 percent, respectively.

However, the Central Bank noted lending rates for electricity and water, building, mortgages, construction and real estate and other activities rose due to existing threats and instability in some sectors of the economy.

Bank of Uganda also noted, the lending rates in most sectors continue to exhibit

significant volatility thus it is difficult to project in which direction they are likely to move going forward.

During the period, the Central Bank noted that private sector credit, which is one of the measures of economic performance, remained weak and below historical trends, despite full reopening of the economy in January.

During the period, Bank of Uganda data indicates, foreign currency-denominated loans grew to 5.6 percent compared to 3.6 percent, while shilling-denominated loans fell to average by 9.8 percent from 12.0 percent.

However, the Central Bank noted that credit growth remains weak in agriculture, trade, and other business services with growth rates far below the industry median growth in recent decade.

The sectors above accounted for 34.2 percent of total private sector credit.

The Central Bank also indicated that credit growth is only above or near its median growth rate for the last decade in the personal and household loans sector, manufacturing, and building, mortgage and construction, with annual growth rates of 17.5 percent, 13.7 percent, and 13.2 percent,



respectively.

The three sectors above during the period, accounted for 52.7 percent of total outstanding credit during.

Outstanding private sector credit due to agriculture and trade stood at a combined average of 29.4 percent.

Broke Ugandans are rushing for salary loans when

they need quick cash without understanding what they are signing up for.

This has been worsened by the economic impact of the Coronavirus outbreak that has made it harder for people to achieve their long-term monetary goals.

Among those who say their financial situation has gotten worse during

the pandemic, 44 percent think it will take them three years or more to get back to where they were a year ago - including about one-in-ten who don't think their finances will ever recover. This is according to the Pew Research Centre.

The economic fallout from Covid-19 is still hitting some segments of the popu-

lation harder than others. For instance, lower-income adults, as well as Hispanic and Asian Americans and adults younger than 30, are among the most likely to say they or someone in their household has lost a job or taken a pay cut since the outbreak began in February 2020.

Many have taken a debt

or put off paying their bills to cover lost wages or salary.

Due to these tough financial times, several financial institutions have launched or upgraded their salary loan campaigns to enable customers' access credit at lower interest rates and reduce their financial burden to cater for not only their daily demands and needs but also help businesses gain momentum.

With the finances garnered, they can pay school fees now that schools have resumed after two years of closure and parents/guardians can access their basic needs and long term goals using credit loans.

But with the availability of the credit through salary loans, what should you consider before taking one?

Mary Lukowe, the marketing communications and public relations manager, finance Trust Bank says salary loans are those loans that one takes with their monthly salary as the collateral.

"The salary account should be domiciled in the lending institution so that the loan installments are easily deducted from the source. The salary earner also indicates the pay day, on which date, the bank also recovers its due loan instal-

ment," Ms Lukowe says.

With the availability of credit through salary loans, there are a number of factors to consider before taking a salary loan.

Lukowe urges people to stick to that purpose to benefit from the loan.

It is also advisable that the loan period does not supersede the working contract period for contract workers and not more than five years for permanent or pension workers.

"One should also ensure the monthly loan installment does not exceed more than 50 percent of the salary amount that hits the salary account each month. They need to keep in mind cash flow needs for other obligations in their everyday lives such as transport costs, food, rent among others," she explains.

In addition, the borrower should follow all the procedures prescribed before loan disbursement. This may include securing a recommendation by the employer, declaring other sources of income and sharing pay slips. This helps in building confidence between the borrower and bank.

The borrower should also take time to read and understand the loan agreement from the bank and understand other risk management procedures such as insurance.

KIGALI

AN analysis by Rwanda Meteorology Agency has revealed that the change in rainfall has been caused by climate change.

The farmers who are facing the unusual drought periods in Rwanda have requested the government to increase the funding to the irrigation scheme to make the technology affordable to all.

The appeal is made as the countries representatives are gathering in Scotland for 26th climate change summit running from October 31 to November 12.

The summit comes at a season Rwanda is facing a combination of unusual dry spells and warming as well as floods.

Innocent Niyomugabo, farmer from Bugesera District, Mayange Sector said that there is a season where they do not grow any crop due to lack of means to irrigate.

"In June every year we stop growing any crop due to lack of irrigation facilities. We till and plant again in September," he said.

"As smallholder farmers without financial capacity, we need support to get irrigation. There was a time when drought hit us and some migrated to others for food," he said.

Pascasie Mukabaseya, another farmer said that in October last year she counted a loss of 500 Kilogrammes of beans due to dry spells that prolonged.

"We have many lakes but the land is not irrigated. We need government support," she said.

Ramadhan Nkundukozera said that last year, he was given food relief after drought devastated the area.

"I was expecting 300 Kilogrammes of beans and 200 Kilogrammes of maize but I harvested nothing. Later I leased a land near Lake Cyohoha which I irrigate using solar-powered pumpin. If irrigation is scaled up, it could ensure sustainable food security," he said.

He said that the current season is also facing unusual

How unpredictable rains are affecting agricultural output



dry spells adding they expect no harvest.

The analysis focused on comparing the rainfall performance of the September to December last year and January to February, 2022 rainy seasons against their long-term mean based on the 1991-2022 long term mean using rainfall data for 131 weather stations.

"The trend analysis showed a reduction in rainfall for the September to December rainy season," the report says.

From January to February, the last three years (2020, 2021, 2022), received rainfall above the long-term mean of 1991-2022 according to the weatherman.

During September-December rainy season last year, 53 stations indicated a significant increasing trend of dry spell from 1991 to 2022.

A reduction in rainfall was observed over most parts of Northern province, mostly Western province especially over its southern parts and over Kigali city.

The year 2021 was much driven by La Niña conditions which led to reduction of rainfall over most of the East Africa region.

In Rwanda, La Niña conditions persisted up to December 2021.

La Niña is a weather pattern that begins in the Pacific Ocean.

La Niña impacts the global climate and disrupts normal weather patterns, which can lead to intense storms in some places and droughts in others.

During the period of La

Niña, last year, rainfall reduced over Rwanda especially for the main rainy season March to May and September to December.

The January to February season for the year 2022, indicated an increased rainfall compared to its long-term mean (1991-2021) in most parts of the country according to the assessment report.

The months of January to February which should normally be short dry periods which are favorable to post-harvest handling.

The number of rainy days

in Rwanda has declined by between 35 and 45 days per year due to climate change, scientists have said.

Due to global warming, trend analysis for the period 1971-2016 showed a temperature increase of 1.4°C has been recorded since 1970.

Rwanda's average temperature is higher than the global average (1.09°C) shown by the UN-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

Effects

The reduction of rainfall from September to Decem-

ber last year affected the country, especially farmers.

As a result, the government distributed food relief to over 36,000 households comprising over 156,000 members that were affected by prolonged drought in Eastern Province.

That time, Evariste Tugirushuti, the president of Maize Farmers' Cooperatives Federation in Eastern and Southern provinces said in an interview that the prolonged dry spell could cut maize produce by between 40 and 50 per cent.

Prime Minister Edouard Ngirentse, recently said that in the concluded agriculture season A (September to December), climate change slightly reduced maize and bean production especially in Eastern province.

He said that Rwanda recently faced two types of climate change effects-drought and unusual rains.

"The maize production could decrease by 0.6 per cent from 378,000 tonnes last year to 357,000 tonnes. Bean production is likely to decrease by 2 per cent in this province. However, we assure food security because not much was affected at national level," he said.

The increased rainfall in February and January affected post-harvest activities.

Farmers across the country braced themselves for reduced yields and dwindling incomes following unusually heavy rains that upset postharvest activities.

January and February were previously characterised by mild dry spells or little rains but due to climate change, the country faced heavy rainfall.

The disruption in post-harvest handling caused aflatoxin in grains according to farmers.

Jean Nepomuscene Nsabimana, the President of Cooperative Twitezimbera from Mushi sector in Rwamagana district the cooperative, which groups together 116 farmers, experienced maize yield drop to below 40 tonnes, down from 50 tonnes due to delayed harvesting caused by unusual rains.

Farmers also told Doing Business that rains from March to May have changed compared to previous times.

While, for some days, some areas faced heavy rains that caused havoc, farmers have said that they lacked rains when they were in need of it.

The farmers' woes could worsen at the time only four per cent of total arable is irrigated in the country.

Government targets to irrigate 102,284 hectares by 2024 from the 63,000 hectares which are currently under irrigation.

Nigeria's regulator downplays talk of mobile tariff increase

LAGOS

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has all but dismissed talk of an increase in mobile tariffs and warned that mobile network operators cannot independently or collectively adjust prices without regulatory approval.

The warning comes after the regulator received an official request to hike prices from the Association of Licenced Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON).

Last week, ALTON corresponded with the NCC and called for a 40% increase in the prices of calls, SMS and data, citing the escalating costs of doing business in the Nigerian telecommunications market.

The Association said given the state of the country's economy, an interim administrative review of mobile termination rates for

voice, administrative data floor price and SMS costs "as reflected in extant instruments."

But the NCC refuted claims circulating that an increase was eminent, and said even in cases where a price hike is justified, operators cannot proceed without approval.

NCC director, public affairs Dr Ikechukwu Adinde said: "For the avoidance of doubt, and contrary to MNO's agitation to increase tariffs for voice and SMS by a certain percentage, the commission wishes to categorically inform telecom subscribers and allay the fears of the Nigerians that no tariff increase will be effected by the operators without due regulatory approval by the commission."

"Consistent with international best practices and established regulatory procedures, the NCC ensure its regulatory activities are



guided by regular cost-based and empirical studies to determine the appropriate costs (upper and floor price) within which service providers are allowed to charge their customers for the services delivered.

The commission ensures that any cost determined as an outcome of such transparent studies is fair enough as to

enhance healthy competition among operators, provide wider choices for subscribers as well as ensure sustainability of the Nigerian telecoms industry."

Up to January this year, Nigeria's ICT industry had contributed over 10 percent towards the West African country's GDP over ten years, but there is more to

be gained from increasing the speed and coverage of internet connectivity.

This is according to Prof Umar Danbatta, Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), who added that telecommunications alone contributed 12.45% to the GDP as of Q4 2020.

Danbatta disclosed the figures while delivering a lecture hosted recently and based on a paper titled Empowering the Nigerian youth through Information and Communications Technology.

The paper highlights the increasing adoption and the impact of ICT in Nigeria - and how this industry helps with job creation, youth empowerment and overall socio-economic development.

According to Danbatta, Nigeria accounts for 82% of Africa's ICT market and 29% of the continent's internet usage.

The NCC head said the organisation envisages internet connectivity speed of 10Mbps in rural areas and 25 Mbps in urban areas by 2025, with effective internet connectivity made available for at least 90% of the population. This, he said, should cost no more than N390 (US\$0.95) per gigabyte of data.

As to the rate of contribution by ICT towards the GDP, Babatunde Abagun, Channel Manager West, East and Central Africa at Nutanix, is hardly surprised.

"Well it's not particularly new to me, though I have always felt surprised that telecom's fractional contribution to Nigeria's GDP has not been incremental in lockstep with huge developments in the telecom tech space in the last ten years," said Abagun.

"One would expect that innovations like 5G, edge computing, managed services, and even the advent of Fintech (and more telcos playing in this space with the likes of mobile money projects etc.) would lead to an incremental contribution towards GDP."

This expectation is being driven by the high cost of data in Africa in comparison with global counterparts.

Abagun said that aside from privacy concerns, an increase in data value globally "naturally puts the telecom industry at an advantageous position with its 'untethered' access to data."



Some East African Community partner states countries including Kenya and Tanzania have previously locked Uganda's sugar out of their markets.

Manufacturers want Tanzania to lift sugar blockade permanently

KAMPALA

TANZANIA has committed to fully lift a ban on sugar exports from Uganda instituted in 2019.

However, manufacturers and dealers under Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association have indicated that whereas they had been permitted to resume export of the commodity to Tanzania in 2020, they have been facing a lot of barriers that have made trade in the commodity almost impossible.

For instance, the association says, since the year started, dealers have not been allocated the required quota through which sugar is exported.

The announcement in which Uganda will export 10,000 tonnes annually, also seems to have cut back on what Uganda had been previously allocated.

Jim Kabehe, the Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association chairman, said yesterday that they had been exporting 20,000 tonnes previously.

"We have been exporting through quotas and every year we have been shipping 20,000 tonnes," he said without going into details.

However, Mr Kabehe noted that since the year began, they have not exported sugar to Tanzania yet the two countries had agreed on an annual quota of 20,000 tonnes.

However, during her state visit to Uganda, this week, Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu, according to a joint communication, agreed that

Uganda will be allowed to resume sugar exports to cover a deficit in the country.

In 2018, Tanzania banned sugar from Uganda, alleging that it originated from third-party countries.

Later in April 2020, President Museveni assented to the Sugar Act, 2020 as Uganda made its final deliberations in trading off its surplus sugar to Tanzania, with the first consignment of 20,000 tonnes shipped in May the same year.

"The sugar industry will be exporting 20,000 metric tonnes of brown sugar to Tanzania by the end of May 2020. This is the first consignment, which has opened up market opportunities for the Ugandan sugar millers who have a surplus," Mr Museveni said in a statement.

During that time, Mr Museveni reportedly met with representatives from Tanzania led by the Managing Director of Kagera Sugar Limited, Seif Ally Seif.

However, dealers and manufacturers have since faced challenges accessing the Tanzania market.

The new commitment comes as a relief to Ugandan sugar millers, who have in the last three years faced blockades in other markets including Kenyan and Rwanda.

In 2018, the government of Uganda has said it will not block Tanzania's rice from accessing Uganda as the country did with Kakira Sugar recently.

While opening the 26th annual manufacturer's

Trade Show in Kampala, Finance Minister Matia Kasajja said the Tanzanian rice which is currently stuck at Mutukula, will be allowed to Uganda, indicating government would not retaliate since Tanzania has been blocking a number of products such as sugar from entering its territory.

The sugar, which was later returned to Uganda, was slapped with a 25 per cent Excise Duty on claims that it had not been manufactured in Uganda.

"A few days ago, rice which was imported from Tanzania found a road block in Mutukula and somebody was telling me that we do a tit-for-tat. But I said no;

"We are good brothers, I do not want to breach the advantages of East African Community," he said while referring to a proposal by an undisclosed person who was advising government to pay back Tanzania by rejecting its rice into the country. Kasajja, who represented Mr Museveni, said the President had agreed to meet manufacturers once every year to listen to their challenges with the view of finding solutions.

During last year's Trade Show, manufacturers among other demands, asked the President to lower electricity tariffs which were eating into their revenue.

In his message this year, the President told traders that government had completed the refinancing of Bugajali Hydropower project, which would help to bring down power tariffs.



ITV		CAPITAL	
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WORLD

US summit won't sway ASEAN centrality - analysts

KUALA LUMPUR

US President Joe Biden is meeting with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at a summit in Washington this week, in a move widely seen as an attempt by the United States to pull members of the bloc into its camp.

Analysts believe that US attempts to court support among ASEAN leaders in pursuit of its geopolitical interests are unlikely to gain traction.

ASEAN leaders are more likely to emphasize their economic interests, analysts have said, adding the bloc members, who are seeking a post-pandemic economic recovery, will put ASEAN centrality at the forefront while deflecting any attempt to draw them into a US sphere of influence.

The summit officially commemorates 45 years of US-ASEAN ties. It was initially scheduled for late March but was postponed due to scheduling issues.

Azmi Hassan, a senior research fellow

at Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research, said Wednesday that the United States has been unable to exert pressure on ASEAN over the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with most of the 10-member bloc abstaining from voting in favor of a resolution to suspend Russia from the United Nations Human Rights Council last month.

"I think President Biden must be wondering why ASEAN nation did not outright condemn Russia and did not support it wholeheartedly. This can especially be seen during the resolution to remove Russia from the UNHRC on April 7: Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Brunei abstained while Vietnam and Laos voted against it," Hassan told Xinhua in a phone interview.

He also said that the United States will find itself unable to make any headway among ASEAN members, especially after Malaysia and Indonesia voiced concerns over the AUKUS trilateral security partnership involving Australia and Brit-



US President Joe Biden (centre) and leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) pose for a group photo on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, May 12, 2022. AFP

ain. "Overall, despite the ideas of geopolitical maneuvering, I think the most important issue that will be discussed among the participants will be the economic side, how to spur the trade between ASEAN and the US post-pandemic. I think that will be the most important subject matter from ASEAN point of view," he said.

Lee Pei May, a political expert at the International Islamic University Malaysia, said that while the summit is happening against the backdrop of escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine, the primary concern of the Biden administration is not about Russia but more about ensuring a so-called "free and open" Indo-Pacific.

"For the Biden administration to advance this vision, they have to get ASEAN countries on the American side and potentially for the US to play a role in managing the disputes in the South China Sea. Such moves can be interpreted as challenging China's position in the

region and hindering peaceful progress between China and ASEAN countries," she said.

"ASEAN members can already anticipate that the summit is ideal for the Biden administration to stress the common interests and shared values between the US and the ASEAN countries. The US is expected to leverage these ideas to draw ASEAN closer to them," she added.

Lee cautioned that unless it can demonstrate unity, the ASEAN bloc may find itself in a position where different members pursue different paths, which could compromise its cohesiveness. This can be remedied by member states forging a consensus when dealing with the United States.

"Having a consensus on key issues is not easy, but it is crucial as it would allow the members to speak with one united voice at the summit," Lee said. "The members can send a signal to the US that ASEAN would remain neutral in whatever circumstances."

Situation in Afghanistan cannot be allowed to 'collapse' - Lavrov

DUSHANBE

THE situation in Afghanistan cannot be allowed to collapse, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a news conference in Dushanbe.

"The situation [in Afghanistan] cannot be allowed to collapse again, as this would be too hard for the Afghan people, who have suffered from the presence of NATO for 20 years," Lavrov said after a meeting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers.

Lavrov urged the international community to pay more attention to the mobilization of humanitarian aid and other assistance for Afghanistan, saying the US and its allies should bear the greater burden of expenditure on reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Commenting on the escalation in the Panjshir province, the foreign minister said Russia has always called for the situation in Afghanistan to be settled through nationwide dialogue.

Russia and China have been sending messages to the Taliban (outlawed in Russia) emphasizing the need to form an inclusive government. "We expect our allies in Tajikistan who have a major influence on Afghanistan, especially on northern Afghanistan, to continue helping us attain joint goals," Lavrov concluded.

The Taliban was designated a terrorist organization, according to a ruling of Russia's Supreme Court on February 14, 2003.

Agencies



China refutes false info slandering its entry, exit policies

BEIJING

CHINA'S National Immigration Administration (NIA) on Friday dismissed false overseas media reports on its border control practices, saying such rumors aim to distort and discredit the country's entry and exit policies.

Recently, some overseas media outlets have hyped disinformation suggesting China has suspended issuing passports to citizens, or prevented people from leaving the country.

Such disinformation is intended to undermine the country's legal, targeted and effective entry-exit management measures introduced under the backdrop of maintaining regular COVID-19 response approaches, said an NIA spokesperson.

The administration has firmly implemented a strategy to prevent both inbound cases and domestic resurgences since the COVID-19 outbreak, effectively reducing the risk of infection caused by individuals entering or exiting the country, the spokesperson said.

Immigration agencies at all levels across the country have improved entry and exit measures to offer timely passport services for people who need to go overseas for study, business, research, medical treatment or other purposes, according to the NIA.

Authorities have also expedited passport services for people heading overseas to help with the anti-COVID fight or transfer relief supplies.

The spokesperson however warned that the global pandemic



Passengers, wearing facemasks as a preventive measure against the COVID-19, board a flight to the central Chinese city of Wuhan, at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai on July 14, 2020. (PHOTO / AFP)

is far from over and there is a great deal of uncertainty concerning how it will develop. With the risk of being infected still high, the NIA advised people to refrain from non-urgent and unnecessary cross-border travel.

People who need to enter or exit the country can access information from the official NIA website, WeChat account or hotline, the spokesperson noted.

Xinhua

The Netherlands supports Morocco's autonomy plan

RABAT

THE Netherlands has said that Morocco's Autonomy Plan is a "serious and credible contribution" to the UN-led political process to find an agreed upon and mutually acceptable solution to the Western Sahara dispute.

Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Wopke Hoekstra expressed his country's support for Morocco's initiative during a meeting today with his Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita.

Following the meeting, the Netherlands and Morocco published a joint press release in which the European country conveyed its new position.

The news comes amid growing support for Morocco's position on Western Sahara.

After the US' recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara in December 2020, many other countries have officially endorsed the Moroccan autonomy initiative, describing it as the most serious and credible basis to end the Sahara dispute.

In March, Spain publicly announced its support of Morocco's Autonomy Plan, calling the Moroccan proposal the "most serious and credible" solution for Western Sahara. A few days after Spain's endorsement, France reiterated its support for the Moroccan initiative and touted cooperation with Morocco.

In December 2021, Germany announced Morocco's Autonomy Plan as an "important contribution" from Morocco to resolve the dispute over the Sahara.

As part of today's meeting, the Netherlands and Morocco jointly reaffirmed their support for Staffan de Mistura, the UN envoy for Western Sahara, urging him to continue his efforts for a "political process that seeks to achieve a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution" in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The two countries also reaffirmed the importance of their cooperation to ensure regional stability.

In particular, the Moroccan and Dutch top diplomats recalled the long-standing diplomatic ties uniting their two coun-



Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and his Dutch counterpart Wopke Hoekstra in Marrakesh on Wednesday

tries for over 400 years, stressing a firm desire to intensify dialogue and cooperation at all levels -- especially in the fields of culture, security, human rights, and trade.

Both Morocco and the Netherlands committed to engaging in joint actions to defeat terrorism.

On Tuesday, the two countries signed

an agreement reaffirming their determination to boost cooperation in the security field.

The Dutch FM's meeting with Bourita took place on the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting of the Global Coalition against ISIS, which opened today in Marrakesh with representatives from 80 countries.

Agencies



China speeds up green, low-carbon transformation of data centres

THE rapid proliferation of green data centers in China may be attributed to the rapid development of the country's digital economy, which is driving a wave of green transformation among traditional data centers and resulting in the continual expansion of newly developed ones.

GDS Services Ltd. (GDS), a Chinese data center operator and service provider, exemplifies the green development of Chinese data centers.

A green data center of the company, located in Shunyi district of Beijing, covers more than 15,000 square meters and houses over 2,000 equipment cabinets. It ensures smooth video streaming on the smart phones of users from thousands of miles away thanks to its real-time scheduling for computing power.

The data center's power usage effec-

tiveness (PUE) ratio has been drastically reduced to 1.22 by far, said Yang Tao, vice president of GDS. According to him, the green data center, when running at full capacity, can save about 10 million kWh of electricity a year.

What brought down the PUE ratio for the GDS data center were the company's efforts to increase efficiency in both the supply and consumption of electricity.

So far, 34 percent of GDS data centers across China are using green electricity, according to Yang. Besides, the company is also able to make optimal decisions and optimize the use of equipment through dynamic monitoring of key indicators, such as server load changes, indoor and outdoor temperature and hu-

midity, as well as the starting frequency of heating and ventilation equipment.

The number of data centers, known as the cornerstone of digital economy, has increased exponentially in China in recent years. However, their escalating energy consumption is causing growing worry, despite their impressive computer capacity.

China believes that to promote green development of data centers is not only beneficial to the sustainable development of digital economy, but also critical to energy conservation of new infrastructure. Therefore, it has ramped up efforts to advance the green and low-carbon transformation of data centers.

According to data released by the Min-

istry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and other authorities, 153 national-level green data centers have been built in three batches across the country. Besides, the country has selected and promoted five batches of 157 advanced technologies to accelerate its pace to lead the green and low-carbon development of data centers.

"Data centers are major power consumers. Their expansion inevitably causes a substantial rise in energy consumption," pointed out Chen Ying, secretary general of the Chinese Institute of Electronics. It's estimated that data centers in China accounted for 1.5 percent to 1.9 percent of the total electricity consumption in the country in 2020,

according to Chen. Besides, a new generation of information technology is significantly driving the demands for data storage, computing, and application, Chen said, adding it is also urgent to standardize the recycling and disposal of obsolete equipment from data centers to avoid environmental pollution.

By 2025, the computing power of data centers in China will rise to 3.3 times that of 2020, said a plan for the development of China's information and communication sector during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period.

"Speeding up the construction of green data centers has become a basic requirement to ensure the sustainability of resources and environment. Besides,

it is helpful for increasing the utilization efficiency of energy resources and achieving the carbon peak and neutrality goals," said an official with the department of energy conservation and integrated use of the MIIT.

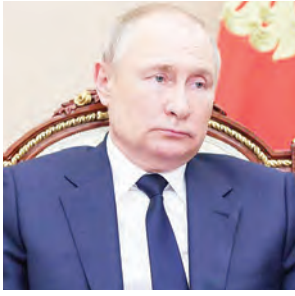
At present, quite a number of companies are actively developing new technologies for the green transformation of data centers.

In November 2020, an integrated energy station built by the Ningbo branch of the State Grid Corporation of China in east China's Zhejiang province was put into operation. The data center of the energy station became the first of its kind in Zhejiang to use container-type equipment room with a liquid cooling system, which can save more than 430,000 kWh of electricity a year. **People's Daily**

West ready to sacrifice rest of the world for global domination - Putin

MOSCOW

THE culpability for the global consequences of sanctions against Russia, including possible hunger in a number of countries, rests with Western countries who for the sake of their domination are ready to sacrifice the rest of the world, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting on economic issues on Thursday.



He noted that a number of countries are already encountering the threats of hunger and if the sanctions against Russia continue, the EU may also encounter consequences which would be difficult to reverse.

"The blame for this entirely and completely rests with the elites of the Western countries who for the sake of preserving their global domination are ready to sacrifice the rest of the world," the Russian leader stated.

In turn, Russia is confidently coping with external challenges, he added, thanks both to the responsible macro-economic policy of recent years and systemic solutions on bolstering the economic sovereignty and technological and food security.

"Our production companies are gradually filling in domestic market niches freed up after unscrupulous partners left, including basic goods, industrial and service equipment, construction and agricultural machinery," the Russian leader noted.

WHO: Africa's virus upsurge driven by variant, eased curbs

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA, notably Southern Africa, is facing an upsurge in COVID-19 cases, mainly fueled by the Omicron variant amid relaxed public health and social measures, warned Thursday the World Health Organization (WHO), urging countries to brace for fresh pandemic wave.

Africa has recorded 52,878 COVID-19 cases in the week ending on May 8, a 38 percent rise from the week before, as Southern Africa accounted for 87 percent of the continent's recorded cases in the same period, said Abdou Salam Gueye, director of emergency preparedness and response at WHO regional office for Africa.

"The current surge is being fueled by the Omicron variant amid relaxed public health and social measures," explained Gueye at an online press conference held in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo.

The increase in Southern Africa is largely observed in South Africa where weekly recorded cases have quadrupled in the past three weeks. In addition to South Africa, Eswatini and Namibia have also recorded an increase in cases, with both reporting 50 percent more new cases in the past two weeks compared with the previous two weeks, said Gueye.

Since April 2022, South Africa has recorded 1,369 cases of the Omicron sub-variant BA.2, 703 cases of sub-variant BA.4, and 222 cases of sub-variant BA.5, according to WHO's latest assessments.

However, BA.4 and BA.5 remain the most concerning because the two sub-variants contain the largest number of mutations, and it is still unclear how they affect immunity, noted a statement by WHO at the end of the press conference.

Africa's past four pandemic waves, which have occurred around the middle and the end of the year, are mostly driven by new COVID-19 variants, winter seasons, and high population movement during these holiday periods, explained Gueye. In 2021, the Delta-fueled mid-year surge began around May, followed by another uptick in late November with the emergence of Omicron.

"This uptick in cases is an early warning sign which we are closely monitoring. Now is the time for countries to step up preparedness and ensure that they can mount an effective response in the event of a fresh pandemic wave," said Gueye.

However, with the decline in cases earlier this year, countries have rolled back public health measures, including surveillance and testing.

Between March and May 2022, only 30 percent of countries reporting testing data met the WHO benchmark of carrying out 10 tests per 10,000 people per week, which is down from 40 percent in the months between the waves driven by Delta and Omicron in 2021.

"With the experience gained over the past two years, we must do all it takes to curb the adverse impacts of a new pandemic wave by stepping up vaccination and the measures to detect and prevent the spread of the virus as well as treat patients," Gueye said. "To beat this pandemic, we must stay vigilant. The harsh reality is that complacency comes at a high price."

To this day, Africa has reported 11.7 million confirmed cases and around 253,000 deaths, according to the statement released on Thursday.



Yunusa Bawa, a community health worker, injects a man with AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine in Sabon Kuje on the outskirts of Abuja, Nigeria, Dec 6, 2021. File photo

Africa faces COVID-19 upsurge driven by variant and eased health measures - WHO

BRAZZAVILLE

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COVID-19 vaccination taking place in Angola. /Xinhua

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Xinhua

Rural mud house renovation program benefits villagers in NW China's Shaanxi province

TWENTY-TWO households in Dahe village, northwest China's Shaanxi province recently renovated and upgraded their mud houses under a local government-funded program, which has brought a new look to the village.

The 22 houses now look beautiful and clean with white outer walls and blue tiles on the top. Besides, they are all equipped with flush toilets, hardened flooring and ceramic countertops.

"We just love living in a house like this," said Tan Xianhua, a 67-year-old villager of Dahe village, which sits in Shimen township, Langao county. He said his house was almost as functional and comfortable as urban apartments after renovation, and he was having a great time living in it.

Responding to its residents' aspiration, the government of the Langao county has funded the renovation and upgrading over 10,000 mud houses of 3,067 households since this year.

Langao is a mountainous county where most of the residential buildings were constructed with mud in the last century. Among the 170,000 residents in the county, 150,000 were living in mud houses as of 2000.

"Most of the mud houses were built long ago. The walls had been mottled and blackened with soot. There were pits on the floors and leaks on the ceiling. These houses were uninhabitable and had safety hazards," said Liu Wenming, director of the housing and urban-rural development bureau of Langao county.

Earlier this year, Langao county invested 100 million yuan (\$14.84 million) to subsidize residents upgrading the rooftops, windows and doors, floorings, walls and outer walls, kitchens, bathrooms, animal pens and circuits of mud houses, aiming to improve the quality and functions of the houses, as well as the overall environment.

While the mud house renovation program was advancing, some abandoned buildings needed to be demolished, which might hurt the interests of part of the villagers. Therefore, Langao county requested its primary-level cadres to carry out the renovation work in a flexible manner.

"People's affairs shall be discussed by the people, not purely decided by the cadres. What remains after the demolishing shall fit into the surrounding environment and meet people's demands," said Liu Xiuhuai, an official directing the renovation program in Shimen township dispatched by Langao county's housing and urban-rural development bureau.



Villagers cook in a newly renovated kitchen in Chaoyang village, Zuolong township, Langao county, northwest China's Shaanxi province. (Photo/Chen Yan'an)

Langao county, when implementing the mud house renovation program, has always adhered to a bottom-up approach and solicited opinions from the villagers. In a steadfast and orderly manner, it advanced the program according to local conditions and demolished 220 abandoned and illegal buildings. Not a single dispute emerged.

For Pang Qimei, a 39-year-old villager from Chaoyang village, Zuolong township, the benefits of the renovation program are multifaceted. The solid new rooftop has put an end to leakage, and the floors, which were pitted in the old days, have become hardened and flattened. Besides, there is a shower room to take a convenient bath, and the countertop and the whole kitchen are now covered with clean white ceramic tiles.

Pang and her husband made some money these years, so they were planning to buy an apartment in the city once they had enough savings. Therefore, they did not intend to renovate their house at the beginning.

"But we didn't have enough money to buy an apartment in the city. Even if we did, we would still face heavy economic burdens. Thanks to the renovation program, we upgraded our house, so we are no longer in a rush to buy an apartment in the city," Pang told People's Daily.

This spring, the woman started cultivation and planted two mu (0.13 hectares) of crops. She said she would go back to her familiar ground-poultry farming, when her husband returns.

"Conforming to the aspiration of the people, the renovation program aims to bring a better life to the people and lead them to common prosperity," said Ma Hongwei, Party head of Langao county.

People's Daily

Lankan protesters vow to continue anti-govt campaign

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA'S new prime minister will begin forming a unity government yesterday, but his appointment has failed to appease anti-government protesters demanding the resignation of the president for the country's disastrous economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed veteran opposition politician Ranil Wickremesinghe as the island nation's prime minister late on Thursday after a week of violent clashes that left 9 people dead and over 300 injured.

The president's elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, quit as prime minister on Monday as the violence spiralled and is in hiding in a military base.

"We will stop this struggle when our people get justice," said Chalmale Shivakumar, one of the hundreds of people who have camped out at a protest site in the main city Colombo.

"Whoever they appoint as prime minister, we will not stop this struggle until people get relief."

Wickremesinghe is the only lawmaker from his United National Party in the country's parliament and will be reliant on rival politi-

cal parties to form a government. An alliance led by the Rajapaksas holds about 100 of parliament's 225 seats, while the opposition has 58 seats. The rest are independent.

Yesterday, Wickremesinghe met India's high commissioner, or ambassador to Sri Lanka, his first publicly known contact with a foreign government since his appointment.

"Discussed continued cooperation for economic recovery and stability in Sri Lanka through democratic processes," the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a tweet. Protesters said the appointment of Wickremesinghe will do little to ease the anger against the president, who they say is ultimately responsible for the worst economic crisis to hit the nation since it became independent in 1948.

Buffeted hard by the pandemic, rising oil prices and populist tax cuts by the Gotabaya brothers, Sri Lanka is critically low on foreign exchange, and rampant inflation and fuel shortages have brought thousands onto the street in a month of protests that had remained predominantly peaceful until this week.

Agencies



Soldiers man an armored vehicle along a road in Colombo yesterday as a nationwide curfew has been in effect for most of the week. AFP

Azam FC's poor run in Premier League is beyond technical bench competence

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

If an individual comes from a spiritual society there is a time he or she might feel that the NBC Premier League side, Azam FC, needs serious prayers this season.

With all that investment the squad has had, it is going through a more difficult time than any tenure since it garnered promotion to the league in 2007.

It hurts so much, who might have thought Azam FC would end up as a third-placed side battling with mid-table teams? This is happening this season.

Azam FC is confused, the squad conceded a 2-1 loss to Mbeya City FC this week, the loss felt like driving a hot nail in the middle of a green sore.

It was the fifth defeat for Azam FC in the last seven matches. In those matches, Azam FC has won one and drawn two.

This means the outfit has so far collected five points out of 21, it is amazing.

Everyone believed that head coach George Lwandamina's poor tactics were Azam FC's problem this season.

The outfit's leadership resorted to sacking the Zambian gaffer before matters got too complicated. What has changed? There has been no change so far.

Azam FC has become increasingly helpless, that is, after 23 matches the outfit has collected 32 points.

So far 11 points differentiate Azam FC from Mbeya Kwanza FC, positioned at the bottom of the league.

This was the same Azam FC that was fighting for the top-flight title five years ago against Yanga which was financed by prominent businessman Yusuph Manji.

Azam FC competed fiercely with Manji's Yanga, the former did not accept humiliation at all.

The irony is that this season Azam FC is competing



Azam FC defender, Abdallah Kheri, reacts after failing to convert a chance when the club took on Mbeya City FC in this season's NBC Premier League tie that took place in Mbeya on Tuesday. Mbeya City FC won 2-1.

with Namungo FC, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, Mbeya City FC, and Polisi Tanzania.

The tournament's defending champion, Simba, and pace-setter, Yanga, are no longer Azam FC competitors.

Is Azam FC's technical department a problem? Is it not the same tactician, Abdihamid Moallin, who enjoyed a fine start to his stint at the outfit?

Everyone agreed that he was the best coach, what is hindering him now?

Arresting a slide has proved to be one of football management's more difficult tasks for Moallin.

By the time the clocks go back, Azam FC's board of directors and fans have generally had time to assess the club's coaches' performance and decided if the latter should either be under pressure or not.

Speaking of pressure on

Azam FC, I hardly think the outfit is as stressed as Simba and Yanga.

Simba and Yanga are under pressure from their fans, particularly when the outfits' results are not satisfactory.

The clubs' officials are under pressure, which is brought about by the failure of a section of footballers to shine on the pitch.

Moallin might be subjected to blind selection, having blind faith in the players in selecting and basing a lot of that on attributes, partly what was hindering the outfit's performance.

The temptation during a run of poor form is to play through it, hammer the space bar, and assume the results will come.

This is not working though, maybe if he takes a step back and looks into the statistics. A few notable things will come to light.

I am not sure how much the coach subscribes to the whole process of adapting to a tactical approach when he is sure the side is not performing at the same level as it did in the first round.

Azam FC pressed well during the games against mid-table teams in the league, won the ball back, and was able to score different types of goals.

But another question is that Azam FC has not won against top guns, Simba and Yanga, this season.

This all stopped during the poor run, Azam FC started to concede far more chances and goals than the outfit did earlier.

Azam FC has become the weakest in the wide areas, this may change if Moallin decides to change approach, become more balanced, and add in some

support and more conservative play in wide defense.

Scoring opportunities can mainly come from either the central midfield or wings, not the final third, this is something that needs to change at the outfit.

Football fanatics can talk about the tactical side on the pitch but more questions can be directed to the registration policy set up by the leadership.

The outfit's leadership has failed to sign players that meet the standards to efficiently compete with Simba and Yanga.

Most of the players registered by Azam FC are very ordinary, they have failed to provide resistance to Simba and Yanga.

Azam FC has even crashed out of the early stages of this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

A team that does not have a lot of fans in the country should distinguish itself in the area of heavy investment via signing quality players.

This has been proven in South Africa, Mamelodi Sundowns is aware that it is not the oldest team in the country, as is the case with either Orlando Pirates or Kaizer Chiefs.

To compete with outfits that have established themselves as successful sides over the years, Mamelodi Sundowns signed top players that have seen them lift South Africa's Premier Soccer League silverware for five consecutive years.

Looking at Azam FC over years, I think the outfit has a bigger problem than coaching, if the squad does not solve the problem, such a crisis will continue to exist in the club for many more years.



Morogoro's Waluguru Original Band president Deogratius David (L), speaks to journalists at a press conference which took place in Dar es Salaam mid this week concerning a dance music show, known as 'Wafia Dansi', slated to take place in the city later this month. Looking on is Arusha's Mjengoni Classic Band president, Digital Mukongya, whose troupe will be one of the show's participants. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Heavy investment in players key to DTB FC's promotion to Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DAR ES SALAAM's Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC Chief Executive Officer, Muhibu Kanu, whose side will be participating in the 2022/23 Mainland Tanzania Premier League, has disclosed that their journey to the top flight was not easy.

Kanu said that the fierce competition DTB FC faced in this season's Championship League, particularly the challenge posed by such clubs as Kitayosce and Ihefu SC which are made up of quality players, boosted his outfit's determination.

The DTB FC's CEO said the difficulty the side experienced in this season's Championship League came about due to the one-league system used as opposed to previous seasons where teams were placed in two categories.

He said his experience and cooperation with other DTB FC officials have become a secret to achieving the goal of playing in the Mainland Premier League next season.

"When I was at Pamba FC last season I learned a lot, until I left, there were some things I found to be the key to success in the Championship League," Kanu revealed.

The official said: "When I came to DTB

FC I used those challenges as part of persuading the outfit officials."

"I told the DTB FC officials they should invest heavily and have experienced players, I am grateful that they put it to practice," the official said.

"That is why you saw the players with the highest caliber were registered and they are the ones who have made this team succeed in the promotion."

"Players like Amissi Tambwe, Juma Abdul, David Mwantika, Nicholas Gyan, Yusufu Mlipili, and many others, all these showed us how we had the goal of doing well in the Championship League," Kanu noted.

DTB FC secured a place in the next season's Premier League by beating Pamba FC 1-0 at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 8.

The Championship League leader consequently registered unassailable 65 points, with second-placed Ihefu SC happening to be the only squad with what it takes to collect the points.

The first and second-placed sides in the Championship League standings garner automatic promotion to the next season's Premier League.

The third and fourth-placed sides will be waiting for promotion/relegation play-offs against Premier League sides finishing 13th and 14th.

Yanga leadership defends players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA leadership has leaped into the outfit's players' defense after the side was held to draw for the third tie in a row in this season's NBC Premier League.

The leadership had received complaints from some Yanga followers and members against players for allegedly not being active on the pitch.

The club's officials have provided clarification while defending footballers that are on the receiving end of criticism.

Yanga had, on Monday, settled for a 0-0 draw with Tanzania Prisons at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. It was the third consecutive draw for the league leader after posting similar results in fixtures against Simba SC and Ruvo Shooting.

Manara, the Yanga spokesman, said the leadership has heard complaints issued by members and fans of the club through the media and has seen the need to clarify some issues under the environment around them.

The official said no one at the club was happy with what was going on in terms of results, insisting they believe what happened were the results of a football match.

He stated: "Nobody here at the club is happy with the results, what is happening now is to make sure we plan to get

rid of this situation towards our game against Dodoma Jiji FC which we will play away."

"Football is a wonderful game, and you need to have a strong heart to support it, there is no match we played better than yesterday (against Prisons), our outfit had nine shots on target, and we also got a few corner kicks," the official disclosed.

The official pointed out: "Our opponents failed to even crack one shot on target, it was unfortunate for us and our players wasted a lot of opportunities."

He stated: "There are others who are complaining why Fiston Mayele was tasked with taking a penalty kick when we have a penalty taker Djuma Shaban, Mayele is a penalty taker who had converted spot-kicks before coming to Yanga, this would have happened to Shaban."

"This is not the time to complain, let's make it clear they have an eight-point difference with us, eight points amount to three games," the leader noted.

"We are still leading the league standings, let's burden ourselves with blame," Manara stated.

Despite notching a goalless draw in three consecutive games, Yanga leads the Premier League standings with 57 points, followed by Simba SC with 49 points.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SERENGETI Lite Mainland Women's Premier League (WPL) defending champion, Simba Queens SC, needs just three of the remaining nine points to defend the squad's top honour this season.

The Dar es Salaam club has three games left to conclude this season's top flight, with a total of 22 matches to be played by each of the 12 participating teams. Each team has already played 19 games.

Simba Queens SC was expected to come up against Mlandizi Queens at Mabatini ground in Coast Region yesterday in one of the day's fixtures.

Five other ties were set to take place on various grounds on the day, with one of them pitting second-placed Fountain Gate Princesses of Dodoma against Mwanza's TSC Queens at the latter's backyard Nyamagana Stadium.

The defending champion leads the league standings with 54 points after taking part in 19 ties, winning 18 matches, and losing just one against their hometown rivals, Yanga Princesses, who are sitting third.

Coast Region's Mlandizi Queens, Simba Queens SC's opponents in the yesterday match, have not had good progress in the league this season, therefore, if the latter wins then it will be declared the champion.

Each team has three games left, if Simba Queens SC wins against Mlandizi Queens, the defending champion will amass unassailable 57 points.



Simba Queens SC's central defender, Fatuma Issa (L), shoots whilst Tiger Queens player keeps the former in check when the sides locked horns in this season's Serengeti Lite Mainland Women's Premier League clash played in Arusha early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA QUEENS

The defending champion's rivals Yanga Princesses and Fountain Gate Princesses have 47 points apiece, meaning they will end up registering 56 points apiece if they win their remaining matches.

The two clubs will still not be able to get the better of the league leader, much as they will emerge victoriously, therefore they ought to pray Simba Queens SC suffers a loss to Mlandizi Queens.

Simba Queens SC was expected to enter the Friday match with sweet memories, having garnered a 3-0 first-round victory over

Mlandizi Queens.

The league leader will then confront JKT Queens away on May 17 and conclude the campaign with a clash against Baobab Queens of Dodoma at the MO Arena in Dar es Salaam on May 20.

Simba Queens SC's hopes of defending their title have doubled after they emerged with a 3-0 away win over tough opponents, Tiger Queens, in Arusha.

In the match which was played at FFU Kwa Morombo Stadium, Simba Queens SC's goals were scored by Asha Djafari in the 20th minute,

Falome Kuzoya in the 60th minute, and Joelle Bukuru in the 80th minute through a penalty kick.

Asha's goal is the attacker's 24th this season in 19 games, widening the gap between the Burundian goal-getter and her close challengers in the race for the Women's Premier League best goal-scorer prize.

The forward's rivals, Jamila Rajabu and Zainabu Dudu of Baobab Queens, and Clara Luvanga of Yanga Princesses, have each registered 14 goals.

Ten Hag: Manchester Utd a 'difficult, fantastic' challenge

LONDON

NEW Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said reviving the fortunes of the Premier League club will be a major challenge, the Dutchman said in his first comments about his new job some 24 hours after steering Ajax Amsterdam to a third successive Eredivisie title.

The 52-year-old Ten Hag is leaving Ajax for Old Trafford, where he will offer fresh perspective to a club who have been stumbling aimlessly through the last few weeks of the season.

"It feels like a challenge to put the club back on track of winning. The options are there, including financially," he said in an interview with Voetbal International magazine on Thursday. "I've also got a good feeling about the people who are there, and that we can take a step in the direction."

Ten Hag had previously refused to answer questions on United, but explained in the interview the recruitment process and what awaits him.

"I know United went through a very precise procedure. They'd done scouting, analyses, data, interviews with people who worked with me. Then we held multiple interviews.

"They didn't rush into things and neither did I. It felt like a difficult, but fantastic challenge. At United, there's something to build and something to win. Manchester United is such a big name in the history of football.

"It's not for nothing they call Old Trafford the Theatre of Dreams. It's a club with an allure in international football. Everyone knows their history. The history is impressive but I've also researched the present and future and the possibilities."

Ten Hag insisted he never let his impending move to Old Trafford impact his work in the final weeks at Ajax despite the swirl of interest and publicity around the appointment.

"Much had already leaked out and the questions kept coming. We made it public when everything was settled. In the first weeks [of negotiations], when the outside world got wind of it, there was really no agreement yet, while many assumed that the deal had been completed," Ten Hag said.

At that time, Ajax were battling with rivals PSV Eindhoven for the league title.

"I was able to separate the interests of Manchester United and my work at Ajax," Ten Hag added. "Ajax was never let down, not until the last day. She got all the attention the club needed. I always had matters well prepared and was completely focused on Ajax."

Ten Hag will coach his last Eredivisie match with Ajax on Sunday away to Vitesse Arnhem.

(Agencies)

Benzema draws level with Raúl as Madrid's 2nd-highest scorer

MADRID

KARIM Benzema continues to add his name to Real Madrid's record books, scoring his 323rd goal on Thursday to draw level with Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema netted in the first half of the team's 6-0 rout of last-place Levante in the Spanish league, with Madrid having secured the title a few rounds ago.

The result sealed Levante's relegation after five consecutive years in the first division.

Vinicius Júnior, Benzema's trusted attacking partner all season, scored a hat trick for Madrid as it continues to prepare for the Champions League final against Liverpool in Paris on May 28, when it will try to win a record-extending 14th European title.

Benzema is now 128 goals shy of the 451 scored by Ronaldo, who played at the club until 2018. Raúl, the coach of Madrid's "B" squad, played for the club in the 1990s and 2000s.

Benzema's close-range header in the 19th minute off a cross by Vinicius gave the French striker his league-leading 27th goal, which is nine better than any other player in the competition this season. He has scored more than a third of Madrid's 79 league goals so far.

It was the 20th goal in the last 15 matches in all competitions for Benzema, who has been key in the team's run to the Champions League final, scoring decisive goals in every knockout round of the European tournament – including two hat tricks.

He could have added another goal on Thursday but unselfishly fed Vinicius the ball for the team's fifth after clearing the goalkeeper inside the area.

"The connection with Benzema has been very good all season long," said Vinicius, who now is the league's third-best scorer with 17 goals. "Karim has had a great season and hopefully he can finish it by winning the Ballon d'Or (award for best player)."

Vinicius had netted his first goal in the first half before closing the scoring in the final minutes for his maiden hat trick with Madrid. Ferland Mendy and Rodrygo scored their goals before halftime.

Benzema was replaced in the 75th along with Luka Modric, who set up three of Madrid's goals.

Benzema, Modric, Mendy, Vinicius and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois had not started in the league derby against city rival Atlético Madrid on Sunday, a game Atlético won 1-0 at home.

Atlético did not give Madrid a guard of honor for the league champions at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium, but Levante's players did on Thursday, lining up by the sideline and applauding Madrid's players as they entered the field at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Valencia-based Levante was in the first division in 14 of the last 18 seasons.

"Unfortunately we were not up to the task this season," Levante captain José Luis Morales said, amid tears. "We have to apologize and try to put this club back where it deserves next season." AP

After season to forget, Barcelona faces difficult rebuild

BARCELONA, Spain

IT'S been a long, long season for Barcelona.

Lionel Messi left in tears before it started. Ronald Koeman was soon fired. The team dropped out of the Champions League and into the Europa League, and then couldn't even come close to winning it.

The return of former great Xavi Hernández as coach and some savvy signings in January eventually led to some convincing wins, but the team that once dominated Spanish soccer failed to earn a title for the second time in three years.

Barcelona still has two league games remaining, but ensuring a second-place finish is really the only thing to play for. The club's focus is now to ensure that next season is an improvement.

That, however, may prove difficult.

Barcelona is still facing enormous financial difficulties that have already played a part, according to Xavi, in quashing any hopes it had of luring Erling Haaland, one of the biggest names on the market, to Spain.

"We just couldn't compete on an economic level. I wish him the best of luck," Xavi said about Haaland after Manchester City an-



Barcelona's head coach Xavi Hernandez during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Rayo Vallecano at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, April 24, 2022. (AP Photo)

nounced the signing of the young Norway striker on Tuesday.

Xavi and club official Jordi Cruyff reportedly met with Haaland in early March to try to convince him to come to the Camp Nou.

Barcelona's finances were ruined by the impact of the pandemic and the unsustainable spending of previous club president Josep Bartomeu. Its debt ballooned to 1.3 billion euros

(\$1.36 billion), leading the Spanish league to slash its salary cap this season to 97 million euros (\$110 million) – more than seven times smaller than rival Real Madrid.

The club now run by Joan Laporta did extremely well in adding players to its squad midseason. Technical director Mateu Alemany secured the transfer of Ferran Torres from City, the signing of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as a free

agent, and a loan deal to bring back Adama Traoré.

Aubameyang and Torres immediately clicked and solved Barcelona's scoring woes. Its surprising 4-0 victory at Madrid in March ended up being the sole highlight of a poor season. Otherwise, there was the ignominy of losing in the group stage of the Champions League for the first time in nearly two decades. The team then was beaten by Eintracht Frankfurt in the Europa League quarterfinals. It never competed with Madrid in the league title race, and was ousted from the Copa del Rey in the round of 16 by Athletic Bilbao.

To improve on those results, Alemany, Cruyff and Laporta have some big decisions to make within a very tight budget.

"This year was not positive because we didn't fight for titles and anyone who can come will be welcome," Xavi said. "The economic situation is what it is and players will have to leave for others to come. The situation is complicated, it is very difficult, but we have to get reinforcements to be competitive. That is a fact."

Barcelona is reportedly probing its chances of signing Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who is stuck in contract negotiations with the Bundesliga

champions.

But it also must resolve several questions regarding players currently in the squad.

One of Barcelona's priorities is seeing if it can sign Ousmane Dembélé to a new, cheaper deal. Dembélé, whose contract is up at the end of the season, rejected offers from other clubs in January. Since then, he has become a critical piece of Xavi's attack. The Frenchman, whose contract is reportedly the highest on Barcelona's payroll after the exits of Messi and Philippe Coutinho, is set to finish the season as the Spanish league's top assist-maker.

The club succeeded in getting veterans Gerard Piqué, Sergi Roberto and Samuel Umtiti to all lower their salaries. The 24-year-old Dembélé may be a much harder prospect given his age and his tough-to-replace talents.

Barcelona also has to decide if it will pay Wolverhampton to make Traoré's move permanent. The winger did not play as much as expected so if the club can resign Dembélé, then it is less likely to keep Traoré.

Spanish sports media speculates that midfielder Frenkie de Jong and goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen could be up for sale, if

the price is right. The German keeper has underperformed for the past two seasons, while Barcelona has other options in midfield.

Amid so much uncertainty, the club has succeeded in providing Xavi with some stability by locking down two of its younger players that it hopes can be pillars for the future. Both Spain midfielder Pedri González, 19, and Uruguay defender Ronald Araújo, 23, signed new deals this season to tie them up until 2026.

The club is negotiating a new deal with Gavi Páez, who, along with fellow midfielder Nico González, provided some of the few bright spots for Barcelona this season. Nico was having a breakout season early on under Koeman, but once Xavi took over in November his minutes dried up. Now his future at Barcelona could hinge on the departure of De Jong.

Barcelona's way forward will also depend on the health of Ansu Fati, who at 19 has gone from teen superstar to being half forgotten because of his bad luck with injuries. He recently returned to the field and, if he can stay healthy, would seem to be a perfect leader for Xavi's rebuild.

AP

Arsenal's leadership woes exposed by Tottenham, and could cost them a Champions League spot

LONDON

THE only good news for Arsenal after their humiliating 3-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur in the North London derby was that, despite the celebratory scenes among the home supporters at the end of the game, Champions League qualification remains in the hands of Mikel Arteta and his squad.

It probably didn't feel like it as Gunners captain Martin Odegaard led his humbled teammates towards their supporters to apologetically thank those who remained until the end, but the mathematics are clear – if Arsenal win their final two games away to Newcastle United on Monday and at home to Everton six days later, the Emirates Stadium will host Champions League football next season for the first time since 2017, regardless of what Spurs do in their home finale against Burnley and concluding match at Norwich City.

"The disappointment shouldn't take over the great opportunity of the two games we have in front of us," Arteta said after Thursday's loss. "We can't wait to play on Monday, this is how I feel, and that's all I want to say."

But if Arsenal are to beat Spurs to the finishing line in the race for fourth, they must overcome a test of nerve and character to achieve their goal and we still don't know whether this Arsenal side possesses the necessary qualities to do that. And with centre-half Rob Holding set to miss the Newcastle game through suspension after being sent off for two yellow cards – both for fouls on Son Heung-min – and Gabriel almost certain to be sidelined with a hamstring injury sustained



Arsenal players leave the pitch for the halftime during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at Tottenham Hotspur stadium in London, England, Thursday, May 12, 2022. (AP Photo)

in the final stages against Spurs, Arsenal have crucial defensive issues to address.

Arteta can patch up his defence, however. The Arsenal manager can deploy Granit Xhaka at centre-half and hope that Ben White's hamstring injury is recovered sufficiently for him to start at Newcastle. The former Brighton defender was on the bench at Spurs, but Arteta chose not to risk his fitness with the game a lost cause by halftime. But while Arteta can reshuffle his team, results this season suggest that he will travel to St James' Park with no idea whether his players will rise to the challenge against Newcastle and then Everton.

Will they do what they did at Chelsea and West Ham United in recent weeks by responding to the pressure with a confident, attacking performance that delivers three points or will they revert to the panic-stricken side which lost successive games against Crystal Palace, Brighton and Southampton last month?

That question, in a nutshell, has been Arsenal's problem for too long and it pre-dates Arteta's arrival

as manager, following the dismissal of Unai Emery, in Dec. 2019. They blow hot and cold and their inconsistency and fragility is why they now have to go to Newcastle and win. Those three defeats against Palace, Brighton and Southampton – games Arsenal should have won – may yet see them miss out on Champions League football once again.

Odegaard's selection as captain in recent weeks when regular skipper Alexandre Lacazette is out of the starting line-up

highlights the obvious shortcomings in Arteta's side – a lack of seasoned experience in key areas. Arsenal still lack a player, or players, who can sense danger in games and know when to alter the tempo to suit their own objectives. Xhaka has too often proven himself to be too reckless to lead the team properly, while Lacazette, when he plays, is too focused on his game to lead others.

So the captaincy has fallen onto the Odegaard's talented shoulders, even though the former Real

Madrid midfielder is just 23 and still making his way in the senior echelons of the game. The Norway international is a very good player, somebody who will be a central figure in Arsenal's future, but he is not yet experienced enough to lead a club such as Arsenal.

Yet Arteta will have looked around his squad and seen that he had few other options for the captaincy and that was borne out during the performance against Spurs, where the likes of Holding, Gabriel Martinelli, Cedric Soares, Bukayo Saka and Odegaard needed a wiser, older head to guide them through a difficult experience against a team which had far more top-level experience.

Spurs, in contrast, were packed with players who have performed at the highest level for years – Son, Harry Kane, Hugo Lloris, Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and Eric Dier all showed their experience in this game, while coach Antonio Conte has also been around the block far more times than Arteta.

Arsenal's problem is not unique – Manchester United are another major club struggling to find the right characters to knit the

team together – but Arteta has a promising group of emerging players who just need some on-field guidance to help them take the club back to where it needs to be. But missing out on Europe's top club competition could send Arsenal around their vicious cycle for another spin. It would deny them the opportunity to recruit top players with Champions League money – a potential move for City's Gabriel Jesus could be hit if they end up in the Europa League – while the likes of Saka and Martinelli could prompt interest from the likes of Liverpool and City, who could offer elite-level football and the financial uplift that comes with it.

So it is a big week for Arsenal. They are in a better position than a year ago, when they finished eighth and missed out on Europe altogether, but the priority of returning to the Champions League is now in the balance after the defeat at Spurs. The odds are still slightly in Arsenal's favour, though, so now is the time to silence the doubters by proving they can deliver when the heat is on.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Amid Haaland hype, De Bruyne shows why he is Man City's key cog in Premier League title race

PAGE 19



Bernard Morrison

Simba SC parts ways with Morrison

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has parted ways with Ghanaian midfielder Bernard Morrison after finding a mutual agreement that would see the player not feature for the side for the remainder of the season.

The player has been out of action since Simba SC's NBC Premier League duel against Yanga, popularly known as the 'Dar es Salaam derby', which took place in Dar es Salaam on April 30.

The midfielder was substituted in the second half of the clash. He has been widely reported to have signed a pre-contract to rejoin rivals Yanga.

Simba SC has confirmed in a signed statement, stating the side has released the players and wished him well in his next move.

The statement disclosed: "Simba SC has given Bernard Morrison a break until the end of the season. Simba SC decided after both sides agreed to allow Morrison to rest and take care of his personal affairs."

"Simba SC thanks Morrison for his contribution in the entire period he served within our club," the statement added.

"We recognize and appreciate Morrison's contribution for the two years he served our club and helped him achieve several successes including playing in the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals, winning the Premier League, the Azam Sports Federation Cup, and the Mapinduzi Cup."

"With this contribution and success, the club thanks the fans' darling for his dedication to fighting for the club. Simba wishes all the best to Bernard Morrison in his rest and future football journey."

The controversial Ghanaian midfielder joined Yanga in January 2020 but fell out with the club barely four months after getting into the country.

He unceremoniously left Yanga and then made a shock move to their Msimbazi Street rivals at the start of the 2020-21 season.

The move irked Yanga who insisted Morrison still had a two-year contract with them and filed a case with Tanzania Football Federation's Legal, Ethics, and Players' Status Committee.

The Legal, Ethics, and Players' Status Committee ruled that Morrison was a free agent and cleared the player to join Simba.

Unsatisfied with the move, Yanga then proceeded to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In November last year, the Court of Arbitration for Sport dismissed an appeal that was filed by Yanga.

The court sitting under Judge Patrick Stewart from England said in a statement that the CAS panel heard both parties by video conference before reaching the verdict.

"After all deliberations, the court has decided to dismiss the appeal and confirmed the challenged decision in its entirety," the media statement that was issued by CAS read.

Simba SC targets Pamba FC's scalp in 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup last eight's stage



Simba SC players jubilate after one of the club's performers scored against Coast Region's Ruvu Shooting in the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) round of 16's tie which took place in Dar es Salaam in February.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will, today, look to avoid a giant-killing blow when the outfit hosts Pamba FC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinal game at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Pamba FC is the only non-NBC Premier League team left in the Federation Cup knockout stage.

With the Premier League title looking impossible for Simba SC this season, their only hope for silverware is the Federation Cup.

In admitting the above, Simba SC Media and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, revealed that they will now focus on trying to win the Federation Cup.

The official said: "Our target was to win all the three domestic trophies, Mapinduzi Cup, NBC Premier League, and Federation Cup. We have won the Mapinduzi Cup but the Premier League is a tough one,

every Simba SC fan must understand this."

"However, the Federation Cup is still up for grabs, anyone who will be better in the remaining two or three matches can win it," Ally disclosed.

The official pointed out: "We are still fighting in the league but our focus is on the Federation Cup. That's how life is, sometimes you have to focus on realistic targets."

"We have a better chance of

success in the Federation Cup. If we lift the Federation Cup we will be the most successful side this season."

Now Simba SC is about to have a shot to get into the final four of the Federation Cup. And since they are pitted against a team from the Championship, the upper hand surely lies with the Msimbazi Reds.

The Msimbazi Reds who won the title in 2017, 2019, 2020, and 2021, hammered second-

tier side Dar City FC 6-0 in the round of 32, before thrashing Ruvu Shooting 7-0 in the previous round to book a quarterfinal ticket.

Meanwhile, Pamba FC, which is placed ninth in the Championship and is out of contention for promotion and relegation playoffs, has nothing but pride to fight for.

The side understands making it to the last four of the Federation Cup will be their biggest

achievement this season.

They come into this encounter as underdogs keen to extend their fairytale run having knocked out Dodoma Jiji FC in the previous round.

Wilbert Mweta, Pamba FC head coach, acknowledged there is a gulf in quality but insisted it is a knockout competition that has proved that anything can happen.

The tactician noted: "This is a knockout game, we have to win or we are out. We have prepared well and will have to play with discipline to stand a chance of progressing."

The winners of the tie will face Yanga in the semi-final. Yanga was the first team to book their place in the last four after they defeated Geita Gold FC 7-6 on penalties following a 1-1 draw in the last eight.

Coastal Union then emerged 5-4 winners on penalties following a 1-1 draw in the second quarterfinal tie against Kagera Sugar at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga and will face Azam FC, who beat Polisi Tanzania 3-0, in the last four.

The winners of the Federation Cup earn a ticket to represent Tanzania in CAF Confederation Cup next season.

National Athletics Championships plunge into uncertainty

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

UNCERTAINTY has surrounded the National Athletics Championships which are slated for the end of this month at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The championships are to take place from May 27-28 at the venue, however, Athletics Tanzania (AT) through its Secretary-General Jackson Ndawaka could not confirm if the showdown will take place on the scheduled dates.

He said the development follows the postponement of the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR) which was to take place from yesterday to today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Ndawaka said currently AT is having discussions with the EAAR secretariat on the new dates for the regional championships and it probably will take place on May 27-28 at the same venue.

The official disclosed: "For now it is difficult to say if the National Championships will be held on the announced dates (May 27-28)."

"I have said so as we are currently in discussions



Dar es Salaam athletes take part in training in the city to shape up for a recent National Championship.

with EAAR secretariat to find days for the championships, and probably it will be the end of this month, so the National championships will not take place," he said.

On Wednesday AT announced that the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships have been postponed indefinitely.

Silas Isangi, AT presi-

dent, said the association decided to postpone the championships because the showdown's main sponsors World Athletics (WA) did not release the money for the championships.

When asked if WA has released the money for the showdown, Ndawaka said they are hopeful that the international athletics governing body will release

the funding this month.

"We plan to write them on the new funding and hopefully it will be released and we will host the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships," he said.

This is the second time that the East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships are postponed, the first was in April this year.

AT told The Guardian that the association needs more than 80m/- to successfully host the championships.

The East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships, also just called the East Africa Junior Athletics Championships, is a track and field competition for junior athletes in East Africa and Central Africa.

The championships were held for the first time in Amaan Stadium, Zanzibar in 2013. They were then hosted by Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2016.

They consisted of athletes from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Tanzania, and Zanzibar.

Kenyan athletes won 10 gold medals at the 2016 Championships.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

BEFORE YOU PUBLISH, THINK!



T = Is it True?
H = Is it Helpful?
I = Is it Inspiring?
N = Is it Necessary?
K = Is it Kind?